

23. NATIVE SCHOOLS.

At the end of 1935 the Department directly controlled and maintained 138 Native schools for the primary education of Maori children in districts where the Maori race predominates.

The following table shows the number of schools, with the enrolment, as at the 1st July, 1934, and 1st July, 1935 :—

| | 1934. | | 1935. | |
|--|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Schools. | Roll. | Schools. | Roll. |
| Native village schools | 138 | 7,504 | 138 | 7,852 |
| Mission schools (primary) | 11 | 549 | 11 | 577 |
| Public schools with Native children enrolled | 841 | 8,949 | 814 | 9,422 |
| Totals | 990 | 17,002 | 963 | 17,851 |

European children to the number of 954 were in attendance at Native schools at 1st July, 1935, and are included in the above figures. If these be deducted, the total enrolment of Native children in all primary schools at 1st July becomes 16,897, compared with 16,038 in 1934.

The average attendance at Native schools was maintained at a creditably high percentage, 90·8 per cent. of the average weekly roll.

Boarding schools for the secondary education of the Maoris have been established by religious denominations, and the Government provides a number of scholarships tenable at these schools, which are inspected by the Department's officers. There were ten schools at the end of last year with an enrolment of 373 pupils, of whom 135 held Government scholarships. The Maori child who has obtained a proficiency certificate is also entitled to the usual facilities for secondary education provided at a post-primary school. In addition, two Maori boys held University scholarships, one at Victoria University College, and one at Auckland University College, each taking a course in arts, and four Maoris held Agricultural Scholarships, two being tenable at St. Stephen's College, one at Wesley College, and one at Te Aute College.

One nursing scholar was in training at Napier Hospital.

24. REGISTERED PRIVATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The following table summarizes the returns furnished by registered private primary schools with respect to the year 1935 :—

TABLE S.

| | Undenominational Schools. | Catholic Church Schools. | Other Church Schools. | Total. |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Number of schools | 31 | 222 | 57 | 310 |
| Roll at December— | | | | |
| Boys | 409 | 11,244 | 1,318 | 12,971 |
| Girls | 606 | 11,768 | 1,524 | 13,898 |
| Total | 1,015 | 23,012 | 2,842 | 26,869 |
| Average attendance | 878 | 20,535 | 2,517 | 23,930 |
| Teachers (inclusive of head teachers)— | | | | |
| Men | 11 | 52 | 46 | 109 |
| Women | 58 | 696 | 112 | 866 |
| Total | 69 | 748 | 158 | 975 |

The number of schools at the end of the previous year was 307, and the total enrolment 26,636.

There has been an increase of 3 in the number of registered private primary schools when compared with the number at the end of 1934.