

II.—EXTRACT from the TWENTY-FIFTH 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; the same amount was voted for distribution in 1900–1. The method of distribution of the vote for 1901–2 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 20th November, 1901, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 8th February, 1902, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 369 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 3s. 10·25d. in the pound of the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £19 5s. 5d. to £5 4s. 6d.

Some libraries supplied with the proper form failed to send in formal claims by the 31st January, 1902, the date fixed by the *Gazette* notice, and did not therefore participate in the vote.

The number of libraries participating in the vote shows an increase of twenty over the number aided in the previous year. In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained, it is made a condition for participation that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library in the previous year shall have been expended in the purchase of books.

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

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

Education Districts.	Number of Libraries.	Income.	Amount on which Subsidy is calculated.	Amount of Subsidy.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	90	2,406 1 3	3,474 19 11	670 4 0
Taranaki	14	394 7 6	721 19 7	139 4 7
Wanganui	22	962 1 11	1,015 7 0	195 15 2
Wellington	21	2,221 11 3	1,137 2 11	219 4 10
Hawke's Bay	26	620 2 6	1,177 8 6	227 0 9
Marlborough	5	156 3 3	281 3 3	54 4 1
Nelson	24	561 17 3	1,034 8 6	199 9 3
Grey	5	181 4 0	306 4 0	59 0 7
Westland	5	101 12 6	226 12 6	43 13 11
North Canterbury	64	1,748 6 8	2,479 7 2	478 3 0
South Canterbury	18	515 17 4	848 3 4	163 10 7
Otago	47	803 10 0	1,820 0 0	350 19 1
Southland	27	295 7 6	995 7 6	191 19 9
Special grant to Chatham Islands ..	1	14 0 0	39 0 0	7 10 5
Totals	369	10,982 2 11	15,557 4 2	3,000 0 0