

TABLE D3.—AVERAGE AGE OF PUPILS IN 1907 AT THE TIME OF ANNUAL VISIT.

Education Districts.	Average Ages of the Pupils in each Class.									Mean of Ages.	
	P. Yrs. mos.	I. Yrs. mos.	II. Yrs. mos.	III. Yrs. mos.	IV. Yrs. mos.	V. Yrs. mos.	VI. Yrs. mos.	VII. Yrs. mos.	1907. Yrs. mos.	1906. Yrs. mos.	
Auckland	7 3	9 4	10 4	11 4	12 3	13 1	14 0	15 1	11 7	11 6	
Taranaki	7 6	8 10	10 9	11 3	12 2	13 3	13 8	14 5	11 6	11 6	
Wanganui	7 0	8 11	9 11	11 2	12 1	13 0	13 11	14 11	11 4	11 4	
Wellington	6 10	8 9	9 10	10 10	11 10	12 10	13 8	14 9	11 2	11 2	
Hawke's Bay	7 2	9 7	10 1	11 1	12 3	13 0	13 9	15 0	11 6	11 4	
Marlborough	7 1	8 10	9 11	10 11	11 11	12 8	13 10	15 2	11 4	11 3	
Nelson	6 11	8 11	9 10	10 11	11 11	12 10	13 9	14 11	11 3	11 2	
Grey	7 0	9 0	9 8	11 3	11 8	12 11	13 11	14 3	11 2	11 1	
Westland	6 9	9 4	10 1	11 2	12 1	12 7	13 11	15 5	11 5	11 5	
North Canterbury	7 0	9 0	10 1	11 1	12 2	13 0	13 9	14 9	11 4	11 4	
South Canterbury	7 0	8 10	9 11	11 0	12 0	12 11	13 8	15 1	11 4	11 4	
Otago	6 10	8 11	9 11	11 2	12 0	12 11	13 9	15 1	11 4	11 2	
Southland	7 0	8 10	9 11	10 11	12 1	12 10	13 8	14 10	11 3	11 3	
Average for Dominion	7 1	9 1	10 1	11 1	12 1	13 0	13 10	14 11	11 5	..	
Range (difference between highest and lowest)	0 9	0 10	1 1	0 6	0 7	0 8	0 4	1 2	0 5	..	
Average for Dominion, 1906	6 9	9 0	10 0	11 1	12 0	12 11	13 9	15 1	..	11 4	
Range (difference between highest and lowest)	0 9	0 7	0 6	0 11	0 8	0 11	0 7	1 4	..	0 5	

The average age for the colony of the pupils in Standard VI at the time of the annual visit of the Inspector was 13 years 10 months, which is 1 month above the average for the four preceding years. In range, the ages returned by the several districts differ by 4 months, the lowest age being 13 years 8 months, and the highest 14 years 0 months. As to the age at which pupils in this standard obtained certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency respectively, no precise information is available; but the information deduced from Table D2 that 82.98 per cent. (82.45 in 1906) received one or other class of certificate—tends to show that of the pupils obtaining such a certificate the number over the age of fourteen years must be comparatively small.

In Table D4 are given the numbers of children receiving instruction in the several subjects. For the purpose of this return reading, spelling, writing, and composition are grouped together under the heading "English," and some other alterations are made which are rendered necessary by alterations in the programme prescribed. "Object-lessons," for instance, disappears, as it has disappeared from the syllabus of instruction, and its place is taken by "nature-study," which is here grouped with "elementary science," from which in general it is not to be distinguished.

TABLE D4.—NUMBER OF PUPILS INSTRUCTED IN SEPARATE SUBJECTS, DECEMBER, 1907.

Education Districts.	Numbers beginning at End of Year.	English.	Arithmetic.	Drawing.	Singing.	Physical Instruction.	Geography.	History.	Nature-study and Elementary Science.	Handwork.	Needlework.
Auckland	33,174	33,174	33,131	32,880	31,221	32,179	15,749	14,073	26,650	23,959	10,268
Taranaki	5,081	5,081	5,081	5,081	5,081	5,081	2,844	2,048	4,299	3,971	1,990
Wanganui	13,046	13,046	12,768	12,679	11,631	12,412	7,132	4,678	12,119	11,976	4,323
Wellington	16,470	16,470	16,304	15,996	15,681	16,066	9,212	7,572	15,190	13,832	6,681
Hawke's Bay	9,363	9,363	9,363	9,330	9,138	8,767	5,278	3,684	8,228	6,219	4,164
Marlborough	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,090	1,967	2,080	1,202	1,007	1,687	1,703	729
Nelson	5,473	5,473	5,473	5,154	5,164	5,206	2,930	2,212	4,278	3,738	2,399
Grey	1,784	1,784	1,768	1,700	1,713	1,691	893	709	1,543	881	607
Westland	1,019	1,019	984	883	694	928	524	310	902	505	319
North Canterbury	19,282	19,282	19,277	18,889	18,195	18,858	10,918	8,443	18,445	13,255	8,770
South Canterbury	5,285	5,285	5,285	5,172	4,946	5,250	2,575	839	4,309	3,878	1,981
Otago	19,183	19,183	19,183	19,183	19,183	19,183	10,621	8,982	16,511	13,823	7,684
Southland	9,816	9,816	9,816	9,598	9,475	9,703	5,605	4,521	8,499	8,374	3,874
Totals for 1907	141,071	141,071	140,523	138,635	134,089	137,404	75,533	59,078	122,660	105,514	53,789
Totals for 1906	139,302	139,302	139,155	137,549	131,885	135,363	78,212	59,873	120,833	98,465	53,901
Difference	1,769	1,769	1,373	1,086	2,204	2,041	-2,679	-795	1,827	7,049	-112