

percentage attendances of 91·3 and 90 respectively. As far as comparisons can be made, the regularity of attendance in New Zealand does not appear to be inferior to that in other English-speaking countries, and when the large number of children who have to travel long distances to school is taken into account the result must be considered as highly satisfactory.

The following figures represent the total number of children (of whom the average weekly roll number was given above) in average attendance at registered schools giving primary instruction :—

Public schools (excluding secondary departments of district high schools)					1917.	1918.
..	..	..	..	..	166,510	167,601
Native village and mission schools					4,619	4,492
Registered private primary schools					16,429	17,441
Lower departments of secondary schools					530	573
Special schools					588	248
Totals					188,676	190,355

CLASSIFICATION, AGE, AND EXAMINATION OF PUPILS.

E.—2. Tables C1—C7.

Classification and Age of Pupils.

The importance of correct classification is receiving the attention of all educationists, the necessity of avoiding waste of time and of hindering the progress of bright pupils being fully recognized. In New Zealand the teachers—who should be in the best position to judge—have the work of the classification of scholars almost entirely in their hands, Inspectors of Schools supervising and assisting when necessary. On the whole the reports on the work of classification are satisfactory, more assistance from the Inspectors being naturally required in small country schools. The opinion is expressed that full advantage is often not taken of the opportunity of promoting brighter pupils twice in one year. In order to carry out the system of “double promotion” the London County Council has a regulation to the effect that classification must be made at the end of the year, and must be reviewed at the end of the first half of the year. It is considered in London that about 20 per cent. of the children are fit to take the work of two standards in one year once or, at most, twice in the course of their school lives. Such promotions are more easily made in the lower standards. Classification is recognized as being a difficult problem, and various schemes are resorted to in order to make provision for backward and for especially bright children.

The table below sets forth the ages and classification of the pupils of public schools in the Dominion :—

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1918, EXCLUDING SECONDARY DEPARTMENTS OF DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

Ages.		Class P.		Standard I.		Standard II.		Standard III.		Standard IV.		Standard V.		Standard VI.		Standard VII.		Totals.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
5 and under	6 ..	7,410	6,761	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,416	6,767
6	7 ..	10,522	9,703	130	171	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,653	9,875
7	8 ..	9,610	8,525	1,769	1,870	128	119	4	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,511	10,523
8	9 ..	4,797	3,894	4,822	4,805	1,529	1,729	119	109	10	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,277	10,543
9	10 ..	1,535	1,140	3,807	3,319	4,391	4,430	1,393	1,460	178	184	3	10	..	2	..	..	11,307	10,545
10	11 ..	482	351	1,511	1,282	3,840	3,483	4,110	4,073	1,418	1,405	108	100	4	7	..	..	11,473	10,701
11	12 ..	142	121	524	377	1,760	1,421	3,635	3,327	3,466	3,492	1,097	1,104	99	89	..	..	10,723	9,931
12	13 ..	60	59	175	118	641	510	1,947	1,730	3,401	3,096	3,196	3,230	989	1,001	5	10	10,414	9,754
13	14 ..	18	19	53	50	241	159	833	654	1,857	1,549	3,246	3,098	2,743	2,672	56	56	9,047	8,257
14	15 ..	12	11	16	17	40	26	217	155	568	464	1,512	1,335	2,485	2,297	31	59	4,881	4,364
15	16 ..	1	1	4	3	10	10	34	25	115	65	384	296	912	728	15	27	1,475	1,155
16	17 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	9	7	37	28	111	86	4	12	162	137
Over 17	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	1	9	12	1	2	14	18
Totals, 1918 ..		34,589	30,586	12,817	12,019	12,581	11,888	12,293	11,546	11,023	10,269	9,586	9,202	7,352	6,894	112	166	100,353	92,570