

inches thick. For the remainder of the distance to Ross (6 miles 64 chains) the formation width will be 17 feet, and the metal 12 feet wide and 12 inches thick. The work involved in construction is as given below :—

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	TOTAL QUANTITY.	QUANTITY COMPLETED.
Clearing heavy timber	1,159 chains ...	650
" scrub	18 " ...	18
Earthwork	24,428 cubic yards	14,500
Drains	926 chains ...	370
Culverts (76 in all)	468 lineal feet ...	190
Bridges (7)—one 87 feet, one 35 feet, one 57 feet, one 19 feet, and one 29 feet, plain log bridges; and two 34 feet lattice bridges	295 " " ...	90
Metalling	1,176 chains ...	290
Turnouts	85 " ...	21

The sum total of the contracts for construction, together with estimated value of 4 sections now open for tender, amounts to £12,340 4s. 3d., or at the rate of £840 per mile. The items executed are equivalent to 417 chains of road completed.

A mile and a-half at Ross end was opened for traffic on 13th May, and is being maintained by contract. It is in good order.

BRANCH ROAD.

17 M.P.—Christchurch Road to the Greenstone Road.

The survey of this road was finished in August, 1871, and it was let by contract in 4 sections during the month of October. The last section was completed on 30th May. It is the connecting link between the Canterbury Road and the Trunk Road of the County, leaving the former at the point where it changes its N.E. course into one directly easterly towards Christchurch, and hitting the latter at a point nearly midway between Hokitika and Greymouth; the intervening ground fortunately offering great facilities for a junction at that place. The length, as constructed, is 4 miles 65 chains. The formation width is 17 feet, and the metal 12 feet wide and 12 inches thick. The quantities were as follows :—

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	TOTAL QUANTITY.	QUANTITY COMPLETED.
Clearing heavy timber	290 chains ...	290
" scrub	95 " ...	95
Earthwork	7,223 cubic yards	7,223
Drains	445 chains ...	445
Culverts (24 in all)	74 lineal feet ...	74
Metalling	385 chains ...	385
Turnouts	30 " ...	30

The total cost was £3,598 1s., or £748 per mile.

The maintenance for 12 months is at present open for tender. The road is in a good state throughout.

WATER-RACE.

Survey for Waimea District Water Supply.

The survey was completed on 11th May. It is 32 miles in extent, the line in the first instance having been carried into the heart of the district, and thence to all the surrounding workings of importance. Two reservoirs, the one 48 and the other 39 acres in extent, having also been surveyed at the head. The works, as far as I am able to report upon them at present, not having yet had time to follow out of the whole of the surveyed line, will consist of—

300 chains piping, with an average pressure of 110 feet.
200 " fluming, averaging 17 feet in height.
About 700 " boxing or tunnelling.
And the balance 1,360 " ditching.
Total as above 2,560 "

A much cheaper undertaking, however, and more likely to be remunerative, is presented by the Main Race taken alone.