

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

The following statement shows the expenditure and liabilities on authorities issued in subsidies to prospecting associations and parties of miners in the different counties for the year ending the 31st March, 1908 :—

Name of County.				Expenditure for Year ending 31st March, 1908.	Liabilities on Authorities on 31st March, 1908.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coromandel	...	...	...	349 17 0	395 11 0
Ohinemuri...	...	...	...	87 5 4	156 17 0
Marlborough	...	...	...	...	50 0 0
Takaka	...	...	...	113 0 0	...
Buller	...	...	...	107 18 0	27 10 0
Inangahua	...	...	...	279 18 0	451 17 0
Westland	...	...	...	558 14 9	859 10 6
Lake	...	...	...	89 14 5	359 5 7
Tuapeka	...	...	...	...	100 0 0
Grey	...	...	...	153 5 6	219 14 6
Totals	...	...	...	1,739 13 0	2,620 5 7

VII. SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The schools of mines, which have now been established twenty-three years, continue to contribute to the education of mining and metallurgical students at the principal mining centres, and the number of important positions occupied by students from these schools on many of the great mining fields of the world testifies to the efficiency of the curriculum.

EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The following table shows the expenditure by the Government on schools of mines since their inauguration, exclusive of subsidies paid to the University of Otago towards the School of Mines in connection with that institution :—

Financial Years.	Subsidies towards the Erection of Schools of Mines, and Maintenance.	Chemicals and Apparatus, also Mineralogical Specimens supplied to Schools of Mines.	Scholar- ships.	Salaries of Teachers, and Travelling- expenses, &c.	Total Sum paid by the Depart- ment towards the Schools of Mines.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885-86	...	36 19 9	...	1,223 9 10	1,260 9 7
1886-87	257 16 6	409 1 4	...	2,716 9 3	3,383 7 1
1887-88	253 15 9	253 14 1	...	1,714 9 6	2,221 19 4
1888-89	42 10 0	6 12 9	...	1,139 4 1	1,188 6 10
1889-90	142 2 0	181 14 10	...	716 3 10	1,040 0 8
1890-91	217 6 6	54 8 0	...	620 9 9	892 4 3
1891-92	181 14 0	...	...	689 5 9	870 19 9
1892-93	312 3 4	...	...	670 1 0	982 4 4
1893-94	197 0 5	...	...	858 19 4	1,055 19 9
1894-95	390 0 0	45 10 10	...	773 17 8	1,209 8 6
1895-96	820 0 0	...	50	849 3 0	1,719 3 0
1896-97	352 14 11	58 18 6	100	834 12 8	1,346 6 1
1897-98	1,089 18 6	29 19 9	100	780 19 0	2,000 17 3
1898-99	740 15 2	32 19 7	50	729 10 11	1,553 5 8
1899-1900	990 3 4	24 3 8	50	52 16 3	1,117 3 3
1900-1901	866 10 11	56 3 4	98	77 7 10	1,098 2 1
1901-1902	1,155 12 3	63 5 1	49	69 16 4	1,337 13 8
1902-1903	1,379 15 6	134 18 8	158	111 0 0	1,783 14 2
1903-1904	1,575 15 3	88 18 8	92	109 15 10	1,866 9 9
1904-1905	1,401 2 11	17 3 0	100	362 19 6	1,881 5 5
1905-1906	1,806 19 5	87 2 1	49	440 9 4	2,383 10 10
1906-1907	1,836 6 6	11 15 8	100	388 18 5	2,337 0 7
1907-1908	2,428 19 3	94 6 2	150	345 15 11	3,019 1 4
Totals	18,439 2 5	1,687 15 9	1,146	16,275 15 0	37,548 13 2

The schools-of-mines examinations were held in December, 1907, and seventy-seven students presented themselves for examination in some of the twenty subjects on which papers were set, the result of such examinations appearing in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the 30th January, 1908. No student succeeded in obtaining first-class passes to the requisite number to entitle him to one of the four Government scholarships at the University of Otago, which are of the annual value of £50, and are tenable for three years.

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Inspecting Engineer of Mines.