

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the value of the sales of water for the year amounted to £4,322 11s. 5d., while the expenditure for maintenance for the same period was £2,481 17s. For the previous year the value of the sales of water was £4,902 4s. 9d., and the expenditure £2,713 12s. 3d. This shows that there was a decrease in the revenue last year to the extent of £579 13s. 4d., while the cost of maintenance has also decreased to the extent of £231 15s. 3d.

The total value of free water given to the miners to open up new ground and construct new tail-races, and also for working claims which did not prove payable, amounted for the past year to £819 9s. 9d. The number of men employed in claims worked with water from these supplies was 157·83. Deducting the value of the sales of water from the approximate value of the gold obtained from claims worked with water from these supplies, which amounted to 7,698 oz., representing a value of £30,012 4s., it leaves £25,689 12s. 7d. as the average earnings of the miners, which is equal to about £162 16s. per man per annum.

The total cost of the whole of the works, including the extension to Callaghan's, up to the end of March amounts to £184,696 6s. 4d.

The following statement will show the receipts and expenditure for the last twelve years, ending the 31st March last, of the Waimea and also the Kumara Water-races:—

Waimea Race.							Kumara Race.						
Year.		Sales of Water.		Expenditure on Maintenance.		Net Profit.		Sales of Water.		Expenditure on Maintenance.		Net Profit.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1886	..	1,790	16 0	1,131	18 1	+ 658	17 11	9,788	16 8	1,459	19 5	8,328	17 3
1887	..	1,675	19 4	1,116	10 0	+ 559	9 4	6,470	14 4	1,398	18 10	5,071	15 6
1888	..	1,612	11 3	1,027	17 11	+ 584	13 4	7,169	10 3	982	12 0	6,186	18 3
1889	..	1,416	6 8	860	2 5	+ 556	4 3	6,716	6 10	1,024	1 9	5,692	5 1
1890	..	1,240	9 7	795	7 7	+ 445	2 0	3,550	4 8	1,424	13 3	2,125	11 5
1891	..	1,388	17 5	933	3 3	+ 455	14 2	6,665	12 8	1,766	4 3	4,899	8 5
1892	..	1,121	16 2	784	13 10	+ 337	2 4	6,645	11 0	1,584	10 11	5,061	0 1
1893	..	1,015	12 3	858	0 4	+ 157	11 11	5,789	0 9	1,782	11 0	4,006	9 9
1894	..	828	15 8	919	9 4	— 90	13 8	5,582	4 7	1,919	8 5	3,662	16 2
1895	..	988	0 7	1,061	9 4	— 73	8 9	4,646	19 9	1,976	17 7	2,670	2 2
1896	..	795	13 6	770	3 8	+ 25	9 10	4,106	11 3	1,943	8 7	2,163	2 8
1897	..	776	19 5	669	6 3	+ 107	13 2	3,502	17 0	1,786	15 9	1,716	1 3
Totals	..	14,651	17 10	10,928	2 0	3,723	15 10	70,634	9 9	19,050	1 9	51,584	8 0

This table shows that there has been a net profit derived from the working of the Waimea Race of £3,723 15s. 10d., and £51,584 8s. from the Kumara Race, for the above period.

NUMBER of DAYS WATER WAS LOST, for Year ending 31st March, 1897, through Holidays and Scarcity of Water.

Month.		Holidays.	No Water for Channel.	No Water for Private Races.
1896.				
April	...	2	1	...
May	...	...	1	...
June	...	...	18	3
July	...	...	...	...
August	...	...	8	...
September	...	...	4	...
October	...	...	4	...
November	...	...	...	...
December	...	2	14	7
1897.				
January	...	1	...	...
February	...	...	...	...
March	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	5	50	10

MOUNT IDA WATER-RACE.

This race has been used continuously, in consequence of the open season, the water being stopped only twenty-three days, on account of frost. The supply of water was, however, limited, on account of the exceptionally dry weather throughout the summer months, the race, at its best, only supplying twelve sluice-heads, and sometimes the quantity was reduced to five sluice-heads.

As increased attention is being directed to work the deeper ground by hydraulic sluicing additional water will be in request. This will necessitate widening the race and maintaining additional storage. The Eweburn Reservoir, which would be of vast importance in this respect if