

greatly interfered with the regularity of attendance. The percentage of regularity (89·8) does not fall far short of the highest figure yet attained—namely, 90·3, in the year 1919. Every education district shows an improvement in this respect, the percentages ranging from 88·4 to 92·2, the latter high figure of attainment being reached in the Otago District. Compared with the results achieved in other countries, the regularity of attendance in New Zealand is distinctly good, and it is felt that the improved attitude of parents towards this matter is largely responsible for the high standard reached during recent years.

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:—

	1920.	1921.
Public schools (excluding secondary departments of district high schools)	168,816	179,866
Native village and mission schools	4,861	5,198
Registered private primary schools	19,162	20,941
Lower departments of secondary schools	688	710
Totals	193,527	206,715

CLASSIFICATION, AGE, AND EXAMINATION OF PUPILS.

Classification and Age of Pupils.

The classification of pupils is reported by the Inspectors of Schools to be carried out intelligently by the teachers as a whole. In small country schools where previously there was weakness in this respect the assistance given by the organizing teacher has resulted in a considerable improvement. The seriousness of undue retardation of pupils has been previously emphasized in this report, and teachers as a whole now realize the importance of, as far as possible, allowing the pupil to progress at his natural rate.

The following table shows the classification of pupils of primary schools, the numbers between the heavy horizontal lines representing children regarded as of normal classification, those above the upper lines children brighter than the average, and those below the lower lines children below normal classification:—

CLASSIFIED RETURN OF THE NUMBERS ON THE ROLLS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE END OF 1921, 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 ..	7,901	7,415	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,902	7,416
6 ..	10,860	9,967	91	104	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,954	10,074
7 ..	10,459	9,604	1,688	1,689	127	121	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,279	11,416
8 ..	5,491	4,423	5,020	4,810	1,429	1,643	106	113	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,048	10,994
9 ..	1,762	1,341	4,306	3,710	4,712	4,668	1,333	1,412	85	114	3	4	..	..	..	..	12,201	11,249
10 ..	492	351	1,723	1,284	3,938	3,464	4,165	4,183	1,307	1,348	84	90	6	1	..	..	11,715	10,721
11 ..	177	132	651	407	1,790	1,410	3,890	3,506	3,617	3,827	1,117	1,235	86	77	3	..	11,331	10,594
12 ..	71	60	214	112	692	459	2,139	1,731	3,650	3,454	3,504	3,528	1,030	1,045	6	6	11,306	10,395
13 ..	33	22	78	39	261	189	973	679	2,081	1,952	3,450	3,363	2,996	2,987	29	48	9,901	9,279
14 ..	10	4	25	11	61	36	245	180	735	549	1,786	1,420	2,838	2,446	28	58	5,728	4,704
15 ..	5	2	3	2	11	12	37	17	142	89	465	320	1,184	801	16	32	1,863	1,275
16 ..	..	1	..	..	1	2	6	2	20	12	58	37	173	117	3	12	261	183
Over 17 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	8	4	13	6	5	11	27	23
Totals, 1921 ..	37,261	33,322	13,800	12,169	13,025	12,007	12,899	11,826	11,640	11,351	10,47	10,001	8,326	7,480	90	167	107,516	98,323

NOTE.—The number of S6 pupils in this table differs from that shown in Table C2 in E.—2 for the reason that pupils who did the work of S6 but left before the end of the year are included in this table.