

The question of reducing the charge made per sluice-head will therefore have soon to be faced, as in many instances, after paying for water, there is not sufficient left to the miner to meet the cost of living.

The following statement shows the revenue derived from sales of water, and also the cost of maintenance, for the year ended 31st March, 1899:—

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.
1898.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
April	160 6 6	175 0 0	130 10 7	297 5 9	64	295	1,150 10 0
May	194 11 5	138 0 0	230 1 9	366 17 2	70	349	1,361 2 0
June	171 13 0	270 12 6	157 5 8	279 2 8	82	312	1,216 16 0
July	226 15 6	249 0 0	162 8 9	260 4 0	73	403	1,571 14 0
August	224 0 6	201 15 0	191 14 4	274 19 3	83	410	1,599 0 0
September	251 9 1	238 12 6	166 8 4	282 16 0	74	446	1,739 8 0
October	202 2 11	237 8 7	173 14 4	245 14 2	70	373	1,454 14 0
November	233 18 5	376 13 9	149 5 8	219 11 3	69	425	1,657 10 0
December	258 15 4	78 0 0	195 1 6	282 12 1	69	461	1,797 18 0
1899.							
January	196 19 9	215 0 0	247 17 7	253 1 0	69	250	975 0 0
February	320 17 10	260 0 0	199 6 3	328 8 8	62	475	1,852 10 0
March	270 4 2	195 0 0	170 9 2	390 3 10	63	472	1,840 16 0
Totals	2,711 14 5	2,635 2 4	2,174 3 11	..	70·66 (average)	4,671	18,216 18 0

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the value of the sales of water for the past year amounted to £2,711 14s. 5d., as against £2,889 3s. 3d. for the former year, and that the cost of maintenance was £2,174 3s. 11d., as against £1,841 for the previous year. This shows a decrease in the revenue last year of £177 8s. 10d., and an increase in the cost of maintenance of £333 3s. 11d. In addition to the sales of water, the value of free water supplied to the claims which did not prove payable to work during the year amounted to £613 0s. 6d. The average number of men employed in claims worked with water from this supply was 70·66, and the approximate quantity of gold obtained by them was 4,671 oz., representing a value of £18,216 18s. Deducting the value of the sales of water from the approximate value of gold obtained it leaves £15,505 3s. 7d. as the earnings of the miners, which is equal to an average of £218 7s. 9d. a man per annum, or £4 8s. per man per week. The total cost of this work up to the end of March last amounts to £44,543 17s. 6d., and, deducting the cost of maintenance from the value of the sales of water for the year, it leaves a profit on the working of £537 10s. 6d.

[For table showing result of working Kumara Water-race for fifteen years, see page 25.]

WAIMEA-KUMARA RACE.

In order to augment the present supply of water a new water-race has been surveyed, and is in course of construction. This race will carry water from the Wainihinihi, a branch of the Teremakau River, across a saddle into the Kawhaka, from the watershed of which the present water-supply is obtained. It is expected that not less than fifteen sluice-heads can be added to the already extensive supply of water for the races, even during the driest weather, and when the creeks in Kawhaka watershed are at their lowest.

The extension of the Kapitea Hill branch of the Kumara Race has been carried on to supply water for working the claims at No. 5 channel. The necessary flush-water race and the 26 in. main are also being proceeded with. On the completion of the works the additional quantity of water required to supply No. 5 channel will probably be made up when the Wainihinihi Race is finished.

The extension of the Waimea Race to supply water to the claims at the middle branch that can be worked by the use of the Waimea main tail-race will prove of great benefit to the district.

The following statement will show the revenue and expenditure on the whole of these works for the year ending the 31st March last:—

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.
1898.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.
April	214 1 1	227 15 6	200 4 9	311 19 5	108	460	1,794 0 0
May	295 14 2	266 15 6	293 0 11	378 16 5	122	625	2,437 10 0
June	251 11 4	327 4 6	241 19 5	291 1 11	132	544	2,121 12 0
July	291 8 0	305 17 9	228 2 11	275 19 5	120	602	2,347 16 0
August	322 10 11	340 1 0	258 3 6	286 18 6	134	700	2,730 0 0
September	348 14 11	293 6 3	253 7 6	297 15 8	132	730	2,847 0 0
October	288 17 1	326 18 7	260 3 6	259 16 0	126	634	2,472 12 0
November	320 16 4	447 13 3	262 18 5	239 15 0	127	684	2,667 12 0
December	309 5 4	135 11 0	307 0 8	296 18 6	118	616	2,402 8 0
1899.							
January	254 1 5	299 1 0	345 6 9	267 7 5	115	418	1,630 4 0
February	366 11 7	286 7 6	286 10 5	342 15 1	106	606	2,363 8 0
March	334 10 10	249 0 9	242 15 10	413 5 3	101	665	2,593 10 0
Totals	3,598 3 0	3,505 12 7	3,179 14 7	..	120·08 (average)	7,284	28,407 12 0