

(3). SUBSIDIZED ROADS ON GOLDFIELDS.

The expenditure in the form of subsidies and direct grants upon roads on goldfields amounted to £11,329, as compared with £11,050 during the previous year.

(4.) GOVERNMENT WATER-RACES.

The Waimea-Kumara and Mount Ida water-races, which greatly assist alluvial gold-mining in the localities of Kumara (Westland) and Naseby (Central Otago), but at an annual loss of £2,313 15s. 8d. to the Government, have, during the year ended 31st March, 1922, supplied with water for sluicing auriferous gravel claims employing an average number of 28·15 persons, by which gold to the approximate value of £5,633 5s. 6d. was obtained.

The following is a statement showing the cash received by the Government for water sold, and the expenditure on the upkeep of the races, together with the average number of miners supplied with water, and the approximate quantity and value of gold received for the year ended 31st March, 1922 :—

	Receipts. (Sales of Water.)	Expenditure.	Debit Balance.	Average Number of Miners supplied with Water.	Approximate Quantity and Value of Gold obtained.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d.	
Waimea-Kumara Water-races—							
Waimea Race	483 13 8	1,118 7 7	634 13 11	6·50	366	1,436 11 0	
Branch Race to Callaghan's and Middle Branch Flat	20 4 2	282 6 3	262 2 1	3·00	51	200 3 6	
Kumara Race	51 12 0	232 13 3	181 1 3	Nil	..	..	
Kumara-Trans-Taramakau Race	27 19 11	322 11 1	294 11 2	3·25	106	416 1 0	
Erin-go-Bragh Race	131 7 3	349 4 4	217 17 1	5·00	308	1,208 18 0	
Mount Ida Water-races.. ..	777 10 3	1,501 0 5	723 10 2	10·40	616	2,371 12 0	
Totals	1,492 7 3	3,806 2 11	2,313 15 8	28·15	1,447	5,633 5 6	

This represents a loss of £82 3s. 11d. for each person employed on the claims, or 41·07 per centum of the total value of gold obtained.

In addition to the receipts for sales of water, a sum of £260 12s. 6d. was received as royalty for timber cut on the Kumara Reservoir Reserve.

Owing to the small demand for water and to the considerable loss sustained in the upkeep, the maintenance of the Kumara, Kumara-Trans-Taramakau, and Erin-go-Bragh water-races was discontinued as from the 1st January, 1922. The Erin-go-Bragh Race has since been sold.

(5.) SCHOOLS OF MINES.

The total expenditure on schools of mines during the year ended 31st March, 1922, was £5,848 as against £4,427 9s. 6d. during the previous year. The goldfields schools are attended by few (if any) mining students, but numerous children of both sexes attend them for subjects not taught at the Government schools.

I have, &c.,
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