

The percentage of passes for proficiency certificates at the last S6 examination was only 66.6, as compared with 69.9 in 1914. This disappointing result was due mainly to the exceptional weakness of the S6 classes in three of the largest schools—a weakness the Inspectors did not become aware of until late in the year, when the notified visits of inspection were paid. When these classes were excluded from the calculation the percentage of passes became 68.8, very little below the normal for the district.

The results gained by the district in the Junior National Scholarship Examination were not as creditable as usual, and this falling-off appears to furnish additional proof that the S6 work was of somewhat poorer quality than in previous years. The number of entrants was, however, much the same as usual, a fact that appears to us to indicate that too low a standard of judgment is applied to the pupils' work by many S6 teachers. There is no doubt, however, that the small number of scholarship-winners in this district is due in part to the disinclination of teachers to give special attention to the candidates. We are quite in agreement with this principle; but so long as there is the possibility of one education district being compared with another in respect of scholarship successes we are, in a measure, compelled to favour the special tuition of scholarship candidates. If, however—as indeed we would suggest should be done—scholarships were allotted to each education district on the basis of the school population in that district, the undesirable element of rivalry as between district and district would disappear. Further, under such a system it would be possible to allot the scholarships on the results of the Proficiency Examination, and save the whole cost of the present scholarship examination. In the case of the special Free Place Examination, we have found a good deal of overlapping with the Proficiency Examination. Not a few candidates from both secondary and primary schools in this district sit for both examinations; some candidates who fail at the proficiency test pass the free-place test, and *vice versa*. We would suggest the unification of the three examinations.

District High Schools.—[See E.—6, Report on Secondary Education.]

We are, &c.,

T. B. STRONG,
JAMES MILNE.
D. STEWART.

The Director of Education, Wellington.

WELLINGTON.

SIR,—

Wellington, February, 1916.

We have the honour to submit our report for 1915 on the work and condition of the primary schools in the Wellington District.

Statistics.—The total number of schools in active operation at the end of the year was 166, together with eight side schools, making 174 in all. Six schools were closed during the year—viz., Aohanga, Kaiwaka, Mikimiki Valley, Pori, Waimanu, and Wangaeahu; and six were opened—viz., Berhampore, Eastern Hutt, Mangapakeha, Poroporo, Ruawhata, and Waihoki Valley. Side schools were also opened at Roseneath and Petone West.

Particulars as to standard numbers and average ages are set out in the following tables:—

Classes.					Number on Roll.	Present at the Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.	
166 State schools—							Yrs. mos.	
Standard VII	...	...	...	...	274	263	14	11
" VI	...	...	...	...	1,706	1,692	13	9
" V	...	...	...	...	1,951	1,903	12	10
" IV	...	...	...	...	2,234	2,185	12	0
" III	...	...	...	...	2,488	2,425	10	11
" II	...	...	...	...	2,500	2,397	9	10
" I	...	...	...	...	2,550	2,439	8	7
Preparatory	...	...	...	...	6,831	6,271	6	11
Totals	...	...	...	...	20,534	19,575	9	9*
Twenty registered private schools—								
Standard VII	...	...	...	...	54	49	14	9
" VI	...	...	...	...	152	150	14	0
" V	...	...	...	...	191	180	12	3
" IV	...	...	...	...	213	201	11	10
" III	...	...	...	...	260	254	11	0
" II	...	...	...	...	239	228	10	0
" I	...	...	...	...	234	218	8	3
Preparatory	...	...	...	...	597	572	6	6
Totals	...	...	...	...	1,940	1,852	9	1*
Two unregistered private schools					190	155	...	

* Mean of average age.

Giving a total of 196 schools in all, with 22,664 in attendance.