

EXTRACT FROM THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

MANUAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Manual Instruction in Public and Secondary Schools.

Various branches of manual instruction were taught in connection with 63·5 per cent. of the public schools during the year. The percentages for the various Education districts were as follows :

District.	Percentage of Schools at which Instruction was given.
Auckland	43
Taranaki	72
Wanganui	93
Wellington	74
Hawke's Bay	80
Marlborough	32
Nelson	57
Grey	26
Westland	37
North Canterbury	68
South Canterbury	61
Otago	63
Southland	97

The chief branches taken up and the number of classes were as follows :—

TABLE J.—SUBJECTS OF AND NUMBER OF CLASSES FOR MANUAL INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Subjects of Instruction.	Number of Classes.	
	1909.	1910.
Elementary handwork	3,178	3,489
Woodwork	281	273
Ironwork	5	8
Agriculture and dairy-work	559	666
Elementary science	47	109
Physical measurements	101	118
Cookery	339	308
Laundry-work	60	63
Dressmaking	79	90
Swimming and life-saving	136	165
Physiology and first aid	57	78
Totals	4,842	5,367

The number of public schools in which manual instruction was given was 1,330.

The number of pupils receiving instruction in cookery was 5,155.

The number of pupils receiving instruction in woodwork was 5,532.

The number of pupils receiving instruction in agriculture was 15,159.

The number of pupils receiving instruction in other branches of manual instruction was 100,772.

The payments by way of capitation and subsidies on voluntary contributions were £18,343.

The average rate of payment per class was £3·4.

Special grants for buildings and equipment totalled £3,822.

Subjects such as cookery and woodwork continue to be taught for the most part at specially equipped centres, of which there are now over sixty in operation. Many of these centres are in connection with district high schools or technical schools.

The number of schools taking up elementary agriculture continues to increase. The increase for the year was 107, as compared with 61 for the previous year. In many cases, in addition to work in the school-garden, observational and experimental work is being systematically carried out, some of the results being very interesting and instructive. In several districts suitable instruction in dairy-work is also given. In nine of the thirteen education districts the work is under the general direction of special itinerant instructors. Every year sees a marked improvement in the