The following are some of the figures for 1911 in regard to free places in secondary schools:—

Number	of second	lary scho	ools giving free	tuition			29		
Total rol	l number	r in these	e schools, exclu	ding lowe	er departm	ents	4,608		
Number	of free-p.	lace hold	ers, 1911				4,021		
	,,		1910				3,685		
Free-place	ce holder	s as a pe	rcentage of roll	number,	1911		87	per	cent
_	,,	_	,,		1910		75	_	,,
Total and	nual pay	ment by	Treasury for fr	ee places			£43,630		
Cost to	Freasury	per free	pupil, 1911				£10	17	0
	•		1910				£11	0	11

It will thus be seen that there are now very few pupils—only 13 in every 100—who pay fees for admission into secondary schools. That the free-place system has undoubtedly been fully taken advantage of by the people of New Zealand is evidenced by the enormous increase in free places in the last few years. In 1903 there were 1,600 free pupils at secondary schools; now the number has increased by more than 150 per cent.

In order to arrive at the total number of pupils in New Zealand receiving free secondary instruction it will be necessary to include also 156 other holders of scholar-ships or exhibitions granted by these schools or by endowed secondary schools not coming under the conditions for free places, 1,777 pupils in attendance at district high schools, almost all of whom were free pupils, receiving free tuition at an average cost to the Government of £9 19s. 2d. per pupil, 128 Maori pupils receiving free education in Maori secondary schools, and 1,260 holders of free places in technical schools. There is thus an approximate total of 7,342 pupils receiving free secondary education in the Dominion, exclusive of those holders of free places in technical schools who were art students or evening students, or were taking courses which may be more approximately described as technical than as secondary.

The following table gives a summary of the various secondary free places at the end of the year for which payment was made by Government:—

Free Places in December, 1910 and 1911.

			1910		,	1911,			
(i.) Secondary schools—		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
(a.) Junior free pupils		1,468	1,193	2.661	1,610	1,322	2,932		
(b.) Senior free pupils		578	446	1,024	² 599	490	1,089		
${f Total} \qquad \dots$		2,046	1,639	3,685	2,209	1,812	4,021		
(ii.) District high schools		955	963	1,918	867	910	1,777		
(iii.) Maori secondary schools		51	83	134	48	80	128		
(iv.) Technical day-schools		505	639	1,144	552	708	1,260		
Grand total	• • •	3,557	3,324	6,881	3,676	3,510	7,186		

In the above table (in the case of the secondary schools and district high schools) the roll at the end of the year has been taken; a fairer estimate of the number of persons receiving free secondary education in public institutions would be obtained by taking the average roll throughout the year and including in the total the holders of foundation and private scholarships or exhibitions who received free tuition not paid for by Government. We obtain thus the following approximate figures:—

Number receiving Free Secondary Education in 1911.

Secondary schools District high schools		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	4,221 2,090	
Technical day-schools Maori secondary schools	•••	•••		•••	•••	· · ·	$1,260 \\ 128$	
${f T}_{i}$	otal						7,699	

The corresponding number for 1910 may be estimated as 7,540, showing an increase for the year 1911 of 159 in the number in the Dominion who are receiving free secondary education.