

1915.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION: ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

[In continuation of E.—8, 1914.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

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

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

The annual examinations were conducted by the Education Department as usual for the various purposes of Junior National Scholarships, junior and senior free places in secondary schools, district high schools, and technical schools, and teachers' certificates. On behalf of the various Education Boards examinations were conducted for Junior and Senior Board Scholarships and for the First Examination of Pupil-teachers. Also, by arrangement with the Public Service Commissioner, examinations were held for admission to and promotion in the Public Service. The examinations were held from the 18th to the 25th November, and on the 26th and 27th November, 1914, and from the 5th to the 20th January, 1915, at fifty-eight centres.

The following table shows collectively, in comparison with the preceding year, the number who entered for the various examinations above enumerated, the number present, and the number of absentees:—

Number who entered, 1914-15	..	..	..	..	..	10,126
" 1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	9,613
Number who actually sat for examination, 1914-15	..	..	..	..	..	8,727
" " " 1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	8,305
Number of absentees " " 1914-15	..	..	..	..	..	1,399
" " " 1913-14	..	..	..	..	..	1,308

The high proportion of absentees—approximately 14 per cent. of the number of candidates—in the last two years is attributable to the following causes:—

- (1.) In the case of senior free-place candidates, to the application of a principle—now in operation for several years—by which awards of senior free places have been made with the concurrence of the Inspector-General of Schools on the recommendation of the principal of the secondary school attended, or, for district high schools, of an Inspector of Schools. In such cases the candidate has not been required to attend the examination for which he originally entered.
- (2.) In the case of the teachers' examinations, to a somewhat similar provision embodied in the Training College Regulations.
- (3.) To the usual causes, mainly illness and lack of preparation, the latter being particularly evident in the case of the Public Service Senior candidates, many of whom, being led to enter by various considerations, found themselves finally unprepared to meet the examiner.