

school to enter trades and industries is higher than in the case of pupils leaving the primary schools. The post-primary schools, therefore, are not creating a bias away from industrial occupations, but are assisting boys and girls to discover their inclination towards such occupations. There is no doubt that if, as is intended, the secondary schools are equipped in such a way as to enable the pupils to discover and develop their aptitudes in the direction of trade and industry a higher percentage of pupils will seek to enter other than clerical occupations.

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	16	40	38	27
Percentage leaving in second year	31	29	38	33
Percentage leaving in third year	21	16	16	19
Percentage leaving in fourth and later years ..	32	15	8	21
Totals	100	100	100	100

FREE PLACES.

The following table shows the number of free places held in 1927 on the dates shown :—

(i) Secondary schools (at 30th June, 1927)—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(a) Junior free pupils	5,030	4,694	9,724
(b) Senior free pupils	2,329	1,848	4,177
Totals	7,359	6,542	13,901
(ii) District high schools (at 30th June, 1927)—			
(a) Junior free pupils	1,526	1,463	2,989
(b) Senior free pupils	375	382	757
Totals	1,901	1,845	3,746
(iii) Maori secondary schools (at 31st December, 1927)	65	80	145
(iv) Technical high schools and technical day schools (at 30th June, 1927)—			
(a) Junior free pupils	2,914	2,506	5,420
(b) Senior free pupils	523	512	1,035
Totals	3,437	3,018	6,455
(v) Third-year pupils at Kowhai and Northcote Junior High Schools (at 30th June, 1927)..	63	75	138
Grand totals	12,825	11,560	24,385

There were on the 30th June, 1927, 25,314 children in attendance at Government schools providing secondary education, and of these 96 per cent. were holders of free places.