

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

The sum of £6,000 voted for public libraries has been distributed in accordance with the resolution of the House of Representatives. Immediately after the prorogation of the General Assembly last year, a public notice was issued intimating the principles upon which the distribution of the vote would be made, and inviting applications from the managers of public libraries. A separate paper (E.—9) contains a list, arranged according to the education districts, of all the libraries that participated in the grant, with their several incomes, and the amounts paid to them respectively. The following is a summary of the distribution of the vote in the different education districts:—

TABLE W.—DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY VOTE.

EDUCATION DISTRICTS.	Number of Libraries.	Income of Libraries.			Amount of Subsidy.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	91	2,359	1	1	1,212	15	9
Taranaki	6	106	2	11	67	0	11
Wanganui	8	829	5	1	269	7	5
Wellington	17	1,711	17	6	559	8	2
Hawke's Bay	21	1,299	12	2	477	11	2
Marlborough	4	190	6	0	75	19	6
Nelson	26	645	7	7	339	1	3
North Canterbury	71	2,355	17	4	1,081	4	4
South Canterbury	9	603	19	5	216	19	5
Westland	15	715	4	10	285	7	2
Otago	59	2,228	18	11	969	10	3
Southland	27	1,000	5	2	438	9	2
Totals	354	14,045	18	0	5,992	14	6

The whole of the vote of £6,000 was apportioned in the first instance, but it was afterwards ascertained (1) that there were two applications from the same library, and (2) that part of the amount returned as income by a library committee was balance of cash from the previous year. The deductions made in these cases represent the difference (£7 5s. 6d.) between the vote and the amount shown as having been distributed. The amount of correspondence involved delayed the payment of some of the subsidies beyond the end of the financial year. The total sum charged against the vote is £9,532 13s. 7d., leaving a liability of £60 0s. 11d. to be provided for in the appropriations for the current year.