

considerable increase in the yield of gold in 1880 over 1879, in the following comparative statement of

YIELD OF GOLD.

—	1879.		1880.		Decrease.	Increase.	
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.		Oz.	Value.
Auckland	37,901	£154,295	42,720	£176,416	..	4,819	£22,121
Marlborough ..	879	3,460	1,550	5,650		671	2,190
Nelson	2,993	11,424	3,222	12,223		229	799
West Coast	142,822	571,061	144,090	575,258		1,268	4,197
Otago ..	102,869	407,868	113,666	457,705		10,797	49,837
	287,464	1,148,108	305,248	1,227,252		17,784	79,144
Increase for 1880						17,784	£79,144

Comparison of the quarters ended 31st March, 1880 and 1881, show, on the other hand, a very great falling off for the first quarter of the current year. As explained in former reports, the only criterion we have of the yield of gold is in the quantity passed at the Customhouse for export. This, of course, takes no account of what is used up in the colony, which may be taken to vary from 10,000 to 20,000 ounces a year. Nor for so short a period as three months can any very reliable conclusion be come to as to the actual yield of the gold fields during that time, there being many contingencies which affect the quantities sold by the miners and shipped by the banks, which do not recur regularly within a three months' period, but which adjust to a much better average for a period of twelve months.

—	1880.		1881.		Decrease.		Increase.
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	
Auckland ..	11,787	£47,403	6,151	£23,779	5,636	£23,624	
Marlborough	215	850	215	850	
Nelson	1,096	4,129	250	1,000	846	3,129	
West Coast ...	33,615	134,426	23,822	95,286	9,793	39,140	
Otago ..	32,589	131,400	20,418	82,167	12,171	49,233	
	79,302	£318,208	50,641	£202,232	28,661	£115,976	..
Decrease for three months ended 31st March, 1881					28,661	£115,976	..

STATEMENT of GOLD EXPORTED and VALUE for the years, as under.

Year.	Oz.	Value.	Year.	Oz.	Value.
1857	10,436	£40,442	1870	544,880	£2,157,585
1858	13,533	52,443	1871	730,029	2,787,520
1859	7,336	28,427	1872	445,370	1,730,992
1860	4,538	17,585	1873	505,337	1,987,425
1861	194,234	752,657	1874	376,388	1,505,331
1862	410,862	1,591,389	1875	355,322	1,407,770
1863	628,450	2,431,723	1876	318,367	1,268,559
1864	480,171	1,857,847	1877	371,685	1,496,080
1865	574,574	2,226,474	1878	310,486	1,240,079
1866	735,376	2,844,517	1879	284,100	1,134,641
1867	686,753	2,700,275	1880	305,248	1,227,252
1868	637,474	2,504,326	30th June, 1881	114,036	456,319
1869	614,281	2,362,995			
				9,659,266	£37,810,653

MINING POPULATION AND ITS EARNINGS.

By reference to Table No. 9 it will be seen that the number of miners on 31st March, 1881, was 15,063, and as the number twelve months before that was 14,409, the mean number for the year will be 14,736. The gold exported for the same period was valued at £1,111,276. This does not include the gold used up in the colony; but excluding this uncertain quantity, and simply taking the export alone, as was done in former years in striking the average earnings per man, it will be found that this is £75 8s. for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1881. For the three preceding similar periods, going back, the average earnings per man were respectively £81 2s., £75 10s., and £97 10s., or for the four years—31st March, 1877,