

While the labour of the people has thus materially prospered, their intellectual, social, and religious welfare has not been neglected. A comprehensive system of national education has been established on a most liberal basis, the amount paid annually by the State for this purpose being over £540,000 per annum.

TABLES OF STATISTICS SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY.

POPULATION (not including the Maoris).

Years.	1854	1858	1867	1874	1878	1881	1888
	32,554	59,413	218,668	299,514	414,412	489,933	607,380

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS OVER ONE ACRE IN EXTENT (1888).

Freehold ...	22,676
Rented ...	8,296
Part freehold and part rented	3,771

SCHOOLS.

	1878.	1887.
Number of public schools ...	757	1,126
Private schools ...	236	299
Total ...	993	1,425
Teachers ...	2,271	3,731
Scholars ...	75,240	127,395

DEATH-RATES PER 1,000.

	1878.	1881.	1886.
England ...	21.6	18.9	19.3
France ...	22.6	22.0	22.5
New Zealand ...	10.96	11.13	10.54

Years.	Births.	Deaths.
1856 ...	1,722	470
1866 ...	8,466	2,540
1876 ...	16,168	4,904
1886 ...	19,299	6,135

PUBLIC REVENUE.

Years.	£
1853 ...	146,855
1858 ...	341,125
1867 ...	1,787,314
1874 ...	3,024,348
1878 ...	4,167,889
1888 ...	3,859,000

SAVINGS-BANK DEPOSITS.

Years.	£
1858 ...	7,862
1868 ...	243,615
1878 ...	1,043,204
1887 ...	2,407,776

POSTAL.

Letters.

Years.	Received.	Despatched.
1858 ...	254,605	228,251
1867 ...	2,408,331	2,402,909
1878 ...	8,236,062	7,288,699
1886 ...	19,896,448	18,188,144

Newspapers.

Years.	Received.	Despatched.
1858 ...	346,603	337,745
1867 ...	1,670,520	1,390,368
1878 ...	5,097,907	4,312,459
1886 ...	7,479,209	6,844,838

TELEGRAPHS.

Years.	Miles of Line.	Number of Messages.
1866 ...	699	27,407
1871 ...	1,976	312,874
1874 ...	2,530	752,899
1878 ...	3,434	1,260,324
1882 ...	3,974	1,570,189
1887 ...	4,646	1,835,394

METEOROLOGY (1887).

Temperature in Shade.

	Mean. Fahr.	Max. Fahr.	Min. Fahr.
Auckland ...	59.6	81.5	35.0
Wellington ...	54.9	83.0	31.0
Dunedin ...	51.7	92.0	30.0

Rainfall.

	Total Rainfall in Inches.	No. of Days Rain Fell.	Max. Fall in 24 hrs.
Auckland ...	37.7	181	1.87
Wellington ...	56.9	188	2.35
Dunedin ...	39.1	174	2.76

RAILWAYS.

Length of Line opened.

Years.	Miles.
1873 ...	145
1878 ...	1,078
1881 ...	1,333
1888 ...	1,910

Cost of Construction.

£15,000,000

EXPORTS (of all Descriptions).

Years.	£
1841 ...	17,717
1851 ...	84,160
1858 ...	458,023
1861 ...	1,370,247
1864 ...	3,401,667
1874 ...	5,251,269
1881 ...	6,060,866
1888 ...	7,767,325

IMPORTS (of all Descriptions).

Years.	£
1841 ...	13,358
1851 ...	349,540
1858 ...	1,141,273
1861 ...	2,493,811
1864 ...	7,000,655
1874 ...	8,121,812
1881 ...	7,457,045
1888 ...	5,941,900

WOOL EXPORTS.

Years.	Lb.	Value. £
1858 ...	3,810,372	254,052
1861 ...	7,855,920	532,728
1867 ...	27,152,966	1,580,608
1874 ...	46,848,735	2,834,695
1881 ...	59,415,940	2,909,760
1886 ...	90,853,744	3,072,971
1888 ...	83,226,033	3,115,008