

5s. 5d.; and the value of water given towards the construction of deviation and extension of the race was £793 0s. 5d., making a total of £1,202 5s. 10d. The average number of men employed in claims worked with water from this supply during last year was 155, and the approximate quantity of gold obtained was 9,935oz., representing a value of £37,750; deducting from this amount the value of the sales of water, it leaves the earnings of the men employed in the claims to be £194 13s. 3d. per annum, or £3 14s. 10d. per man per week, which is £1 4s. 6d. a week per man more than the earnings for the previous year.

The following summary will show the results of working this water-race for eight years ending the 31st March last. [For summary, see page 16A.]

This shows that during the last eight years the value of water sold amounted to £58,412 8s. 6d.; the value of free water given towards opening-out and assisting in working the claims, £5,580 12s. 8d.; towards deviations, £1,485 0s. 5d.; towards the construction of deviation of sludge-channel, £2,406 1s. 2d. The total value of water supplied being £67,884 2s. 9d., while the expenditure on maintenance for same period was £11,860 15s.

KUMARA SLUDGE-CHANNEL.

The new deviation of this channel was completed in the beginning of July, 1890, and handed over to trustees appointed by the miners, to be held in trust as a public tail-race for the benefit of the miners on the field. The new deviation, 30 chains in length, is constructed 3ft. 6in. wide, and has a fall or gradient of 1 in 36, or 1ft. 10in. per chain, and is found to work very well. As soon as the new deviation was constructed the gold was taken out of the upper portion, and also the abandoned portion, this realised £843 6s. 8d.; and the abandoned portion was strengthened by centre-props, so as to prevent any portion of it breaking down, which might have the effect of weakening the new portion by making the ground heavier on the caps. The total expenditure in connection with the construction of this deviation, including the costs of the inquiry and compensation, amounted to £4,963 8s., making the total cost of the channel up to the time it was handed over to the trustees, £21,964 18s. 2d.; in addition to this the loss on its maintenance during about eight years and a half that the Government kept it in repair has been £23,798 19s. 5d., making the total loss £45,962 19s. 11d. This shows that works of this description should not be undertaken by Government unless by the way of assistance towards their construction in the first instance. The loss on the maintenance of this channel has always been a drag on the results of working the water-race, which otherwise, notwithstanding the large expenditure on its construction, would have paid moderate interest on the cost of the construction. There is no doubt the miners will keep the channel in repair at a much less rate than it was costing the Government. They have made regulations which limit the fall of tail-races coming into it, and also the quantity of water that the different parties can use in their sluices in proportion to the fall or gradient of their boxes.

The following table shows the value of channel-fees; the gold recovered from the channel; also the expenditure for the year ending the 31st March, 1891:—

Month.	Channel-fees paid towards Construction of the New Deviation of the Channel.	Value of Gold obtained from the Channel.	Expenditure.	Outstanding Moneys.	Number of Men employed.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1890.					
April	86 2 9	38 4 6	209 19 5	..	67
May	80 6 10	49 8 0	191 7 11	..	67
June	73 13 10	57 16 0	189 2 10	..	61
July	34 2 0	105 14 0	173 2 6	..	55
August	..	101 16 0	129 4 4	..	..
September	..	214 15 0	87 12 1	..	..
October	..	275 12 6	121 6 0	..	..
December	..	..	6 6 0	..	..
Totals	274 5 5	843 6 0	1,108 1 1	..	62½

It will be seen from the above statement that the value of channel-fees amount to £274 5s. 5d., and the value of gold recovered from the channel £843 6s., making the total receipts £1,017 11s. 5d.; while the expenditure amounted to £1,108 1s. 1d., showing a profit of £9 10s. 4d. A portion of the expenditure was incurred in recovering the gold, and in placing centre-props in the part of the abandoned channel.

The following statement will show the results of working the channel for the last eight and a half years, or since its construction:—

Year ended 31st March.	Value of Channel-fee and Gold-dust obtained from the Channel.	Expenditure on Maintenance.	Loss on Working the Channel.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1882-83	925 13 4	1,703 11 1	777 17 9
1883-84	2,128 18 3	6,405 10 8	4,276 12 5
1884-85	2,163 16 4	6,161 14 7	3,997 18 3
1885-86	2,219 18 7	6,215 13 0	3,995 14 5
1886-87	2,262 2 8	5,957 11 5	3,695 8 9
1887-88	1,800 0 1	4,260 12 4	2,460 12 3
1888-89	1,665 18 0	4,285 6 2	2,619 8 2
1889-90	1,228 18 2	3,213 15 11	1,984 17 9
1890-91	1,117 11 5	1,108 1 1	*9 10 4
Total	15,512 16 10	39,311 16 3	23,798 19 5

* This shows a profit for the half-year 1890.