

would be too great to consider at present. Where it is possible to appoint an assistant with advantage, senior Inspectors have recommended the Department to approve such a course, and shortly after the commencement of the school year the number of classes with sixty children or over was down to an irreducible minimum consistent with the Department's authority for expenditure under this head. The following table shows the progress that has been made since 1924 in the elimination of large classes.

SIZES OF CLASSES IN SCHOOLS OF GRADE IV AND OVER.

Number of Children.	1924.		February, 1931.	
	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.	Number of Classes.	Per Cent.
Under 31	124	5	221	7
31-40	406	16	717	24
41-50	716	28	1,164	39
51-60	700	28	787	27
61 and over	573	23	83*	3
Totals	2,519	100	2,972	100

* This number would have been very substantially reduced by the appointment of additional assistant teacher if the financial situation had permitted.

The extent to which improvements have been effected in the ratio of adult teachers to pupils enrolled is clearly shown by the following table. It will be noted that the rate of increase in the number of adult teachers employed has been more than twice that in the number of pupils enrolled.

PUPILS AND ADULT TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FORMS I AND II OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, 1920-1930.

Year.	Number of Pupils on Roll.	Percentage Increase of Pupils over Number shown for 1920.	Number of Adult Teachers.	Percentage Increase of Teachers over Number shown for 1920.
1920	197,645	..	5,175	..
1921	205,181	3.8	5,260	1.6
1922	210,491	6.5	5,465	5.6
1923	211,960	7.2	5,656	9.3
1924	213,290	7.9	5,822	12.5
1925	215,004	8.8	6,010	16.1
1926	217,427	10.0	6,203	19.9
1927	220,964	11.8	6,264	21.0
1928	219,857	11.2	6,373	23.2
1929	218,996	10.8	6,468	25.0
1930	218,946	10.8	6,502	25.6

PUPILS LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

In 1930, 21,715 pupils (11,120 boys and 10,595 girls) left public primary schools ; of these, 17,264, or 80 per cent., had passed Standard VI, and 4,451, or 20 per cent., had not passed that standard. Amongst the 4,451 children who left without passing Standard VI were 601 children who had not attained the age of fourteen years.