

RETURN showing the Number of Cases disposed of in the Resident Magistrates' and Warden's Courts, and Revenue collected, for the Twelve Months ending 31st March, 1887.

Courts.				Civil.	Criminal.	Warden's.	Total.	Revenue.		
Lawrence	...	...	...	176	115	19	310	£	s.	d.
Waikaia	...	...	...	35	58	16	109	150	13	0
Tapanui	...	...	...	83	48	1	124	78	5	0
				294	213	36	543	110	2	0
Outside goldfields—										
Milton	...	...	...	117	39	...	156	86	6	6
Balclutha	...	...	...	74	46	...	120	65	15	0
Kaitangata	...	...	...	33	42	...	75	35	11	0
Clinton	...	...	...	54	45	...	99	67	8	6
Gore	...	...	...	466	70	...	536	347	10	0
Mataura	...	...	...	...	22	...	22	5	18	0
				744	264	...	1,008	608	9	0
Grand Total				1,038	477	36	1,551	947	9	0

The population of the district is estimated at 25,361 souls, located as under,—

—				Europeans.	Chinese.	Total.
Tuapeka	...	...	...	3,860	410	4,270
Waipori	...	...	...	360	80	440
Waitahuna	...	...	...	1,120	140	1,260
Waikaia	...	...	...	1,013	188	1,201
Tapanui	...	...	...	1,600	150	1,750
Milton	...	...	...	4,600	39	4,639
Balclutha	...	...	...	3,398	2	3,400
Kaitangata	...	...	...	1,450	...	1,450
Clinton	...	...	...	2,051	...	2,051
Gore	...	...	...	2,930	70	3,000
Mataura	...	...	...	1,696	4	1,700
Waikawa	...	...	...	200	...	200
Totals				24,278	1,083	25,361

No. 14.

Mr. Warden HICKSON to the UNDER-SECRETARY of MINES.

SIR,— Warden's Office, Clyde, 30th April, 1888.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Dunstan and Wakatipu Districts under my charge for the year ended the 31st March, 1888, together with the usual statistics for the same period.

Clyde and Alexandra.—In these subdivisions of my district there is very little of moment to report upon in alluvial mining. About the same number of men are engaged as last year, and from what I can ascertain they have been no less profitably employed. Several extended claims have been taken up at Bald Hill Flat, where, during the last year, very good prospects have been obtained.

Dredging.—There are one steam and three current-wheel dredges situate between the above-named townships, but, owing to the flooded state of the river, very little work has been done by them since the New Year. The whole of them are, however, again in active operation, and will, I trust, be able to continue so until the setting-in of the usual spring floods. The special claims which were taken up in this locality for the purpose of being worked by Wellman's patent dredger are still lying idle, and will remain so, I have no doubt, until Mr. Wellman has completed the alterations to the machinery, which were found to be necessary upon a trial last year. The alterations being made will include the substitution of a 12in. pump for the 6in. or 8in. one, which proved totally inadequate for the requirements necessary to manipulate the heavy boulder wash-drift of the Molyneux. The patentee has no doubt of the ultimate success of his dredger as enlarged and otherwise improved, and should his expectations be realised, the expenditure of a large amount of capital and a considerable increase in the demand for labour in this district will follow.

Roxburgh.—The river-bank claims here are still being profitably worked, and seem to show no signs of exhaustion; one of these claims, of six acres, changed hands a few months ago for £750. I