

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
1914 .. .. .	115	5,053	4,385	86·7	87	27	4	122	3
1915 .. .. .	117	5,232	4,604	88	81	33	7	123	..
1916 .. .. .	118	5,190	4,504	86·8	79	37	8	123	2
1917 .. .. .	118	5,191	4,507	86·8	71	45	9	122	..

No account is taken in the above table of a number of schools that have from time to time been transferred to the various Education Boards. Table H2 in E.-3 supplies the information for each school in regard to roll number and average attendance.

In addition to the Maori children in attendance at the schools specially instituted for Natives, there were 4,747 Natives attending 574 public schools in December, 1917, as compared with 4,628 pupils attending 501 public schools in 1916. These figures showed a considerable decrease in 1915 and 1916, and it is satisfactory to note that the falling tendency has been checked, the figures again being higher than they were in 1915. Details as to the age and classification of these pupils will be found in Table H5 of E.-3, from which it appears that the great majority of their number are in the lower classes, the proportion of pupils reaching the higher standards being much smaller than in the case of Maoris attending Native schools.

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 1917 was as follows :—

I. Primary schools—							
(a.) Government Native schools	..	..	..	..	..	4,622	
(b.) Mission schools	..	..	..	..	..	124	
(c.) Public schools	..	..	..	..	..	4,747	
							9,493
II. Secondary schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	489
III. Special technical training	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,985

Classification of Pupils.

Tables H6, H6A, H6B, and H7 in E.-3 give full information as to the races and classification of pupils on the rolls of the Native schools. As will be seen, 85·8 per cent. were Maoris speaking Maori in their homes, 3·5 were Maoris speaking English in their homes, and 10·7 per cent. were Europeans.

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