

II.—EXTRACT from Twenty-third Annual Report of the Minister of Education.

By a vote of last session a sum of £3,000 was granted for subsidies to public libraries; in 1898 the amount voted for distribution was £2,000. The method of distribution of the vote for 1899 was the same as that adopted in the previous year, as follows: A nominal addition of £25 was made to the amount of the income of each library derived from subscriptions, donations, and rates, provided that the receipts for the year were not less than £2, and the vote was divided according to the amount thus augmented; but no library received credit for a larger income than £75—that is, in no case did the augmented amount on which distribution was based exceed £100. In accordance with a *Gazette* notice of the 30th October, 1899, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was 8th February, 1900, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 312 libraries from which applications, each accompanied by a statutory declaration on the proper form, had been received. The vote, as thus dealt with, afforded a subsidy of 4s. 7.25d. in the pound of the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £23 Os. 7d. to £6 4s. 5d.

Some libraries supplied with the proper form failed to send in formal claims by the 31st January, 1900, the date fixed by the *Gazette* notice, and did not therefore participate in the vote.

The number of libraries participating in the vote was 312, which shows an increase of twenty-seven over the number aided in the previous year. In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained to as full a degree as possible, it would appear to be desirable in future that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library should be expended in the purchase of books, and in any year to withhold a subsidy from any library that fails to comply with this condition as to the manner of expending the previous year's subsidy.

The following table shows the distribution according to education districts:—

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

Education Districts.	Number of Libraries.	Income on which Subsidy is calculated.	Amount of Subsidy.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	72	2,662 4 9	596 0 8
Taranaki	9	485 17 6	98 14 11
Wanganui	17	1,150 1 3	221 10 2
Wellington	17	1,946 7 9	205 17 5
Hawke's Bay	25	1,126 7 6	256 0 11
Marlborough	3	162 18 10	37 10 6
Nelson	23	902 9 11	207 17 8
Grey	10	516 5 11	118 18 2
North Canterbury	57	3,034 3 10	510 15 4
South Canterbury	15	858 5 3	168 16 5
Otago	45	1,969 18 11	414 4 2
Southland	19	669 9 10	154 3 8
Two special grants	..	..	9 10 0
Totals	312	15,484 11 3	3,000 0 0

III. LIST showing DISTRIBUTION of SUBSIDY in Detail.

[The word "Income" here means income from rates, subscriptions and donations, and net proceeds of lectures, entertainments, &c., for the year 1899.]

Library.	Income.	Subsidy.	Library.	Income.	Subsidy.
AUCKLAND.			AUCKLAND—continued.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aponga	10 8 0	8 3 1	Matakana	5 3 6	6 18 11
Arapohue	3 7 6	6 10 9	Matakana, Lower	2 0 0	6 4 5
Aratapu	16 13 3	9 11 6	Matakohe	2 13 7	6 7 7
Bombay	2 16 0	6 8 1	Maungatapere	2 0 0	6 4 5
Cambridge	55 16 9	18 12 4	Maungaturoto	4 15 9	6 17 3
Dargaville	42 14 0	15 11 11	Mercury Bay	22 11 0	10 19 1
Gordon Settlement	6 10 0	7 5 2	Morrinsville	5 0 0	6 18 2
Helensville	7 15 0	7 9 11	Mount Roskill	6 10 0	7 5 0
Hoteo North	2 0 0	6 4 5	Ngaruawahia	10 13 0	8 4 2
Huntly	21 16 0	10 15 6	Ohinemuri	38 6 0	14 11 6
Kao	4 5 4	6 14 10	Omaha	4 15 0	6 17 0
Kaipara Flats	6 16 0	7 6 6	Opotiki	21 15 3	10 15 0
Kaitia	2 17 0	6 8 4	Otahuhu	16 0 0	9 8 10
Katikati	11 18 5	8 10 1	Otorohanga	10 19 0	8 5 7
Kaiwaka	2 1 3	6 4 8	Pakiri	2 16 0	6 8 0
Kaukapakapa	5 3 6	6 18 11	Papakura	9 19 3	8 1 0
Kawakawa	14 17 3	9 3 8	Paparoa	3 9 0	6 11 0
Kohukohu	3 5 0	6 10 2	Parua	4 9 7	6 15 10
Kuaotunu	7 4 0	7 8 4	Port Albert	2 17 9	6 8 6
Lichfield	2 16 0	6 8 1	Pirongia	11 6 9	8 7 5
Lucas Creek	2 7 3	6 6 1	Pukekohe	2 12 6	6 7 3
Mahurangi	16 8 6	9 10 9	Raglan	2 8 0	6 6 3
Mangapai	5 12 6	7 1 0	Rawene	4 8 0	6 15 5
Mangapiko	5 11 0	7 4 9	Rotorua	29 6 2	12 10 2
Mangonui	4 2 0	6 14 0	Ruatangata	7 15 0	7 9 10
Mareretu	4 0 0	6 13 7	Lake Takapuna	4 1 3	6 18 11