

84. *Mr. Duncan.*] Is there any indication of gold-bearing land along either of the routes?—There is a little gold in the Kaimanawa Range, but it has been prospected for in a very desultory manner, and very little obtained.

85. *The Chairman.*] There are no mineral areas of any value that you are aware of other than the Mokau coal?—Not within the limits of the area we have been discussing, except that at the Wairere Falls there is a possibility that some veins or lodes may yet be found. There has been no definite valuable discovery of minerals anywhere in the district. There have been many rumours, but they have never stood investigation. At the same time it is possible in the volcanic areas there may be developments of the same character as at the Thames, but such have not yet been proved.

APPENDIX.

NORTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK RAILWAY.

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED COST OF COMPLETING THE NORTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK RAILWAY.

Central Route.

Mangaonoho to Ongaruhe, 133 miles, at £9,650 per mile* ... £1,283,450

Stratford Route.

Eltham Junction to Ongaruhe, 103 miles 5 chains, at £8,818 per mile £908,819

Ongaruhe to Upper Mokau Station (common to both Routes).

25½ miles ... £210,000

15th September, 1892.

WILLIAM H. HALES.

Cost of Construction, North End.

Opened line from Te Awamutu to Upper Mokau ...	£184,585
Por-o-tarao Tunnel Section ...	54,420
Works in progress, Mokau Section, and liabilities, 31st August, 1892	27,393
	<u>£266,398</u>

Sir,—

Public Works Department, Wellington, 26th September, 1892.

In reply to your letter of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform you that the plans and specifications for the Makohine viaduct have not been prepared yet. The plans are in course of preparation.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM H. HALES,
Engineer-in-Chief.

The Chairman, North Island Main Trunk Railway
Committee, Parliament Buildings.

CENTRAL ROUTE.

† ESTIMATED PROBABLE COST OF THE PRINCIPAL BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS.

Mangaonoho to Hautapu.

Four bridges...	£12,000
Two viaducts	56,000
	<u>£68,000</u>

Turangarere to Waimarino.

Seven bridges (1,810ft.)	£13,000
Viaduct, 28/44	16,250
" Hapuawhenua	8,000
" Mangaturatura	11,000
" Manganui-a-te-ao	7,000
" Maketoti	17,500
	<u>£72,750</u>

* Mangaonoho is the end of the railway constructed and under contract, distant about 22½ miles from Marton Junction.
† No bridges under 50ft. are included in these figures.