six years was 950 less than in the previous year, indicating a falling-off in the number of new entrants. The increase in the roll number was greater in the North Island (including Marlborough) than in the South Island, the percentage increases being 3·0 and 1·5 respectively.

The table below shows the mean average roll number for every fifth year from 1878 to 1903, and for each of the last eleven years; the table gives also the total average attendance for each year, the average attendance as a percentage of the roll (including secondary departments of district high schools), and the number of teachers employed in the public schools.

SCHOOLS, ATTENDANCE, AND TEACHERS.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Mean of Average Weekly Roll.	Average Attendance, Whole Year.	Average Attendance as Percentage of Weekly Roll.	Number of Teachers.					
					Adults.			Pupil-teachers.		
					M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1878 ..	748	..	*48,773	..	707	454	1,161	118	332	450
1883 ..	971	90,859	69,838	76·9	905	656	1,561	159	571	730
1888 ..	1,158	113,636	†90,108	79·3	1,039	887	1,926	219	694	913
1893 ..	1,375	125,692	‡109,321	79·8	1,107	1,096	2,203	238	825	1,063
1898 ..	1,655	133,782	111,636	83·4	1,234	1,370	2,604	229	831	1,060
1903 ..	1,786	134,748	113,047	83·9	1,270	1,726	2,996	147	552	699
1908 ..	1,998	145,974	127,160	87·1	1,331	2,021	3,352	161	476	637
1909 ..	2,057	151,142	132,773	87·8	1,406	2,208	3,614	166	530	696
1910 ..	2,096	154,756	135,738	87·7	1,456	2,252	3,708	174	526	§700
1911 ..	2,166	159,299	142,186	89·3	1,493	2,351	3,844	179	528	§707
1912 ..	2,214	164,492	146,282	88·9	1,555	2,550	4,105	162	476	§638
1913 ..	2,255	169,530	151,242	89·2	1,603	2,659	4,262	142	474	§616
1914 ..	2,301	175,570	158,134	90·1	1,628	2,820	4,448	139	470	§609
1915 ..	2,338	181,229	163,092	90·0	1,591	3,077	4,668	141	485	§626
1916 ..	2,355	184,056	163,156	88·6	1,501	3,209	4,710	137	519	§656
1917 ..	2,368	187,954	168,711	89·8	1,383	3,224	4,707	132	517	§649
1918 ..	2,365	191,382	169,836	88·7	1,366	3,452	4,818	123	523	§646

* Average of three quarters.   † Strict average.   ‡ Working average.   § Exclusive of male and female probationers.

The above figures relate to public schools. To estimate the total number of children receiving primary education in the Dominion it will be necessary to include public schools (exclusive of secondary departments of district high schools), Native schools, registered private primary schools, the lower departments of secondary schools, and special schools. The figures will then be :—

AVERAGE WEEKLY ROLL NUMBER.

	1917.	1918.
Public schools (less secondary departments of district high schools)	185,549	188,932
Native village and Native mission schools	5,315	5,223
Registered private primary schools	18,594*	20,076*
Lower departments of secondary schools	580*	665*
Special schools	600	252
Total average weekly roll of primary scholars	210,638	215,148

* Number on roll at end of year.

ATTENDANCE.

(E–2, Tables B1, B2, and B3.)

The following figures show the average attendance at public schools in the Dominion during the years 1917 and 1918 :—

	Including Secondary Departments of District High Schools.	Excluding Secondary Departments of District High Schools.
Year 1918	169,836	167,601
Year 1917	168,711	166,510
Increase in 1918	1,125	1,091
Increase per cent...	0·07	0·07

The increase in average attendance was much smaller in 1918 than in the previous year; what would have been a good record being largely spoiled by the sickness that prevailed in the last quarter of the year. The increase in average attendance during the last five years has been : 1914, 3·6 per cent. ; 1915, 3·1 per cent. ; 1916, 0·04 per cent. ; 1917, 3·4 per cent. ; 1918, 0·07 per cent. The average attendance taken as a percentage of the average weekly roll was 88·7 in 1918, as compared with 89·8 in the previous year and 90·1 in 1914—the highest record yet reached. Every education district excepting Taranaki shows a slight falling-off in the regularity of attendance, the best results being obtained in Otago and Wellington, with