

## PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.

The following statement shows the expenditure and liabilities on authorities issued in subsidies to prospecting associations and parties of miners in the different counties for the year ending the 31st March, 1906 :—

Name of County.	Expenditure for Year ending 31st March, 1906.			Liabilities on Authorities on 31st March, 1906.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coromandel ... ..	563	2	0	422	8	0
Thames ... ..	...	...	...	15	0	0
Ohinemuri ... ..	411	13	6	45	0	0
Tauranga ... ..	21	18	0	8	2	0
Takaka ... ..	12	0	0	24	0	0
Buller ... ..	266	13	3	195	12	9
Inangahua ... ..	128	16	0	164	19	0
Westland ... ..	241	6	11	336	8	3
Ross Borough ... ..	114	13	0	...	...	...
Tuapeka ... ..	61	19	7	63	0	5
Totals ... ..	1,822	2	3	1,274	10	5

## THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY.

In comparison with the returns of the previous year those for the year ending the 31st December, 1905, show an increase in the value of gold exported of £106,435, the figures being £2,093,936 for the year 1905 as against £1,987,501 for the year 1904. This is the highest record for many years and exceeds the high return of the year 1903 by £56,105.

Contrary to the remarks called forth in last year's report by the comparison of the production of the several districts, it is now found that the greatest increase during the year 1905 is from the northern goldfields, and may be largely accounted for by the increased developments at the Waihi Mine, Waihi; the Talisman Mine, Karangahake; and the Waiotahi Mine, Thames.

No exports of gold are reported from the Marlborough District for 1905. An increase is reported from the Nelson District, whilst a decrease is shown in the export returns from the West Coast. This latter feature may be principally due to the cessation of work at some of the dredges. The Southern District (Otago and Southland) again shows an increase, and it may be remarked that this might have been greater but for the condition of the larger rivers affecting the working of some of the dredges.

The total value of gold exported from the year 1857 to the end of the year 1905 was £67,230,584.

The several branches of the industry in the various districts are referred to under their respective headings.

## PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

The following comparative statements show the quantity and value of gold entered for exportation for the last two calendar and financial years :—

Name of District.	Year ended 31st December, 1905.		Year ended 31st December, 1904.		Increase for 1905.	Decrease for 1905.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
Auckland ... ..	Oz. 232,215	£ 935,602	Oz. 223,010	£ 791,529	Oz. 9,205	...
Marlborough ... ..	...	...	473	1,890	...	...
Nelson ... ..	6,469	25,862	5,049	20,141	1,420	473
West Coast ... ..	109,704	438,258	122,310	489,177	...	12,606
Otago ... ..	172,098	694,214	169,478	684,764	2,620	...
Totals ... ..	520,486	2,093,936	520,320	1,987,501	166*	...

Name of District.	Year ended 31st March, 1906.		Year ended 31st March, 1905.		Increase for 1906.	Decrease for 1906.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
Auckland ... ..	Oz. 248,031	£ 1,000,954	Oz. 222,652	£ 815,499	Oz. 25,379	...
Marlborough ... ..	...	...	166	662	...	166
Nelson ... ..	4,421	17,650	6,461	25,814	...	2,040
West Coast ... ..	110,996	443,089	119,545	478,050	...	8,549
Otago ... ..	162,752	655,913	170,388	688,551	...	7,636
Totals ... ..	526,200	2,117,606	519,212	2,008,576	6,988†	...

\* Total net increase, value £106,435.

† Total net increase, value £109,030.