

DESTINATION OF PUPILS ON COMPLETION OF THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by Principals of schools 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 1928. 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 ..	142	5	78	4	11	1	7	*	6	1	2	*	159	3	87	2
Teaching or training college ..	90	3	253	11	23	1	34	2	24	3	60	8	137	3	347	8
Clerical—																
Government or local body ..	204	8	17	1	74	4	19	1	60	7	4	1	338	6	40	1
Banks, insurance ..	141	5	4	*	18	1	5	*	16	2	..	*	175	3	9	*
Legal ..	47	2	3	*	5	*	10	1	3	*	2	*	55	1	15	*
Commercial ..	358	13	401	18	157	8	288	18	48	3	61	9	563	10	750	16
Engineering, surveying, and architecture ..	85	3	..	..	169	9	..	*	30	3	1	*	284	5	1	*
Various trades and industries ..	322	12	49	2	429	23	90	6	117	13	10	1	868	16	149	3
Shop and warehouse ..	262	10	169	7	224	12	153	10	103	12	69	10	589	11	391	9
Farming ..	499	18	..	..	341	18	8	*	294	34	1	*	1,134	21	9	*
Home ..	137	5	1,142	50	77	4	730	46	52	6	473	65	266	5	2,345	51
Other occupations ..	45	2	88	4	51	3	43	3	37	4	30	4	133	2	161	4
Not known ..	387	14	72	3	290	16	210	13	78	9	15	2	755	14	297	6
Totals ..	2,719	100	2,276	100	1,869	100	1,597	100	868	100	728	100	5,456	100	4,601	100

* No significant percentage.

In the table below are shown for comparative purposes the percentages of the total number of boys leaving each class of school last year who proceeded to the University or to employment in the three main occupational groups. The corresponding figures for three previous years are also shown where these are available.

Class of School.	University.				Clerical, Professional, Shop, and Warehouse.				Farming.				Trades and Industries.			
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Secondary ..	*	*	7	5	*	*	43	44	*	*	17	18	*	*	11	12
Technical ..	*	*	1	1	*	*	34	35	*	*	17	18	*	*	25	23
District high ..	*	*	†	1	*	*	39	33	*	*	31	34	*	*	12	13
All schools ..	3	4	4	3	46	43	40	39	17	20	19	21	13	15	16	16

* Separate figures not available. † No significant percentage.

From the above figures it will be seen that during the past four years industrial and farming occupations have been progressively finding more favour amongst the boys leaving post-primary schools. Between the years 1925 and 1928 the percentage of boys leaving post-primary schools and engaging in farming has risen from 17 to 21, and the percentage of boys entering upon trade and industrial occupations has increased from 13 to 16. In the same period the percentage of boys taking up commercial, clerical, and professional occupations has decreased from 46 to 39. The combined effect of these movements should, to some extent, remove the reproach that our post-primary schools are creating a bias away from farming and industrial pursuits. It is recognized, of course, that the movement towards farming and industrial occupations noted above may in some degree be not altogether the outcome of a change of mind on the part of those responsible for deciding the occupations of boys leaving school, but the inevitable result of the prevailing trade depression with its accompanying lack of openings in the commercial, clerical, and professional walks. At the same time, if, as is desired on almost all sides, our schools are so equipped and our system so organized that the aptitudes of pupils in the direction of farming and industry can be discovered and developed, the percentage of pupils entering what are termed “cuff-and-collar occupations” will continue to decrease.