

Secondary Education and Free Places.

Continuative education for Maori boys and girls is provided at ten institutions established by various denominational authorities. The Government subsidizes these institutions by providing a number of free places to all Maori pupils who have qualified in terms of the regulations. There were 421 pupils on the rolls of these schools at the end of 1915, of which number forty boys and fifty-two girls held free places. The standard of the Public Service Entrance Examination represents the limit of the curriculum of the schools, and the results obtained compare very favourably with many of the district high schools of the Dominion. Attention is given more especially, however, to the industrial and domestic branches of education, the aim being to equip the Maori children for the work in life for which they are best suited.

Senior free places for boys take the form of industrial scholarships, which enable the holders to be apprenticed to suitable trades. There was only one such scholarship current in 1915. Senior free places for girls take the form of nursing-scholarships. There was only one of these scholarships in operation in 1915.

In addition to the Maori children mentioned as receiving secondary education at special institutions, seven others held free places at European secondary schools. The total number of Maoris receiving secondary education in 1915 was therefore 428.

Staffs and Salaries.

The staffs of the village schools in December, 1915, included eighty-one masters, thirty-three mistresses, and 130 assistants. The average salary of masters was £189 16s. 2d., of mistresses £150 15s. 2d., and of both combined £179 11s. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £180 0s. 9d., £144 3s. 8d., and £171 10s. 11d. respectively. The average salary of assistants in 1915 was £74 0s. 8d., as compared with £66 13s. 1d. for the previous year. The increases in the average salaries are due to the improved scale of salaries that came into force in 1915. The total amount expended on teachers' salaries and allowances for the year ended the 31st March, 1916, was £31,019, the corresponding figure for the previous year being £29,010.

Expenditure.

Reference to Table H 9 in the Appendix will show that the total net expenditure on Native schools during the year ended the 31st March, 1916, was £40,033, included in which amount is a sum of £1,723 paid out of revenue from the National Endowment reserves' revenue and £750 from the Tauranga Educational Endowments reserves. The chief items of expenditure are teachers' salaries and house allowances, £31,019; new buildings and additions, £2,685; maintenance of buildings, repairs, &c., £955; secondary education, £1,988.

The income accrued under the Tauranga Educational Endowments Reserve Act, 1896, amounted on the 31st March, 1916, to £201 17s. 7d.

Cook Islands.

During the year, under a special arrangement with the Education Department, three schools were opened in the Cook Islands—two in Rarotonga and one in Aitutaki; but under the Cook Islands Act, 1915, the control and maintenance of these now passes to the Cook Islands Government.

No. 2.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NATIVE SCHOOLS.

SIR,—

22nd May, 1915.

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following report on the general condition of the primary and secondary Native schools of the Dominion, and the work accomplished by them during the year 1915.

NEW SCHOOLS, ETC.

The number of village schools in operation at the close of the year 1914 was 115. During the year 1915 new schools were opened at *Whakarewa* (Kaiuku), Mahia Peninsula; *Moerangi*, near Raglan; and *Otangaroa*, near Whangaroa, temporary buildings provided by the Maoris being