Summary of Water-races.

The net profits and losses on each of the water-races, whether managed by the department or by a trust, have been shown separately, and on the same basis as any commercial transaction. But the colony derives certain collateral advantages which a private company could not share—namely, Customs and goldfields revenue; and, although these water-races have not been a commercial success, still they are no doubt the means of a number of people being employed on the goldfields that otherwise would have left the colony or turned their attention to something else; and it is well known that there are very few men working on the goldfields who are content to settle down unless they are connected with mining in some form or have a competency to live on. The value of these works to the colony consists, therefore, mainly in the population they are the means of supporting and the amount of gold obtained through their construction. Without entering upon the revenues derived from Customs duty or other goldfields revenue other than duty on gold obtained by their means, the direct profit last year to the colony, and percentage on their construction, would be as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Waimea–Kumara Race and Sludge-channel ...	5,476	17	4, 3·15 per cent.
Nelson Creek Water-race	33	12	4, *nil.*
Argyle Water-race	110	8	11, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.
Mount Ida Water-race	409	1	5, $\frac{3}{16}$ per cent.

This does not show them to be profitable investments, as nothing is taken into account for the redemption of capital, which may be considered as entirely lost, as these water-races are of no practical value when the ground is worked out.

The following table shows the direct profits and losses, also the amount of duty received for gold which the water-races have been the means of obtaining:—

Name of Water-race.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Profit or Loss on Working.	Average Number employed.	Approximate Amount of Gold.	Value of Gold obtained.	Duty received on Gold obtained.	Total Profits or Losses, and Value of Duty.	Total Cost of Construction.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Oz.	£ s. d	£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Waimea–Kumara and Sludge-channel.									
Nine years ending 31st March, 1887	73,340 14 6	51,016 17 0	22,323 17 6	436	157,773	602,629 0 6	..	..	..
Year ending 31st March, 1888	10,396 19 7	6,271 2 3	4,125 17 4	281	13,510	51,338 0 0	..	..	..
Total	83,737 14 1	57,287 19 3	26,449 14 10	419	171,283	653,967 0 6	17,128 6	43,578 0 10	173,363 7 1
Nelson Creek.									
Nine years ending 31st March, 1887	14,791 13 11	10,707 6 0	4,084 7 11	60	28,520	109,089 0 0	..	..	..
Year ending 31st March, 1888	1,045 1 8	1,173 15 4	*128 13 8	45	1,623	6,207 19 6	..	..	..
Total	15,836 15 7	11,881 1 4	3,955 14 3	59	30,143	115,296 19 6	3,014 6	6,970 0 3	90,722 10 8
Argyle.									
Nine years ending 31st March, 1887	4,009 7 3	3,600 17 4	408 9 11	17	6,078	23,233 7 0	..	..	..
Year ending 31st March, 1888	455 12 9	398 3 10	57 8 11	20	630	2,394 0 0	..	..	..
Total	4,465 0 0	3,999 1 2	465 18 10	17	6,708	25,627 7 0	670 16	1,136 14 10	14,701 15 3
Mount Ida.									
Nine years ending 31st March, 1887	13,160 8 2	16,168 15 2	*3,008 7 0	92	20,911	79,493 0 0	..	..	..
Year ending 31st March, 1888	1,355 0 9	1,255 18 4	99 1 5	130	3,100	11,625 0 0	..	..	..
Total	14,515 8 11	17,424 13 6	*2,909 5 7	96	24,011	91,118 0 0	2,401 2	*508 3 7	65,776 3 8
Grand Totals ..	118,554 18 7	90,592 15 3	27,972 2 4	591	232,145	886,009 7 0	23,214 10	51,176 12 4	344,553 16 8

* Loss on working.