

TABLE D.—AGE AND SEX OF PUPILS, DECEMBER, 1886.

| Ages. | Boys. | Girls. | Total. | Percentages for Five Years. | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. |
| Five and under seven years .. | 11,000 | 10,024 | 21,024 | 19·77 | 20·87 | 21·46 | 22·20 | 22·64 |
| Seven and under ten years .. | 20,601 | 18,964 | 39,565 | 37·21 | 37·63 | 37·05 | 36·78 | 35·56 |
| Ten and under thirteen years .. | 16,967 | 15,740 | 32,707 | 30·76 | 29·26 | 29·26 | 29·00 | 30·09 |
| Thirteen and under fifteen years .. | 5,539 | 5,253 | 10,842 | 10·20 | 10·29 | 10·34 | 10·07 | 9·82 |
| Over fifteen years .. | 973 | 1,217 | 2,190 | 2·06 | 1·95 | 1·89 | 1·95 | 1·89 |
| Totals for 1885 .. | 55,130 | 51,198 | 106,328 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

The pupils on the roll at the end of the year were divided according to standards as shown in Table E, and more fully in Table No. 2, Appendix, page 2.

TABLE E.—CLASSIFICATION BY STANDARDS, DECEMBER, 1886.

| Standards. | Boys. | Girls. | Totals. | Percentages. | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. |
| Preparatory classes (P.) .. | 15,675 | 13,781 | 29,456 | 27·70 | 27·49 | 27·33 | 27·62 | 27·32 |
| Class for Standard I. .. | 9,518 | 8,990 | 18,508 | 17·41 | 18·14 | 19·19 | 19·10 | 19·15 |
| " " II. .. | 8,548 | 8,047 | 16,595 | 15·61 | 16·16 | 16·14 | 16·21 | 16·12 |
| " " III. .. | 8,407 | 8,060 | 16,467 | 15·48 | 15·51 | 15·51 | 15·80 | 15·95 |
| " " IV. .. | 6,303 | 5,999 | 12,302 | 11·57 | 11·13 | 11·15 | 10·94 | 11·72 |
| " " V. .. | 3,860 | 3,664 | 7,524 | 7·08 | 6·85 | 6·27 | 6·32 | 6·21 |
| " " VI. .. | 1,965 | 1,844 | 3,809 | 3·58 | 3·28 | 3·25 | 2·91 | 2·64 |
| Passed Standard VI. (S. VII.) .. | 854 | 813 | 1,667 | 1·57 | 1·44 | 1·16 | 1·10 | 0·89 |
| Totals .. | 55,130 | 51,198 | 106,328 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

There is a small increase (amounting to 1·1 per cent.) in the proportions of the four highest classes, and a small proportional decline in the number of children preparing for the three lowest standards. The number in the preparatory class is proportionally larger than it was in 1885, and the tendency seems to be towards increase. Since 1881 it has grown from 25·45 per cent. to 27·70. It is to be noticed, however, that during the same five years the number of children above Standard IV. has also grown from 9·7 per cent. to 12·2.

Table F contains all the information that has been supplied with respect to the ages at which children pass the several standards. The work of ascertaining these ages involves a considerable amount of labour, and the regulations do not render it imperative. So far as can be gathered from the table it does not appear that the pupils come up for each standard at an earlier age than they did some years ago; in fact, the indications point the other way.

TABLE F.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS AT STANDARD EXAMINATIONS.

| Education Districts. | Average Ages (Years) for Standard. | | | | | | Mean of Ages. | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | I. | II. | III. | IV. | V. | VI. | 1886. | 1885. | 1884. | 1883. | 1882. |
| Auckland .. | 9·1 | 10·2 | 11·2 | 12·9 | 13·7 | 14·3 | 11·9 | 12·2 | 12·1 | 12·2 | 12·4 |
| Taranaki .. | 9·1 | 10·3 | 12·0 | 13·1 | 14·3 | 14·3 | 12·2 | 11·9 | 11·6 | 11·1 | 11·5 |
| Wanganui .. | 9·0 | 10·3 | 11·5 | 12·5 | 13·2 | 14·2 | 11·7 | 11·5 | 11·5 | 11·6 | 11·4 |
| Wellington .. | 8·8 | 9·8 | 11·3 | 12·2 | 13·2 | 14·0 | 11·6 | 11·5 | 11·6 | .. | .. |
| Hawke's Bay .. | 8·9 | 10·2 | 11·5 | 12·2 | 13·3 | 14·1 | 11·7 | 11·6 | 11·7 | 11·7 | 11·6 |
| Marlborough .. | 8·6 | 9·0 | 10·3 | 12·2 | 13·3 | 14·2 | 11·3 | 11·5 | 11·6 | 11·2 | 11·2 |
| Nelson .. | 8·6 | 9·6 | 10·9 | 12·0 | 13·1 | 14·2 | 11·5 | 11·2 | 11·2 | 11·3 | 11·3 |
| Grey .. | 8·3 | 9·9 | 11·4 | 12·5 | 13·2 | 13·5 | 11·5 | 11·4 | 10·9 | 11·3 | 11·0 |
| Westland .. | 8·9 | 10·0 | 11·6 | 12·6 | 13·0 | 13·8 | 11·7 | 11·5 | 11·5 | 11·3 | 11·0 |
| North Canterbury .. | 9·0 | 10·1 | 11·4 | 12·5 | 13·4 | 14·5 | 11·8 | 11·5 | 11·6 | 11·9 | 11·9 |
| South Canterbury .. | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 11·6 | 11·2 | 11·0 | 11·2 |
| Otago .. | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 11·6 | 11·7 | 11·5 | 11·9 |
| Southland .. | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | 12·4 | .. | .. | .. |
| Mean .. | 8·8 | 9·9 | 11·3 | 12·5 | 13·4 | 14·2 | 11·7 | 11·6 | 11·5 | 11·5 | 11·5 |
| Range (difference between highest and lowest) .. | 0·8 | 1·3 | 1·7 | 1·1 | 1·3 | 1·3 | 0·9 | 1·2 | 1·2 | 2·3 | 1·4 |
| Mean in 1885 .. | 8·7 | 10·0 | 11·3 | 12·3 | 13·4 | 14·2 | .. | 11·6 | .. | .. | .. |
| Range in 1885 .. | 1·4 | 1·4 | 1·6 | 1·1 | 1·0 | 2·0 | .. | 1·2 | .. | .. | .. |

* Not stated.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the several schools on the several days of examination amounted to 101,910. Of this number 37·1 per cent. were in preparatory classes, and 0·6 per cent. in the class above Standard VI., leaving