

TABLE OF RESULTS OF EXAMINATIONS.

Class of Schools.	No. of Schools.	Average No. on Books.	Total No. on Books.	Total No. present at Examination.	Over 8 years of Age.	No. classed in Standards.	Standards in which Classed.						No. presented in Standards.	No. passed in Standards.
							I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.		
Wellington City...	9	372	3,349	3,070	2,132	2,046	467	574	421	307	205	72	1,876	1,447
District Town ...	8	198	1,582	1,441	1,051	1,013	255	288	196	157	84	33	976	746
Country ...	21	51	1,071	1,009	715	677	172	175	167	99	48	16	680	475
Rural ...	10	27	267	243	153	151	46	43	33	16	8	5	153	104
Total this year	48	131	6,269	5,763	4,051	3,887	940	1,080	817	579	345	126	3,755	2,772
„ last year	43	145	6,266	5,488	3,766	3,650	896	1,029	881	551	194	99	3,595	2,750
Increase ...	5	-14	3	275	285	237	44	51	-64	28	151	27	160	22

HAWKE'S BAY.

SIR,—

Napier, 31st January, 1882.

I have the honor to present a report upon the condition of the schools in the Hawke's Bay Education District, and upon their progress during the year ended 31st December, 1881.

No alteration has taken place since my last report in the number of schools under my inspection, the opening of the Wallingford School in January being balanced by the closing of the Tarawera subsidized School, which was brought about by the withdrawal of the Government capitation allowance on children below five years of age.

SCHOOLS.—There are 32 schools in the district, employing 84 teachers, viz., 50 head or assistant teachers and 34 pupil-teachers. The total accommodation in the 38 schoolhouses is sufficient for 3,516 pupils, which is equal to the largest number of children who have at any time been attending the schools; but it should be remembered that eight of the buildings do not belong to the Board.

BUILDINGS.—In most of the districts where schoolhouses have been built within the past three years the accommodation continues to be ample for present requirements. The only schools where the attendance is equal to the full capacities of the buildings are—Gisborne, Wairoa, Hastings, Clive, Port Aburiri, and Ormondville. It will be remembered that an enlargement has only recently been made at the latter place, but the rapid increase in the attendance will soon make another addition necessary. The teachers' residences and schoolhouses which are the property of the Board are in good order and repair, with the exception of the schoolhouses at Ormond and Frasertown, and the teacher's residence at Patangata, which are somewhat dilapidated. The out-offices are generally clean and tidy, and the school grounds, with one or two exceptions, are substantially fenced.

ATTENDANCE.—The increase in the attendance at the schools does not show a very marked advance on that of last year. The average weekly number on the registers was 2,980 in 1880, and 3,164 in 1881, or an increase of 6.1 per cent., and the average attendance was 2,250 in the former year and 2,348 last year, or an increase of 4.3 per cent. It is a strange circumstance that the average weekly number on the registers, and the average attendance in the schools throughout the district, reached their highest point during the first quarter of the year, since which time the average attendance has continued to diminish to a very material extent. In some measure this is to be accounted for by the marked falling-off in the attendance at the Napier and Gisborne Schools, measles and scarlatina having been very prevalent in those districts, but, as the epidemics have been local, they certainly will not account for the great difference between the March and December quarterly attendances. On a perusal of the returns from each district, and a comparison between them and the attendance of pupils as shown in the examination schedules, I am again forced to declaim against the greatest drawback to school progress, viz., "irregular attendance." At Porangahau and Blackburn the attendance has become a mere shadow of what it was eighteen months ago, and at Norsewood and Matawhero the attendance is such as to call for the special interference of the Board. I have no hesitation in stating that the attendance at each of these places ought to be at least double what it has been during the past year. But there is another aspect of this question which, I think, deserves consideration. I have not the tables at hand giving the number of boys and girls in the Hawke's Bay Education District, as shown by the census returns, but I presume that the number of each is nearly the same. The case is very different, however, when seen by the following attendance statistics:—

Quarter.	Total attending School.		Difference between Males and Females.	Percentage Less of Females attending School.	Average Attendance.		Difference in Average Attendance of M. and F.	Percentage Less Average Attendance of Females.
	Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.		
March ...	1,731	1,493	238	13.8	1,364	1,117	247	18.2
June ...	1,692	1,480	212	12.6	1,316	1,070	246	19.9
September ...	1,666	1,426	240	14.5	1,387	1,039	348	25.1
December ...	1,731	1,439	292	16.9	1,214	985	229	18.9
For year ...	1,705	1,459.5	245.5	14.4	1,322.5	1,052.75	267.5	20.5