

£268, the expenditure for the year being £279 17s. 2d. This road connects the settled districts with the whole of the Crown lands in Waimarino, Rangataua, and other blocks, which comprise an area of about 400,000 acres of Crown lands.

Waitotara-Omahini.—A road party was put on by Mr. John Annabell, and they formed 32 chains of the Ngutuera Valley Road 4ft. wide, built six small bridges and ten culverts, at a cost of £45 3s. 9d.; 7 miles of roads were laid out for contract; and tenders are being called for the Contracts Nos. 54, 55, and 56, comprising $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles of roads to be felled, stumped, and cleared. The area of Crown lands to be opened is 14,000 acres.

Tokomaru Block.—The $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Carry's Road were completed for dray-traffic, the expenditure out of vote last year being £612. A further sum of £100 is to be given towards the extension of this line to Mowhero. The only Crown lands affected are the 5,000 acres in Puketotara Block, which are, however, still very distant from the point mentioned.

Otamakapua Block.—Mr. Charles Feild and his party cleared, felled, and stumped the Peep o' Day Road, comprising $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, at a cost of £239 4s.; they repaired and renewed the Oroua Branch Road, cost £18 12s.; and repaired Kimbolton Road extension, cost £19 16s. The Kiwitea Road Board metalled $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of the Kimbolton Road within the Birmingham Block, at a cost of £260.

West Waitapu-Otamakapua Block.—The work on this block effected by Mr. Feild's party comprised the felling, stumping, and clearing of 408 chains on the Waituna Valley Road, and formation of a 7ft. horse-road for 140 chains on the same line; the stumping, clearing, and part forming of 95 chains on Williamson's Road; and the felling, stumping, and clearing of 109 chains on the extension of the latter, inclusive of 50 chains formation 6ft. wide. The same party also built five small rough bridges and five culverts, the cost of the works being £700 5s. The area of Crown lands directly benefited is 10,000 acres.

Torotea Road.—Mr. Reaney supervised a gang of men, including village homestead settlers, in extending this road to the Tiraumea River. The length completed comprises 114 chains of dray-road, at a total cost of £961 15s. 8d. This line leads into the Puketoi country, and will benefit, at least, 20,000 acres of land. A wire-rope cradle-bridge was erected over the Tiraumea on this road, cost £37.

Pahiatua Village Settlement Roads.—The Hill Road was felled, stumped, and cleared, the length being 29 chains, and cost £21 15s. The Pukemikau Road for a length of 47 chains was felled only, cost £9 10s.; and 30 chains of the latter road was felled, stumped, and cleared, at a cost of £27, exclusive of supervision, &c. A contract, No. 40, has been let for the formation of $46\frac{1}{2}$ chains on the middle road; the contract price is £55 2s. 6d.

Mangaone Roads.—The Central Mangaone Road, Contract No. 30, length $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, was completed. The work done comprised felling, stumping, and clearing, at a cost of £272. The $66\frac{3}{4}$ chains in Contract No. 35, Tawataia Road, for similar work, were also finished, at a cost of £58. These roads connect the Tiraumea Crown lands with Alfredton and Eketahuna.

Hefty's Road.—This line, which leads into the Wellington Special Settlement Block and the Crown lands west of Mauriceville (7,000 acres), was felled, stumped, cleared, and formed as a horse-road for 33 chains, at a cost of £79 18s. 11d.

Dreyer's Rock Road is now being extended towards the Wangaehu, which is 3 miles back. About half the distance has been finished by felling, stumping, and clearing, and forming a 6ft.-wide horse-road. The cost to the 30th June was £217 12s., including the engineering survey, cost of Barron's party, and Mr. Crombie's supervision. The same party cleared out and renewed the formation on 242 chains on Barton's Wangaehu Road, at a cost of £113 1s. These works benefit about 10,000 acres of Crown lands.

Dorset's Road.—Contract No. 34, comprising $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of bushwork and dray-road formation on this road, was completed, at a cost of £739; and Barron's party, under Mr. Crombie's supervision, extended the line $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles by felling, stumping, clearing, and forming the road for horse-traffic on final grades 6ft. wide, at a cost of £340 5s. 9d. The area of Crown lands benefited by these works, and which have nearly all been sold, is 6,500 acres.

Mangaone-Tiraumea Roads.—Mr. Greville laid off $12\frac{1}{4}$ miles of roads in this district, and contracts have been let for the felling, stumping, and clearing of the whole length, the price being £863 3s. 7d. This expenditure will benefit all the Crown lands contiguous and to the eastward of the lines, amounting, say, to 15,000 acres.

Pahiatua Rock Road.—Contract No. 31, comprising bushwork and formation of horse-road on 2 miles of this road, was completed, at a cost of £352, and a contract, No. 42, is now being advertised to carry the road $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the junction of the Mangamarama Valley Road. The Crown has disposed of all the lands in this locality except 1,400 acres.

Miscellaneous.—The staff were employed in laying off roads in various parts of the district, in supervision of works, and miscellaneous surveys and reports. Mr. A. D. Wilson laid off $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Wangaehu Valley Road, made a survey and section of a proposed bridge site on the Upper Wangaehu, and also an engineering survey, and completed the specifications and plans of 2 miles of the Maungakaretu Ridge Road, and he opened up the old track, at a cost of £122 in all; Mr. Climie made surveys, took levels and cross-sections, and made plans, &c., of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Tiraumea-Makuri Roads; Mr. Crombie laid off 6 miles of Dreyer's Rock extension and Barton's line; and Mr. Lowe prepared for contract $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles of the roads on Crown lands west of Mauriceville.

J. W. A. MARGHANT, Chief Surveyor.

NELSON.

Pigeon Valley to Motueka.—The Waimea Road Board have completed their portion of widening this road into a dray-track, and the final payment made of £93 10s. The total length completed is 4 miles, at a cost of £500, opening out about 1,000 acres of land.