

EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND.

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NEW ZEALAND consists of two large islands and several smaller ones, lying about 1,100 miles south-east of Australia in the Pacific ocean. These islands were discovered by Tasman in 1642. The country remained unknown, and was supposed to be part of a southern continent till 1769, when it was circumnavigated by Captain Cook. In 1773 Cook planted several plots of ground on the islands with potatoes and cabbage, and in 1777, on paying another visit to the islands, he found some fine potatoes. The soil is very fertile; the climate mild and healthy; the surface hilly. Sheep raising is the chief industry. The natives are called Maoris, and are of the Malay race. They are steadily decreasing in numbers, the present native population being about forty thousand. The total population is 703,000. The area of New Zealand is 104,500 square miles, or twice as large as that of the Maritime Provinces. New Zealand is a comparatively new country, having been created a Crown colony less than sixty years ago. The two most important islands are North and South. They are separated by Cook strait. Wellington, with a population of 41,000, is the capital. Dunedin (47,000) is the chief port of the South island; Auckland (58,000) of the North island. The present Governor of New Zealand is the Earl of Ranfurly.

The present school system of New Zealand was established in 1877, the year which witnessed the establishment of the present school system of Prince Edward Island. The Department of Education is controlled and directed by the Minister of Education, who is appointed by the Governor. The expenses of administering the department are defrayed out of moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the following purposes:

1. In payment of salaries and other expenses of the Department of Education.
2. In payment to the Board of every district of a sum of three pounds, fifteen shillings for each child in average daily attendance at a public school.
3. For the establishment and maintenance of normal or training schools, and in grants to Boards for the maintenance of such schools already established and under their control.
4. For the erection of school-houses and for any other purpose for which such moneys may be applied or appropriated.

The capitation allowance of £3 15s. for the maintenance of schools is paid to the School Boards in monthly instalments, and the payment for any month is made according to the average attendance stated in the Boards' summary statements of attendance for the immediately preceding quarter. All other grants to School Boards are paid quarterly.

The colony is divided into thirteen educational districts. For each district there is an Education Board, consisting of nine members elected by the residents of the district. Among the duties devolving upon the Board are (1) the establishment and maintenance of public schools within the district; (2) promoting the establishment of school districts within such districts, and defining the limits thereof; (3) dividing any such school district into two or more