

The following statement will show the receipts and expenditure for the last thirteen years ending the end of March last of the Waimea and Kumara Water-races:—

Waimea Race.				Kumara Race.			
Year.	Sales of Water.	Expenditure on Maintenance.	Net Profit.	Sales of Water.	Expenditure on Maintenance.	Net Profit.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1886	1,790 16 0	1,131 18 1	+ 658 17 11	9,788 16 8	1,459 19 5	8,328 17 3	
1887	1,675 19 4	1,116 10 0	+ 559 9 4	6,470 14 4	1,398 18 10	5,071 15 6	
1888	1,612 11 3	1,027 17 11	+ 584 13 4	7,169 10 3	982 12 0	6,186 18 3	
1889	1,416 6 8	860 2 5	+ 556 4 3	6,716 6 10	1,024 1 9	5,692 5 1	
1890	1,240 9 7	795 7 7	+ 445 2 0	3,550 4 8	1,424 13 3	2,125 11 5	
1891	1,388 17 5	933 3 3	+ 455 14 2	6,665 12 8	1,766 4 3	4,899 8 5	
1892	1,121 16 2	784 13 10	+ 337 2 4	6,645 11 0	1,584 10 11	5,061 0 1	
1893	1,015 12 3	858 0 4	+ 157 11 11	5,789 0 9	1,782 11 0	4,006 9 9	
1894	828 15 8	919 9 4	- 90 13 8	5,582 4 7	1,919 8 5	3,662 16 2	
1895	988 0 7	1,061 9 4	- 73 8 9	4,646 19 9	1,976 17 7	2,670 2 2	
1896	795 13 6	770 3 8	+ 25 9 10	4,106 11 3	1,943 8 7	2,163 2 8	
1897	776 19 5	669 6 3	+ 107 13 2	3,502 17 0	1,786 15 9	1,716 1 3	
1898	787 18 7	677 1 6	+ 110 17 1	2,889 3 3	1,841 0 0	1,048 3 3	
Totals	15,439 16 5	11,605 3 6	3,834 12 11	73,523 13 0	20,891 1 9	52,632 11 3	

This table shows that there has been a net profit derived from the working of the Waimea Race of £3,834 12s. 11d., and £52,632 11s. 3d. from the Kumara Race, for the above period.

MOUNT IDA WATER-RACE.

This race continues to furnish water sufficient to employ a large number of men. The usual work in maintaining the race has to be carried on in order that it may be kept open, as landslips and falls from the sides frequently fill it up. During the early part of the year three dams had to be refaced with sods, and a short pipe was introduced to replace a flume that was worn out, the timber becoming too weak for the weight to be sustained. This, with the cleaning-out of the race and widening four miles from Home Gully to Coal-pit Gully, entailed considerable expense, and added to the cost of maintenance.

The very dry summer, combined with the early disappearance of the snow, reduced the quantity of water to such an extent that only one sluice-head and a half was running in the race at the middle of March.

Four new elevating claims have been added to the number, and there are eight elevating plants now in use. The increased need of an extra supply is apparent, and the only known source of supply is that from the proposed reservoir at Eweburn, which has been ascertained to be practicable.

The following statement will show the revenue derived from sales of water, the cost of maintenance, and the approximate quantity and value of gold obtained by the miners using water from this race for the year ending 31st March last:—

Date.	Sales of Water.	Cash received.	Maintenance.	Number of Men employed.	Approximate Quantity of Gold obtained.	Value.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
1897.						
April	134 3 5	134 3 5	116 12 8	78	280	..
May	104 7 7	107 1 8	89 8 8	72	273	..
June	115 9 2	119 9 2	84 14 8	60	220	..
July	49 3 11	49 3 11	87 10 5	55	150	..
August	14 12 6	20 16 9	334 7 8	20	45	..
September	195 9 1	196 10 7	136 8 8	69	306	..
October	232 14 10	244 14 10	91 14 8	70	345	..
November	214 1 0	214 11 4	96 2 8	71	406	..
December	149 6 1	149 6 1	87 3 8	67	400	..
1898.						
January	74 4 4	74 4 4	88 14 8	64	210	..
February	48 3 0	48 3 0	79 12 8	54	120	..
March	64 4 0	67 7 1	92 7 8	51	130	..
Totals	1,395 18 11	1,425 12 2	1,384 18 9	61	2,885	11,107 5 0

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the value of the sales of water last year amounted to £1,395 18s. 11d., as against £1,333 11s. 6d. for the previous year, which is an increase of £62 7s. 5d., while the expenditure on maintenance was £1,384 18s. 9d., as against £1,316 15s. 6d. for the previous year. The gain on the working last year was £11 0s. 2d. The approximate quantity of gold obtained from claims worked with water from this supply was 2,885 oz., representing a value of £11,107 5s.; and the number of men employed in these claims averages about 61. Deducting the value of the gold obtained from the value of the sales of water, it leaves £9,711 6s. 1d. as the earnings of the miners, which is equal to about £159 4s. a man per annum, or about £3 1s. 2d. a man per week.

BLACKSTONE HILL RACE.

This race is still used by a few men, and, although they cannot be said to be doing well, they manage to recover a considerable quantity of gold. During the year the race was repaired and side-trimmed. The tunnel on Johnstone's tail-race was also repaired where it crosses the road. The