

modern languages, mathematics and science as well as the ordinary branches of education, are taught in such schools.

For every School District there is a School Committee, consisting of 5, 7 or 9 resident householders, which has, subject to the general supervision of the School Board, the management of educational matters within the school district. It may appoint teachers of sewing for any school under its control and establish saving banks for the use of children attending the school. The School Committee grant "good attendance certificates" of two classes, viz., (1) To every child of school age who has been present at school every time the school was open during the year. (2) To every child who for the year has not been absent from school more than five times in all. "School age" means any age between the years of five and fifteen. The subjects of instruction in the public schools are (1) Reading, (2) Writing (3) Arithmetic, (4) English grammar and composition, (5) Geography, (6) History, (7) Elementary science and drawing (8) Object lessons, (9) Vocal music, and (10) for girls sewing and needlework, and the principles of domestic economy. The schools are kept open five days of the week for at least five hours per day. The teaching is entirely secular. No fees are payable at any public school except at district high schools, where fees are charged for instruction in the advanced branches. In Marlborough 10 shillings a quarter is charged for two subjects and 5 shillings a quarter for every additional subject; in South Canterbury 10s. a quarter for one subject alone, 12s. 6d. a quarter for two subjects, or 15s. a quarter for three subjects; in Wellington 11s. a quarter for one subject alone,

and 10s. a quarter added for each additional subject, and in Auckland 8 guineas a year is charged for one or all subjects. Provision is made for the instruction of all school boys in military drill and in many schools provision is made for physical training. In many districts there are evening schools taught by male teachers from the public schools. In outlying districts or parts of the country where from the scattered state of the population it is not practicable to establish public schools, itinerant teachers are appointed by the Board. Any person who wilfully disturbs a school or who upbraids, insults or abuses a teacher in the presence or hearing of the pupils assembled in school is liable to a penalty of 40 shillings. The school attendance laws are very strict, being somewhat similar to the Tasmania Truant Laws. In 1895 an Act for the promotion of elementary technical instruction was passed. Every public school is yearly inspected and examined by a Public School inspector. The average number of pupils on the rolls of the schools last year was 133,861 and the average attendance for the year was 110,993, so that 82.9 per cent. represents the degree of the regularity of attendance. The lowest average attendance for any year since the system was introduced in 1877 was 73.6 per cent. So it can be said that the attendance is very regular. This is no doubt due in a great degree to the very stringent compulsory attendance laws. Included in the foregoing enumeration of attendance are 2,260 Maori children. Besides these there are, in native schools, 2,864, and in Government boarding-schools for natives 73 Maori children.

Last year there were nearly as many girls as boys enrolled in the schools. 7.6 per cent. of the pupils