

the classification in Table E1. The substituted average authorised by clause 1A* of the regulations under the Education Act has been taken in all cases where the Boards decided to avail themselves of it.

The number of small schools⁵⁷ with an average attendance not exceeding twenty shows a further increase of 28⁵⁷ over that of 1903. The number which was 527 in 1903 was 555 last year. The number of pupils attending these schools has increased by 181—namely, from 6,632 to 6,813.

TABLE E2.—AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR 1904 AT THE SCHOOLS AS GROUPED IN TABLE E1.

Yearly Average Attendance.	Auckland.	Taranaki.	Wanganui.	Wellington.	Hawke's Bay.	Marlborough.	Nelson.	Grey.	Westland.	North Canterbury.	South Canterbury.	Otago.	Southland.	Totals.
1 to 8	57	6	78	60	32	139	75	54	63	20	6	54	42	686
9 " 20	1,344	203	570	463	272	163	616	123	170	759	227	688	529	6,127
21 " 30	2,590	475	741	735	267	124	426	135	30	1,077	594	1,193	1,089	9,486
31 " 40	1,532	519	716	566	257	100	351	36	69	646	240	678	739	6,449
41 " 50	1,944	361	808	538	319	90	396	..	49	1,091	538	907	493	7,534
51 " 70	1,654	412	1,004	821	533	172	316	216	128	926	183	1,277	766	8,408
71 " 90	1,159	..	992	492	784	..	473	..	..	539	312	1,032	414	6,197
91 " 120	915	507	617	811	698	204	106	101	..	1,219	99	618	727	6,622
121 " 150	766	..	669	414	399	266	134	136	..	658	140	772	647	5,001
151 " 200	1,858	176	479	1,057	473	..	162	155	185	658	176	666	375	6,420
201 " 250	1,140	..	653	..	238	..	702	..	231	1,135	206	428	691	5,424
251 " 280	1,313	506	785	785	252	..	523	..	..	514	..	1,597	258	6,533
281 " 330	898	..	308	634	312	..	..	..	..	..	320	286	..	2,758
331 " 390	687	..	704	373	721	367	..	..	..	331	338	1,054	..	4,575
391 " 420	..	..	393	392	..	..	..	..	..	815	..	811	410	2,821
421 " 480	425	462	451	874	..	..	470	438	..	1,351	441	872	..	5,784
481 " 510	493	..	..	486	..	..	..	..	..	502	..	504	..	1,985
511 " 570	2,110	514	512	555	540	..	..	..	..	1,097	..	1,581	527	7,436
571 " 600	1,756	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,152	..	2,908
601 " 660	1,890	..	..	1,294	615	..	..	..	..	..	649	607	631	5,686
661 " 690	670	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	662	..	1,332
691 " 750	721	..	..	2,167	707	..	..	..	..	702	..	..	..	4,297
751 " 780	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	759	..	..	..	759
781 " 840	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
841 " 870	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
871 " 930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	906	..	..	..	906
931 " 960	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
961 " 1020	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	998	..	..	..	998
Totals, 1904	25,922	4,141	10,480	13,517	7,419	1,635	4,750	1,394	925	16,703	4,469	17,439	8,338	117,132
Totals, 1903	25,120	3,962	9,948	12,929	7,153	1,658	4,719	1,366	952	16,273	4,321	17,306	8,266	113,973
Difference	802	179	532	588	266	[-23]	31	28	[-27]	430	148	133	72	3,159

During the year 1904 40 schools were closed—viz., in Auckland, 11; Wanganui, 3; Wellington, 4; Hawke's Bay, 1; Marlborough, 7; Nelson, 4; Westland, 2; North Canterbury, 4; Otago, 3; and Southland, 1. As was the case in 1903, several of these schools, although reckoned as closed in their original form, were reopened in another; thus some were amalgamated together whilst others which had been joined as half-time schools became full-time. Including such reopened schools, the total number opened during the year was 84, distributed as follows: Auckland, 18; Taranaki, 3; Wanganui, 16; Wellington, 6; Hawke's Bay, 10; Marlborough, 8; Nelson, 5; Grey, 1; North Canterbury, 3; South Canterbury, 3; Otago, 5; and Southland, 6. The net increase in the number of schools open at the end of the year is thus 44, as shown in Table E1.

PUBLIC-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

In December, 1904, there were employed on the primary staffs in the public schools of the colony 3,718 teachers; of these, 3,069 were adults and 649 pupil-teachers: the corresponding numbers for December, 1903, were 2,996 adults and

* The clause in question is as follows: "1A. If the average attendance at any school for any quarter is less than two-thirds of the average weekly roll-number for such quarter, or is such as to place the school in a grade lower than that in which it would be placed by the mean of the average attendances for the other three quarters of the year, or if there be in any quarter less than thirty half-days on which the average attendance is at least half the number of the children on the roll, then, in the calculation of the yearly average attendance, there may, at the option of the Board, be substituted for the average attendance for such first-named quarter either the average attendance for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year or the average attendance for the quarter ending 31st December of the preceding year, and the average attendance thus found shall be in lieu of the yearly average attendance as defined in clause 1 hereof." It is believed that the effect of this has been very beneficial in avoiding hardship in regard to fall of teachers' salaries and allowances, and of other grants, in cases where the attendance has suffered on account of an epidemic, bad weather, or other temporary cause.