

APPENDIX C.

REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS, 1910.

AUCKLAND.

SIR,—

Education Office, Auckland, 3rd April, 1911.

We have the honour to submit our annual report on the public schools of the Auckland Education District for the year 1910.

At the close of the year the number of schools in operation was 543, being an increase of twenty-two since the end of 1910. Most of the new schools are small, and some of them are household schools.

With few exceptions, the schools were visited twice, the pressure of work, especially that arising towards the close of the year, preventing our paying a second visit in all cases, notwithstanding the able assistance rendered by Mr. H. G. Cousins, who came to our aid in September, and carried out his duties with an energy, enthusiasm, and thoroughness which won the approbation of all with whom he came in contact.

In addition to the above, twenty-seven Roman Catholic diocesan schools and the Anglican Orphan Home School were inspected, in nearly all cases a visit with notice being paid, and five other private schools were visited.

For the work in connection with the Roman Catholic schools, the services of Mr. John S. Goodwin were made available up to the time of his decease in November. Mr. Goodwin, prior to his retirement in 1907, had been in the service of the Board for upwards of thirty-three years, during the greater part of the time as Inspector, and was greatly esteemed and respected for his ability, high sense of duty, fair and impartial judgment, consideration for others, and genuine desire to further the cause of true education. The tidings of his sudden death was received throughout the service with very sincere regret.

The following table is a summary of results for the whole district:—

Classes.				Number on Roll.	Present at the Annual Examination.	Average Age of Pupils in each Class.
						Yrs. mos.
Standard VII	...	...	...	170	130	14 11
" VI	...	...	...	2,222	2,066	14 1
" V	...	...	...	3,338	3,212	13 3
" IV	...	...	...	4,018	3,889	12 5
" III	...	...	...	4,441	4,335	11 6
" II	...	...	...	4,735	4,600	10 5
" I	...	...	...	4,898	4,731	9 5
Preparatory	...	...	...	15,805	14,661	7 2
Totals	...	...	...	39,627	37,624	11 7·7*

* Mean of average age.

This table shows an increase for the year of 1,850 on the roll-number and 2,095 on the number of pupils present at the annual examination. For years past the enrolment of pupils in this district has been steadily rising, until now it is practically double that of any other education district in the Dominion. Indeed, one of the most difficult phases of our work has arisen from the constant stream of applications for new schools and for enlargements of existing buildings which poured in during the year. This has been most pronounced in the King-country, where the lands thrown open have been eagerly competed for, and where settlement is making rapid strides.

Towards the close of the year 2,122 candidates from the public schools sat for Standard VI certificates. Of these, 1,548, or 72 per cent., obtained certificates of proficiency, and 315, or 15 per cent., obtained certificates of competency.

The enrolment of pupils in the Roman Catholic schools was 2,924, and 2,829 were present at the annual examination. From these schools 191 candidates sat for Standard VI certificates, and of these, 91, or 48 per cent., obtained certificates of proficiency, and 49, or 25 per cent., obtained certificates of competency.

The number of pupils on the rolls of the other private schools visited by us was 524.

About the middle of the year Mr. D. Petrie, who occupied the position of Chief Inspector of Schools in this district for upwards of sixteen years, retired from the service. Before coming to Auckland, Mr. Petrie, as Chief Inspector in the Otago District, had already made a name for himself as one of the foremost educationists in the Dominion: and since his advent here his wide