

## SUBSIDIES TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By a vote of last session a sum of £3,000 was granted for subsidies to public libraries; the same amount was voted for distribution in 1899. The method of distribution of the vote for 1900 was the same as that adopted in the previous year, as follows: A nominal addition of £25 was made to the amount of the income of each library derived from subscriptions, donations, and rates, provided that the receipts for the year were not less than £2, and the vote was divided according to the amount thus augmented; but no library received credit for a larger income than £75—that is, in no case did the augmented amount on which distribution was based exceed £100. In accordance with a *Gazette* notice of the 31st October, 1900, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 8th February, 1901, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 349 libraries from which applications, each accompanied by a statutory declaration on the proper form, had been received. The vote, as thus dealt with, afforded a subsidy of 3s. 11·96d. in the pound of the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £19 19s. 7d. to £5 6s. 2d.

Some libraries supplied with the proper form failed to send in formal claims by the 31st January, 1901, the date fixed by the *Gazette* notice, and did not therefore participate in the vote.

The number of libraries participating in the vote shows an increase of thirty-seven over the number aided in the previous year. In order that the purpose intended to be served by the vote may be attained, it is made a condition for participation that the whole of the subsidy granted to each library in the previous year shall have been expended in the purchase of books.

The following table shows the distribution according to education districts:—

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUBSIDY.

Education Districts.	Number of Libraries.	Income.		Amount on which Subsidy is calculated.		Amount of Subsidy.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Auckland .. .. .	88	2,114	2 1	3,411	13 2	681	11 7
Taranaki .. .. .	11	299	18 8	526	2 11	105	2 0
Wanganui .. .. .	20	856	15 5	1,066	12 10	213	1 5
Wellington .. .. .	19	1,810	2 9	1,046	9 8	209	1 2
Hawke's Bay .. .. .	24	678	4 3	1,149	3 2	229	11 5
Marlborough .. .. .	4	105	18 4	205	18 4	41	2 8
Nelson .. .. .	24	519	5 8	1,067	15 2	213	7 4
Grey .. .. .	4	189	13 9	287	10 9	57	8 11
Westland .. .. .	6	97	0 3	247	0 3	49	7 4
North Canterbury .. .. .	60	1,675	13 5	2,324	8 11	464	9 6
South Canterbury .. .. .	16	558	12 10	810	13 11	161	19 6
Otago .. .. .	48	845	9 2	1,914	2 8	382	8 9
Southland .. .. .	24	224	8 8	824	8 8	164	14 2
Chatham Islands .. .. .	1	17	7 0	42	7 0	8	9 3
Totals .. .. .	349	9,992	12 3	14,924	7 5	2,981	15 0