

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 the *Gazette* notice, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 9th February, 1903, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 364 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. 10·92d. in the pound of the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £19 11s. to £5 5s. 7d.

Some libraries supplied with the proper form failed to send in formal claims by the 31st January, 1903, the date fixed by the *Gazette* notice, and did not therefore participate in the vote.

The number of libraries participating in the vote shows a decrease of five as compared with 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	84	2,202 6 2	3,265 4 9	638 8 3
Taranaki	15	410 3 7	705 19 2	138 0 8
Wanganui	22	1,090 7 11	1,208 13 6	236 6 9
Wellington	18	2,923 0 6	1,006 4 2	196 13 10
Hawke's Bay	25	655 1 9	1,108 9 7	216 14 8
Marlborough	5	117 15 0	242 15 0	47 9 0
Nelson	27	604 16 7	1,171 3 9	228 19 3
Grey	5	169 5 0	294 5 0	57 10 10
Westland	5	95 14 9	220 14 9	43 2 10
North Canterbury	65	1,633 0 9	2,477 9 3	484 6 2
South Canterbury	18	505 10 1	843 4 7	164 16 7
Otago	50	887 19 3	1,957 13 0	382 13 10
Southland	24	204 16 9	804 16 9	157 6 10
Special grant to Chatham Islands ..	1	13 10 0	38 10 0	7 10 6
Totals	364	11,513 8 1	15,345 3 3	3,000 0 0