

schools are in some cases maintained in a higher grade than their average attendance would appear to warrant, while on the other hand a number of schools in charge of sole teachers at the beginning of the year had so risen in attendance as to be entitled to assistant teachers before the end of the year. Thus in Grade IV there were, in 1912, 26 schools the average attendance of which did not warrant the appointment of an assistant teacher, but in Grade III 9 schools had the services of an assistant teacher. There were therefore altogether 1,360 schools in 1912 in charge of sole teachers, an increase of 24 over last year. In other words, in 1912 sole-teacher schools formed 61·4 per cent. of the total number of public schools in the Dominion. The aggregate average attendance at these sole-teacher schools in 1911 was 24,759, or 17·1 per cent. of the total average attendance of the Dominion ; in 1912 the aggregate was 24,113, or 16·4 per cent. The average per school was 17·7, or 23·2 omitting schools below 16 in average attendance.

The number of schools with two or more teachers was, in 1911, 830. In 1912 the number was 854, an increase of 24. Of these schools there were, in 1911, 31 with an average attendance exceeding 600, and 35 in 1912.

During the year 1912 85 schools were closed. Several of these schools, although reckoned as closed in their original form, were reopened in another : in some cases two schools were amalgamated ; in some, half-time schools became separate full-time schools ; and so on. Including such reopened schools, the total number of schools opened during the year was 133. The following list shows the number of schools opened and closed in each of the various education districts :—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

District.	Number of Schools closed.	Number of Schools opened.	Increase in Number of Schools.	Decrease in Number of Schools.
Auckland	38	60	22	..
Taranaki	4	3	..	1
Wanganui	3	8	5	..
Wellington	9	3	..	6
Hawke's Bay	8	14	6	..
Marlborough	7	11	4	..
Nelson	7	6	..	1
Grey	2	3	1	..
Westland	2	..	..	2
North Canterbury	..	6	6	..
South Canterbury	1	1	..	..
Otago	3	10	7	..
Southland	1	8	7	..
	85	133		
		85		
Increase (1912)	..	48		

The net increase in the number of schools open at the end of the year is thus 48.

The total number of public schools in each grade is shown in Table A, the corresponding figures for the previous year being shown for purposes of comparison.

TABLE A.—NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN EACH GRADE, 1911 AND 1912.

Grade (as in Education Amendment Act, 1908).	Number of Schools.		Grade (as in Education Amendment Act, 1908).	Number of Schools.	
	1911.	1912.		1911.	1912.
0. (1-8)	162	164	9. 9A. (451-500)	7	12
1. (9-15)	393	395	9. 9B (501-550)	12	9
2. (16-25)	480	472	9. 9C (551-600)	4	7
3. (26-35)	283	312	10A. (601-650)	12	13
4. (36-80)	462	484	10B (651-700)	5	3
5. (81-120)	127	122	10C (701-750)	6	8
6. 6A. (121-160)	58	54	10D (751-800)	3	5
6. 6B (161-200)	33	31	10. 10E (801-850)	2	3
7. 7A. (201-250)	34	40	10F (851-900)	2	2
7. 7B (251-300)	27	28	10G (901-950)	..	..
8. 8A (301-350)	24	24	10H (951-1,000)	..	..
8. 8B (351-400)	13	17	10I (1,001-1,050)	1	1
8. 8C (401-450)	16	8			
			Totals	2,166	2,214

For the number of schools in each education district, classified in grades, reference should be made to Table A1, in the primary-education report, E.-2.