

to submit schedules of their proposals in the order of their urgency ; but as these have been received by the Department in one or two cases only, grants cannot be allocated with due regard to the necessities of the cases within any district and also to the relative needs of one district as compared with those of another.

ROLL NUMBER.

(Tables B1 and B2 in E-2.)

The number of children in attendance at public schools in 1919, as shown by the mean of the average weekly roll for the four quarters of the year, was 193,655, which exceeds the figure for the previous year by 1·2 per cent. The following figures give in detail the average weekly roll and the roll number at the end of 1919 :—

—	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.		Roll Number at end of Year.	
	Including Second-ary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Second-ary Departments of District High Schools.	Including Second-ary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Second-ary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1919	193,655	191,153	196,059	193,900
Year 1918	191,382	188,932	194,934	192,680
Increase in 1919 ..	2,273	2,221	1,125	1,220
Increase per cent. in 1919	1·2	1·2	0·6	0·6

The percentage increase in the average weekly roll has been declining during recent years, the figures for the last six years being as follows : 1914, 3·6 per cent. ; 1915, 3·2 per cent. ; 1916, 1·6 per cent. ; 1917, 2·1 per cent. ; 1918, 1·8 per cent. ; 1919, 1·2 per cent. It is in the schools of the South Island that the falling-off in the increase is most marked, the percentage increase in 1919 being only 0·6, while in the North Island (including Marlborough) the figure was 1·6. The falling-off in the number of entrants noticed in 1918 did not recur in 1919, there being 1,000 more children between the ages of five and seven than in the previous year, and 2,800 more children in the preparatory classes. There were fewer children in S1, S2, and S6 than in the previous year, the decrease in numbers to the extent of over 1,000 in S6 pupils being especially regrettable.

The table below shows the mean average roll number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1908, and for each of the last ten years ; the table gives also the total average attendance for each year, the average attendance as a percentage of the roll (including secondary departments of high schools), and the number of teachers employed in the public schools.

SCHOOLS, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance, Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll.	Number of Teachers.					
					Adults.			Pupil-teachers.		
					M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1878	748	..	*48,773	..	707	454	1,161	118	332	450
1883	971	90,859	69,838	76·9	905	656	1,561	159	571	730
1888	1,158	113,636	†90,108	79·3	1,039	887	1,926	219	694	913
1893	1,375	125,692	†109,321	79·8	1,107	1,096	2,203	238	825	1,063
1898	1,655	133,782	111,636	83·4	1,234	1,370	2,604	229	831	1,060
1903	1,786	134,748	113,047	83·9	1,270	1,726	2,996	147	552	699
1908	1,998	145,974	127,160	87·1	1,331	2,021	3,352	161	476	637
1910	2,096	154,756	135,738	87·7	1,456	2,252	3,708	174	526	\$700
1911	2,166	159,299	142,186	89·3	1,493	2,351	3,844	179	528	\$707
1912	2,214	164,492	146,282	88·9	1,555	2,550	4,105	162	476	\$638
1913	2,255	169,530	151,242	89·2	1,603	2,659	4,262	142	474	\$616
1914	2,301	175,570	158,134	90·1	1,628	2,820	4,448	139	470	\$609
1915	2,338	181,229	163,092	90·0	1,591	3,077	4,668	141	485	\$626
1916	2,355	184,056	163,156	88·6	1,501	3,209	4,710	137	519	\$656
1917	2,368	187,954	168,711	89·8	1,383	3,224	4,707	132	517	\$649
1918	2,365	191,382	169,836	88·7	1,366	3,452	4,818	123	523	\$646
1919	2,400	193,655	174,885	90·3	1,606	3,394	5,000	123	503	\$626

* Average of three quarters. † Strict average. ‡ Working average. § Exclusive of male and female probationers.

The above figures relate to public schools. To estimate the total number of children receiving primary education in the Dominion it will be necessary to