

and the importance of maintaining a high standard of regularity of school attendance will be better appreciated if it is remembered that the leading authorities on juvenile depravity and crime are agreed that these social faults have for the most part their origin in truancy and in the acquirement of the nomadic habit; and accordingly the margin between a low rate and a high rate of school attendance, although affected in some degree by sparse settlement, represents to a large extent those individual children who will, if still neglected, go to swell our industrial schools and reformatories, and, at a later age, our prisons, refuges, and lunatic asylums.

TABLE B.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 1901.

Education Districts.	Roll-numbers.				Average Attendance for Whole Year.			Average for the Year as Percentage of the Mean of Average Weekly Roll of Four Quarters—132,869 for 1901, and 132,897 for 1900.	
	Pupils at Beginning of Year.	Admitted during the Year.	Left during the Year.	Pupils belonging at End of Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	1901.	1900.
Auckland	26,060	11,831	9,504	23,387	12,804	11,575	24,379	84.5	84.4
Taranaki	3,814	1,931	1,411	4,334	1,876	1,616	3,492	82.0	81.4
Wanganui	9,953	5,045	4,032	10,996	4,740	4,357	9,097	82.1	82.2
Wellington	13,609	6,298	5,014	14,893	6,665	5,957	12,622	83.7	82.9
Hawke's Bay	7,631	3,334	2,825	8,140	3,612	3,237	6,849	83.9	84.9
Marlborough	2,010	754	675	2,089	915	844	1,759	82.6	81.5
Nelson	5,440	1,980	1,770	5,650	2,500	2,234	4,734	82.8	82.9
Grey	1,489	450	375	1,564	665	704	1,369	85.2	89.1
Westland	1,151	324	291	1,184	519	526	1,045	86.2	87.5
North Canterbury	18,805	6,515	5,682	19,638	8,623	7,935	16,558	83.2	82.9
South Canterbury	4,925	1,833	1,684	5,074	2,334	2,104	4,438	86.5	86.3
Otago	18,929	6,394	5,390	19,993	9,041	8,503	17,544	86.7	86.9
Southland	8,909	2,945	2,355	9,499	4,142	3,769	7,911	83.1	82.9
Totals for 1901	122,725	49,634	41,008	131,351	58,436	53,361	111,797	84.1	..
Totals for 1900	123,416	49,098	41,790	130,724	..*	..*	111,747	84.1	84.1
Difference	-691	536	-782	627	50

* Numbers for 1900 not available. According to "strict" average, the numbers were 57,584 boys, 52,727 girls; total, 110,261.

Taking the several education districts of the colony, an examination of Table B will show that there has been an increase in the average attendance at the schools in 1901 as compared with 1900 in all the districts of the North Island, and in Marlborough in the South Island. In all the other districts of the South Island there has been a decrease. The position is shown in tabular form below (Table B1). The increase in the average for the North Island is 803, and the decrease for the South Island is 753, the net increase for the whole colony being thus 50. The greatest increase (284) is shown in Auckland, the next being Wanganui, with an increase of 210.

TABLE B1.—COMPARISON OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, 1900-1901, NORTH ISLAND AND SOUTH ISLAND.

Districts.	Average Attendance.		
	1900.	1901.	Difference.
Auckland	24,095	24,379	284
Taranaki	3,374	3,492	118
Wanganui	8,887	9,097	210
Wellington	12,475	12,622	147
Hawke's Bay	6,805	6,849	44
Totals, North Island	55,636	56,439	803
Marlborough	1,746	1,759	13
Nelson	4,845	4,734	[- 111]
Grey	1,461	1,369	[- 92]
Westland	1,140	1,045	[- 95]
North Canterbury	16,741	16,558	[- 183]
South Canterbury	4,464	4,438	[- 26]
Otago	17,790	17,544	[- 246]
Southland	7,924	7,911	[- 13]
Totals, South Island	56,111	55,358	[- 753]
Totals for colony	111,747	111,797	50