

Month.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Number of Men employed.	Approximate Amount of Gold obtained.	Value of Gold.
1885.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
April	92 13 4	60 13 4	57	190	726 15 0
May	79 0 0	62 3 4	56	179	684 13 6
June	74 18 4	71 16 8	54	143	546 19 6
July	11 19 2	188 13 2	60	40	153 0 0
August	75 8 4	120 7 8	65	207	791 15 6
September	85 1 8	99 8 8	67	232	887 8 0
October	90 0 10	95 10 8	65	240	918 0 0
November	172 1 8	90 19 8	68	266	1,017 9 0
December	89 15 0	90 17 8	68	221	845 6 6
1886.					
January	105 15 10	88 4 2	72	250	956 5 0
February	102 5 10	57 8 8	65	200	765 0 0
March	94 14 2	78 9 8	71	190	726 15 0
Totals	1,073 14 2	1,104 13 4	768	2,358	9,019 7 0

Remarks.—Average earnings of miners, after deducting sales of water, £2 7s. 9d. per week. Apparent loss on Nelson Creek Water-race, £30 19s. 2d.

The receipts from sales of water amount to £1,073 14s. 2d., while those of the previous year amounted to £990 6s. 8d. This shows an increase of £83 7s. 6d.; but this is more than compensated by the increase of expenditure. The cost of maintenance has been £1,104 13s. 4d., against that of £811 10s. 5d. during the previous year; which is an increase of £193 2s. 11d. This is due to large slips which took place in July last. The average number of miners employed working mining-claims by means of this water-supply has been sixty-four, and the approximate amount of gold obtained by them has been 2,358oz., representing a value of £9,019 7s. Deducting the sales of water from the value of the gold obtained, the average earnings of the miners have been about £2 7s. 9d. per week. The value of free water given to assist the miners in opening out their claims and in prospecting has been £488. The total cost of construction of this work has been £90,151 19s. 1d., and the loss in working during the past year £30 19s. 2d.

Argyle Water-race, Charleston, Nelson.—This water-race is now in good repair, the whole of it having been recently reconstructed; but it will have to be extended to Back Lead before any increase in the returns can be expected. The ground that the race at present commands is almost worked out. Tenders will shortly be called for the construction of the extension, which, when completed, will enable a large area of auriferous ground to be worked between Ballarat Gully and the Nile River. The following table shows the result of the working of the race during the past year:—

Month.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Average Number of Men employed.	Approximate Amount of Gold obtained.	Value of Gold.
1885.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
April	30 7 4	33 19 1	..	..	..
May	28 5 0	36 9 10	..	..	..
June	30 15 4	28 3 4	..	..	..
July	39 7 2	31 19 5	..	..	..
August	40 5 9	26 3 4	..	..	..
September	36 1 10	42 12 7	..	..	..
October	38 4 9	33 10 6	..	..	..
November	37 2 11	30 1 8	..	..	..
December	30 17 8	40 7 1	..	..	..
1886.					
January	36 15 3	32 15 10	..	..	..
February	39 17 4	26 10 0	..	..	..
March	47 2 4	29 5 0	21	464	1,774 16 0
Totals	435 2 8	391 17 8	21	464	1,774 16 0

Remarks.—The average number of days worked during the year has been eighty-five per man, or at the rate of £4 10s. per man per week during the time they were at work. Profit on Argyle Water-race, £43 5s.

The receipts have been £435 2s. 8d., while those of the previous year were £476 13s. 6d.; thus showing a decrease of £41 10s. 10d. The expenditure for past year has been £391 17s. 8d., against £419 19s. 7d. of the previous year; being a decrease of £28 1s. 11d. The amount of free water given to the miners during the past year has been £4 2s. 6d. The total cost of this work up to the present time has been £14,192 17s. 11d., and the profits drawn last year from the working of the race £43 5s.; which gives interest on capital invested at a little over a quarter per cent.

Mikonui Water-race, Ross, Westland.—This work is in course of construction. About three miles of the lower portion is completed, which is still leased to the Mount d'Or Gold-mining Company at a rental of £100 per annum. The work in progress during the year has been confined to the construction of the long tunnel. About 50 chains of the lower end of this tunnel is completed; but a portion of this will have to be retimbered again before water is admitted. The ground, being of a swelling nature when exposed to the atmosphere, breaks the timber soon after it is first put in position. A contract for 35 chains of the upper end of tunnel was taken,