

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	12,619	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

The table is useful in showing the retardation occurring in the school-life of the pupils. The average age of children in the Dominion in S1 at the end of the year is nine years, in S2 ten years, and so on. These ages are one year higher than would be the case if all children began school at the age of five and spent two years in the preparatory classes and one year in each of the following standards. It is therefore taking a very liberal view to regard children up to ten years of age at the end of a year in S1 as being of normal classification. This is done in the table, the numbers below the lower horizontal lines then representing cases of retardation, the numbers above the upper horizontal lines representing children brighter than the average. It is not possible from the table to show cases above normal classification in the preparatory classes, or cases of retardation in S7. An examination of the figures discloses the following results :—

Class.				Normal Classification.	Above Normal Classification.	Below Normal Classification.
				Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Class P	..	..	..	..	..	6
.. S1	..	..	..	67	16	17
.. S2	..	..	..	66	14	20
.. S3	..	..	..	64	13	23
.. S4	..	..	..	63	15	22
.. S5	..	..	..	68	13	19
.. S6	..	..	..	72	15	13
Classes S1-S6				67	14	19

The average percentage of cases of retardation in S1 to S6 inclusive is 19, the highest rate—24 per cent.—obtaining in S3. This means that 24 out of every 100 children enrolled in S3 at the end of the year were over twelve years of age. Since, under normal conditions a child should pass out of S6 at the age of thirteen, it is very apparent that great numbers of our children are much too old for the