

Native schools, together with such pupils as were receiving special technical training, at the end of the year 1916 was as follows :—

I. Primary schools—					
(a.) Government Native schools	..	..	..	..	4,560
(b.) Mission schools	..	..	..	..	120
(c.) Public schools	..	..	..	..	4,628
					9,308
II. Secondary schools	..	..	..	..	458
III. Special technical training	..	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	..	9,768

Classification of Pupils.

Tables H6, H6A, H6B, and H7 give full information as to the races and classification of pupils on the rolls of the Native schools. As will be seen, 85·1 per cent. were Maoris speaking Maori in their homes, 3·8 were Maoris speaking English in their homes, and 11·1 per cent. were Europeans. The percentage of Maoris speaking Maori in the home is 2·7 less than in 1915, of Maoris speaking English in the home 2·1 per cent. more, and of Europeans 0·6 more than in the previous year.

In comparing Native schools and public schools with respect to the percentages of children in the various classes it will be found that in Native schools there is a larger percentage in the lower classes. The proportion of children at the various ages corresponds, however, very closely in the two classes of schools. The following table shows in a summary form the classification of pupils in Native schools, the percentages of pupils in the various classes in public schools being also shown for comparison :—

Classes.				Maoris.	Europeans.	Totals.	Percentage of Roll.	
							Native Schools.	Public Schools.
Preparatory	..	..	..	2,033	193	2,226	43·4	35·48
Standard I	..	..	..	641	67	708	13·8	12·76
„ II	..	..	..	627	69	696	13·6	12·26
„ III	..	..	..	509	70	579	11·3	11·86
„ IV	..	..	..	376	65	441	8·5	10·91
„ V	..	..	..	247	57	304	5·9	9·27
„ VI	..	..	..	116	45	161	3·2	6·14
„ VII	..	..	..	11	6	17	0·3	1·32

Efficiency of the Schools.

The work of inspection and examination of Native schools was carried out in 1916 in the Hawke's Bay District under the supervision of the Senior Inspector of the district (formerly Senior Inspector of Native Schools); in other districts the work was undertaken by the Inspector of Native schools, assisted by the departmental Inspectors stationed in those districts, to whom was assigned a certain proportion of the schools. It is gratifying to note that the reports of Inspectors, who had not previously visited Native schools, indicated generally a very satisfactory degree of efficiency. The following figures give an estimate of the efficiency of the schools, as judged by the Inspectors for the years 1915 and 1916 :—

	Number of Schools.	
	1915.	1916.
Very good to excellent	35	39
Satisfactory to good	71	65
Inferior to weak	10	11

The number of certificates of proficiency awarded was twenty-eight, and of competency (S6) twenty-six.