

II. EXTRACT from the THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT of the MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

By a vote of last session a sum of £3,000 was again granted for subsidies to public libraries. Notice thereof was inserted in the *Gazette* of the 8th October, 1908, and forms of application were sent to all libraries known to the Department. The method of distribution of the vote was the same as that adopted in previous years—viz., a nominal addition of £25 was made to the amount of the income of each library derived from subscriptions, donations, and rates, provided that the receipts for the year were not less than £2, and the vote was divided according to the amount thus augmented; but no library received credit for a larger income than £75—that is, in no case did the augmented amount on which distribution was based exceed £100. In accordance with the *Gazette* notice, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 4th February, 1909, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 437 libraries from which applications, each accompanied by a statutory declaration on the proper form, had been received at that date. The vote, as thus dealt with, afforded a subsidy of 3s. 3·5d. in the pound on the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £4 8s. 10d. to £16 9s. 2d.

The number of libraries participating in the vote shows an increase of twenty as compared with the number aided in the previous year. In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained, it is made a condition for participation that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library in the previous year shall have been expended in the purchase of books.

The following table shows the distribution according to the education districts:—

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

Education Districts.	Number of Libraries.	Income.	Income upon which Subsidy is based.	Subsidy.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	112	2,938 11 6	4,297 19 1	707 8 4
Taranaki	14	390 5 11	660 14 11	108 15 1
Wanganui	33	1,654 11 11	1,574 10 9	259 2 6
Wellington	20	4,812 4 4	1,142 19 1	188 2 3
Hawke's Bay	32	1,366 3 2	1,510 16 5	248 13 5
Marlborough	5	137 5 6	242 19 6	39 19 10
Nelson	27	736 6 3	1,238 7 7	203 0 2
Grey	4	360 2 9	304 12 6	50 2 9
Westland	6	118 7 3	268 7 3	44 3 4
North Canterbury	70	1,777 16 5	2,671 12 5	439 14 1
South Canterbury	22	627 5 8	980 19 1	161 9 1
Otago	51	846 7 10	1,964 8 11	323 6 3
Southland	40	345 0 2	1,345 0 2	221 7 5
Chatham Island	1	4 0 0	29 0 0	4 15 6
Totals	437	16,114 8 8	18,227 7 8	3,000 0 0