

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, a careful perusal of the reports and statistics hereto attached, will, I think, prove that although a considerable depression did undoubtedly exist over a large portion of the gold fields during the year 1872, yet that the depression was temporary, and that the returns for the first quarter of 1873 show a decided revival in all branches of this important industry—a revival which I take leave to think will not be transitory, but which will, under the various most favourable circumstances of the Colony, develop into the permanent prosperity of our mining community.

C. E. HAUGHTON.

WATER SUPPLY UPON THE GOLD FIELDS.

No. 1.—WORKS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

—	Estimated Cost.			Money Expended.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Thames ...	48,180	4	10	1,042	4	10	Survey finished, and plant ordered.
Nelson Creek ...	30,466	7	0	466	7	0	Survey nearly finished.
Waimea ...	61,235	10	2	1,235	10	2	Survey and plans finished.
Mount Ida ...	42,138	8	0	2,138	8	0	Survey and plans finished; contracts in hand.

No. 2.—COMPANIES WHICH HAVE RECEIVED SUBSIDIES FROM GOVERNMENT.

—	Amount of Subsidy asked for.			Money Advanced.			Interest Paid.			Refund.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Hohonui Company	1,533	6	1	1,533	6	1	35	6	5	183	19	2
Hibernian Company	2,000	0	0	1,426	14	3	15	11	11	...		
New River Company	3,333	6	8	1,892	16	6	20	13	9	...		
Arrow River Company	612	10	0	612	10	0	...			...		

No. 3.—COMPANIES THAT HAVE APPLIED FOR SUBSIDIES.

—	Amount of Subsidy asked for.			Money Advanced.	Remarks.
	£	s.	d.		
Totara and Jones Creek Company ...	3,484	10	0	Nil	Declined by the Company.
Golden Point Company	1,000	0	0	"	Particulars not furnished of character of works
Beaumont and Tuapeka Company ...	2,000	0	0	"	Ditto.
Carrick Range Company ...	5,000	0	0	"	Plans and specifications not lodged.
Caledonian Company	...			"	Refused by Government.
Mount Pisgah Company	...			"	Further information required.