

1873.
NEW ZEALAND.

THE NATIVE CONTINGENT,
(REPORTS FROM OFFICERS OF.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

Captain GILBERT MAIR to the ACTING UNDER SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE (per Major Roberts).
Camp Kaiteriria, 4th June, 1873.

SIR,— I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. 88-1B, 28th April, 1873), and beg to forward the following imperfect report of the amount of road work, &c., performed by the Native Contingent under my command during the years 1871-3.

From its formation in March, 1870, to the end of 1872, the Native Contingent was constantly employed on expeditions after Te Kooti and scouting the Kaingaroa and Urewera country.

Since that period it has been occupied, except when on expedition, 1st. In widening and improving bridle tracks to Taupo, Niho o te Kiore, Paeroa, Te Teko, Fort Galatea, Rotorua, &c. 2nd. In making road between this post and Tarawera, excavating rock and fixing culverts on main road between Niho o te Kiore and Taupo, and excavating rock and making approaches to Ateamuri Bridge.

Attached is a rough recapitulation of work performed and approximate estimate of its value.

From the irregular manner in which the work has been done, and the absence of proper measurements, I find it impossible to give the amounts performed during each financial year.

The total amount of work will appear very little indeed when contrasted with that performed by Captain Preece's Contingent, but I would here explain that I had the greatest difficulty possible with the Ngatiwhakaue, Ngatitu, Tuhourangi, and other Natives, they being extremely jealous of any road being made through their land, unless they were employed by Government.

I have, &c.,
GILBERT MAIR, Captain N.Z.M.,
Commanding Native Contingent.

The Acting Under Secretary for Defence,
(Militia and Volunteer Branch)
Wellington.

Enclosure to No. 1.
SCHEDULE.

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT and ESTIMATED VALUE of ROAD WORK, &c., performed by Captain Gilbert Mair's Native Contingent, from March, 1870 to 1873.

Particulars.	Distances, &c.	Value.	Remarks.
		£ s. d.	
1. Road between Kaiteriria and Te Wairoa Settlement, Tarawera Lake, 10 feet wide, all side cutting	3 miles	... 230 0 0	A great part of this road is very rocky, obsidian and scoria boulders—a road very much used
2. Bridle track to Paeroa & Ohaki	2½ miles	... 30 10 0	Building crossings over swamps, side cuttings, &c., at Otute-Kaiwharawhara
3. Bridle track between Kaiteriria and Tapahoro	20 miles	... 35 0 0	Filling up swamps, cutting down ti-tree and fern, and improving old track
4. Bridle track between Kaiteriria and Rotorua	1 mile	... 15 0 0	Making side cutting, crossings to streams at Waipa, &c.
5. Tarawera, Rotorua Roads	... 3¼ miles	... 12 0 0	Removing fallen trees, widening road, clearing out rocks, &c.
6. Kaiteriria and Galatea Bridle Track	10 miles	... 56 10 0	Clearing ti-tree and fern, making side cutting up hill to Pakaraka, side cutting at Okaru Lake
Carried forward		379 0 0	