

that the total number of primary pupils of Maori or mixed race is 8,264. These are made up as follows:—

	Public Schools.	Native Schools, and Chatham Islands.	Total.
Of Maori race .. .. .	2,814	3,424	6,238
Of mixed race living as Maoris .. .. .	277	331	608
Of mixed races living as Europeans .. .. .	1,338	80	1,418
Totals .. .. .	4,429	3,835	8,264

The number of Maori children in the public schools as compared with those in Native schools shows an increase, owing principally to the fact that the policy has been steadily followed of handing over Native schools to the Education Boards as soon as the pupils have become so far, educationally at least, European in character that they can be conveniently taught with European children. This point is reached when the Maori can use English fluently in his ordinary conversation. There are 410 European children—217 boys and 193 girls—attending Native schools.

Further details as to the race of pupils are given in Tables B4, B5, C1, and C2.

### *Inspection and Examination.*

Table D is a summary for the whole Dominion of Table No. 3 in the Appendix, which shows the numbers in the several classes for the various districts. The proportion of pupils in the preparatory class, which has for years past been showing a gradual increase, shows a still further and very marked increase for the year from 31·11 to 34·27 per cent. Although this is partly accounted for by the increase of young children in the Dominion, it seems also to suggest that pupils are being kept too long in the preparatory classes.

TABLE D.—CLASSIFICATION OF PUPILS AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1908.

Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Preparatory .. .. .	26,802	23,731	50,533	34·27	31·11	29·36	28·28	27·97
Standard I .. .. .	9,250	8,378	17,628	11·96	12·05	12·08	12·06	11·55
Standard II .. .. .	8,982	8,137	17,119	11·61	12·10	12·18	11·95	12·49
Standard III .. .. .	9,229	8,431	17,660	11·98	12·04	12·17	12·67	12·73
Standard IV .. .. .	8,573	7,934	16,507	11·20	11·46	11·79	12·03	12·38
Standard V .. .. .	7,374	6,849	14,223	9·65	10·24	10·59	10·69	10·68
Standard VI .. .. .	5,175	4,953	10,128	6·87	7·79	8·24	8·37	8·17
Standard VII .. .. .	1,767	1,863	3,630	2·46	3·21	3·59	3·95	4·03
Totals.. .. .	77,152	70,276	147,428	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The following is a summary of the examination statistics for 1908:—

Public schools—

Total roll at time of annual examination .. .. .	147,865
Present at examination .. .. .	139,764
Present in preparatory classes .. .. .	50,618
Present in Standard VI classes .. .. .	8,771
„ Standard VII classes .. .. .	2,038
Standard VI certificates gained, viz.,—	
Certificates of proficiency .. .. .	5,435
„ competency .. .. .	2,218
	7,653

Details of these figures for each district are given in Table D1.

*S6 Certificates.*—The percentages of pupils who gained certificates of proficiency and certificates of competency respectively in the two years 1907–8 are shown below:—

	1907. Per Cent.	1908. Per Cent.
Gained certificates of proficiency .. .. .	59·00	61·96
„ „ competency .. .. .	23·98	25·29
No certificate .. .. .	17·02	12·75
	100·00	100·00

The raising of the standard required for a certificate of proficiency, introduced by the regulations of last year, has not, therefore, apparently had the effect of lessening