

The limited extent to which the testing plant—four parcels treated—has been made use of by mining men during the year is, as it was last year, doubtless due to the boom in dredging enterprises, which for the time have driven prospecting for auriferous quartz-reefs into the background. There is, however, some hope for an early improvement in this respect.

Among those who sent donations to the mining museum are mentioned Messrs. P. G. Morgan (Director of School of Mines at Waihi), F. B. Allen (Director, Thames School of Mines), A. Sligo, H. Walcott (Curator, Melbourne Industrial Museum), F. Kayser (manager, Mount Bischoff Mine), Smith (Chairman, Industrial Exhibition Mining Committee), Herbert Buckland, J. M. McLaren (Director, Coromandel School of Mines), Charles Rilstone (manager, O.P.Q. Mine), and Captain Malcolm.

EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The following table shows the expenditure by the Government on schools of mines since their inauguration, exclusive of subsidies paid to the University of Otago towards the School of Mines in connection with that institution:—

Financial Years.	Subsidies towards the Erection of Schools of Mines, and Maintenance.	Chemicals and Apparatus, also Mineralogical Specimens supplied to Schools of Mines.	Scholarships.	Salaries of Teachers, and Travelling-expenses, &c.	Total Sums paid by the Department towards the Schools of Mines.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86 ...	...	36 19 9	...	1,223 9 10	1,260 9 7
1886-87 ...	257 16 6	409 1 4	...	2,716 9 3	3,383 7 1
1887-88 ...	253 15 9	253 14 1	...	1,714 9 6	2,221 19 4
1888-89 ...	42 10 0	6 12 9	...	1,139 4 1	1,188 6 10
1889-90 ...	142 2 0	181 14 10	...	716 3 10	1,040 0 8
1890-91 ...	217 6 6	54 8 0	...	620 9 9	892 4 3
1891-92 ...	181 14 0	...	...	689 5 9	870 19 9
1892-93 ...	312 3 4	...	...	670 1 0	982 4 4
1893-94 ...	197 0 5	...	...	858 19 4	1,055 19 9
1894-95 ...	390 0 0	45 10 10	...	773 17 8	1,209 8 6
1895-96 ...	820 0 0	...	50	849 3 0	1,719 3 0
1896-97 ...	352 14 11	58 18 6	100	834 12 8	1,346 6 1
1897-98 ...	1,089 18 6	29 19 9	100	780 19 0	2,000 17 3
1898-99 ...	740 15 2	32 19 7	50	729 10 11	1,553 5 8
Totals ...	4,997 17 1	1,109 19 5	300	14,316 15 7	20,724 12 1

The above statement shows the amount expended on the different schools of mines throughout the colony; but, in addition to this, the sum of £7,303 6s. 2d. has to be added, as that has been paid to the School of Mines attached to the University of Otago, £553 6s. 2d. being paid last year towards maintaining the school, which makes the total expenditure up to the 31st March last to be £28,027 18s. 3d. This expenditure has extended over a period of fourteen years.

WATER-RACES.

WAIMEA WATER-RACE.

The quantity of water obtained from this race is equal to present requirements, and even when the necessary extensions to connect with the claims to be worked from the Waimea Main Tail-race are completed it is anticipated that the supply will still be ample. A storage-dam will be required in connection with the supply for the claims that will be worked through the main tail-race, and a suitable area has been secured for that purpose.

The following statement will show the receipts and cost of maintenance of the Waimea Race for the year ended 31st March last, together with the approximate quantity of gold obtained by those using water for working claims from that supply:—

Month.	Sales of Water.	Cash received for Sales of Water.	Expenditure.	Outstanding Moneys at the End of each Month.	Number of Men employed.	Approximate Quantity of Gold obtained.	Value of Gold obtained.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
1898.							
April	53 14 7	52 15 6	57 19 2	14 13 8	44	165	643 10 0
May	74 2 9	86 15 6	52 19 2	11 19 3	42	222	865 16 0
June	64 18 4	56 12 0	74 13 9	11 19 3	40	197	768 6 0
July	64 12 6	56 17 9	55 14 2	15 15 5	47	199	776 2 0
August	65 17 11	81 3 6	56 9 2	11 19 3	41	205	799 10 0
September ..	66 15 10	48 13 9	59 14 2	14 19 8	48	203	791 14 0
October	61 9 2	64 0 0	76 9 2	14 1 10	46	195	760 10 0
November ..	67 12 11	51 19 6	103 12 9	20 3 9	48	204	795 12 0
December.. ..	50 10 0	57 11 0	83 19 2	14 6 5	49	155	604 10 0
1899.							
January	30 11 8	42 1 0	85 9 2	14 6 5	36	93	362 14 0
February	30 3 9	26 7 6	73 4 2	14 6 5	34	91	354 18 0
March	64 6 8	54 0 9	61 14 2	..	38	193	752 14 0
Totals	694 16 1	678 17 9	841 18 2	..	42·75 (average)	2,122	8,275 16 0