

II.—EXTRACT from the THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT of the MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

By a vote of last session a sum of £3,000 was again granted for subsidies to public libraries. Notice thereof was inserted in the *Gazette* of the 15th November, 1906, and forms of application were sent to all libraries known to the Department. The method of distribution of the vote was the same as that adopted in previous years—viz., 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 the *Gazette* notice, the day appointed for the distribution of the subsidy was the 6th February, 1907, and the amount of the vote was divided among the 422 libraries from which applications, each accompanied by a statutory declaration on the proper form, had been received at that date. The vote, as thus dealt with, afforded a subsidy of 3s. 4·94d. in the pound of the nominal income, and the subsidies ranged from £4 12s. 1d. to £17 1s. 2d.

The number of libraries participating in the vote shows a decrease of eight as compared with 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.	Income upon which Subsidy is based.	Subsidy.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland	103	2,668 6 6	3,942 0 10	672 5 8
Taranaki	15	394 9 3	697 18 7	119 1 1
Wanganui	35	1,536 0 4	1,668 14 7	284 13 2
Wellington	22	4,276 13 11	1,152 9 11	196 11 8
Hawke's Bay	29	951 14 7	1,391 19 1	237 8 1
Marlborough	5	154 8 0	257 9 0	43 18 5
Nelson	27	725 0 10	1,169 12 4	199 9 7
Grey	5	211 10 6	273 10 6	46 13 3
Westland	5	95 15 6	220 15 6	37 13 1
North Canterbury	65	1,778 8 9	2,529 11 3	431 9 10
South Canterbury	22	579 11 9	1,026 16 3	175 2 5
Otago.. .. .	58	875 12 8	2,205 16 5	376 4 10
Southland	31	277 7 2	1,052 7 2	179 8 11
Totals	422	14,524 19 9	17,589 1 5	3,000 0 0