

(5.) GOVERNMENT WATER-RACES.

The Waimea-Kumara and Mount Ida Water-races, which render possible hydraulic mining in the Kumara district, Westland, and the Naseby district, Central Otago, have supplied 100 miners with water for sluicing during 1913, by which they obtained gold to the value of about £23,226.

For the year ended the 31st March, 1914, the receipts for sales of water from the combined races amounted to £3,305 6s. 9d., the expenditure in upkeep and supervision during the same period being £3,214 19s. 9d., as compared with £2,588 0s. 8d. and £3,273 11s. 3d. respectively during the previous year.

New branch races have been constructed to serve miners in the Waimea-Stafford districts, and a race-deviation is now being constructed from the Erin-go-bragh Water-race, recently purchased by the Government, to Argus Terrace, near Maori Point, Westland, where alluvial gold has been intermittently mined for many years.

The Kumara Water-race extension, which carries by inverted siphon a large supply of water across the valley of the River Taramakau to the northern terraces at Westbrook, has been very badly supported by the miners of the district, who strongly urged the Government to construct this costly extension, and loudly proclaimed the richness and extent of the country which would be served. Independently of mining, this siphon is of considerable value for hydro-electric power, the water-supply being considerable and the pressure adequate.

In Central Otago the Mount Ida Race has been extended for nearly a mile towards its proposed terminus to enable new ground to be worked.

VIII. SCHOOLS OF MINES.

At the last Government examinations the following students won scholarships (value £50 per annum, with free class fees tenable for four years at the Otago University School of Mines)—viz., Messrs. L. Grange, of the Waihi School; and L. Stevenson, of the Thames School.

The following is a summary of the results of the Government examinations at the schools of mines during 1913 by senior students:—

Position.	Locality of School of Mines.	Average Number of Marks awarded per Paper submitted.	Number of Students examined.	Number of Papers submitted.	Total Marks awarded.
		Per Cent.			
1	Thames	60·83	16	24	1,459
2	Waihi	57·20	18	34	1,945
3	Karangahake ..	56·47	11	30	1,694
4	Reefton	49·66	14	27	1,341
5	Coromandel ..	39·23	7	13	510
6	Westport	38·43	12	23	884
	Totals, 1913 ..	51·87	78	151	7,833
	„ 1912 ..	62·00	66	123	7,629

Upon comparison with the results obtained at the examination for the previous year, it will be seen that the average number of marks per paper has decreased, but the number of students submitting themselves for examination has increased.