

Of the 117 Native village schools, fifty-one gained over 90 per cent. in regularity of attendance, while fourteen failed to reach 80 per cent. [When the peculiar conditions attaching to Native schools are borne in mind, the attendance at the schools must be considered very satisfactory.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the Native mission schools at the end of 1915 was 141, and on the rolls of Native boarding-schools 421. The total number of children on the roll, at the end of the year, of Native village, mission, and boarding-schools visited and inspected by the Inspectors of this Department was therefore 5,753. The following are the figures for the years 1914 and 1915 in respect of the three classes of Native schools mentioned :—

				1914.	1915.
Combined rolls of Native schools	..	..	..	5,634	5,753
Combined average weekly roll number	..	..	..	5,590	5,773
Combined average yearly attendance	..	..	..	4,871	5,119
Percentage of regularity of attendance	..	..	..	87.1	88.7

The increase in the development of the Native village schools since the year 1881, when they were transferred to the control of this Department, is shown in the following table :—

NATIVE VILLAGE SCHOOLS, NUMBER, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools at End of Year.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance : Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll.	Number of Teachers.				
					Teachers in Charge.		Assistant Teachers.		Sewing-mistresses
					Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1881	60	..	1,406	..	54	6	..	4	48
1886	69	2,343	2,020	86.2	60	9	..	26	30
1891	66	2,395	1,837	76.7	59†	8†	1	26	37
1896	74	2,874	2,220	77.3	64†	11†	..	61	16
1902	98*	3,650	3,005	82.3	77†	20†	..	83	11
1907	99	4,321*	3,561	82.4	82†	18†	2	105	3
1912	108	4,644	4,042	87	86	22	4	122	2
1913	107	4,835	4,142	85.7	86	21	4	118	4
1914	115	5,053	4,385	86.7	87	27	4	122	3
1915	117	5,232	4,604	88.0	81	33	7	123	..

* Includes two subsidized schools. † Includes two teachers jointly in charge of one school.

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the number of schools in 1915 is almost double that in 1881, and the average attendance has more than trebled. In this comparison no account is taken of a number of schools that have from time to time been transferred to the various Education Boards during the period covered by the table.

Table H 2 in the Appendix supplies detailed information in regard to the roll number and average attendance.

In addition to the Maori children in attendance at the schools specially instituted for Natives as shown above, there were 4,731 Natives attending public schools at the 31st December, 1915, as compared with 4,905 in 1914. Half-caste children and children intermediate in blood between half-caste and Maori are reckoned as Maori. Details as to age and classification are given in Table H 5A in the Appendix.

The total number of children of Maori or of mixed race on the rolls of primary Native schools, public schools, Native mission schools, and secondary Native schools, together with such pupils as were receiving special technical training, at the end of the year 1915 was as follows :—

I. Primary schools—					
(a.) Government Native schools	..	..	..	..	4,643
(b.) Mission schools	..	..	..	..	141
(c.) Public schools	..	..	..	..	4,731
					9,515
II. Secondary schools	..	..	..	..	428
III. Special technical training	..	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	..	9,945