

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

The year was marked by a distinct fall in the number of pupils taking the commercial and general courses. In all other courses an increase is shown. A significant fact is that the boys for the first time outnumber the girls in these schools.

The number of students in attendance at technical high schools during the year was as follows :—

Technical High Schools.						Number of Students.	
						1919.	1920.
Christchurch	..	..	..	..	..	596	581
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	587	476
Dunedin	..	..	..	..	..	435	385
Wanganui	..	..	..	..	..	300	312
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	405	299
Invercargill	..	..	..	..	..	300	298
Napier	..	..	..	..	..	275	249
Hawera	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Westport	..	..	..	..	..	28	24
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	2,926	2,766

The numbers of pupils taking up the various courses provided were as follows :—

Course.					Number of Pupils.			Increase over 1919.
					Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
Industrial	..	..	..	..	839	..	839	+ 53
Commercial and general	..	..	..	..	413	945	1,358	—277
Domestic	..	..	..	..	..	330	330	+ 33
Agriculture	..	..	..	..	232	..	232	+ 29
Art	..	..	..	..	1	6	7	+ 2
Totals	..	..	..	..	1,485	1,281	2,766	—160

Capitation amounting to £39,257 was earned in respect of 2,766 pupils (of whom 2,576 were free pupils), as compared with £41,113 in 1919 in respect of 2,926 pupils. Payments totalling £4,102 were also made in respect of increases in salaries of full-time instructors and directors, making a grand total of £43,359.

NUMBER OF PUPILS RECEIVING FREE EDUCATION AT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS UNDER REGULATIONS FOR FREE PLACES.

				1919.			1920.		
				Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Junior free pupils	First year	..	..	821	710	1,531	759	588	1,347
	Second year	..	..	411	462	873	467	412	879
Senior free pupils	First year	..	..	106	182	288	124	153	277
	Second year	..	..	9	44	53	24	38	62
	Third year	..	..	4	5	9	3	8	11
Totals	..	..	..	1,351	1,403	2,754	1,377	1,199	2,576

FINANCIAL.

The total expenditure by the Department for the year 1920–21 on technical education was £170,200, including approximately £43,000 expended on the maintenance of technical high schools. The expenditure is £38,000 greater than it was in the previous year, owing to the large sum of £67,000 having been expended upon new buildings and sites. Large and expensive building operations in connection with schools and hostels were carried on at a number of centres, notably at Pukekohe, Hawera, Stratford, Wellington, Westport, and Greymouth.

The total capitation earnings of all classes, together with salary increases and allowances, including technical high schools, amounted approximately to £85,838, as compared with £83,915 for the previous year.