

The number of Maori children in the public schools, as compared with those in Native schools, continues to show 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, educationally at least, so far 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. It is part of the same policy to assimilate the programme of work in Native schools as nearly as possible to that in public schools, and to make no distinction in point of salary between teachers in the two classes of schools.

Europeans in Native Schools.

There are 391 European children—206 boys and 185 girls—attending Native schools. Under this head those children who are intermediate in blood between half-caste and European are reckoned as European. The age, sex, and classification of these children is as follows:—

TABLE CB.—CLASSIFICATION OF EUROPEAN CHILDREN ATTENDING NATIVE SCHOOLS, DECEMBER, 1909.

By Ages.				By Standard Classes.				
Years.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
5 and under 6	16	15	31	Class P	67	72	139	
6 " 7	32	16	48	" S1	20	15	35	
7 " 8	17	29	46	" S2	19	18	37	
8 " 9	17	22	39	" S3	27	25	52	
9 " 10	24	30	54	" S4	29	24	53	
10 " 11	19	12	31	" S5	21	18	39	
11 " 12	22	27	49	" S6	17	9	26	
12 " 13	25	17	42	" S7	6	4	10	
13 " 14	20	10	30					
14 " 15	10	6	16					
15 years and over	4	1	5					
Totals	206	185	391	Totals	206	185	391	

Classification and Examination.

Table D is a summary for the whole Dominion of Table D1 in the special report (E.-2), 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 34.27 to 36.66 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, 1909.

Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Percentages for Five Years.				
				1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Class P	29,669	26,203	55,872	28.28	29.36	31.11	34.27	36.66
" S1	9,678	8,990	18,668	12.06	12.08	12.05	11.96	12.25
" S2	9,439	8,580	18,019	11.95	12.18	12.10	11.61	11.82
" S3	8,931	8,350	17,281	12.67	12.17	12.04	11.98	11.34
" S4	8,661	7,768	16,429	12.03	11.79	11.46	11.20	10.78
" S5	7,291	6,560	13,851	10.69	10.59	10.24	9.65	9.08
" S6	5,202	4,798	10,000	8.37	8.24	7.79	6.87	6.56
" S7	1,116	1,180	2,296	3.95	3.59	3.21	2.46	1.51
Totals	79,987	72,429	152,416	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00