

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The number of public schools open at the end of 1925 was 2,580, or six more than in the previous year. In the following table the schools are classified according to their grade, and the yearly average attendance and the number of children per teacher are shown.

Grade of School.	Number of Schools.	Average Attendance.			Average Number of Children per Teacher in Primary Department.	
		Primary Department.	Secondary Department.	Total.	Excluding Probationers.	Including Probationers.
0 (1-8) ..	209	1,221	..	1,221	6	6
I (9-20) ..	794	11,399	..	11,399	14	14
II (21-35) ..	506	13,330	..	13,330	26	25
IIIA (36-50) ..	320	13,760	..	13,760	22	22
IIIB (51-80) ..	253	15,622	48	15,670	30	28
IIIC (81-120) ..	145	13,706	185	13,891	34	30
IVA (121-160) ..	63	8,771	132	8,903	42	35
IVB (161-200) ..	25	4,410	189	4,599		
IVC (201-240) ..	38	8,261	436	8,697		
VA (241-280) ..	27	6,942	353	7,295	41	35
VB (281-320) ..	25	7,664	139	7,803		
VC (321-360) ..	29	10,268	257	10,525		
VIA (361-400) ..	24	9,193	528	9,721	43	36
VIB (401-440) ..	17	7,184	212	7,396		
VIC (441-480) ..	10	4,637	80	4,717		
VIIA (481-520) ..	18	9,027	96	9,123	43	37
VIIIB (521-560) ..	17	9,309	144	9,453		
VIIIC (561-600) ..	16	9,386	216	9,602		
VIIID (601-640) ..	13	8,495	91	8,586		
VIIIE (641-680) ..	14	9,126	..	9,126		
VIIIF (681-720) ..	6	4,285	..	4,285		
VIIIG (721-760) ..	4	2,980	49	3,029		
VIIIH (761-800) ..	5	3,941	..	3,941		
VIIII (801-840) ..	..	..	..	..	}	}
VIIIJ (841-880) ..	1	889	..	889		
VIIIK (881-920) ..	..	..	..	..		
VIIIL (921-960) ..	1	935	..	935		
Totals, 1925 ..	2,580	194,741	3,155	197,896	32	29
Totals, 1924 ..	2,574	190,837	3,054	193,891	31	29
Difference ..	+ 6	+ 3,904	+ 101	+ 4,005	+ 1	0

	Total Average Attendance. (Primary.)	Average Number of Children per Teacher.	
		Excluding Probationers.	Including Probationers.
Grades III-VII (two or more teachers)	168,791	38	33
Grades V-VII (six or more teachers)	104,261	43	36
All schools	194,741	32	29

It will be seen that 1,509 schools, or more than half the total number, had an average attendance of less than thirty-six pupils. These sole-teacher schools had a total average attendance of 25,950.

CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL SCHOOLS.

As the combined or consolidated country school becomes longer established and its advantages become wider known and better understood, applications for consolidation become more numerous. At each of the places, Oxford in Canterbury and Piopio in the South Auckland district, five schools have been replaced by