

quantity of gold obtained by them was 4,050oz., representing a value of £15,592 10s. Deducting the value of the sales of water from the value of the gold obtained, it leaves the average earnings of the miners last year to be about £109 4s. 1d. per annum, or £2 2s. per week each man. The outstanding liabilities, according to the books of the Mount Ida Trust, on the 31st December last, was £1,703 2s. 10d., of which amount there is £763 12s. 6d. standing against names of people, some of whom are dead and some left the district. This leaves the liabilities as £938 10s. 4d. as the utmost that could be got, but it is questionable if some of it will ever be recovered.

The following statement shows the value of the sales of water from the 1st January to the 31st of March, and the moneys received, and the amount expended on maintenance. A portion of this expenditure should have been charged to repairs, as the water was shut off at the beginning of February :—

MOUNT IDA WATER-RACE, 1893.

Months.	Sales of Water.	Cash received for Sales of Water.	Expenditure.	Amount of outstanding Moneys at end of each Month.	Number of Men employed.	Approximate Amount of Gold obtained.	Value of Gold.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
January ...	96 2 6	120 11 1	97 12 11	1,677 14 3	About 130	300	1,155 0 0
February ...	8 14 2	112 3 10	21 19 8	1,574 4 7		42	161 14 0
March ...	...	63 7 11	21 19 9	1,510 16 8		...	...
	104 16 8	296 2 10	141 12 4	...	...	342	1,316 14 0

In February and March, the maintenance men were employed on construction-works, the water being turned out of the race, and only a small portion of the wages is charged to the maintenance.

SUMMARY OF WATER-RACES.

The following statement shows the result of working the water-races controlled by the Government, and the collateral advantages derived by their construction. Although the direct revenue has not been so great as was anticipated at the time that their construction was authorised, they have been the means of affording a large population profitable employment for a number of years, and a large amount of gold has been obtained which otherwise could not have been got. It is only by a large supply of water that the most of the auriferous gravel terraces can be made to pay for working. In very few localities will ground pay to drive out and bring the wash-drift to sluices by carts and trucks. And, even where the ground has been sufficiently rich to admit of this being done, in most cases, when water has afterwards been brought on the same ground, it has paid the miners far better the second time by working it in a face by hydraulic-sluicing.

STATEMENT showing the PROFITS and LOSSES on the Working of the WATER-RACES for Fifteen Years.

Name of Water-race.	Value of Sale of Water, including Value of any Gold obtained in Sludge-channel.	Expenditure.	Profit or Loss on Working.	Average Number employed.	Approximate Amount of Gold.	Value of Gold obtained.	Duty received on Gold obtained.	Total Profit or Loss, with Value of Gold Duty added.	Total Cost of Construction.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Waimea-Kumara Water-race and Sludge-channel.</i>									
Fourteen years ending the 31st March, 1892	119,604 12 10	75,068 0 3	44,536 12 7	371	220,109	823,789 6 3	20,728 0	65,264 12 7	..
Year ending 31st March, 1893	6,804 13 0	2,640 11 4	4,164 1 8	213	11,147	43,473 6 0	..	4,164 1 8	..
Totals	126,409 5 10	77,708 11 7	48,700 14 3	360	231,256	867,262 12 3	20,728 0	69,428 14 3	182,949 3 2
<i>Nelson Creek.</i>									
Thirteen years ending the 31st March, 1891	17,364 0 7	15,123 0 7	2,241 0 0	53	32,698	125,069 17 0	3,269 16	5,510 16 0	..
Four months ending 31st July, 1892	213 0 0	292 6 6	*79 6 6	23	245	980 0 0	..	79 6 6	..
Totals	17,577 0 7	15,415 7 1	2,162 13 6	52	32,943	126,049 17 0	3,269 16	5,431 9 6	90,722 10 8
<i>Argyle.</i>									
Thirteen years ending the 31st March, 1891	5,530 16 10	5,455 7 7	75 9 3	17	8,040	30,738 12 0	804 0	933 3 11	14,701 15 3
<i>Mount Ida.</i>									
Fourteen years ending the 31st March, 1892	18,786 1 5	22,373 14 9	3,605 12 4	107	34,411	130,383 0 0	3,176 2	245 15 9	..
Year ending 31st March, 1893	1,396 0 4	1,403 0 0	*6 19 8	130	4,050	15,592 10 0	..	*6 19 8	..
Totals	20,182 1 9	23,776 14 9	*3,612 12 0	108	38,461	145,975 10 0	3,176 2	238 16 1	67,001 9 2
Grand Totals	169,699 5 0	123,356 1 0	47,326 5 0	537	310,700	1,170,026 11 3	27,977 16	76,032 3 9	355,374 18 3

* Shows a loss on the working.