

returns for the yield of gold, the comparative returns for the years 1878 and 1879 are as follow:—

YIELD OF GOLD.

—	1878.		1879.		Decrease.		Increase.	
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.
Auckland ...	55,982	£220,454	37,901	£154,295	18,081	£66,159	...	...
Marlborough	404	1,617	879	3,460	...	...	475	1,843
Nelson ...	4,463	17,223	2,993	11,424	1,470	5,799	...	...
West Coast ...	144,634	578,508	142,822	571,061	1,812	7,447	...	...
Otago ...	105,003	422,277	102,869	407,868	2,134	14,409	...	...
	310,486	£1,240,079	287,464	£1,148,108	23,497	£93,814	475	£1,843
					475	1,843		
Decrease for 1879 ...					23,622	£91,971		

COMPARISON of the QUARTERS ended the 31st March, 1879 and 1880.

—	1879.		1880.		Decrease.		Increase.	
	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.	Oz.	Value.
Auckland ...	9,567	£38,108	11,787	£47,403	...	...	2,220	£9,295
Marlborough	560	2,240	215	850	345	1,390	...	...
Nelson ...	1,193	4,518	1,096	4,129	97	389	...	...
West Coast ...	41,764	167,035	33,615	134,426	8,149	32,609	...	...
Otago ...	21,616	85,592	32,589	131,400	...	...	10,973	45,808
	74,700	£297,493	79,302	£318,208	8,591	£34,388	13,193	£55,103
							8,591	34,388
Increase for Quarter ended the 31st March, 1880					...		4,602	£20,715

STATEMENT of GOLD EXPORTED and VALUE for various years, as under.

Year.	Oz.	Value.	Year.	Oz.	Value.
1857	10,436	£40,442	1870	544,880	£2,157,585
1858	13,533	52,443	1871	730,029	2,787,520
1859	7,336	28,427	1872	445,370	1,730,992
1860	4,538	17,585	1873	505,337	1,987,425
1861	194,234	752,657	1874	376,388	1,505,331
1862	410,862	1,591,389	1875	355,322	1,407,770
1863	628,450	2,431,723	1876	318,367	1,268,559
1864	480,171	1,857,847	1877	371,685	1,496,080
1865	574,574	2,226,474	1878	310,486	1,240,079
1866	735,376	2,844,517	1879	284,100	1,134,641
1867	686,753	2,700,275	30th June, 1880	149,105	599,200
1868	637,474	2,504,326			
1869	614,281	2,362,995	Total ...	9,389,087	£36,726,282

MINING POPULATION AND ITS EARNINGS.

The number of miners on the 31st of March, 1880, is shown in Table 9 as 14,409. In last year's report the number on the 31st March, 1879, was given as 14,297. The mean number for the year ended 31st of March, 1880, is therefore 14,353. The gold exported for the same period was valued at £1,168,823, or an average of £81 2s. as the year's earnings per man; for the previous year the average was £75 10s.; and for the year before that, £97 10s. per man. Of course, the cost and maintenance of private water-races, crushing-machinery, and other plant, have to be borne by the miner, so that the average wage per man is below the current rate for labour in the colony. It is not to be inferred, however, that the miners are solely dependent on gold, or give all their time to its search. Many of them, more especially those having alluvial claims, combine farming and the rearing of cattle with mining pursuits, and only engage in the latter at certain seasons of the year.