

A comparison of the above table with the corresponding table for 1925 reveals some encouraging features regarding the destination of pupils on leaving school. The figures for 1926 show increases in the number of boys proceeding to farming pursuits and to trades and industries, and a decrease in the number choosing clerical or professional careers. The actual figures are as follows :—

	1925.	1926.
Percentage taking up farming	17	20
Percentage entering trades or industries	13	15
Percentage entering on professional or clerical careers	46	43

The returns compiled by teachers also show the duration of the post-primary course taken by pupils who have now left school. Summarized, the position is as follows :—

	High Schools.	District High Schools.	Technical High Schools and Day Technical Schools.	All Schools.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Percentage leaving in first year	18	36	38	27
Percentage leaving in second year	29	32	36	32
Percentage leaving in third or later years	53	32	26	41
	100	100	100	100

The following table shows the number of free places held at the end of 1926 :—

(i) Secondary schools—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(a) Junior free pupils	4,447	4,167	8,614
(b) Senior free pupils	2,144	1,800	3,944
Totals	6,591	5,967	12,558
(ii) District high schools—			
(a) Junior free pupils	1,198	1,237	2,435
(b) Senior free pupils	243	345	588
Totals	1,441	1,582	3,023
(iii) Maori secondary schools	65	80	145
(iv) Technical high schools—			
(a) Junior free pupils	2,533	2,047	4,580
(b) Senior free pupils	489	439	928
Totals	3,022	2,486	5,508
(v) Technical day schools—			
(a) Junior free pupils	347	539	886
(b) Senior free pupils	45	84	129
Totals	392	623	1,015
(vi) Third-year pupils at Kowhai and Northcote Junior High Schools	63	74	137
Grand totals	11,574	10,812	22,386

There were at the end of the year 23,210 children in attendance at Government schools providing secondary education, and of these 96 per cent. were holders of free places.

STAFFS AND SALARIES.

The number of full-time teachers on the staffs of the thirty-nine secondary schools at the end of 1926 was 568, compared with 512 in 1925. There were 25 male and 14 female Principals and 291 male and 238 female assistants.