

school rolls, and the average attendance in the schools under the Board for the five years ended the 31st December, 1882. It will be seen that the average number of children on the school rolls for the past year was 3,274·9, and the average attendance 2,447 :—

Year.	Average Weekly Number on Roll.						Average Attendance.					
	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Per-centage Increase on Previous Year.	March.	June.	Sept.	Dec.	Average for Four Quarters.	Per-centage Increase on Previous Year.
1878	1,520	1,797	1,854	1,985	1,789	...	1,259	1,612	1,580	1,649	1,525	...
1879	2,019	2,082	2,510	2,676	2,322	29·9	1,686	1,650	1,871	2,020	1,807	18·4
1880	2,893	2,979	3,003	3,046	2,980	28·8	2,244	2,220	2,204	2,334	2,250·5	24·5
1881	3,224	3,172	3,092	3,170	3,164·5	6·1	2,481	2,386	2,326	2,199	2,348	4·3
1882	3,351	3,184	3,243	3,320	3,274·9	3·22	2,459	2,239	2,457	2,633	2,447	4·3

EXAMINATION RESULTS.—From the annual report which has been submitted by the Inspector the Board is glad to find that there is a marked improvement in the standard work in a fair number of the schools examined. There are some schools, however, which are reported as not being satisfactory, and it will be necessary for the Board to take special action in relation thereto unless more favourable reports are made in respect to their management. The children presented for examination and the number who succeeded in passing the required standard tests show an increase when compared with the numbers examined and passed in 1881, although not such a large increase as is shown in the results of 1881 over those of 1880. But it is encouraging to find that the number of passes in Standards V. and VI. has nearly doubled during the year. The following is a summary of the examination results as contained in Table B, appended to the Inspector's report :—

Year.	Standard I.			Standard II.			Standard III.			Standard IV.			Standard V.			Standard VI.			Total Passes.			
	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.	M.	F.	Tl.				
1878	272	277	549	61	39	100	57	45	102	7	4	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	762
1879	228	201	429	224	166	390	95	94	189	43	22	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,073
1880	199	174	373	176	158	334	104	103	207	53	40	93	19	6	25	...	...	...	1,032
1881	225	161	386	202	172	374	154	117	271	69	66	135	22	15	37	10	...	10	1,213
1882	213	177	390	184	166	350	171	156	327	86	70	156	44	26	70	12	9	21	1,314

EXAMINATION OF SEWING.—On the recommendation of the Inspector a new plan has been adopted for the examination of the standard sewing specimens done by the girls attending the district schools, and with the most satisfactory results. The sewing specimen done by each girl presented for examination was required to be forwarded to Napier against a certain date, and a general examination of all the specimens was held by nine ladies formed into three Committees, each Committee taking two standards, thus: Committee A, Standards I. and V.; Committee B, Standards III. and IV.; and Committee C, Standards II. and VI. The reports of the examiners, which appear in the appendix, will be found to contain suggestions of much practical value relating to the teaching of this most important subject.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.—The interest shown by most of the School Committees in the progress of education, and to which attention was drawn in a previous report, does not appear to have diminished during the past year. In sparsely-peopled districts this interest is perhaps more marked than in the town. For example, at Heretaunga in the Seventy-Mile Bush, at Wallingford near Porangahau, and at Patangata near Kaikora, not only have the residents subscribed substantial amounts towards the erection or improvement of the school-buildings, but they pay each year a fair portion of the teachers' salaries. So also at Patutahi and Waerengahika, in the Poverty Bay District, the residents have subscribed among themselves and have built school-houses, and in the former place have even established a library for the improvement of the children, the Board being unable to assist these districts, it having no funds for building purposes at its disposal. These are only a few of the instances which might be mentioned to show the interest which the people in this district, through their representatives the School Committees, take in the progress of education.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—Increasing attention is being given to the formation of school libraries. At the Napier and Gisborne schools the first and second masters have interested themselves in the matter, and, by means of concerts and entertainments given by the school children, satisfactory sums of money have been obtained, which will go far towards obtaining a fair collection of books suitable for school libraries. Many of the smaller schools are following the good example set by Napier and Gisborne, and it is expected that at no distant date every school of fair average size in Hawke's Bay will be provided with a suitable library to which all pupils able to read will have free access. The Board is pleased to learn that several of the library committees in country districts have agreed to grant free membership to all pupils who succeed in passing Standard IV, and upwards in the annual examination of the district schools.