

SUMMARY OF WATER-RACES.

The following statement will show the profits and losses of working the different water-races constructed and maintained by the Government for the last nineteen years, and also the collateral advantages derived by the utilisation of the water from these races :—

Name of Water-race.	Value of Sales of Water including Value of Gold obtained in Sludge-channel.	Expenditure.	Profit or Loss on Working.	Average Number employed.	Approximate Quantity of Gold obtained.	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.	Men.	Oz.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Waimea-Kumara Water-race and Sludge-channel.</i>									
Eighteen years ended 31st March, 1896	143,357 11 2	86,297 8 6	57,060 2 8	328	259,062	975,706 0 3	20,728 0	77,788 2 8	..
Year ended 31st March, 1897	4,322 11 5	2,481 17 0	1,840 14 5	157	7,698	30,012 4 0	..	1,840 14 5	..
Totals	147,680 2 7	88,779 5 6	58,900 17 1	..	266,760	1,005,718 4 3	20,728 0	79,628 17 1	206,661 4 6
<i>Nelson Creek.</i>									
Thirteen years four months ended 31st July, 1892	17,577 0 7	15,415 7 1	2,161 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 ended 31st March, 1895	5,530 16 10	5,455 7 7	75 9 3	17	8,040	30,738 12 0	804 0	879 9 3	15,151 15 3
<i>Mount Ida.</i>									
Eighteen years ended 31st March, 1896	23,860 9 6	27,205 11 3	†3,345 1 9	90	47,165½	179,699 13 6	3,176 2	†168 19 9	68,607 8 9
Year ended 31st March, 1897	1,333 11 6	1,316 15 6	16 16 0	66	3,157	12,154 9 0	..	16 16 0	..
Totals	25,194 1 0	28,522 6 9	†3,328 5 9	..	50,322½	191,854 2 6	3,176 2	†152 3 9	68,607 8 9
<i>Blackstone Hill.</i>									
Three years ended 31st March, 1896	376 9 8	36 6 6	335 3 2	7	689	2,678 8 6	..	335 3 2	1,036 16 0
Year ended 31st March, 1897	115 19 3	5 8 6	110 10 9	8	183	704 11 0	..	110 10 9	..
Totals	492 8 11	41 15 0	445 13 11	7	872	3,382 19 6	..	445 13 11	1,036 16 0
Grand totals	196,474 9 11	138,214 1 11	58,255 8 0	..	358,937½	1,357,743 15 3	27,977 18	86,233 6 0	382,179 15 2

* Including £5,948 18s. 8d. cost of constructing extension to Callaghau's.

† Loss on working.

GOLD- AND SILVER-MINING.

The mining boom which commenced in 1895 continued throughout the past year. A large number of areas were taken up within the principal mining districts of the colony, and extensive works undertaken in prospecting and development of the mines. In a great number of cases the claims have been disposed of to English companies. Operations have been commenced and machinery erected to an extent only possible by large expenditure of capital. The demand on the part of investors for legitimate mining properties has not to any great extent been lessened, notwithstanding the shrinkage in the yield compared with last year, and shown in the following statement of the quantity and value of gold entered for exportation :—

Name of District.	Year ended 31st March, 1897.		Year ended 31st March, 1896.		Decrease for 1897.
	Oz.	£	Oz.	£	Oz.
Auckland	93,876	358,231	117,029	450,829	23,153
Marlborough	789	3,070	3,173	12,681	2,384
Nelson	2,534	9,544	3,813	14,007	1,279
West Coast	71,548	286,261	89,721	358,870	18,173
Otago	88,166	358,636	88,954	359,694	788
Totals	256,913	1,015,742	302,690	1,196,081	45,777

In the Auckland District, in the North Island, there was a decrease of 23,153 oz. of gold—from Coromandel County, 12,849 oz.; from Thames County, 5,113 oz.; from Thames Borough, 1,998 oz.; from Piako County, 19 oz.; and from Ohinemuri County, 3,172 oz.

In the South there was an increased yield of gold in the following counties, as follows: Waimea, 96 oz.; Westland, 152 oz.; Kumara Borough, 65 oz.; Taieri, 974 oz.; Waikouaiti, 84 oz.; Lake, 514 oz.; Fiord, 2,703 oz.; Southland, 1,043 oz.; and Stewart Island, 18 oz. Last year there was a decrease in the yield of gold from the following counties: Marlborough, 2,384 oz.; Collingwood, 1,347 oz.; Buller, 2,012 oz.; Inangahua, 14,312 oz.; Grey, 1,258 oz.; Hokitika Borough, 505 oz.; Ross Borough, 303 oz.; Tuapeka, 1,196 oz.; Vincent, 472 oz.; Maniototo, 725 oz.; Wai-hemo, 1,187 oz.; Waitaki, 22 oz.; Bruce, 119 oz.; Wallace, 1,229 oz.; and Clutha, 4 oz.