

that so small a number of Maori children attend the ordinary public schools. There seems to be an unwillingness on the part of many parents of both races—European and Maori—to allow their children to be taught in schools equally open to them all. It is to be feared that in some Maori settlements, that are too small and too near to public schools to be regarded as entitled to have Native schools established in them, the children are growing up in ignorance, being either withheld or virtually excluded from the public schools on account of antipathy based on difference of race. It cannot be overlooked that the ideas, and the personal and domestic habits, of the Maoris, even when some little improvement has taken place, have not yet become so closely assimilated to those of the European population as to induce the families of the latter to consent readily to such close contact on the part of the two classes of children as attendance at the same school necessarily involves.

The attendance of Maori children at the Native schools has increased during the year from 1,381 to 1,618.

AGES OF SCHOLARS.

A detailed statement of the ages of the scholars at the end of the year is given in Table No. 4, Appendix, page 4. The following is a summary:—

TABLE B.—AGES OF SCHOLARS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Ages.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentage for Five Years.				
				1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.
Five and under seven years ..	10,882	9,981	20,863	21.46	22.20	22.64	22.73	22.33
Seven and under ten years ..	18,943	17,086	36,029	37.05	36.78	35.56	35.41	35.99
Ten and under thirteen years ..	14,744	13,711	28,455	29.26	29.00	30.09	30.39	30.25
Thirteen and under fifteen years ..	5,043	5,008	10,051	10.34	10.07	9.82	9.60	9.66
Over fifteen years ..	776	1,064	1,840	1.89	1.95	1.89	1.87	1.77
Totals for 1884 ..	50,388	46,850	97,238	..	..	..	..	..
Totals for 1883 ..	47,704	44,772	92,476	..	..	..	..	..
Increase ..	2,684	2,078	4,762	..	..	..	..	..

The last five columns of the table show that the proportion of the scholars at the different ages specified remains much the same from year to year. As compared with former years there was a slight increase last year in the proportion of those between seven and ten years, and a corresponding decrease as regards the number between five and seven years.

SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

Section 84 of the Education Act prescribes the subjects of instruction to be taught in the public schools. The following table gives the number of scholars returned by the several Boards as receiving instruction in the several subjects at the close of 1884:—

TABLE .—SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Numbers belonging at End of Year.	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	English Grammar and Composition.	Geography.	History.	Elementary Science.	Drawing.	Object Lessons.	Vocal Music.	Needlework (Girls).	Domestic Economy.
Auckland ..	18,389	18,389	18,389	18,389	9,652	11,803	6,964	5,160	15,661	16,486	15,615	7,333	4,024
Taranaki ..	2,113	2,113	2,113	2,065	761	1,156	692	140	1,454	1,576	1,421	691	139
Wanganui ..	5,627	5,627	5,610	5,538	2,349	3,232	2,183	1,036	2,977	4,583	3,340	1,517	266
Wellington ..	7,395	7,395	7,395	7,154	4,031	4,376	3,100	1,440	5,188	5,456	5,658	2,822	125
Hawke's Bay ..	4,110	4,110	4,110	4,110	1,611	2,339	1,555	575	1,726	2,437	2,559	1,559	154
Marlborough ..	1,493	1,493	1,493	1,416	592	863	509	367	885	954	796	383	72
Nelson ..	4,808	4,808	4,696	4,562	2,385	2,930	2,272	1,426	638	2,680	659	1,622	114
North Canterbury ..	18,332	18,332	18,115	17,916	6,903	9,269	6,352	2,320	13,434	15,174	14,400	7,533	1,087
South Canterbury ..	4,067	4,067	3,585	3,749	1,575	2,137	1,525	797	2,593	2,689	3,135	1,266	68
Westland ..	3,105	3,105	3,105	3,105	1,392	1,824	1,205	259	515	2,015	1,081	1,022	..
Otago ..	21,414	21,414	21,414	21,414	9,041	11,779	8,306	5,153	11,152	15,955	17,356	6,754	252
Southland ..	6,385	6,385	6,153	6,142	2,456	3,420	2,252	1,158	2,793	4,651	4,137	2,002	161
Totals for 1884 ..	97,238	97,238	96,178	95,560	42,748	55,128	36,915	20,331	59,066	74,656	70,157	34,504	6,462
Totals for 1883 ..	92,476	92,476	91,676	90,591	40,190	52,439	34,526	19,641	54,996	71,060	64,419	32,275	5,954
Increase ..	4,762	4,762	4,502	4,969	2,558	2,689	2,389	690	4,070	3,596	5,738	2,229	508