

ROADS CONSTRUCTED BY DIRECT GRANTS.

The following statement shows the expenditure and liabilities on authorities issued on roads from direct grants to the several local bodies during the year ending the 31st March, 1904 :—

Name of Local Body.	Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1904.	Liabilities on Authorities on 31st March, 1904.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coromandel County	5,011 4 3	3,422 4 6
Thames County	2,572 5 6	2,400 9 7
Thames Borough	...	200 0 0
Ohinemuri County	2,889 12 7	2,355 16 2
Tauranga County	187 0 0	...
Pelorus Road Board	248 16 6	170 0 0
Collingwood County	2,160 15 7	1,123 0 11
Waimea County	903 19 6	780 6 2
Buller County	6,300 0 0	3,450 0 0
Inangahua County	1,540 14 7	1,984 5 5
Grey County	2,531 0 0	345 0 0
Brunner Borough	177 1 3	122 18 9
Westland County	2,051 1 3	510 9 0
Hokitika Borough	100 0 0	...
Bruce County	22 5 0	...
Tuapeka County	1,750 18 8	589 1 4
Vincent County	1,590 10 0	1,359 10 0
Lake County	1,866 8 0	318 9 0
Southland County	1,300 0 0	...
Knapdale Road Board	150 0 0	...
Wallace County	55 8 3	44 11 9
Roads Department	6,016 11 2	3,311 2 4
Public Works Department... ..	5,702 4 3	887 18 1
Totals	45,127 16 4	23,375 3 0

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

The following statement shows the expenditure and liabilities on authorities issued in subsidies to prospecting associations and parties of miners recommended by the local bodies in the different counties for the year ending the 31st March last :—

Name of County.	Expenditure for Year ending 31st March, 1904.	Liabilities on Authorities on 31st March, 1904.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coromandel	250 5 0	148 5 0
Thames	304 0 0	766 9 4
Ohinemuri	23 0 0	135 10 0
Buller	35 10 0	35 10 0
Inangahua	32 19 0	168 12 6
Westland	383 16 9	110 9 3
Tuapeka	9 6 6	15 13 6
Totals	1,038 17 3	1,380 9 7

THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY.

I have to report a further increase in the amount and value of gold exported from the colony, notwithstanding several drawbacks to which the industry has been subjected. Several mines in various parts of both Islands which were formerly consistent producers of gold have now ceased to occupy that position, some being closed down altogether. Dredging and hydraulic mining in Central Otago were also seriously interfered with owing to severe frosts and floods, and thus a shortage has resulted in the production of gold from that district. Other districts, however, all show increases, which have the effect of raising the value of gold exported for the year ending the 31st December, 1903, to £2,037,831, this being £86,398 in excess of the export value of the preceding twelve months.

The total value of gold exported from the year 1857 to the end of last year (1903) amounts to £63,149,147.

The several branches of the industry in the various districts are referred to under their several headings.