

1928.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT OF THE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

[In continuation of E.-1, 1927.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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Office of the Department of Education,
YOUR EXCELLENCY,—Wellington, 30th June, 1928.

I have the honour, in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1914, to submit to Your Excellency the following report upon the progress and condition of public education in New Zealand during the year ending the 31st December, 1927.

I have, &c.,
R. A. WRIGHT.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the
Dominion of New Zealand.

REPORT.

INTRODUCTORY AND GENERAL.

MUCH consideration has been given during the past year to the problem of securing better articulation between the primary and post-primary schools. To this end a committee consisting of representatives of the University, the training colleges, the primary, secondary, and technical schools, Education Boards, School Committees, and business men interested in education sat in Wellington at various times during the year to consider the remodelling of the primary-school syllabus and generally to advise on the best means of co-ordinating the different types of schools. The report of the committee will receive the careful consideration of the Government, and it is hoped that a further step forward in the organization of educational facilities will result.

In thus seeking to improve the education system it must not be thought that the Government considers the existing organization ineffective. Visiting teachers both from Canada and England bear testimony to the high standard of primary education in New Zealand. While undoubtedly the type of education in both primary and secondary schools has been somewhat too bookish, it must be remembered that, wherever possible, manual training, consisting generally of woodwork for boys and domestic arts for girls, has been freely provided. In country schools, where it is impossible, except at huge cost, to centralize the manual training, handwork in the shape of cardboard-modelling for boys and needlework for girls has long been provided. In all schools science is taught, and wherever possible the curriculum has a bias towards rural pursuits. It will thus be seen that in the primary schools there are not lacking opportunities for boys and girls to show the best of their talents, whether towards the type of education provided in technical schools or towards the more literary type provided in secondary schools. It is also worthy of note that not less than 68 per cent. of pupils who qualify for free secondary education avail themselves of the privilege. The number of secondary pupils who qualify for University education, and particularly the number qualifying for free University education, has increased year by year. In 1912 only sixty-four secondary pupils gained higher leaving certificates, the possession of which gives free University education for three or four years, while last year no less than 756 gained these certificates, and of these 459 embarked on University courses. It is worthy of note that the number of University students per thousand of the population considerably exceeds the corresponding number in any of the Australian States. The proportion in New Zealand is roughly 3·21 students per 1,000.

While it would be unfair to those who have built up the education system to ignore what it has done and is doing for the people, it would be foolish to be blind to its imperfections and to neglect opportunities for improvement. It is acknowledged that all schools tend to draw away from the life of the people and to follow lines of study that grow more and more divergent from the actualities of life. A periodical stocktaking is, therefore, indispensable. The different types of schools and the different branches in the teaching profession tend to lose touch with one another and to pursue different ends. The time is ripe for an overhaul of the whole school system, and this will be undertaken with due regard to the needs of the community as a whole and to the importance of not sacrificing the good features of the existing system. Whatever reorganization is adopted will not be dominated by, yet will not ignore, educational thought and convictions in other countries.

Undoubtedly primary-school education might be made more practical, and should at the same time give greater prominence to the fostering of the reading habit and the study of good books. The æsthetic side of education might well receive more attention in all type of schools, while there are few who do not agree that the secondary schools should provide a broader curriculum than has been usual in this type of school in times past. The rapid growth and the increasing popularity of

technical high schools shows the tendency of the people to realize that education should be closely related to life's activities, and that such a type of education may be as truly cultural as the traditional secondary education. Indeed, there is a growing conviction that a constructive piece of handwork may have a more potent influence on the development of character and on the formation of high cultural ideals than has the translation of a perfectly good piece of English prose into somewhat indifferent Latin. But education has no royal road to offer, and different pupils realize themselves in different ways. Some develop best through the manual arts, and others through literary studies. It is for the schools to provide equal opportunities for all, and this will be one of the chief aims in any reorganization of the school system that may be formulated.

COST OF EDUCATION.

The appendix to this report shows in detail, under various headings, the expenditure on education during the financial year ended 31st March, 1928. The total expenditure, including endowment revenue, amounted to £3,847,545, as against £3,987,416 for the previous year, a decrease of £139,871. This decrease is largely due to the fact that the expenditure on buildings shrank from £501,292 in 1926-27 to £368,479 in 1927-28. In the former year the Department was committed to abnormal expenditure on buildings in connection with educational institutions of the higher type. Two cases in point were the expenditure of £65,966 on the new Medical School at the University of Otago and of £49,354 at the Massey Agricultural College. In the year 1927-28 the Department did not have such heavy commitments, and was consequently able to keep the expenditure almost within the limit of the amount made available for building purposes. If from the total sum of £3,847,545 expended on education in 1927-28 is deducted the sum of £368,479 spent on buildings, the net amount remaining is £3,479,066, which is equivalent to £2 8s. 4d. per head of the mean population of New Zealand (1,438,814) for the year 1927. The cost per head in the previous year, excluding cost of buildings, was £2 9s. 4d.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND SITES.

Considerable progress was made during the year in providing for increase of school population and the continual movement manifested between district and district. The Department is still pursuing its policy of replacing rented accommodation by permanent buildings, with the result that the allocation for rent is steadily decreasing. Further, the policy of making special provision for small country districts has been continued.

Among the larger primary schools completed during the year may be mentioned Turu Turu Road, near Hawera, and Linwood Avenue Fresh-air School, Christchurch. The Terrace End School, Palmerston North, has been partially rebuilt; also the Kakaramaea School, Wanganui District. Secondary departments were provided at Foxton, Ohakune, and Te Aroha. The Rongotai Boys' College, Wellington, and the Marlborough Junior High School were completed. A hostel for the Girls' High School at New Plymouth was also erected.

Some of the more important schools to which substantial additions were made were those at Point Chevalier, Auckland; New Brighton, Christchurch; Timaru Boys' High School; Hutt Valley High School, Wellington; and Waitaki High School, Oamaru. The Memorial Hall at Wellington College, towards which a substantial grant was provided by the Old Boys' Association, was also completed.

A heavy building programme is at present being undertaken, including the Massey Agricultural College, Palmerston North; a new infant department and remodelling of the main building at Hawera; additions to Wanganui East; a new school at Fry's Lane, Hutt Valley; additions to Somerfield, Christchurch; remodelling of Tokomairiro, Otago; rebuilding of infant department, Rangiora, Canterbury; new workshops at the Auckland Technical School; and additions to Hamilton and Palmerston North Technical Schools.

In order to save the State the heavy cost due to the inflation of land-values by the opening of new railways and generally to closer settlement in districts being opened up, the Department has extended its policy of purchasing new sites in advance of settlement.

The Department has continued its policy of centralizing schools in localities where the condition of the roads, the location of the existing schools, the suitability of train services, and other material factors render such a course advisable and economical.

The Department is giving careful consideration to the fresh-air type of school—*i.e.*, a building one side of which can practically be thrown open if weather conditions are suitable. Arrangements have been made to note from time to time the effect of this type of school on the health of the pupils as against the Department's normal type of open-air building.

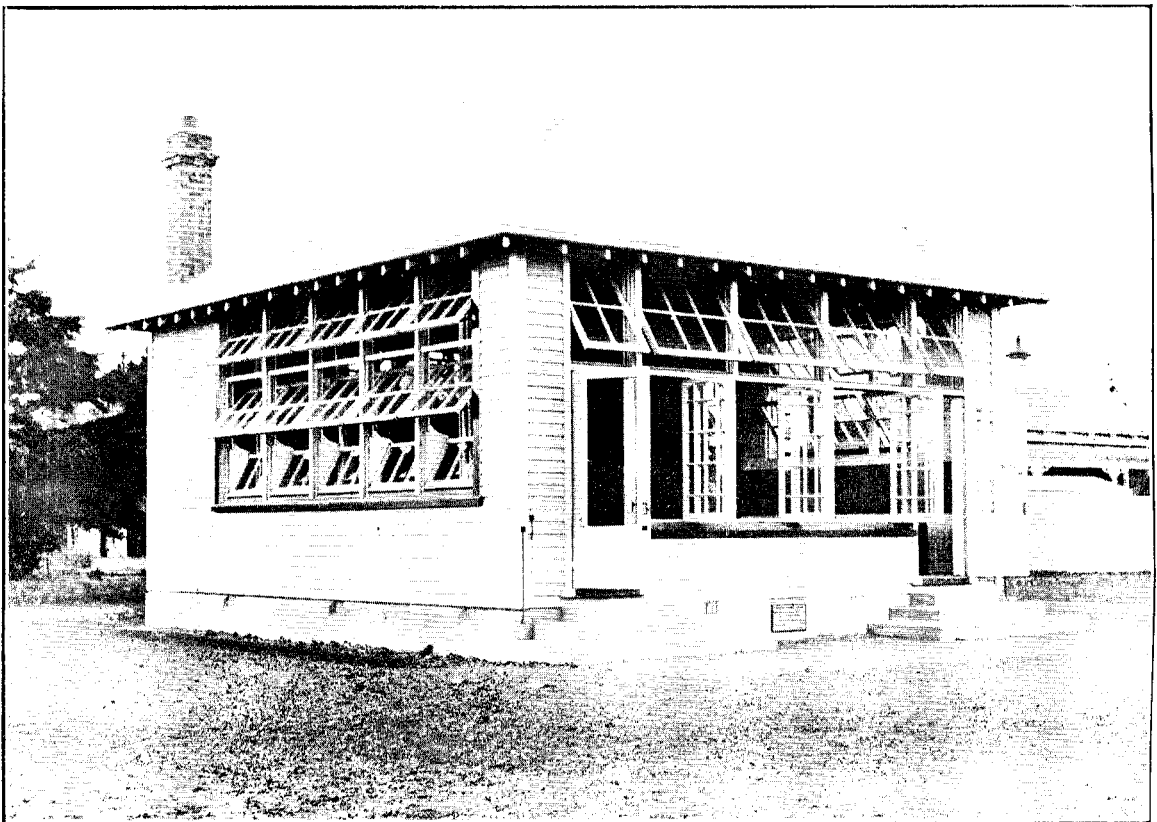
The greater part of the secondary and technical school building-work was carried out by the Architectural Branch of the Public Works Department.

The following table shows for the year ended 31st March, 1928, the amount expended by the Department on new buildings, additions, sites, and teachers' residences :—

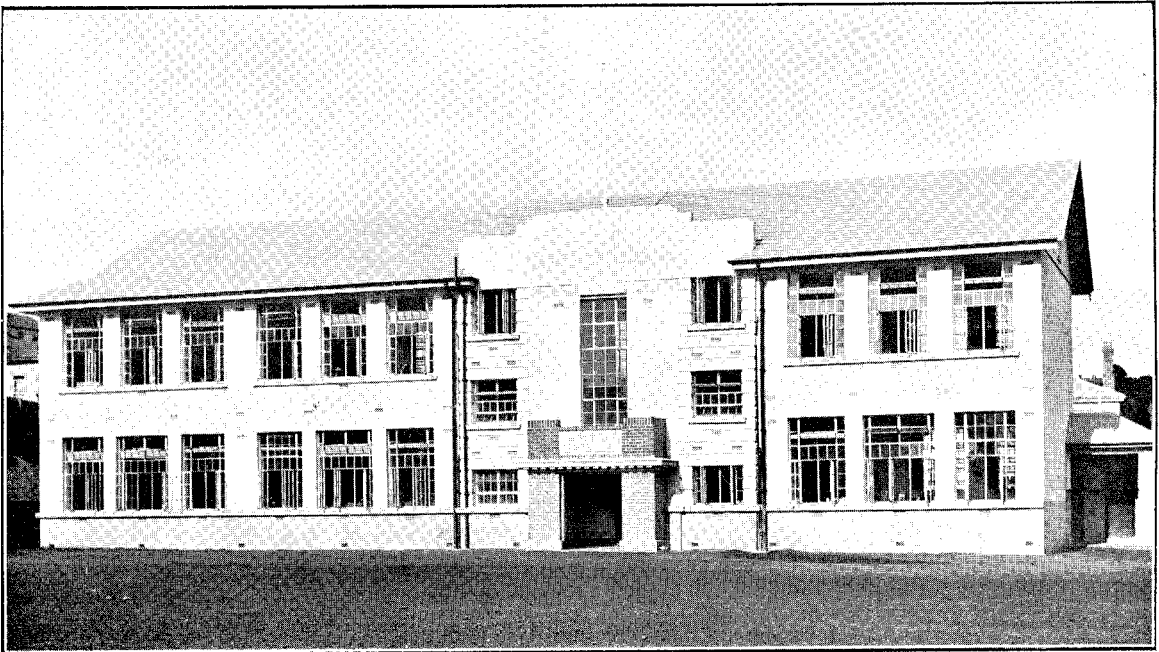
	£
Primary schools	190,940
Secondary schools	93,878
Technical schools	30,060
Training colleges	6,349
Universities	23,208
Native schools	11,430
Special schools	3,510
Free kindergartens	Nil.
Massey Agricultural College	9,104
Total	<u>£368,479</u>



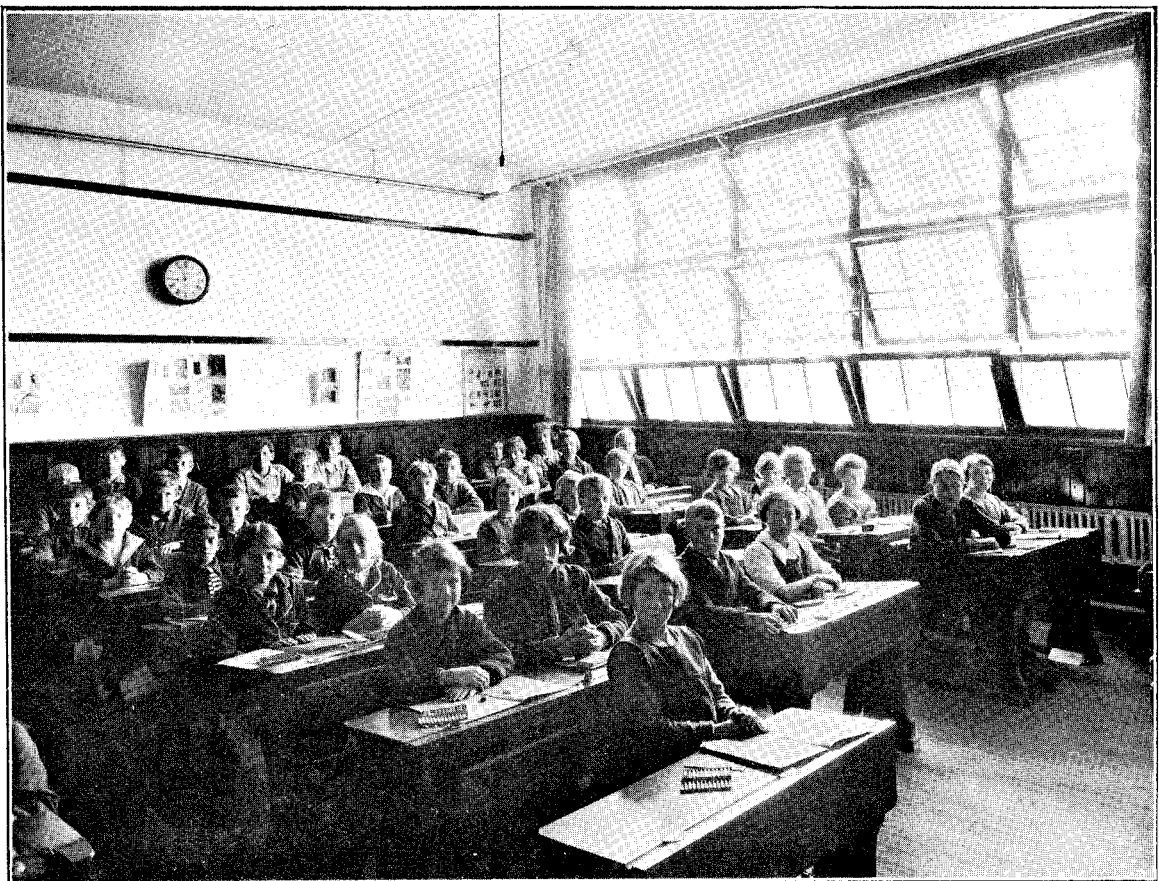
TYPE NO. 1 OF OPEN-AIR CLASS ROOM ERECTED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PLAYGROUND OF A LARGE SCHOOL.



TYPE NO. 2 OF OPEN AIR CLASS ROOM



ORDINARY FRESH-AIR TYPE OF SCHOOL ERECTED IN PERMANENT MATERIAL.



INTERIOR VIEW OF ORDINARY FRESH-AIR TYPE OF CLASS-ROOM.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The number of public schools open at the end of 1927 was 2,601, the same number as 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, and Average Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Total Average Attendance.			* Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher in Primary Department.
		Primary Department.	Secondary Department.	Total.	
0 (1-8)	247	1,486	..	1,486	7
I (9-20)	785	11,022	..	11,022	15
II (21-35)	515	13,587	..	13,587	25
IIIA (36-50)	299	11,983	..	11,983	18
IIIB (51-80)	265	16,251	85	16,336	30
IIIC (81-120)	135	12,875	134	13,009	35
IVA (121-160)	59	7,897	121	8,018	35
IVB (161-200)	32	5,608	264	5,872	
IVC (201-240)	37	7,961	692	8,653	
VA (241-280)	25	6,413	326	6,739	43
VB (281-320)	22	6,609	120	6,729	
VC (321-360)	22	7,448	397	7,845	
VIA (361-400)	26	9,768	466	10,234	53
VIB (401-440)	25	10,450	164	10,614	
VIC (441-480)	16	7,243	183	7,426	
VIIA (481-520)	12	6,015	63	6,078	40
VIIIB (521-560)	19	10,314	102	10,416	
VIIIC (561-600)	15	8,784	94	8,878	
VIIID (601-640)	14	8,623	246	8,869	
VIIIE (641-680)	16	10,542	..	10,542	
VIIIF (681-720)	3	2,129	..	2,129	
VIIIG (721-760)	5	3,651	..	3,651	
VIIIH (761-800)	4	3,092	..	3,092	
VIIII (801-840)	1	815	..	815	..
VIIIJ (841-880)	1	807	..	807	
VIIIK (881-920)	..	..	..	..	
VIIIL (921-960)	1	911	..	911	..
Totals, 1927	2,601	192,284	3,457	195,741	32
Totals, 1926	2,601	192,588	3,220	195,808	..
Difference	—	— 304	+ 237	— 67	—

* Head teachers are counted as class-teachers up to and including Grade V schools that are not District High Schools. In previous reports all head teachers were counted as class-teachers.

					Total Average Attendance. (Primary.)	* Average Number of Children per Adult Teacher.
Grades III–VII (two or more teachers)	..	..	..	..	166,189	37
Grades V–VII (six or more teachers)	..	..	..	..	103,614	44
All schools	..	..	..	..	192,284	32

* Head teachers are counted as class-teachers up to and including Grade V schools that are not District High Schools. In previous reports all head teachers were counted as class-teachers.

It will be seen from the first table above that 1,547 schools, or more than half the total number, each had an average attendance of less than thirty-six pupils. These sole-teacher schools had a total average attendance of 26,095.

ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE.

The total enrolment in public primary schools at the end of the year 1927 was 219,945, an increase of 3,138 over the total for the previous year.

Regularity of Attendance.—The regularity of attendance has continued at a highly satisfactory figure, the average attendance for the year 1927 being 89·2 per cent. of the average weekly roll number. The Otago Education District, with 91·5 per cent., had the highest degree of regularity, but the figures for all districts are creditable, in no case falling below 88·1 per cent.

The relative responsibilities of the nine Education Boards may be gauged from the following figures, which are exclusive of the secondary departments of district high schools :—

Education District.	Enrolment.			Schools, 1927 (excluding Grade 0).	Adult Teachers, 1927.
	1922.	1927.	Percentage Increase, Five Years.		
Auckland	62,248	67,621	9	698	1,854
Taranaki	11,121	11,719	5	164	364
Wanganui	16,673	17,266	4	190	501
Hawke's Bay ..	15,593	16,567	6	163	484
Wellington	26,367	28,042	6	227	751
Nelson	7,052	7,023	*	117	253
Canterbury	36,885	37,890	3	379	1,034
Otago	22,084	21,370	—3	234	609
Southland	12,468	12,447	*	182	380
Totals	210,491	219,945	4	2,354	6,230

* No significant movement.

The more pronounced increase in the North Island districts is, of course, a natural corollary to the northward trend of the population. It will be observed that the Auckland District accounts for 57 per cent. of the increase for the Dominion.

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	9,907	9,023	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,909	9,024
6 "	11,982	10,790	584	697	10	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,576	11,498
7 "	7,645	6,371	4,537	4,830	613	739	14	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,809	11,952
8 "	2,192	1,618	4,795	4,006	4,200	4,424	633	773	13	18	1	..	..	..	..	..	11,834	10,839
9 "	609	391	1,932	1,518	4,704	4,364	3,881	4,341	608	690	24	25	4	3	..	..	11,762	11,362
10 "	200	159	716	441	2,448	1,803	4,833	4,920	3,790	4,037	601	710	56	38	..	..	12,744	12,108
11 "	91	66	215	132	796	569	2,910	2,271	4,608	4,628	3,186	3,388	521	551	1	2	12,328	11,607
12 "	32	33	80	71	284	194	1,236	919	2,870	2,508	4,454	4,291	2,776	3,007	28	32	11,760	11,055
13 "	23	10	34	20	102	66	479	335	1,434	1,066	3,009	2,518	4,120	3,953	60	83	9,261	8,051
14 "	5	5	13	6	30	15	114	62	393	249	1,149	740	2,452	1,835	63	68	4,219	2,980
15 "	..	..	1	1	7	5	20	13	84	31	239	108	757	435	20	23	1,128	616
16 "	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	9	4	23	7	105	57	4	7	145	76
17 years and over	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	5	1	1	5	10	7
Totals	32,686	28,466	12,909	11,753	13,196	12,190	14,223	13,647	13,809	13,231	12,689	11,788	10,796	9,880	177	220	110,485	101,175

PROBLEM OF RETARDATION.

The table on the previous page classifies, according to age and standard of education, the whole of the pupils who were in attendance at public primary schools at the 30th June, 1927.

The heavy lines indicate the normal progress of a pupil who, entering between the age of six years and seven years, spends two years in the preparatory classes and one year in each of the standard classes, and is thus receiving instruction in Standard VI when he is between thirteen and fourteen years of age.

In previous reports the table has been compiled to show the age and standard of education of the pupils in attendance at the end of the year under review. In the report for last year the table was so compiled, the result being that 35 per cent. of the total number of children in attendance was shown to be below the lines of normal progress. It was pointed out in the report that the position thus presented was not strictly correct, since at the end of the year the bulk of the children had actually passed through the classes in which they were shown in the table and were on the point of entering higher classes. With the object of remedying this obvious defect the Department decided last year to obtain the information as to age and standard of education at the 30th June—the middle of the school year—instead of as previously at the 31st December. The figures thus obtained are now tabulated on the previous page, and it will be noted that only 22 per cent. of the total number of pupils enrolled now appear below the normal lines of progress. This, it is thought, is a more correct statement of the position than has been presented in previous years.

Some years ago a thorough investigation was made into the causes of retardation in one of the education districts, with the following results: It was found that approximately 44 per cent. of the retarded pupils, or 1·6 per cent. of all the pupils on the school roll, were of subnormal mentality, a percentage that corresponds very closely with that recorded in Toronto and Vancouver, where similar investigations were made. Other causes of retardation beyond the control of teachers and education authorities are—

- (a) Pupils changing from school to school, which accounts for about 12 per cent. of the retardates ;
- (b) Pupils late in commencing school, a cause that accounts for no less than 22 per cent. of the retardation ;
- (c) Non-English pupils, 5 per cent. ;
- (d) Long distance from school, 3 per cent.

It is interesting to note that according to returns furnished by the teachers only twenty-four pupils out of 3,390, or 0·7 per cent., were retarded owing to changes of teachers. Other causes noted by the teachers were ill health, unfavourable home environment, and work out of school hours.

This is not the place to deal exhaustively with the subject of retardation, but it must be explained that the standards by which retardation is judged are largely those to which we have become accustomed by tradition and which at best are but arbitrary. Before it is possible to dogmatize regarding the extent of retardation in New Zealand schools standardized tests must be established. A great deal of experimental work has already been done in this direction, but the investigation has not yet proceeded far enough to enable the tests to be issued.

Unwise though it would be to rely too closely on deductions from the table on the previous page, certain general tendencies may, however, be discovered by a close examination of the figures. For example, the percentage of retardation appears lowest in the preparatory classes and suddenly increases when the pupils enter the standard classes ; in fact, the retardation progressively increases until Standard V is reached, after which there is a slight fall in Standard VI, due, no doubt, to the fact that by that time the older pupils have left school. The table further appears to show that among the girls there is a slightly greater degree of acceleration than among the boys.

ELIMINATION OF LARGE CLASSES.

During the past few years the Department has made steady progress in reducing, as far as means permit, the number of classes in which the numbers of children enrolled are found to be excessive. It must be evident to all that a wholesale reduction of classes cannot be immediately undertaken in view of the enormous expense that would be involved in the necessary remodelling of schools and the provision of additional class-rooms and teachers. The elimination of large classes can, considering all the attendant circumstances, be a gradual process only. That the Department has made appreciable progress in its efforts will be obvious from the following analysis of the position as it has existed at various dates since 1924. The analysis shows that while in 1924 79 per cent. of the classes in schools of Grade IV and over had more than forty children and 23 per cent. of the classes had more than sixty children, in February, 1928, only 67 per cent. of the classes had more than forty children and only 3 per cent. had more than sixty. When in February, 1928, it was seen that there were one hundred classes of over sixty pupils immediate steps were taken to remedy the matter. Seventy-one additional assistants were appointed, and schools were reorganized wherever possible. In no case where relief through modification of organization was impossible was additional assistance withheld.

SIZE OF CLASSES IN SCHOOLS OF GRADE IV AND OVER.

Number of Children.	1924.		July, 1925.	February, 1926.	July, 1926.	February, 1927.	July, 1927.	February, 1928.	
	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.	Number of Classes.	Number of Classes.	Number of Classes.	Number of Classes.	Number of Classes.	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.
Under 31	124	5	186	249	218	193	178	204	7
31-40	406	16	477	603	628	726	662	768	26
41-50	716	28	935	979	1,006	1,087	1,123	1,026	34
51-60	700	28	808	818	872	817	892	905	30
61-70	359	14	278	203	170	142	122	87	3
71-80	126	5	47	30	26	14	14	9	..
81-90	52	2	8	2	6	2	..	3	..
91	36	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	2,519	100	2,741	2,884	2,926	2,981	2,991	3,003	100

PUPILS LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

In 1926, 21,470 pupils left the public primary schools; of these, 16,106, or 75 per cent., had passed the Standard VI examination, and 5,364 (25 per cent.) had not passed that examination but had attained the age of fourteen years.

In 1927, 22,497 pupils (11,892 boys and 10,605 girls) left public primary schools; of these, 17,628, or 78 per cent., had passed Standard VI, and 4,869, or 22 per cent., had not passed that standard. Amongst the 4,869 children who left without passing Standard VI were 768 children who had not attained the age of fourteen years. It is thought, however, that the greater portion of these will be children who, though not fourteen years of age when the schools closed in December, 1927, attained that age before the 1928 school year commenced. A number left the Dominion, and others transferred either to private schools or to lower departments of secondary schools. The few who are not thus accounted for will doubtless have been dealt with by the Education Boards for irregular attendance.

DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The Department now obtains from public schools, through the Education Boards, returns as to the destination of pupils leaving school each year. A summary of the returns in respect of the pupils who left last year is given in the following table. From this table it will be seen that 50 per cent. of the boys and

49 per cent. of the girls who left last year proceeded to post-primary schools, 20 per cent. of the boys engaged in farming pursuits, and 7 per cent. of the boys entered various trades.

PROBABLE DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING, OR AT END OF, YEAR 1927.

Destination.	Had passed Standard VI.		Had not passed Standard VI.		Totals.			
					Boys.		Girls.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Post primary	5,857	5,148	120	99	5,977	50	5,247	49
Commercial occupations—								
(a) Clerical (including typing) ..	124	81	28	20	152	1	101	1
(b) Shop and warehouse assistants	323	188	126	98	449	4	286	3
Trades—								
(a) Engineering	126	1	49	1	175	1	2	*
(b) Building	150	..	58	1	208	2	1	*
(c) Other	278	71	155	36	433	4	107	1
Agricultural and pastoral ..	1,284	125	1,098	79	2,382	20	204	2
Other occupations	422	255	362	276	784	6	531	5
Home	508	2,372	397	1,483	905	8	3,855	36
Not known	205	110	222	161	427	4	271	3
Totals	9,277	8,351	2,615	2,254	11,892	100	10,605	100

* No significant percentage.

REGISTERED PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by registered private primary schools with respect to the year 1927 :—

—					Undenominational Schools.	Catholic Church Schools.	Other Church Schools.	Total.
Number of schools	..	..	..	..	47	205	53	305
Roll—Boys	..	..	..	..	717	10,501	1,649	12,867
Girls	..	..	..	..	1,212	11,698	1,581	14,491
Total	..	..	..	..	1,929	22,199	3,230	27,358
Average attendance	..	..	..	..	1,664.77	19,415.51	2,879.88	23,960.16
Teachers—Men	..	..	..	..	27	55	47	129
Women	..	..	..	..	122	638	113	873
Total	..	..	..	..	149	693	160	1,002

The number of schools at the end of the previous year was 301, and the total enrolment 26,778.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL.

During the year the number of pupils being taught by correspondence rose from 504 to 620. The school was visited by the Inspectors on two occasions, and was favourably reported on. As in previous years, no children were admitted who could reasonably be expected to attend a public school. To cope with the increased numbers, additional appointments were made to the staff, which now consists of the headmaster and ten assistant teachers, two of whom are engaged in the infant department. Gratifying features of the work are the continued hearty co-operation

of the parents and the enthusiasm of the staff. That a high standard of work is being maintained is proved by the progress that the pupils make when they leave the Correspondence School to attend a public school or a secondary school. The school endeavours, as far as possible, to keep in touch with former pupils, advising and guiding them when necessary.

Of the twenty-two pupils of Standard VI who sat for examination in December, twenty gained proficiency and the remaining two competency certificates. It is regrettable that many of these children are unable to continue their education owing to their distance from a secondary school and the expense involved in sending them to board in town.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The value of physical education as a preventive of disease and as a means of a perfect all-round physical improvement, leading to increased efficiency, is more fully realized than ever before. Since the inception of the present scheme in 1913, the physical condition of the children of our schools has improved to such an extent that the more obvious curable and preventible physical deficiencies have almost disappeared. There remains, however, much still to be done, especially in the prevention of the development of the less-obvious defects leading to serious loss of efficiency as the child develops into adult life. The prevalence of these deficiencies, arising as they do from remote causes, calls for concerted action between all the societies and institutions dealing with the welfare of young children.

Corrective classes are being established in increasing numbers, and it is hoped that the application of suitable treatment will still further increase the number of the physically efficient.

For the normal child interesting movements, games, dances, and eurhythmics supply a motive for active exercises, and there is evidence that what may be called a "physical fitness conscience" is being widely cultivated.

Swimming and life-saving are now compulsory subjects in the training colleges, and these important arts are taught and practised wherever facilities exist.

During the year a refresher course for instructors was held in Dunedin under Dr. Renfrew White, an eminent specialist in orthopædics. The instructors received great benefit from the training received there, and entered their new year's work with widened vision and fresh enthusiasm.

The students in the four training colleges were trained by the instructors, who, in addition to this work, visited during the year over four thousand schools.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

Staffing.—On the 30th June, 1927, there was in the employ of the various Education Boards a total of 119 full-time specialist teachers engaged in giving instruction to senior pupils in woodwork, metalwork, and domestic subjects, besides twenty-two specialist instructors in elementary agriculture. These teachers were classified as under. Class VII is the highest, and in Division I are placed those teachers whose classification is based on academic or professional qualifications equivalent to at least a University diploma involving three years' preparation of University standard.

FULL-TIME CLASSIFIED TEACHERS IN MANUAL-TRAINING CLASSES AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Class.	Division I.		Division II.		Totals.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
VII	..	..	..	..	..
VI	1	..	5	5	11
V	3	..	16	8	27
IV	8	1	15	6	30
III	..	4	11	10	25
II	4	6	2	8	20
I	..	9	16	3	28
Totals ..	16	20	65	40	141

In this table are included nine teachers (four men and five women) on staffs of junior high schools and one supervisor of needlework in primary classes.

The average rates of salary on the 30th June, 1927, were as follows: Men, £352; women, £222; both, £297.

The following are some particulars of the number of schools and the number of pupils receiving instruction in manual training during 1927:—

Agriculture: The number of public primary schools at which instruction in elementary agriculture was given was 1,927, and the number of pupils receiving instruction was 40,578.

Woodwork: Total number of pupils who received instruction, 19,409.

Metalwork: Total number of pupils who received instruction, 799.

Domestic subjects: Total number of pupils who received instruction, 18,890.

Elementary Science: Total number of pupils who received instruction, 5,545.

Private schools: 3,148 pupils from 114 private schools received instruction in manual-training subjects.

FINANCIAL.

The total amount due by the Department to the Education Boards for the salaries and incidental expenses for the year 1927 was approximately £66,662, made up as follows:—

Salaries—						£
Full-time assistants	..	..	..	..	..	41,469
Full-time student teachers	..	..	..	..	..	230
Overtime	..	..	..	..	..	130
Capitation for part-time teachers	..	..	..	..	..	579
						£
Incidental allowances	..	..	..	..	..	42,408
Capitation grants	..	..	..	..	..	9,734
						14,520
Total						£66,662

In addition, the Department provided handwork materials costing some £9,060, and also refunded to Education Boards the actual receiving and distributing charges, amounting approximately to £1,320, involving a total expenditure of £10,380.

STAFFS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The number of adult teachers employed in the primary departments of public schools at the end of 1927 was 6,230 (men, 2,167; women, 4,063), an increase of 47 over the previous year. There were, in addition, 567 probationers (males, 169; females, 398), compared with 700 at the end of the previous year. The following table shows the number of teachers in the schools of the various grades:—

NUMBER OF ADULT TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN PRIMARY DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1927.

Grade of School.			Sole Teachers.		Head Teachers.		Assistant Teachers.		Total Adult Teachers.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Grade 0 (1-8)	..	21	190	..	..	..	..	21	190	211	
„ I (9-20)	..	298	452	..	..	..	1	298	453	751	
„ II (21-35)	..	218	265	14	12	2	26	234	303	537	
„ IIIA (36-50)	..	18	14	169	91	5	255	192	360	652	
„ IIIB (51-80)	..	..	1	227	34	1	276	228	311	539	
„ IIIC (81-120)	..	..	..	118	7	3	245	121	252	373	
„ IV (121-240)	..	..	..	122	1	91	393	213	394	607	
„ V (241-360)	..	..	..	65	1	105	322	170	323	493	
„ VI (361-480)	..	..	..	66	..	164	455	230	455	585	
„ VII (over 480)	..	..	..	98	..	362	1,022	460	1,022	1,482	
All grades	..	555	922	879	146	733	2,995	2,167	4,063	6,230	

Ratio of Men to Women Teachers.—The following table indicates the number of women for each 100 men teachers :—

	1915.	1918.	1922.	1926.	1927.
Adult teachers—					
All schools	193	253	197	194	187
Schools with roll 1-20	323	523	299	212	202
Schools with roll over 20	176	227	182	191	185
Pupil-teachers	344	425	223	*	*
Probationers	647	688	349	248	236
Training-college students	387	488	256	191	213

* The position of "pupil-teacher" has now been abolished.

In the Education service as a whole the ratio of women to men remains fairly constant at about two to one. The number of female probationers somewhat exceeds this ratio; but the relatively heavy loss of women teachers after only a few years' teaching has the effect of reducing the ratio in the teaching service as a whole.

In the previous section, entitled "Elimination of Large Classes," reference was made to steps that had been taken to staff the primary schools more liberally. The following figures give further evidence of what has been done in this direction during the last few years :—

Year.	Average Attendance.	Number of Adult Teachers.	Number of Pupils per Adult Teacher.
1925	194,741	6,002	32.4
1926	192,588	6,183	31.1
1927	192,284	6,230	30.8

TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The total amount of all salaries and allowances for the year ending on the 31st March, 1928, was £1,763,848, or £2,692 more than in the previous year. These figures do not include the equivalent of house allowance where residences are provided, estimated at £51,530, nor the additional amounts paid to head teachers for the supervision of secondary departments of district high schools. The total cost of salaries and allowances (including the sum saved in house allowances) works out at £8 5s. 1d. per head of the total roll number, the corresponding amount in 1926 was £8 7s. 4d.

The average salaries of adult teachers (including house allowances and value of residences) in 1914 and for the last five years are shown in the following table :—

AVERAGE SALARIES OF PRIMARY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

	1914.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
(1) Teachers in all schools—						
(a) Men and women	163	268	276	280	280	279
(b) Men	224	350	358	364	359	356
(c) Women	128	228	236	238	239	238
(2) Teachers in schools with average attendance over eight—						
(a) Men and women	..	275	283	286	285	286
(b) Men	..	353	361	366	361	359
(c) Women	..	235	242	244	244	246
(3) Teachers in schools with average attendance over twenty—						
(a) Men and women	..	283	291	292	295	290
(b) Men	..	370	380	384	384	375
(c) Women	..	237	245	244	248	245
(4) Head teachers—						
(a) Men	..	422	436	442	443	445
(b) Women	..	365	365	359	380	375
(5) All sole teachers—						
(a) Men	..	247	251	264	273	278
(b) Women	..	218	226	240	244	239
(6) Assistants—						
(a) Men	..	321	326	329	318	310
(b) Women	..	224	230	231	230	231

The next table groups certificated teachers according to their salaries. This table shows that 37 per cent. of the certificated male teachers receive salaries over £400 per annum and 57 per cent. receive salaries over £350. Of the certificated women teachers 40 per cent. receive salaries in excess of £250.

Salaries (including Allowances and Value of Residences).	Certificated Male Teachers.		Certificated Female Teachers.	
	Sole and Head Teachers.	Assistants.	Sole and Head Teachers.	Assistants.
Not exceeding £180	12	31	31	428
£181 to £250	102	167	122	1,639
£251 „ £300	217	89	348	333
£301 „ £350	167	103	151	330
£351 „ £400	241	181	155	126
Over £400	630	125	29	8
Totals	1,369	696	836	2,864

APPLICANTS FOR PROBATIONERSHIPS.

In 1927 there was no dearth of young people desiring to enter the teaching service ; in fact, the supply of qualified applicants exceeded the demand. It was therefore possible for Education Boards to select young people with high academic attainments. A few years ago it was possible for candidates who possessed no higher qualification than a pass in the Public Service Entrance Examination to secure appointment. Now no less than 60 per cent. of those appointed possessed higher leaving certificates or a full pass in the teachers' Class D examination, while 39 per cent. had either matriculated or secured a partial pass for Class D. Of the 976 qualified applicants for appointment, positions could be found for only 582. The number of vacant positions is fixed strictly in accordance with the estimated wastage in the teaching staff. The number of entrants to the profession is therefore controlled year by year so that in the future unemployment among teachers may be avoided.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

The numbers of students in training in the four training colleges during 1927 were as follows, the figures for the previous year being also given for comparison :—

College.	1926.			1927.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Auckland	119	247	366	138	285	423
Wellington	89	193	282	77	187	264
Christchurch	99	187	286	83	199	282
Dunedin	105	159	264	86	145	231
Totals	412	786	1,198	384	816	1,200

Students may be admitted to the training colleges under one or other of the following divisions : Division A, students who, having obtained the necessary educational qualifications, have completed a course of training as probationers, or have completed a course of training at a recognized kindergarten school, or have completed a full-time course as student teachers in a technical school ; Division B, other students who, being over seventeen years of age, have obtained higher leaving certificates or partial passes in the Class D Examination or have obtained equivalent or higher qualifications ; Division C, University graduates admitted for one year ; Division D, teachers entering on short-period studentships. The numbers of students under the several divisions in 1927 were : Division A, 1,085 ; Division B, 76 ; Division C, 18 ; and Division D, 21 ; total, 1,200. The numbers for the previous year were : Division A, 1,041 ; Division B, 123 ; Division C, 18 ; and Division D, 16 : total, 1,198.

The number of students who left the training colleges in 1927 was 656, and their examination status was as under : Class A certificate, nil ; Class B certificate, 148 ; Class C certificate, 383 ; Class D with partial success towards C, 107 ; Class D, 3 ; credited with some subjects towards a teacher's certificate, 15 ; no examination, nil.

During the past five years a gratifying improvement has taken place in the examination status attained by students on the completion of their course at the training college. The following table shows the status of those students who left college in the years 1922 and 1927 :—

Year of Leaving.	Teachers Certificate Examination Status.							Total.
	Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D with partial C.	Class D.	Credited with some Subjects towards Teacher's Certificate.	No Examination Status.	
1922 ..	1	50	363	77	17	82	3	593
1927 ..	..	148	383	107	3	15	..	656

GRADING OF TEACHERS.

The total number of teachers graded in 1927 was 7040, including forty-three New Zealand teachers employed in the Island Schools (Fiji, Samoa, and Cook Islands). Appeals against grading were lodged by 132 teachers. Of these fifty-four were withdrawn, fifty-nine were disallowed, and nineteen were upheld. From the gradually diminishing number of appeals it would appear that the grading is now based upon firm ground, and the vast majority of teachers accept the judgment of the grading officers without question.

STATUS OF TEACHERS IN REGARD TO CERTIFICATES.

The table below gives a summary of the position with regard to the number of primary-school teachers holding teachers' certificates in the last three years :—

PRIMARY TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

	1925.		1926.		1927.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
I. Certificated teachers	5,301	88	5,559	90	5,730	92
II. Uncertificated teachers —						
(1) Holding licenses	73	1	61	1	35	1
(2) Unlicensed	628	11	563	9	465	7
Total uncertificated	701	12	624	10	500	8
Totals of I and II	6,002	100	6,183	100	6,230	100

The numbers of teachers holding certificates of the various classes in 1926 and 1927 were as follows :—

Class of Certificate.				1926.			1927.		
				M.	F.	Total.	M	F.	Total.
A	..	..	..	48	9	57	48	10	58
B	..	..	..	431	250	681	494	292	786
C	..	..	..	1,047	2,064	3,111	1,090	2,181	3,271
D	..	..	..	402	1,202	1,604	401	1,127	1,528
E	..	..	..	13	93	106	11	76	87
Total	..	..	..	1,941	3,618	5,559	2,044	3,686	5,730

The following figures indicate the very marked decrease in recent years in the numbers of uncertificated teachers employed in public primary schools :—

Year.	Uncertificated Teachers.	
	Number.	As Percentage of Adult Teachers.
1920	1,472	28
1921	1,336	25
1922	1,234	22
1923	1,100	19
1924	931	16
1925	701	12
1926	624	10
1927	500	8

It must be remembered, of course, that many of the 500 uncertificated teachers have received professional training at the colleges and require to pass in only one or two subjects or to serve their term as probationary assistants in order to complete the requirements of a teacher's certificate. There are now very few untrained teachers in the Service, and it is quite impossible now for any one to enter the profession except through the avenue of the training college or the University.

NATIVE SCHOOLS.

At the end of 1927 there were 134 Native village schools under the direct control of the Department for the primary education of Maori children in districts principally settled by Natives. In addition there were ten primary and twelve secondary (boarding) schools controlled by various religious organizations. Maoris are also admitted to the ordinary public schools—and in fact the number attending these schools is greater than the number in attendance at Native schools.

The following table shows the number of schools with the enrolment at the end of 1926 and at the end of 1927 :—

	Schools, 1927.	Roll, 1926.	Roll, 1927.
Native village schools	134	6,591	6,620
Mission schools (primary)	10	364	470
Public schools with Native children enrolled	769	7,017	7,247
Totals	913	13,972	14,337

These figures include a number of European children (832 in 1927) who attend Native village schools, and if these be deducted the enrolment of Native children in primary schools at the end of last year becomes 13,505, compared with 13,137 at the close of the previous year.

The average yearly attendance at Native village schools was maintained at a creditably high percentage (87·4) of the average weekly enrolment.

Boarding-schools for the secondary education of Maoris have been established by religious bodies, and the Government provides a number of scholarships tenable at these schools, which are inspected by the Department's officers. There were twelve schools at the end of last year, with an enrolment of 524 pupils, of whom 145 held Government scholarships. In addition, nine Maoris held scholarships at Otago University and Canterbury College, taking courses in arts, theology, medicine, law, and forestry, and five Maoris held agricultural scholarships at Te Aute College.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

There were eight junior high schools in operation during the year, as against six in the previous year. The total number of children enrolled at junior high schools at the end of 1927 was 2,290, as against 1,887 at the end of the previous year. Information regarding the pupils in attendance at the schools and the destination of pupils who left the schools last year is contained in the following tables :—

ROLL NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

Junior High School.	Number on Roll at beginning of 1927.	Number admitted during 1927.	Number on Roll at 31st December, 1927.	Average attendance, 1927.	Classification of Pupils on Roll as at 30th June, 1927.									
					Form I.		Form II.		Form III.		All Forms.		Total.	
					Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.		
(a) Whangarei ..	170	195	322	305	80	64	97	82	†	†	177	146	323	
(c) Kowhai ..	476	449	824	817	223	181	181	188	55	58	459	427	886	
(c) Northcote ..	169	175	289	283	69	71	76	65	8	17	153	153	306	
(b) Matamata ..	81	117	158	150	43	41	44	35	†	†	87	76	163	
(a) Rotorua ..	*	138	127	114	49	30	16	29	†	†	65	59	124	
(a) Marlborough..	*	290	260	254	82	70	65	53	†	†	147	123	270	
(a) Waitaki Boys'	90	109	180	169	89	..	97	..	†	†	186	..	186	
(a) Waitaki Girls'	71	73	130	124	..	62	..	80	†	†	..	142	142	
Totals ..	1,057	1,546	2,290	2,216	635	519	576	532	63	75	1,274	1,126	2,400	

(a) These schools are senior high schools to which junior departments consisting of Standard V and Standard VI pupils have been attached. They are sometimes called junior-senior high schools.

(b) A district high school including a primary school department up to Standard IV, a junior high school or junior secondary department consisting of the former Standard V and Standard VI pupils, and a senior high school or senior secondary department.

(c) These schools are separate junior high schools including the former Standard V and Standard VI pupils and also a small Form III or the lowest form of the senior high school.

* Opened in February, 1927.

† Number of Form III pupils included in the statistics for secondary schools.

‡ Number of Form III pupils included in the statistics for district high schools.

AGES OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Junior High School.	Under 11 Years.		11 Years and under 12.		12 Years and under 13.		13 Years and under 14.		14 Years and under 15.		15 Years and over.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Whangarei ..	2	1	29	16	43	46	50	42	42	29	11	12
Kowhai ..	9	5	55	68	121	135	151	136	95	61	28	22
Northcote ..	8	12	16	33	45	40	47	40	25	19	12	9
Matamata ..	4	5	12	10	17	24	34	27	13	8	7	2
Rotorua ..	2	2	12	11	26	17	16	21	7	8	2	..
Marlborough ..	8	3	21	20	50	47	41	38	21	13	6	2
Waitaki Boys'	3	..	27	..	69	..	51	..	25	..	11	..
Waitaki Girls'	..	2	..	31	..	46	..	38	..	19	..	6
Totals ..	36	30	172	189	371	355	390	342	228	157	77	53

AGES AND CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Age.	Form I.		Form II.		Form III.		Total.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Under 11 years ..	36	29	..	1	..	..	36	30
11 years and under 12 ..	154	159	18	30	..	..	172	189
12 " 13 ..	240	194	131	155	..	6	371	355
13 " 14 ..	142	104	231	216	17	22	390	342
14 " 15 ..	53	28	140	95	35	34	228	157
15 years and over ..	10	5	56	35	11	13	77	53
Totals ..	635	519	576	532	63	75	1,274	1,126

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPILS OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS WHO GAINED PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATES IN 1927.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Form II	501	437	938
Form III	13	10	23
Totals	514	447	961

DESTINATION OF PUPILS LEAVING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS DURING, OR AT END OF, 1927.

Occupation.	Boys.					Girls.				
	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.	Percentage.	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Total.	Percentage.
Continued full-time education	26	297	19	342	56	29	264	22	315	58
Commercial (clerical, typing, shop, and warehouse)	4	35	16	55	9	..	30	11	41	7
Trades	3	52	16	71	12	1	5	9	15	3
Agricultural or pastoral	4	43	1	48	8	..	..	..	..	..
Home	3	29	15	47	8	16	98	24	138	25
Miscellaneous ..	3	10	3	16	2	..	20	..	20	4
Not known	7	22	..	29	5	11	6	1	18	3
Totals	50	488	70	608	100	57	423	67	547	100

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

In 1927 there were in operation forty-one secondary schools at which Government free places were held and for which the teachers' salaries, &c., were provided by the Government. Twelve of the schools were for boys only, fourteen were for girls only, and fifteen were for both boys and girls. In addition two boys' schools, the Wanganui Collegiate School and Christ's College Grammar School, were originally endowed with public property. There were also seventy-nine secondary departments of district high schools, fourteen technical high schools, seven organized technical or art schools offering day courses, twelve Maori secondary schools, and forty registered private secondary schools. Further, of the eight junior high schools in operation during the year two schools—namely, Kowhai and Northcote—each provided a three-year course, the last year of which was devoted to secondary instruction. There was thus a total of 197 schools providing secondary education.

The following figures show the roll and attendance at these schools for 1927 :—

(a) Secondary schools (43)	
Roll, 1st March	15,558
Roll, 31st December (boys, 7,853 ; girls, 6,337)	14,190
(b) District high schools—secondary departments (79)	
Roll, 31st December (boys, 1,719 ; girls, 1,724)	3,443
(c) Technical high schools and technical day schools (21)—	
Roll, 31st December (boys, 3,015 ; girls, 2,688)	5,703
(d) Registered private secondary schools (40)—	
Roll, 31st December (boys, 1,143 ; girls, 1,789)	2,932
(e) Secondary schools for Maoris (12)	
Roll, 31st December (boys, 304 ; girls, 220)	524
(f) Junior high schools, third-year pupils only (2)—	
Roll, 31st December (boys, 63 ; girls, 75)	138

The total number of pupils receiving secondary education at the end of the year was 26,930. The total number shown in last year's report as receiving secondary education at the end of 1926 was 27,110, a larger number than at the end of 1927. This decrease, however, is merely an apparent one, due to a change

in the Department's requirements regarding the statistics to be supplied by technical schools. The requirements for these schools have now been brought into line with those for the other post-primary schools, and a more reliable figure for comparative purposes is thus presented. Had the Department adhered to the practice previously obtaining, the result would have shown an increase of 1,310 in the total number receiving secondary education at the end of 1927, instead of, as at present, a decrease of 180.

DESTINATION OF PUPILS ON COMPLETION OF THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by school Principals respecting the destination of pupils who left high schools, district high schools, technical high schools, and day technical schools during or at the end of the year 1927. The figures are in all cases exclusive of pupils who left one school to enter another full-time post-primary school.

Occupation.	Secondary Schools.				Technical High and Day Schools.				Secondary Departments of District High Schools.				Totals.			
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
University college ..	179	7	98	4	8	1	2	*	4	*	2	*	191	4	102	2
Teaching or training college	86	3	250	11	17	1	20	2	20	3	74	10	123	3	344	8
Clerical—																
Government or local body	121	5	21	1	65	4	8	1	99	13	2	*	285	6	31	1
Banks, insurance ..	125	5	6	*	13	1	4	*	21	3	..	..	159	3	10	*
Legal ..	72	3	3	*	7	*	13	1	3	*	4	*	82	2	20	*
Commercial ..	367	14	325	14	95	6	220	17	40	5	55	8	502	10	600	14
Engineering, surveying, and architecture	121	5	1	*	162	11	2	*	22	3	1	*	305	6	4	*
Various trades and industries	294	11	24	1	381	25	126	9	95	12	10	1	770	16	160	4
Shop and warehouse ..	211	8	108	5	160	11	125	9	98	12	71	9	469	10	304	7
Farming ..	426	17	..	..	248	17	..	..	244	31	2	*	918	19	2	*
Home ..	78	3	1,127	49	55	4	557	42	60	8	488	63	193	4	2,172	49
Other occupations ..	77	3	194	9	14	1	21	2	11	1	36	5	102	2	251	6
Not known ..	408	16	133	6	273	18	229	17	71	9	33	4	752	15	395	9
Totals ..	2,565	100	2,290	100	1,498	100	1,327	100	788	100	778	100	4,851	100	4,395	100

* No significant percentage.

It is interesting to compare the probable destinations of boys leaving the three types of schools providing post-primary education—viz., secondary, technical, and district high schools. The following table shows the percentage of the total number of boys leaving each class of school who proceeded to the University, or to employment in the three main occupational groups:—

Class of School.	University.	Clerical, Professional, Shop, and Warehouse.	Farming.	Trades and Industries.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Secondary ..	7	43	17	11
Technical ..	1	34	17	25
District high ..	*	39	31	12
All schools ..	4	40	19	16

* No significant percentage.

A comparison of this table with a similar table provided under the heading "Destination of Pupils leaving Primary School," in another part of this report, shows that there is ample justification for the prominence given in the primary-school syllabus to subjects that have a bearing on rural pursuits. It is worthy of note that the percentage of pupils taking up farm-work is the same for primary as for secondary schools, while the percentage of pupils leaving the latter type of

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.

NUMBERS COMMENCING SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND AGES AT WHICH COMMENCED.

The question of the percentage of children who take up secondary courses after leaving primary school, and the ages at which such courses are commenced, was frequently discussed during the year. The numerical position regarding these matters in 1927 was as follows :—

Class of School.		Age at which Secondary Course commenced.								Total Numbers commencing Secondary Education in 1927.	
		Under 13 Years.		13 Years.		14 Years.		15 Years and over.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Secondary ..		501	428	1,252	1,118	936	875	236	236	2,925	2,657
Technical ..		176	162	740	608	722	626	331	247	1,969	1,643
District high ..		185	210	447	436	337	288	114	78	1,083	1,012
Junior high ..		..	6	17	22	35	34	11	13	63	75
Totals ..		862	806	2,456	2,184	2,030	1,823	692	574	6,040	5,387

From the above table it will be seen that 11,427 children (6,040 boys and 5,387 girls) commenced secondary courses in 1927. Of these children 441 (183 boys and 258 girls) came from private schools.

Returns furnished by Education Boards show that 21,470 children left public primary schools in 1926. Assuming that, with few exceptions, the children who commenced secondary education in 1927 completed the primary course in the previous year, it is found that of the children who left public primary schools in 1926 51 per cent. commenced secondary courses in 1927. It must be noted, of course, that not all the 21,470 children who left public primary schools in 1926 were entitled to admission to secondary schools. The number of such children who had qualified for admission to secondary schools by passing Standard VI was 16,106, and allowing for children entering secondary schools from private schools it will be seen that 10,986, or 68 per cent., of the number so qualified actually did embark on secondary courses in 1927.

STAFFS AND SALARIES.

The number of full-time teachers on the staffs of the forty-one secondary schools at the end of 1927 was 587, compared with 568 in 1926. There were 27 male and 14 female Principals and 293 male and 253 female assistants.

The average rates of salary at the end of the year were as follows, the figures for 1923 being also shown :—

							1923.	1927.
Principals—							£	£
Men ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	713	723
Women ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	546	559
Both sexes	..	..	..	..	..	..	651	667
Assistants—								
Men ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	370	392
Women ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	271	283
Both sexes	..	..	..	..	..	..	324	342
All teachers—								
Men ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	399	420
Women ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	287	298
Both sexes	..	..	..	..	..	..	348	364

In addition, male Principals for whom a residence was not provided received house allowance of £60 per annum.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

GENERAL.

Number of Schools.—The number of technical high schools open during 1927 was fourteen, in addition to which there were seven organized technical or art schools offering full-day courses. From the 1st May, 1926, the Hastings Technical High School was constituted a high school, and from the 1st January, 1927, the New Plymouth Technical Day School was amalgamated with the New Plymouth High Schools and the statistics as far as the full-time pupils are concerned are included in the secondary schools report.

Technical classes were conducted at twenty of the twenty-one centres referred to above, and also at twenty-one other centres, the total number of centres being forty-two.

Attendance.—The following table shows the numbers in attendance at technical schools and classes in 1927 :—

	Free.	Other.	Total.
Total number of pupils on the roll of technical high and technical day schools at 30th June, 1927	6,455	265	6,720
Total number of students in attendance at other technical classes (<i>ie.</i> , part-time and evening classes) during 1927	5,699	6,709	12,408
Grand total	12,154	6,974	19,128

In the technical high schools and technical day schools, excluding Hastings and New Plymouth, the total enrolments increased from 6,559 in 1926 to 7,193 in 1927, an increase of nearly 10 per cent.

In the evening and part-time day classes there was an apparent decrease in the attendance, due to some extent to the cessation of classes at small country centres, particularly in the Canterbury District. The main reason for the apparent reduction, however, is that in 1926 444 pupils attending the Christchurch Technical School for instruction in manual training classes were inadvertently included in the statistical returns submitted by the Board. The total of 12,681 for 1926 should have been 12,237, so that in reality there was a slight increase in the total number of pupils enrolled in 1927 at evening or part-time day classes.

Staffing.—On the 30th June, 1927, there were 295 full-time assistant teachers on the staffs of technical schools, besides a large number of part-time teachers. There were also twenty-nine full-time student teachers, thirteen being males and sixteen females. The following table shows the classification of the 295 full-time assistant teachers, Class VII being the highest :—

Class.	Division I.		Division II.		Totals.
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	
VII	..	1	..	5	6
VI	5	4	6	6	21
V	20	8	15	18	61
IV	28	8	11	18	65
III	26	13	21	6	66
II	15	7	9	6	37
I	17	12	4	6	39
Totals at 30th June, 1927	111	53	66	65	295
Totals at 31st December, 1926	102	48	58	69	277

It will be seen from the above table that the main increase has been in the number of Division I teachers (graduates).

The average rates of salary on the 30th June, 1927, were as follows: Principals (male), £638 (excluding house allowance). Assistants—Men, £400; women, £255; both, £342. All teachers (principals and assistants)—Men, £426; women, £255; both, £363.

With the inclusion of manual-training teachers employed by Education Boards the average rates of salary for all teachers (including Principals of technical schools) graded under the Regulations for Manual and Technical Instruction were as follows: Men, £404; women, £244; both, £342.

EVENING TECHNICAL CLASSES AND PART-TIME DAY CLASSES.

Classes were held at forty-one centres, as compared with forty-eight in the previous year. The number of individual students was as follows:—

In classes conducted by Technical School Boards	..	..	..	10,091
In classes conducted by Secondary Education Boards	..	..	..	296
In classes conducted by Education Boards	..	..	..	474
In classes conducted by High School Boards	..	..	..	922
In classes conducted by University College Boards	..	..	..	625
Total	..	..	..	12,408

Of these students 5,699 held Government free places, classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
First year	1,138	628	1,766
Second year	876	448	1,324
Third year	727	465	1,192
Fourth year	561	292	853
Fifth year and over	356	208	564
	3,658	2,041	5,699

The following are some particulars of the age, sex, and occupation of students:—

SEX AND AGE.

Sex.	Under 13 Years.	13 Years.	14 Years.	15 Years.	16 Years.	17 Years and over.	Totals.
Males	85	139	644	1,224	1,477	4,346	7,915
Females	68	121	448	668	794	2,394	4,493
Totals	153	260	1,092	1,892	2,271	6,740	12,408

SUMMARY OF OCCUPATIONS OF STUDENTS.

	Number of Students.	Percentage of Total.	1926 Percentage.
Various trades and industries	5,718	46.1	42.7
Agricultural pursuits	178	1.4	1.1
Professional pursuits	676	5.5	6.3
Clerical pursuits	2,573	20.7	19.8
Domestic pursuits	1,359	11.0	12.6
Students	1,221	9.8	12.5
Other occupations, not stated	683	5.5	5.0
Totals	12,408	100.0	100.0

TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS, TECHNICAL DAY SCHOOLS, AND FULL-TIME DAY CLASSES.

At the 30th June, 1927, the numbers of pupils taking the various courses provided were as follows :—

Course.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Percentage of Totals.	
				Boys.	Girls.
Industrial	1,969	..	1,969	55·4	..
Agricultural	314	..	314	8·8	..
Domestic	..	891	891	..	28·2
Commercial	608	1,798	2,406	17·1	56·9
General	591	245	836	16·6	7·7
Art	75	229	304	2·1	7·2
Totals	3,557	3,163	6,720	100·0	100·0

It is to be noted that in some cases under the general course are included pupils preparing for the Engineering Preliminary Examination.

Of the total number of pupils (6,720), 6,455 held Government free places, classified as follows :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
First year	1,846	1,576	3,422
Second year	1,064	920	1,984
Third year	361	376	737
Fourth year	140	122	262
Fifth year	22	22	44
Sixth year	2	4	6
Totals	3,435	3,020	6,455

During 1927 3,908 new pupils were admitted, and of this number 3,612 were commencing their secondary education.

The following table shows the classification of pupils according to age at 30th June, 1927 :—

	Under 13 Years.	13 Years.	14 Years.	15 Years.	16 Years.	17 Years.	18 Years and over.	Totals.
Boys	114	684	1,173	940	463	131	52	3,557
Girls	115	602	1,043	790	368	147	98	3,163
Totals	229	1,286	2,216	1,730	831	278	150	6,720

FINANCIAL.

The total amount due by the Department to the controlling authorities for the salaries and incidental expenses of all technical classes, including technical high and day schools for the year 1927 was approximately £179,106, made up as follows :—

Salaries—		£	£
Full-time principals and assistants	..	115,000	
Full-time student-teachers	..	2,346	
Full-time teachers—overtime	..	8,241	
Capitation for part-time assistants and student teachers	..	20,585	
			146,172
Incidental allowances	..		43,149
			189,321
Less recoveries from tuition fees	..		10,215
Net amount	..		£179,106

The above figures include salaries and incidental allowances payable in respect of manual-training classes conducted by Technical School Boards.

CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Branch provides generally for the maintenance of destitute, neglected, and delinquent children and young offenders committed to its care under the provisions of the Child Welfare Act, 1925. In addition the Branch provides for the following social services :—

- (1) Preventive work in the community—that is, the investigation, occasional social readjustment, and necessary supervision by Child Welfare Officers in the early stages of any cases brought under notice.
- (2) Investigation regarding the conduct, family history, and home conditions of all children brought under the notice of Children's Courts, or young persons charged with offences.
- (3) The oversight of all young offenders who are placed under supervision by the Children's Courts.
- (4) Supervision of all infants and young children who are maintained apart from their parents or guardians.
- (5) The investigation and supervision where necessary of all illegitimate births to ensure that these infants are properly placed and cared for. At the same time the Welfare Officer assists the unmarried mother, where possible to re-establish herself in the community, and to fix paternity so that the man concerned may be made to recognize his responsibilities.
- (6) Inquiry regarding all applications for the adoption of children under fifteen years of age. In every such case a report is furnished by the Welfare Officer to the Magistrate prior to the hearing of the application for adoption.
- (7) Preliminary investigation regarding applications for widows' pensions, and supervision and disbursement of pension-money in doubtful cases.
- (8) Assistance in supervising young Natives of the Pacific islands domiciled in the Dominion.
- (9) The care and training and subsequent supervision in the community of the higher grades of feeble-minded children who cannot be left in their own homes, or who cannot attend special day classes attached to public schools.
- (10) The education of deaf children and those who are partially deaf and children with speech-defects.
- (11) The inspection and registration of all children's homes, orphanages, &c.

A most important function of the Child Welfare Branch is to endeavour to check in the early stages the development of conditions in the social field that lead or are likely to lead to child wastage and, where this is not possible, to provide social readjustment for the child or young person who by reason of his environment or physical or mental condition is handicapped in the race of life and likely to become a burden on the community.

The Child Welfare Amendment Act of last session contains important provisions regarding the inspection and registration of private institutions, orphanages, &c., where children are maintained apart from their parents or guardians. Generally speaking, these private institutions for children, of which there are about eighty throughout the Dominion, have many things in common, but practically all of them retain their individuality and are working out their problems (similar problems mostly) in different ways. At this stage in the development of child welfare in the Dominion it is considered desirable in the interest of all concerned, particularly the children, that there should be a close relationship between private social-welfare organizations and institutions and the Child Welfare Branch of the Education Department.

The Amending Act considerably clarifies the powers and scope of the Children's Courts, and specially provides methods of dealing with children and young persons without the recording of convictions. Parental responsibility in the matter of ensuring that the conditions imposed on children residing in their own homes, but placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by the Children's Courts, is also provided for.

CHILDREN'S COURTS.

It is pleasing to record that Magistrates and Justices specially appointed to exercise jurisdiction in Children's Courts have endeavoured to carry out the spirit of the legislation under which these Courts have been established. The view generally accepted by child-welfare authorities in regard to the offending child is that less is to be achieved by punishment than by correction of conditions, care and protection, and the prevention of a recurrence of inimical conditions through the constructive work of the Court in conjunction with the Welfare Officers. As stated in a previous report, the child should be saved to the State, not punished by it.

A certain amount of controversy has been raised in regard to the practice of permitting the publication of proceedings regarding children's cases. The Child Welfare Act stipulates that in no case shall the name of the child be published, or any particulars likely to lead to the identification of the child. Most Magistrates take the view that the presence of reporters is embarrassing and foreign to the informal atmosphere that should obtain in a Children's Court, and that the publication of reports, far from serving any good purpose, may prove distinctly mischievous and harmful.

Associates of Children's Courts.—The personnel of the Children's Court may include Honorary Associates, of either sex, whose function it is to act as the children's friend and generally to assist the presiding Magistrate or Justice in arriving at his decision. So far, Associates of both sexes have been appointed only in the four large centres and in some of the smaller centres, and have proved of very material assistance not only to the Courts but to the officers of the Child Welfare Branch. The Department wishes to acknowledge gratefully the assistance that is frequently given by the Associates after the cases have been dealt with by the Courts.

Child Welfare Officers.—One of the duties of these officers is to investigate each case from a social-welfare standpoint and to furnish the Court with particulars as to family history, environment, conduct, progress at school, degree of mentality, &c. As a rule, in the larger centres the Child Welfare Officers are identical with the regular field officers of the Child Welfare Branch, but in the outlying towns and country districts the services of local voluntary social workers have been utilized to very great advantage. By this means the Department hopes to enlist the services of local organizations, with the object of dealing with the various classes of children in their own districts and in their own homes, where possible, by private effort directed from the nearest child-welfare centre.

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch at the 31st March, 1928, was 5,816, classed under the following headings:—

Boarded out, at service, in receiving-homes, &c.	..	..	..	4,014
Under supervision	..	..	..	493
Infant-life protection	..	..	..	902
Deaf children	..	..	..	122
Feeble-minded children	..	..	..	285
Total	..	..	..	5,816

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1928, was 592, classified according to reason for committal as follows: Indigent, 241; delinquency, 24; detrimental environments, 75; not under proper control, 120; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 81; neglected, 51; and in addition 38 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 14 were temporarily admitted, making a total of 644.

Classified according to age at the time of admission, the numbers are as follows: Under six months, 65; over six months and under one year, 33; from one to five years, 123; from five to ten years, 146; from ten to fourteen years, 143; and over fourteen years, 134: total, 644.

NUMBERS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

Fully 95 per cent. of the children under fifteen years of age under the guardianship of the Child Welfare Branch are placed in foster-homes in country districts, where they have the opportunity of becoming members of some family and of being gradually absorbed into the community.

So far as their scholastic education is concerned, the interest of the Child Welfare Branch in them is really similar to that of any guardian. They attend the public school and take part in the ordinary everyday activities of the community as does the child brought up by his own parents. The remaining 5 per cent. represents those who on account of anti-social habits or subnormality are not fit to be placed in foster-homes or allowed to attend the public school. For this small residue institutions are provided, with facilities for the training and education of the inmates along specialized lines suited as far as practicable to the peculiar needs of the individual cases.

At the end of the year there were 4,014 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 266 were in residence at Government receiving-homes and probation homes (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farms, and training institutions, and 67 in the four private schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 1,981 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 902 were in situations, and 631 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions.

Of the boarded-out children, 130 were over the age of fourteen years, of whom 78 are still attending primary schools, and 52 are receiving higher education (35 technical and 17 secondary).

The children over school age in employment number 758 males and 394 females (included in the total of 4,014). Of the males, 570 are farm-workers (201 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 369 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 56 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 132 others are employed in various trades. Of the girls, there are 317 domestic workers, 42 factory employees, and 35 engaged in various employments, such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, &c.

SYSTEM OF SUPERVISION.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts last year was 1,685, and of these 448 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers or brought under the "Big Brother" scheme as carried out by the Y.M.C.A. and the Roman Catholic authorities. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training-farm, &c., was 592, but all these, with the exception of 117 who require long periods of training or were regarded as unfit for placing out, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The remainder of the children were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION AND ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year there were 902 children being maintained in 753 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 638 homes had one child each, 89 had two children each, 20 had three children each, 5 had four children each, and 1 home had six children. The payments by relatives for the maintenance of each child ranged from 5s. to £1 10s. a week, the average rate of payment being approximately 15s. 7d. per week.

Adoptions.—During the year 372 children were adopted, and in 40 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents and paid out at the rate of 15s. a week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 83 were under the age of six months, 39 between the age of six and twelve months, and 250 between the age of one and six years.

CARE AND TRAINING OF DEAF CHILDREN, CHILDREN WITH DEFECTIVE SPEECH, BLIND CHILDREN, AND MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

The pupils under instruction at the School for the Deaf, Sumner, during the year numbered 122, and of these 14 were day pupils and 108 boarders.

The special day classes in Auckland and Wellington for partially deaf children and for children with speech-defects were continued with highly successful results. About 120 children attended the classes last year. Provision has also been made in these centres and in Christchurch for night classes for the instruction of the adult deaf, 78 persons afflicted in this manner attending the classes for the year ended 31st March, 1928.

The education of blind children is provided for at the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, which is a private institution recognized as a "separate institution" under the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act. Provision is made in this Act for the appointment of nine Trustees—five by the contributors and four by the Governor-General.

The Trustees are required by law to admit and maintain any blind children between the ages of six and twenty-one years that the Minister of Education directs to be sent to the institution. For the maintenance and education of such children the Department pays at the rate of £25 a year each. At present there are 20 children so paid for (13 boys and 7 girls) but this does not represent the total number of children receiving instruction. The Trustees are at liberty to admit any suitable case when the parents are able to pay the full fee.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

There are two such special schools—one at Richmond (near Nelson) for girls, and one at Otekaike (near Oamaru) for boys. The number of girls in residence at Richmond at the end of the year was 85, and the number of boys at Otekaike 185. These institutions are for children who are educable to a certain degree, but who for various reasons cannot be provided for in their own homes.

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR MENTALLY-BACKWARD CHILDREN.

In order to deal with pupils who are of somewhat subnormal mentality special classes to the number of twenty have been established in connection with some of the primary schools in the larger centres. At the 30th June, 1927, there were in attendance at the special classes 305 pupils (191 boys and 114 girls). In these classes a special curriculum is offered including a very large amount of manual training and handwork occupations. For the most part the pupils react quickly to the specialized curriculum, and in some instances appear to make better progress, so far as their mental capacity permits, in the ordinary subjects of instruction. The scheme has been considerably extended during the past year, and several lines of development are under consideration. One of these is the linking-up of the work of the senior pupils with the work of the technical schools. In one centre the experiment is being tried of placing the fourteen-year-old pupils of the special class in ordinary technical-school classes, groups of boys being drafted to manual-training classes and groups of girls to millinery and dressmaking. In addition, girls who are twelve years of age or over attend the manual-training centres for cookery, and the boys for woodwork. It is hoped by this means to ascertain the special aptitudes of the children, so that they may later on find a suitable niche in the industrial world.

Three teachers have returned from periods abroad, whither they had gone to acquire further training and to observe methods of work. One went to Canada and Great Britain, and two to Vinelands, New Jersey, which is regarded as the best training-school in the world for teachers of backward children. All three returned eager to put newly-acquired ideas into practice but convinced that our own classes are being conducted along right lines. Arrangements are under way for other special-class teachers to proceed abroad at an early date.

Two health camps for special-class children were held this year, one being in Wellington and one in Hawke's Bay. In both cases funds were raised locally and subsidized by the Department. The benefit to the children was most marked and well worth the labour involved.

HIGHER (UNIVERSITY) EDUCATION.

The number of students on the books of the four University colleges affiliated to the University of New Zealand increased from 4,653 in 1926 to 4,878 in 1927. The figures for each of the four colleges were as under:—

						1926.	1927.
Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	1,270	1,455
Victoria	..	..	..	..	..	930	975
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	1,229	1,248
Otago ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,224	1,200
						4,653	4,878

The total number of students described as taking definite courses at the affiliated colleges was 4,379, distributed as follows: Arts, 2,056; science, 364; medicine, 223; dentistry, 116; law, 565; commerce, 522; music, 26; engineering, 236; agriculture, 26; home science, 120; architecture, 45; journalism, 42; mining, 19; and forestry, 19.

The number of exempted students was 566 in 1926 and 516 in 1927, the numbers in actual attendance at lectures being 4,087 and 4,362 respectively. The following shows the growth in the numbers of students over a period of years: 1878, 168; 1895, 742; 1900, 805; 1905, 1,158; 1915, 2,039; 1920, 3,822; 1924, 4,236; 1925, 4,442; 1927, 4,878.

Of the 4,878 students on the books in 1927, 3,411 students or 70 per cent. of the total number of students were men.

Of the students attending lectures last year the following were receiving free University education: 39 per cent. in the case of men, and 66 per cent. in the case of women, or 48 per cent. of all students. Nearly all these had their tuition fees paid by the State.

Besides University Scholarships, the gaining of which entitles the holder to free University education and certain additional assistance, the Government awards University Bursaries to all students who secure a credit pass in the University Entrance Scholarship Examination or gain a higher leaving certificate. Most of the bursars secure the latter qualification. A bursary enables a student to secure free University education to the value of £20 per annum in fees, the bursary being tenable for three years, with a possible extension to a fourth year. The following table shows the number of bursaries held in each year since the institution of this system:—

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1912	38	1921	615
1914	110	1922	545
1915	230	1923	649
1916	248	1924	751
1917	246	1925	804
1918	293	1926	899
1919	444	1927	1,013
1920	539		

It is interesting to note that in New Zealand in 1925 the number of students for every 1,000 persons in the population was 3·21; while in New South Wales there were 1·15 students per 1,000; in Victoria, 1·41 per 1,000; in Queensland, 0·54; in South Australia, 2·71; in Western Australia, 1·01; and in Tasmania, 0·81.

Returns showing the occupations of students have been furnished with respect to last year by the four constituent University Colleges. Expressed as percentages the figures are as under:—

	Men.	Women.
Full-time students	31	40
Teachers and training-college students	24	46
Government and local-body employees	12	2
Employees of private firms	32	5
Not known	1	7
	100	100

The number of full-time students as a percentage of the total number of students attending lectures was 59 in the case of Otago, 18 in the case of Auckland, 26 in the case of Victoria, and 34 in the case of Canterbury.

The number of candidates for examinations conducted by the University of New Zealand shows a decrease when compared with the previous year's figures. For the Matriculation Examination there were 5,287 candidates, and of these 2,128 passed, and 435 who already held partial passes completed the examination. There were 6,371 entries for the various degree examinations, compared with 6,593 in 1926.

It is interesting to note the position at the four constituent colleges of the University of New Zealand with regard to the salaries of professors. The following table shows the number of professors in each salary group at the four colleges in 1927 :—

			£750 and under.	£751-£800.	£801-£850.	£851-£900.	£901-£950.	£951-£1,000.
Auckland University College	..		4	1	1	4	2	6
Victoria University College	..		..	..	..	14	1	..
Canterbury College	..	..	1	2	11	..	..	1
University of Otago	..	..	7	..	10	3	2	3
Totals	..	..	12	3	22	21	5	10

In the foregoing table account has been taken of only the actual salary paid by the college authorities. Nearly all the professors, however, receive, in addition to salary, varying sums from the University of New Zealand for services performed in examining the work of candidates at the annual examinations conducted by the University. In many cases such sums amount to over £100 per annum. Taking annual salaries and examining fees together, the following table shows the number of professors in the various groups in the year 1927 :—

			£750 and under.	£751-£800.	£801-£850.	£851-£900.	£901-£950.	£951-£1,000.	£1,001-£1,050.	£1,051-£1,100.	£1,101-£1,150.	£1,151 and over.
Auckland University College			1	2	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	2
Victoria University College	..		..	..	..	1	5	3	4	2	..	..
Canterbury College	..		1	1	5	1	4	1	2	..	..	..
University of Otago	..		7	..	1	3	3	5	3	2	1	..
Totals	..	..	9	3	9	6	15	12	10	5	2	2

GENERAL.

SCHOOL MUSIC.

The Supervisor of Musical Education reports that there is at present every indication that a new spirit is being aroused and a new viewpoint reached with regard to school music. During the year the Supervisor delivered lectures to teachers in summer schools and at meetings throughout the country. In addition personal visits were made to more than fifty schools, and an article on musical matters has been prepared each month for the *Education Gazette*. A handbook of school music, entitled “Scheme of School Music related to Human Life,” has been prepared, and this, it is thought, should be a distinct aid in unifying aims and in supplying a sound and sympathetic scheme of instruction. As some testimony to the strong interest that is being shown in musical education in the schools, it might be mentioned that in 1927 ninety pianos, 245 gramophones, and many hundreds of records were obtained by schools from the firms with whom the Department had special contracts.

The musical instruction at Auckland and Christchurch Training Colleges has been placed on a sound footing by the appointment of full-time lecturers in music. In addition to their work at the colleges, these lecturers are also visiting certain of the neighbouring schools, and they intend later to commence special classes for teachers from the surrounding districts who desire help in the teaching of school music.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

The annual examinations conducted by the Department are as follows : (1) An examination to determine the grant of Junior Scholarships and junior free places, held in November ; (2) a main series of Public Service Entrance, Senior National Scholarships, senior free place purposes ; (3) an August series for teachers’ certificates of Classes D and C and Handicraft, and incidentally to some extent of Class B.

The examinations were held at eighty centres in 1927. The total number of entries for all examinations was 10,130, of which number 9,585 candidates actually presented themselves for examination. A certain proportion of the absentees is due to the practice of the accrediting principle by which candidates for senior free places may be exempted from an external examination, as may also training-college students who are candidates for the teachers' examinations. 4,664 candidates were exempted in this manner from the necessity of passing the Intermediate Examination. The number of candidates actually presenting themselves for the various examinations during the last three years is shown below :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Junior National Scholarships and junior free places	2,687	2,775	2,791
Public Service Entrance, Senior National Scholarships, and Intermediate Teachers D and C	5,097	4,759	4,386
Kindergarten Certificate Examination	3,393	2,689	2,384
Special Public Service Entrance Examination in July–August	3	4	10
London University Examinations	121	219	..
Handicraft Teachers' Certificate	2	2	1
	14	13	13
Totals	11,317	10,461	9,585

Of the 2,640 candidates for Junior National Scholarships in 1927, 266 obtained the scholarship qualification, 1,072 qualified for a free place in the scholarship examination, and 1,568 failed. There were also 151 candidates for free places only, of whom 9 qualified and 142 failed.

Of the 941 candidates for Senior National Scholarships 140 gained scholarships, 727 qualified for senior free places, and 214 failed.

There were 1,285 entries for the Intermediate Examination, 1,157 candidates presenting themselves, of which number 365 passed and 792 failed to do so.

The number present at the Public Service Entrance Examination was 2,288, 1,117 of the number passing and 1,171 failing the examination.

The number of candidates who sat for the different stages of the teachers' certificate examinations was 2,384 (635 for the whole or part of Class C and 1,749 for Class D). Of the total number 359 obtained complete passes in Class D, 118 in Class C, and 6 in Class B. 1,233 improved their status and 668 failed to improve their status.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND.

The position of the fund at the 31st January, 1928, and the principal figures concerning the transactions for the year, compared with those for the year ended 31st January, 1927, are given below :—

	1926–27.	1927–28.
	£	£
Balance at credit of fund at end of year	1,083,155	1,134,015
Increase over balance at end of previous year	74,332	50,860
Income for the year—		
Members' contributions	*147,028	*131,872
Interest	73,420	68,053
Government subsidy	71,428	71,228
Total income	£291,876	£271,153
Expenditure—	£	£
Retiring and other allowances	184,707	188,553
Contributions refunded, &c.	26,590	26,075
Administration expenses	3,147	3,845
Bad debts on realization of securities and reserve	3,100	1,820
Total expenditure	£217,544	£220,293

* The sum received in contributions was less last year than in the previous year on account of the larger amount paid in that year by way of arrears of contributions on house allowance (section 115 of the Public Service Superannuation Act, 1927).

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION FUND—*continued.*

	1926-27.	1927-28.
	£	£
Number of contributors at 31st January	8,371	8,680
Number of members admitted during period	967	841
Number retiring from the fund during period	559	532
Net increase in membership at 31st January	408	309
Number of allowances in force at end of period	1,273	1,364
Representing an annual charge of	£174,816	£192,635
Ordinary retiring-allowances	768 £132,225	843 £149,554
Retiring-allowances under extended provisions of section 75 of the Act	110 £17,923	109 £17,504
Retiring-allowances in medically unfit cases	125 £16,720	128 £17,205
Allowances to widows	183 £5,686	195 £6,058
Allowances to children	87 £2,262	89 £2,314
Funds invested at 31st January—	£	£
At 4½ per cent.	30,450	30,350
At 5 per cent.	12,920	12,920
At 5½ per cent.	38,260	81,160
At 5¾ per cent.	12,000	..
At 6 per cent.	771,613	935,487
At 6½ per cent.	169,419	73,127
Total	£1,034,662	£1,133,044
Average rate of interest on investment at 31st January	5·99 per cent.	5·87 per cent.

SUBSIDY TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The sum of £3,000 was distributed to public libraries in country districts on the basis of subsidy on moneys raised locally by voluntary contribution. Three hundred and twenty-five libraries participated in the grant, receiving amounts varying from £6 11s. to £12 3s. The subsidy is not paid to libraries situated in towns or boroughs with a population exceeding fifteen hundred.

Parliament will be asked to appropriate a further sum of £3,000 this year to enable the payment of subsidy to be continued.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES
IN RESPECT OF ALL SERVICES UNDER THE CONTROL OR SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTER OF
EDUCATION DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

General Administration.		£	£	£
Salaries	..	..	30,452	
Travelling-expenses	..	..	652	
Telephones	..	..	323	
Postage and telegrams	..	..	3,514	
Printing and stationery	..	..	5,059	
Office furniture and fittings	..	..	445	
Council of Education : Travelling-expenses, advertising, &c. ..	..	..	178	
Overtime and meal-allowance	..	..	136	
Sundries	..	..	2	
			40,761	
Less miscellaneous recoveries	..	..	1,658	39,103
Elementary Education.				
Teachers' salaries (including probationers' allowances) ..	..	1,719,321		
Teachers' house allowances	..	44,527		
			1,763,848	
General administrative purposes (including School Committees' allowances) ..	..	..	142,716	
Organizing-teachers' salaries and travelling-expenses ..	..	..	9,172	
Removal of teachers	..	..	739	
Correspondence School : Salaries, &c.	..	..	3,468	
Manual instruction : Salaries, capitation, and material ..	..	..	80,798	
School and class libraries	..	..	2,370	
Purchase of gramophones for schools	..	..	3,314	
School buildings and sites—				
Maintenance and repair of school buildings and residences	..	106,866		
Rent of buildings and sites used for school purposes ..	..	5,211		
Schools destroyed or damaged by fire : Rebuilding and repairs	..	11,537*		
New buildings, additions, sites, and teachers' residences : Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	191,595†		
			315,209	
Inspectors—				
Salaries	..	32,661		
Travelling and removal expenses	..	9,484		
Telephones, office requisites, &c.	..	241		
Extra clerical assistance, typing, &c.	..	391		
			42,777	
School physical services—				
Salaries of instructors	..	4,794		
Courses of instruction	..	30		
Travelling and removal expenses	..	3,118		
Material : Officers' requisites, uniform allowances, &c. ..	..	95		
			8,037	
Conveyance and allowance for board of school-children railway fares, £12,113 ; boarding-allowances and conveyance by road and water, £45,330)	..	..	57,443	
Conveyance of instructors and teachers	..	..	8,455	
Fares of children attending Standard VI examinations ..	..	..	7	
<i>School Journal</i> : Salaries, printing, &c.	..	..	8,662	
<i>Education Gazette</i> : Printing, &c.	..	..	1,103	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions on account of public primary schools, including district high schools	..	..	23,057	
Sundries	..	..	11	
			2,471,186	
Less miscellaneous recoveries (including <i>School Journal</i> , £1,278 ; <i>Education Gazette</i> , £328 ; teachers' salaries, £238 ; special examination fees, £116 ; Correspondence School, £163 ; gramophones, £2,900)	..	..	6,819	2,464,367†
Secondary Education.				
Payments to Education Boards for—				
District high schools : Secondary teachers' salaries ..	..	..	52,359	
National Scholarships	..	..	11,280	
Payments to Secondary schools and colleges for—				
Salaries and incidental expenses	..	..	248,790	
Manual instruction capitation	..	..	4,414	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	..	2,018	
New buildings, equipment, furniture, sites, &c. : Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	93,878		
Maintenance of school buildings	..	1,131		
			95,009	
From reserves revenue in accordance with Education Reserves Amendment Act, 1914	..	..	8,280	
Carried forward	..	..	422,150	2,503,470

* During the financial year £11,824 was recovered from the Fire Insurance Fund in the hands of the Public Trustee.

† Includes £655 cost of raising loans.

‡ Including £54,642 from the national-endowment reserves revenue and £114,967 from primary-education reserves.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£	£
Brought forward	..	422,150	2,503,470
Secondary Education—<i>continued.</i>			
Conveyance of pupils to secondary and district high schools ..	..	7,887	
Marlborough High School: Statutory payment	..	400	
Inspectors' salaries	..	2,556	
Inspectors' travelling and removal expenses	..	787	
Junior High Schools: Incidental expenses	..	1,078	
		434,858	
Less recoveries	..	173	
			434,685*
Technical Education.			
Salaries of Inspectors	..	2,655	
Travelling-expenses of Inspectors	..	661	
Technological examinations	..	536	
Salaries and capitation, technical and continuation classes ..	..	175,011	
Material for classes	..	9	
Buildings and permanent apparatus, &c.—			
Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	30,060		
Rents	1,279		
Maintenance of buildings	1,465		
Rebuilding schools destroyed by fire	168		
		32,972	
Conveyance of instructors and students	..	82	
Conveyance of pupils to technical schools	..	5,752	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	2,091	
Technical Schools Board: Expenses of meetings	..	1	
Transfer and removal expenses	..	110	
Sundries	..	3	
		219,883	
Less recoveries (including exam. fees, &c., £459) ..	..	540	
			219,343†
Training Colleges and Training of Teachers.			
Training colleges—			
Salaries of staff (one-half; the other half is charged to teachers' salaries, "Elementary Education") ..	24,109		
Allowances to students	119,256		
Students' University college fees	6,028		
Special instruction, libraries, and incidental expenses ..	3,000		
Science apparatus and material	712		
New buildings, sites, furniture, &c.: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919 ..	6,349		
		159,454	
Training of teachers other than at training colleges—			
Classes at subcentres	..	510	
Sundries	..	3	
		159,967	
Less recoveries	..	79	
			159,888‡
Higher Education.			
Statutory grants—			
University of New Zealand—			
New Zealand University Act, 1908	3,845		
National-endowment reserves revenue	4,311		
		8,156	
Auckland University College—			
Auckland University College Act, 1882	4,000		
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1914 and 1919 ..	7,100§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,155		
		13,255	
Victoria University College—			
Victoria College Act, 1905	4,000		
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1914 and 1919 ..	7,100§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,155		
		13,255	
Canterbury College—			
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1914 and 1919 ..	4,100§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,155		
Additions to statutory grant: Finance Act, 1920 (section 43) ..	1,562		
		7,817	
University of Otago—			
New Zealand University Amendment Acts, 1914 and 1919 ..	8,700§		
National-endowment reserves revenue	2,155		
		10,855	
Grants for new buildings, &c.—			
Auckland University College	501		
University of Otago	22,415		
Canterbury College	292		
Massey Agricultural College	9,104		
		32,312	
Agricultural Scholarships	..	115	
Sir George Grey Scholarships	..	200	
University National Scholarships	..	2,426	
National Research Scholarships	..	324	
		88,715	
Carried forward	..		3,317,386

* Including £8,068 from national-endowment reserves revenue, and £8,280 from secondary-education reserves revenue.
 ‡ Including £4,153 from national-endowment reserves revenue.
 § Includes £4,521 from national-endowment reserves revenue.
 £500 for Workers' Educational Association classes.

† Including
 § Includes

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£	£
Brought forward	..	88,715	3,317,386
Higher Education—<i>continued.</i>			
Bursaries—			
University	13,295		
Educational	630		
Agricultural	965		
Home Science	5,689		
Engineering	1,318		
		21,897	
Special Technical Classes	..	2,900	
Workers' Educational Association—			
Grant for organization expenses	..	1,500	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions	..	17,418	
Salaries of professors of education	..	3,355	
Temporary assistance, Home Science Department, Otago University	..	450	
Schools of Forestry: Maintenance	..	2,000	
Grant: Otago University	..	4,000	
Maintenance, Palmerston North Agricultural College, New Zealand Agricultural College Act, 1925, Sec. 23	..	15,000	
			157,235*
Native Schools.			
Salaries (Teachers and Inspectors)	62,194		
Special allowances to teachers in isolated places	162		
		62,356	
Higher education and scholarships (including nursing scholarships)	..	5,601	
Books, school requisites, sewing-material, &c.	..	1,432	
Storage and despatch of school books, &c.	..	113	
Expenses of removals of teachers	..	917	
Inspectors travelling-expenses	..	493	
Buildings: New schools, additional class-rooms, &c.—			
Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	11,430		
Maintenance of buildings, rebuilding, repairs, &c.	3,815		
		15,245	
Manual instruction: Payment of instructors and material for classes	..	401	
Conveyance and board of children	..	2,143	
Sundries: Advertising, &c.	..	36	
		88,737	
Less recoveries (sale of maps, &c.)	..	147	
			88,590†
School for the Deaf.			
Salaries	..	5,882	
General maintenance of institution	..	1,831	
Travelling-expenses, including transit of pupils	..	354	
Maintenance of buildings, furniture, repairs, &c.	..	175	
Advertising, &c.	..	8	
Additions to buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	25	
		8,275	
Less recoveries (including maintenance payments, £2,501)	..	2,505	
			5,770‡
Education of the Blind.			
Grant for maintenance of Government pupils at Jubilee Institute	..	417	
Special Instruction	..	15	
Subsidies on voluntary contributions under Hospital and Charitable Aid Acts, 1909, 1910, 1913, 1923	..	1,742	
Sundries	..	27	
		2,201	
Less recoveries (maintenance payments)	..	430	
			1,771
Schools for the Feeble-minded.			
Salaries	..	7,190	
Maintenance of buildings, &c.	..	457	
Additions to buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	..	246	
Travelling-expenses	..	259	
Maintenance of institutions, &c.	..	6,160	
Advertising, &c.	..	4	
Sundries	..	1	
		14,317	
Less recoveries (including amounts received from parents and others and sales of farm produce)	..	3,142	
			11,175§
Industrial Schools, Receiving Homes, Probation System, Boarding-out System, &c.			
Maintenance of buildings	1,257		
New buildings: Education Purposes Loans Act, 1919	3,239		
		4,496	
Carried forward	..	4,496	3,581,927

* Including £526 paid from national-endowment reserves revenue.
† Including £210 from national-endowment reserves revenue.

† Including £1,840 paid from national endowment reserve
§ Including £368 from national-endowment reserves revenue.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERIES, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	£	£
Brought forward	..	4,496	3,581,927
Industrial Schools, Receiving Homes, Probation System, Boarding-out System, &c.—<i>continued.</i>			
Salaries	..	23,796	
Boarding out of children, &c.	..	70,690	
Refund of maintenance payments	..	282	
Refund of inmates' earnings	..	49	
Travelling-expenses	..	6,944	
Law costs	..	69	
Payment to Post and Telegraph Department for services, &c.	..	672	
Rent, office requisites, &c.	..	1,930	
Maintenance of inmates in Government schools, &c.	..	23,280	
Maintenance of inmates sent to other institutions	..	56	
Maintenance of inmates in private industrial schools	..	1,280	
Transfer and removal expenses	..	4	
Wages of inmates	..	206	
Sundries	..	8	
		133,763	
Less recoveries (amounts received from parents and others, and sales of farm produce, &c.)	..	29,125	104,638*
Material and Stores.			
Salaries	..	1,198	
Stores and material purchased	..	3,709	
Lighting, cleaning, cartage, &c.	..	90	
		4,997	
Less recoveries (stores issued and issues on pay- ments)	..	5,223	Cr. 226
Miscellaneous.			
Examination expenses: Teachers', Public Service, and Scholarships	6,970		
Less recoveries	5,558		
		1,412	
Grading and Certificates of Teachers: Courts of Appeal, inquiries, &c.	..	475	
War bursaries	..	503	
Teachers' Superannuation Fund— Government contribution	68,446		
Additional allowances to widows and children	3,497		
		71,943	
Free Kindergartens— Government capitation	..	3,786	
Accidents to school-children and teachers	..	327	
Compassionate Allowances	..	325	
Conference of Education Authorities	..	1,020	
Exhibitions: Preparation and forwarding of school exhibits	..	65	
New Zealand Ensigns for schools	..	1	
Purchase of motor-cars (to be recovered)	..	10	
Storage and despatch of stores and stationery	..	35	
Subsidies to Public Libraries	..	2,993	
Sundries	..	5	
Purchase of motor-buses (for conveyance of school-children).. .. .	..	750	
		83,363	
Less recoveries (motor-cars, £10; sundries, £10)	..	20	83,630
Total	..	..	3,769,969

* Including £3,259 paid from the national-endowment reserves revenue.

SUMMARY.

Service.	Paid from Parlia- mentary Votes.	Paid from Reserves Revenue.	Totals.
	£	£	£
General Administration	39,103	..	39,103
Elementary Education	2,294,758	169,609	2,464,367
Secondary Education	418,337	16,348	434,685
Technical instruction	214,822	4,521	219,343
Training Colleges, &c.	155,735	4,153	159,888
Higher Education	143,778	13,457	157,235
Native Schools	86,750	1,840	88,590
School for the Deaf	5,560	210	5,770
Education of the Blind	1,771	..	1,771
Schools for the Feeble-minded	10,807	368	11,175
Industrial Schools and probation system	101,379	3,259	104,638
Material and Stores	Cr. 226	..	Cr. 226
Miscellaneous Services	83,630	..	83,630
Totals	3,540,917	213,765	3,769,969

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