

The yearly increase in the average weekly roll number was 6,213, or 3·2 per cent., compared with 1·6 per cent. in 1920, and representing the largest increase since the year 1915. The increase is spread over all classes, but is greatest proportionately in S5 and S6; more than half the increased numbers are in the largest city schools. Comparing the two Islands, the school population increased by 4·3 per cent. in the North Island, and by 1·3 per cent. in the South Island. During the last ten years the public-school population in the Dominion has increased by 27 per cent., so that there were more than one and a quarter times as many children in the schools in 1921 as in 1911.

The table below shows the average roll number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1918, and for each of the last four years; the table gives also the average attendance for each year, the average attendance as a percentage of the roll, and the number of teachers employed in the public schools.

SCHOOLS, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools.	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	218	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
1913	2,255	169,530	151,242	89·2	1,603	2,659	4,262	142	474	616
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
1920	2,437	196,731	171,102	87·0	1,675	3,500	5,175	114	466	580
1921	2,498	202,944	182,306	89·8	1,772	3,488	5,260	141	415	556§

* Average of three quarters. † Strict average. ‡ Working average. § Exclusive of 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 include public schools (exclusive of secondary departments of district high schools), Native schools, registered private primary schools, and the lower departments of secondary schools. The figures will then be :—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER.

Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)	1920.	1921.
Native village and Native mission schools	194,188	200,311
Registered private primary schools	5,689	5,986
Lower departments of secondary schools	22,193*	23,924*
	815*	774*
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars	222,885	230,995

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(Tables B1, B2, and B3 in E.—2.)

The average attendance at public schools was 89·8 per cent. of the average weekly roll, the figures for 1920 and 1921 being :—

	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1921	182,306	179,866
Year 1920	171,102	168,816
Increase in 1921	11,204	11,050
Increase per cent.	6·5	6·6

The very substantial increase (6·5 per cent.) over the previous year in the number of children in average attendance, besides being due to the increased number of pupils on the roll, was largely owing to the comparative freedom of the pupils in most districts from serious epidemics, which in the previous year, especially,