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AN INVESTIGATION
OF THE EFFECT OF THE RAISING OF THE
SCHOOL LEAVING AGE IN A RURAL DISTRICT.

THESIS for
MASTER of AETS in EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY of NEW ZEALAND.
1945
by

(Miss M.B.S. Dunrod.)

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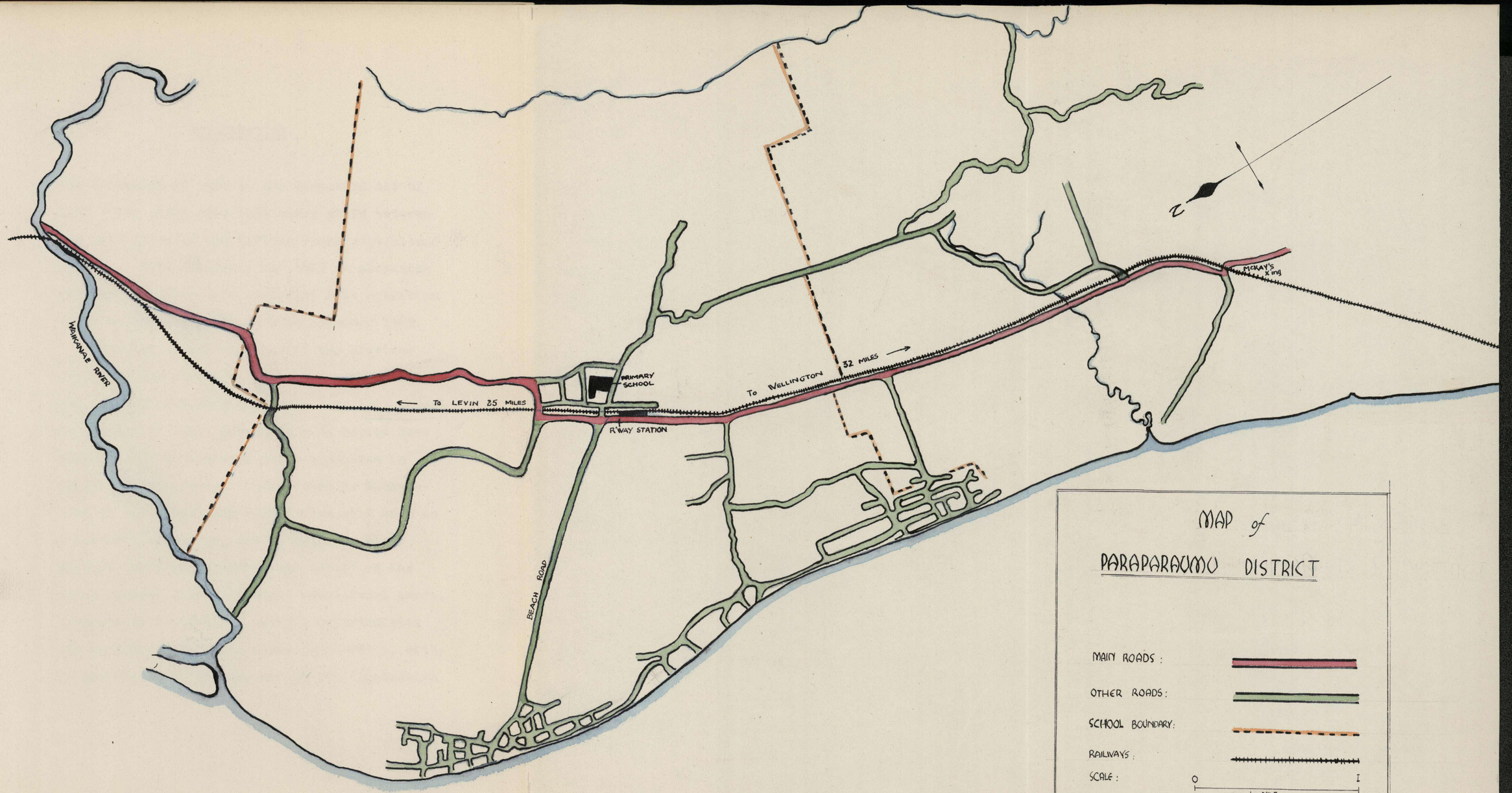
WAIKANAE RIVER
PRIMARY SCHOOL
← To LEVIN 25 MILES
R'WAY STATION
To WELLINGTON 32 MILES →
McKAY'S X ing
BEACH ROAD
N
MAP of
PARAPARAUMU DISTRICT
MAIN ROADS :
OTHER ROADS :
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SCALE :
0
1
1 MILE

INTRODUCTION.

The amendment of 1920 to the Education Act of 1914 ruled inter alia that every child between the ages of seven and fifteen years must attend school. This amendment was held in abeyance for twenty-three years being put into operation by an Order-in-Council on 15th December 1943.

Judging by the averages of the previous few years one result of the amendment is that 75% of those children who would have left school at the end of their primary school period have been obliged to continue their education in post-primary schools. This leads to speculation on the effect the legislation will have on a specific community, and to obtain a clear picture involves an analytical survey of the group chosen, taking in their educational needs, post-school aspirations and the opportunities for carrying such aspirations into effect, with, in passing what, if any, effect the legislation

might have on the general labour situation.

The analysis embraces the following questions:

Does the legislation create new problems?

What facilities are available for post-primary education?

Are these facilities adequate for dealing with the increase in numbers of pupils due to the legislation?

THE DISTRICT.

GENERAL.

This study was carried out in PARAPARAUMU, which is a semi-rural coastal district thirty-two miles from Wellington. In addition to the basic permanent population of thirteen hundred there is a very large floating population which occupies some hundreds of houses on the coast. Many of these are luxury homes used only for the week-ends and holidays and their residents are not included in the survey.

The school population comes from three distinct and different types of homes:

I. Children from the beach area.

II. Children from the village proper.

III. Children from the farming area.

The children from the beach area come from a definitely poor class of dwelling with few

conveniences.

One hundred children attend the primary school and most of them are transported to and from school by bus.

The village is situated adjacent to the Railway Station two and a half miles inland. This is the oldest part of the settlement with comparatively few children of school age. The village is the centre of the business activities of the district. The business establishments include the Co-Operative Dairy Factory and store, a bakery, Motor garage, Post Office and four small shops - a tea-room, greengrocery, dairy and fish shop. A timber mill is in course of construction. Each of the three beaches is served by one or more general stores and a post office. In addition to three such stores the main beach has a greengrocer, milk-bar, and motor garage.

Finally, there is a scattered farming area. The farms are small averaging 80 acres and mostly of a dairy type, although the total number

of seventy-five farms includes sheep-farms in the hill country, and poultry, fruit and flower farms on the flat. 50% of the children come from the beach area, 15% from the village and 35% from the farming area.

In almost every household where farming is the means of livelihood children are required to assist in farm work, even at primary school age. Apart from elder sons and daughters, practically no farm labour is employed. Uniformly in the three classes of district housing is poor and modern facilities such as septic tanks almost non-existent. The development of the coastal strip as a week-end and holiday resort seems to have had no apparent effect upon the economics of the district, it has been stable for a generation in its social and economic pattern. The only new factor disturbing these patterns has been a tendency in the last 5 or 6 years for families to live permanently in beach cottages which are often distinctly below par, from a housing point of view. This may

be due to several causes, overcrowding in Wellington probably being the main one, as the breadwinner may live in Paraparaumu and work in Wellington.

Medical attention is in the hands of a resident doctor, and a resident District Nurse. Wellington Public Hospital and its branch at Otaki provide hospital attention.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The primary school is situated in the village with a roll which has steadily risen from 160 in 1941 to 200 in 1944-45. The increase is in the infant section which is tapping two new sources of population:-

i. The permanent beach dwellers and
ii. The third generation born in the district.

The school consists of a permanent block of four old rooms, a detached pre-fabricated room and a Dental Clinic. The playground is small and despite the fact that trees have been planted on the hill-side for drainage purposes, is practic-

ally under water all winter.

Most of the children come to school by some means of transport. Two ride horses, sixteen ride bicycles and 130 travel by bus. The N.Z. Railways has a contract with the Education Board for transporting these pupils free of charge in four large buses. Children over 10 years of age and living under three miles from the school (with the exception of cripples) are required to find their own transport or pay sixpence daily on the bus. The nearest other primary schools are seven miles south and five miles north of this school.

There is no local secondary school. The choices offering are as follow:

1. The Horowhenua Technical High School, which is twenty-five miles to the north.

11. The secondary schools and the Technical College in Wellington thirty-two miles to the south.

111. Attendance at a boarding college.

1V. Enrolment at the Correspondence School.

A full discussion of these facilities is contained in a later section but it should be noted that choices 1. and 11. which will always be the common alternatives involve considerable travelling.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Safe bathing beaches provide excellent swimming. There are, however, no dressing sheds or conveniences and no organised clubs for swimming or life-saving.

Apart from many privately owned tennis courts, clubs exist at the village and beaches. The village has grounds for football, tennis and croquet and the beach has a golf club.

Boy Scout and Girl Guide Companies are active. Both the scouts and the guides are organised under the leadership of a woman, and 21 boys and 11 girls are enrolled.

Pictures are shown at the small beach theatre on Thursday and Saturday and special buses cater for picture-goers.

Occasional dances are held in a privately owned hall in the village.

The Methodists and Roman Catholic denominations each have a church in the village and the Methodists also have one at the beach. Other denominations hold services in halls and private houses. Sunday School is conducted weekly.

THE GROUP STUDIED.

The total number of pupils in Standard 1V, Form 1 and Form 11 in the school in November 1944 was 50 - 27 boys and 23 girls. It was decided to test and interview each of these with a view to finding out his or her plans for post-primary education and to obtain some objective information about his or her capacity.

An Otis Intermediate Test B was given to all the group on the same day. Within the next few days each child was interviewed and asked the same questions concerning his or her plans on leaving primary school.

1. Where are you going when you leave this school?

11. Where do you want to go? Why?

111. What sort of course will you take?

1V. What do you plan to do when you leave school altogether?

V. What do mother and father think about it?

Vl. If you didn't have to stay at school till you were 15 what would you do?

At the conclusion of the interview each child was given the Koh's Block Test.

The results of these tests together with the choice of occupation are to be found in Table 1.

The ages of the children tested ranged from 10 years 6 months to 15 years 2 months. The Otis L.Q's ranged from 80 to 129 with the exception of a boy of 12 years 11 months who was unable to read but tested 60 on the Stanford Revision of the Terman Test. These results of the Otis Test are to be found on the graph on Table 11.

A survey of the occupations of the children's fathers was made and summarised on Table 111. Over half of the fathers of the fifty children tested are farmers or labourers, the latter working, in most cases for the Public Works Department or the County Council. The

families of cases No. 1,2,3,4,6,7,9,10 and 17 have come to the district within the last three or four years, in most instances in order to take over businesses. As the cases have been listed in order of I.Q. it is of interest to note that these newcomers tend to take precedence over the children of the older residents. Taken as a whole, however, the Otis I.Q.'s of the group distribute approximately normally.

TABLE 1.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF 50 CHILDREN TESTED.

CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944.	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944.	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS.	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
1	F1	12 2	13 3	129	14 4	Commission in Navy.	4
2	S4	10 6	12 7	127	15 -	Marine Engineer.	4
3	S4	11 9	13 10	122	19 11	Commission in Navy.	4
4	F11	13 7	13 8	121	16 8	School Teacher.	3
5	F11	12 9	12 10	120	17 4	Carpenter's Apprentice.	2
6	F1	12 6	13 7	120	16 9	Shorthand Typist.	2
7	F1	12 5	13 6	117	17 10	Commission in Navy.	4

TABLE 1.(Cont'd)

CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS.	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
8	S4	10 11	13 -	117	14 11	Commission in Navy.	4
9	F1	11 11	13 -	117	12 11	Sea as Wireless Operator.	3
10	F1	12 11	14 -	116	16 -	Veterinary Surgeon.	4
11	F11	12 1	12 2	115	18 3	Don't Know.	-
12	F11	13 -	13 1	114	14 1	Doctor's Nurse.	2
13	S4	11 3	13 4	112	17 6	Domestic.	-
14	F11	14 1	14 2	110	15 8	Hairdresser.	-
15	F11	12 9	12 10	110	13 1	Don't Know.	-

TABLE 1. (Cont'd)

CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS.	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
16	F11	13 6	13 7	110	12 1	Nurse.	3
17	F11	14 -	14 1	110	15 8	Boat Builder.	2
18	S4	11 2	13 3	110	14 5	Nurse.	3
19	S4	10 11	13 -	109	11 3	Farm.	-
20	F11	12 8	12 9	109	12 1	Carpenter.	2
21	F1	13 -	14 1	105	11 -	Nurse.	3
22	F11	13 11	14 -	105	13 3	Deisel Engineer.	3
23	F11	12 10	12 11	105	11 11	Motor Engineer.	2
24	F1	12 10	13 11	104	12 1	Farm.	-
25	F11	13 9	13 10	103	18 9	Don't Know.	-

TABLE 1 (Cont'd)

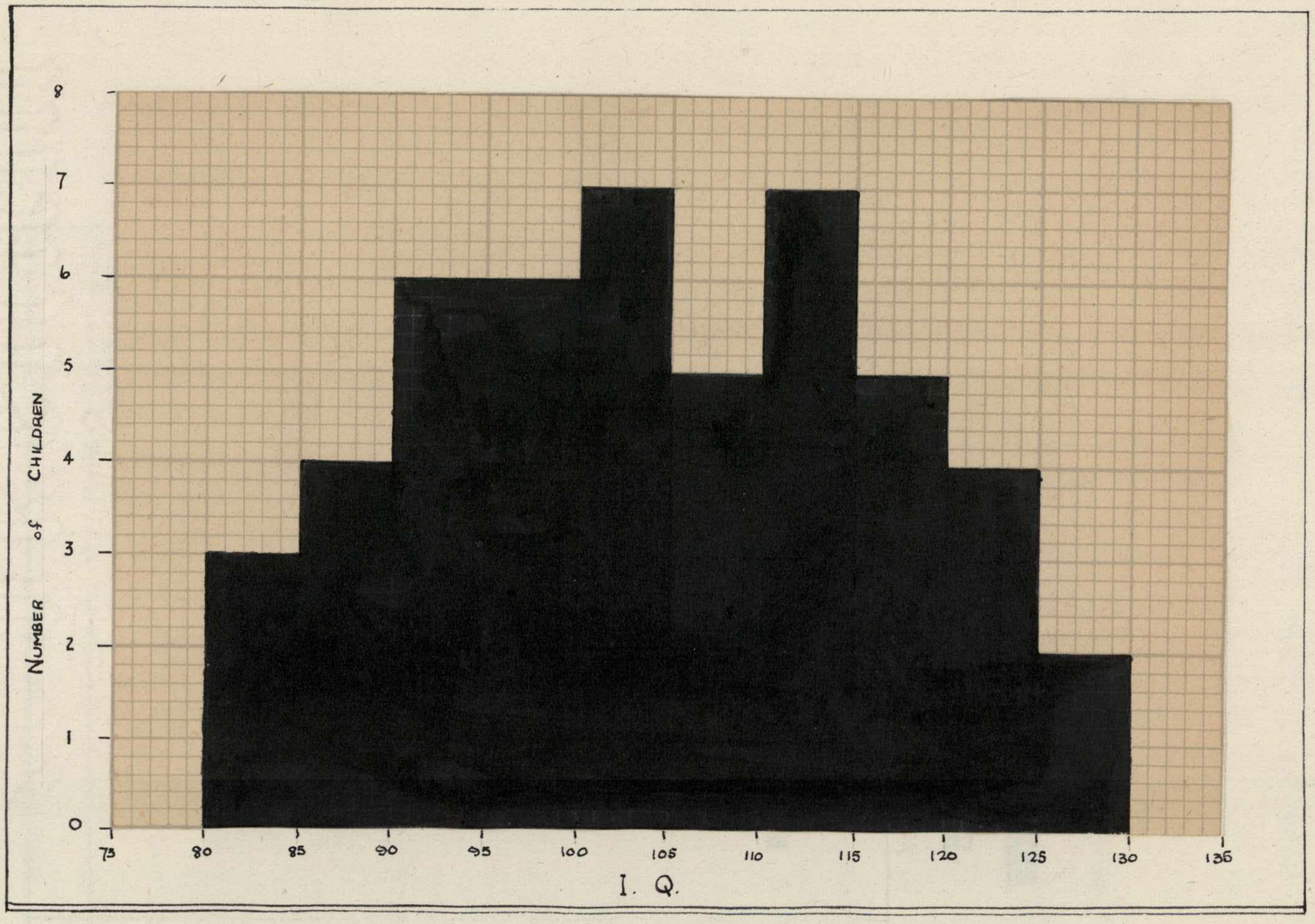
CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
26	S4	11 6	13 7	103	10 5	Farm.	-
27	F1	13 7	14 8	102	14 6	Don't Know.	-
28	F1	12 7	13 8	100	11 -	Don't Know.	-
29	F1	12 2	13 3	100	11 5	Shop Assistant.	-
30	F1	13 5	14 6	100	13 1	Chemist (Not Pharmacy)	4
31	S4	12 1	14 2	98	11 9	Shop Assistant.	-
32	F1	12 8	13 9	98	13 5	Land Girl on Father's Farm.	-
33	S4	10 8	12 9	98	11 3	Don't Know.	-
34	F1	13 10	14 11	96	10 10	Dressmaker	2

TABLE 1. (Cont'd)

CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS.	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
35	F11	13 11	14 -	95	13 4	Farmer.	-
36	S4	12 8	14 9	95	12 -	Builder.	2
37	F1 (Failed)	12 11	15 -	94	10 10	Don't Know.	-
38	F1	13 2	14 3	92	13 6	Don't Know.	-
39	F1	13 -	14 1	90	8 4	Shorthand Typist.	2
40	S4	13 8	15 9	90	9 11	Farm.	-
41	F11	15 2	15 3	90	11 8	Farm.	-
42	F1 (Failed)	13 9	15 9	90	11 5	Don't Know.	-
43	F11	13 4	13 5	86	13 -	Nurse.	3

TABLE 1 (Cont'd)

CASE NUMBER	CLASS IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE IN NOVEMBER 1944	AGE WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOLING WILL BE COMPLETED.	OTIS I.Q.	KOH'S BLOCKS	WHAT HE (OR SHE) WANTS TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.	MINIMUM AMOUNT OF POST PRIMARY SCHOOLING.
		YRS. MTHS.	YRS. MTHS.		M. A.		NUMBER OF YEARS.
44	F1	14 2	15 3	86	6 3	Don't Know.	-
45	S4	13 2	15 3	86	10 3	Watchmaker & Jeweller.	2
46	S4	13 2	15 3	85	11 11	Market Gardener.	-
47	S4	12 7	14 8	84	9 4	Farm.	
48	F11 (Failed)	14 8	15 9	83	11 4	Typist.	2
49	F11	14 1	14 2	80	9 9	Dressmaker or Nurse.	-
50	S4	12 11	15 -	60	Unable to do it.	Labourer	-



I.Q.s of 49 CHILDREN TESTED
with OTIS INTERMEDIATE B

TABLE 11

TABLE 111

OCCUPATIONS OF THE 44 FATHERS OF THE 50 CHILDREN TESTED.

Labourers:	
Skilled & Semi-skilled	9
Unskilled	6
Farmers	8
Shop	5
Carpenters	4
Electricians or Linesmen	2
School Teachers	2
Engineers	1
Railway Porter	1
Naval Officer	1
Retired Fisherman	1
Deceased	4
	44

WHAT THE CHILDREN WANT TO DO WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL.

Table No. 1V. gives a summary of the jobs the children consider they will undertake when they finally leave school. The summary gives the children's choice and not the parents'. It will be noticed that in ten cases out of the 50 neither the child nor the parents had any plans, and in the other eight cases the parents and children's plans differed.

In nearly every case the child has taken a realistic attitude towards the choice of an occupation, more so than the parents in some instances. With possibly two or three exceptions the children would appear to be aiming at occupations which they have a reasonable opportunity of filling successfully. That is, they are planning on occupations for which they are suited, as far as can be judged by tests of intelligence etc. together with a personal knowledge of the children concerned. There are, however, two or three

possible exceptions. The chief of these is Case No. 45 who wishes to learn watchmaking and jewellery. This boy undoubtedly constitutes a problem for his parents and teachers. He suffers from a form of spastic paralysis in the legs, and at first sight watchmaking would appear to be a solution. Although the lad's hands are not paralysed, he has very poor control of his fingers and has difficulty in manipulation.

It will be observed that the war has scarcely touched the ambitions of this group of children. The fact that six of the boys are planning on the navy or the mercantile marine, might be thought to disprove this. Nevertheless, four and possibly all of these boys stand a very good chance of accomplishing their aim. One wishes to become a Marine Engineer and another a Wireless Operator. The factors leading to the sea as a choice of occupation appear to be quite unconnected with the war, but rather with family connections already

at sea. Of all the children questioned these boys had the most definite plans.

In fact, it is clear from Table 1 that the children ranking highest in I.Q. had the most definite ideas. Of the ten children who had no plans at all, eight come in the lower half of the group. Of the group of ten, four are boys and six girls. The girls would in several cases prefer to leave school altogether when they have passed Form 11.

Of the fifty children interviewed we find, then, that forty have definite plans. When analysed, it is at once evident that in many cases the realisation of these plans involves several years of post-primary education. Further, in the cases where the boys were uncertain about the future they wanted to attend a post-primary school and decide later. At least 50 percent of the children have chosen occupations necessitating two or more years attendance at a post-primary school, and of the remainder, 60 percent will leave primary school at the age of

14 or under. This means that at least 40 of the group of 50 will be attending post-primary schools, either voluntarily or because they are under the school leaving age. Of the difficulties involved in doing this more will be said in a later section.

TABLE IV.

SUMMARY OF WHAT CHILDREN WANT TO DO ON LEAVING SCHOOL.

YEAR OF LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOL	1944		1945		1946		
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Farm & Market Garden.	2		2	1	4		9
Navy or Mercantile Marine			3		3		6
Nurse		4		1		1	6
Carpenters & Boat Builder	3				1		4
Shorthand Typist				3			3
Engineer	2						2
Shop Assistant				1		1	2
Veterinary Surgeon			1				1
Chemist				1			1
Hairdresser		1					1
School Teacher		1					1
Watchmaker					1		1
Dressmaker				1			1
Domestic						1	1
Labourer					1		1
Don't Know	2	1	2	4		1	10
TOTAL	9	7	8	12	10	4	50

POSSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT.

The possibility of absorbing the "school leavers" in the district is small. To begin with the vacancies are few, and those which do occur are chiefly of a semi-skilled nature. Table V indicates the present position. When considered with the children's choice of occupation (see Table 1V) it becomes apparent that few could realise their ambition within the district.

From the openings available it is obvious that no great educational achievements are necessary. There seems to have been a tendency for the boys and girls who stay in the district, on leaving school, to go from job to job around the district, for example, boys sometimes work for a few months in the bakery then change to farming and so on. Even under wartime conditions there would appear to be no shortage of labour, as boys desirous of working on farms sometimes wait about for months and eventually obtain employment out of the dist-

rict. This may be on account of the fact that the farms are mostly small.

An attempt was made to trace the employment of the "leavers" from the district but it is so very complex that no definite figures can be given. It would appear that one half to two thirds maturing in Paraparaumu will have to find their life employment elsewhere. And of those who expressed a choice of occupation at least 50 percent will have to leave. In any case to qualify for their choice or for a position above that of an unskilled labourer, the overwhelming bulk of the primary school "leavers" need two to five years at post-primary school. This fact, seen in conjunction with the educational facilities available presents a real problem. To this is added the fact that only about 20 percent of the Form 11 "leavers" will have passed their fifteenth birthday by the February following the completion of their primary schooling. So from two points of view it becomes obvious that the children must go to a post -primary school.

TABLE V

NUMBER OF YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE DISTRICT.

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	YOUNG MEN	YOUNG WOMEN	TOTAL
Shops	1	10	11
Garages	3		3
Telephone Exchange	1	2	3
On Father's Farm	7		7
Labourers	2		2
Bakery	1		1
	15	12	27

POSSIBILITIES FOR POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION.

We have seen then, that for 90% of leavers post-primary education is obligatory, either because of new regulations, the lack of employment facilities in the district or the personal ambitions of the children. How is this to be obtained?

The first alternative is attendance at the Horowhenua Technical High School. A privately owned school bus leaves the village at 7.30 a.m., arriving back at 5.30 p.m. The distance travelled is 25 miles each way and the boys and girls using this bus travel 2 to 5 miles to and from the bus terminus, on foot or bicycle, in all weathers. The behaviour of the children on the bus is unsupervised and tends to be uproarious. Bus travellers can take no part in the social and sporting activities of the college. Attendance at this college means an eleven hour day from gate to gate for these children.

The difficulties involved in attending the

schools in the city are somewhat different. The journey of 32 miles is made by a train which leaves Paekakariki at 7.48 a.m. A Railway Bus collects passengers for this train from 7 a.m. onwards. Many children are on this bus route and would therefore not be required to travel to a bus terminus. In the city a tram journey of two sections would be required in all cases but the girls' college. The return journey is completed about 5.45 p.m. The overcrowding in these city schools is so great, however, that one school, at least, has refused to admit children from this district unless they are boarders.

The alternative to attendance at these schools is boarding school or boarding privately away from home. There seems to be a tendency for the children in this category to increase. It would appear that boarding school, if it can be afforded is the most satisfactory method as conditions are at present.

Hardly any of the children can qualify on grounds of distance from an available school

for enrolment in the Correspondence School. In any case this alternative is most undesirable as it might mean the nominal continuance of education but actual full time employment on the farm.

The one bright spot in the difficulty of finding post-primary schooling for these children is that attendance at any of the available schools gives a wide choice of curriculum and preparation for any future employment.

TABLE VI

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS DURING YEARS 1944 - 1946

	1944		1945		1946		TOTAL		
	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Travelling 25 miles to Horowhenua daily.	2	3	3	5	2	2	7	10	17
Travelling 32 miles to Wellington daily.	2	3	-	3	4	1	6	7	13
Boarding School	4	-	1	2	2	-	7	2	9
Boarding Privately	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Correspondence	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Work	3	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	5
Don't Know	-	-	4	2	-	-	4	2	6
TOTAL	11	7	8	12	10	4	29	23	52

NOTE ON BOARDING ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS.

Ten shillings a week will be paid for the board of each pupil who "through impracticability of conveyance has to live away from home in order to attend a post-primary school."

Condition No. 11 of the regulation governing the payment of the allowance states that the allowance will be paid provided that, "There is no means of daily transport for the pupil by rail or otherwise."

This condition excludes children from Paraparaumu as they have transport available either by rail or road, to post-primary schools. There are, however, several children who receive the boarding allowance on medical grounds. In such cases the doctor certifies that the child is unfit for the long journey involved in attending any of the schools by rail or road daily. These children board at school, but could board privately and attend city schools.

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NOTE ON THE SPORTING FACILITIES AVAILABLE.

So far we have considered only the academic and transport problems involved. Let us now consider the sporting facilities available at the various colleges. The children are given the opportunity to play games during school hours but there is practically no possibility of becoming a member of a college team. I say 'Practically no possibility' because firstly, the children are unable to stay for practises after school hours, and secondly, matches are played on Saturdays and the amount of travelling involved in attending matches is such that most parents will not consider it. For instance, to go to the Horowhenua College on a Saturday means leaving at 6.30 a.m. and returning home at 9.15 p.m. by train.

The only way in which a child can enter fully into school sports would appear to be by enrolling in a boarding school.

ANALYSIS OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS OVER THE PERIOD 1939-1943.

Tables V11 and V111 show respectively the final school leaving ages and the number of years spent at post-primary schools by an aggregate of 73 primary school leavers over the period 1939-1943 inclusive.

From these figures it will be noted that if the new legislation had been enacted at that period it would have had the effect of keeping additional pupils at post-primary schools but it should also be observed that, although the legislation had not been enacted during the period covered by the tables, a considerable number of pupils did not take advantage of the opportunity of leaving on gaining the Primary School Certificate. From the facts indicated in the tables it may be concluded that there exists in this particular district, apart from the demands of legislation, a tendency to prolong attendance at Post-primary School.

TABLE V111

LENGTH OF TIME SPENT AT POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY LEAVERS FROM THE PARAPARAUMU PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING THE YEARS 1939-1943

LEFT DURING	NUMBER LEAVING	WORK NO.P.P. SCHOOL	LESS THAN 1 YEAR	1YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	STILL ATTENDING	UNABLE TO TRACE
1939	17	6	-	3	5	-	3	-	-
1940	7	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
1941	13	8	1	-	2	1	-	1	-
1942	19	3	1	1	-	-	-	13	1
1943	17	4	-	4	-	-	-	9	-
TOTAL	73	23	3	9	10	1	3	23	1

TABLE V11.

TABLE SHOWING FINAL SCHOOL LEAVING AGES OF 73 CHILDREN WHO LEFT THE PARAPARAUMU PRIMARY SCHOOL DURING THE YEARS 1939-1943.

YEAR OF LEAVING F11	NUMBER LEAVING	13+	14+	15+	16+	17+	STILL ATTENDING	UNABLE TO TRACE
1939	17	5	5	3	1	3	-	-
1940	7	1	2	-	4	-	-	-
1941	13	4	5	1	2	-	1	-
1942	19	3	1	1	-	-	13	1
1943	17	2	2	3	1	-	9	-
TOTALS	73	15	15	8	8	3	23	1

CONCLUSION.

On the evidence hitherto considered, the introductory question "Does the legislation create new problems?" must be answered in the negative but it must be emphasized that old problems have been accentuated by the legislation.

It is apparent, from the distances between the various existing post-primary facilities outside the Paraparaumu district, that a considerable number of hours is consumed in every instance in travelling, with a correspondingly detrimental effect on the pupils' participation in organized sport, apart from the fact that they are apt to be unduly tired owing to the mileages they are required to cover to and from school.

Can a satisfactory alternative be suggested?

One alternative which would eliminate long travelling periods, although not entirely satisfactory in other respects, would be the re-establishment of the District High School at

Paraparaumu, covering Form 111 and possibly Form 1V. This school functioned during the years 1934-1936 but was not regarded with favour by the parents of the pupils, owing mainly to the frequent changes of teacher, the smallness of the school (the roll was approximately 9) and the difficulty of securing the services of a commercial teacher. These objections and others, on the part of the majority of parents, still remain; but undoubtedly such a school would cater for those pupils who have no intention of pursuing their studies beyond statutory requirements and such numbers as might choose to remain a short time beyond school leaving age.

This alternative, however, does not dispose adequately of the main difficulty which is the provision of such facilities as will enable the children to enter fully into all school activities. It is suggested that an extension of the principle of Board Allowances should be made to

include post-primary school pupils whose parents would be prepared to give an undertaking that they would remain for a minimum period of three years at whichever post-primary school they might decide to attend.

It is not claimed that these alternatives would overcome all difficulties but their application would at least give the children of Paraparaumu opportunities which at present are only available to children residing in districts more favourably situated geographically.

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