

appeared more like a switchback railway than a bridge. The bridge has been raised where required, and extended to a safer embankment.

Taupo Domain.—The domain has been improved. It is also proposed to construct a new bath on the shore of the lake, in the site of an old bath that was made and used by the Armed Constabulary.

Tokaanu Baths and Water-supply.—£500 authority has been issued for this, but nothing has as yet been done.

Tauranga County, Flood-damages.—A grant of £200 has been spent by the county in repairs to damages.

Waiotapu Springs.—Nothing has been done to the roads at these springs, pending the settlement of matters with the Native owners.

Lichfield-Atiamuri.—The Government portion of this road is fourteen miles in length, extending from its junction with the Tauranga-Runanga Road at Atiamuri towards Lichfield. 2 miles 14 chains have been re-formed, and 14 miles maintained.

Waiawa Block.—A grant of £440 has been made to the Whakatane County Council, but nothing has yet been done.

Taumata Block.—The sum of £428 was authorised for the construction of roads on this block in January, and the work will be put in hand shortly.

Umurua Block.—£280 was authorised for expenditure in January last. The roads are being laid off, and the work of clearing the bush will be started as soon as possible.

Opotiki-East Cape.—A grant of £200 has been made to the Whakatane County Council, who have improved portions of the road, and maintained it for a distance of sixty miles.

Gisborne-Opotiki.—A grant of £50 has just been made to the Whakatane County Council.

GENERAL.

Much of the roadwork done during the year in this district has been given to Natives at Ruatoki, Galatea, Ruatahuna, Ohaki, and Atiamuri, in order to relieve their distress caused by failure of the potato-crops. It has, in consequence, had to be prepared in haste, and it has at times been difficult to discriminate between deserving and undeserving cases. Credit is due to the officers who carried out the work, not only for the preparation of it with despatch, but for the assistance rendered to the Natives.

Throughout the district better provision should be made for the housing of the surfacemen and paddocking of their horses. Many of them are stationed in exposed situations, requiring whares instead of tents, and also paddocks. Since my arrival I have built five whares and made several reserves, but the difficulty is to get reserves where the land belongs to the Natives. I am putting the sum of £250 on my estimates for the coming year for this purpose.

During the coming year several of the large bridges in the district should be painted; provision for this will also be made in my estimates.

The by-laws issued for the regulation of wheel traffic throughout the district have been fairly well observed.

During the year 56 miles 65 chains of engineering surveys have been made; 44 miles 52 chains of dray-road and three miles and a half of horse-road have been formed; five bridges have been constructed; 70 miles 63 chains of dray-road and ten miles of horse-road have been renewed; 412 miles 50 chains of dray-road and 51 miles 74 chains of horse-road have been maintained.

The number of contracts let during the year was—Co-operative, 125; ordinary and agreements, 36.

ROBERT H. REANEY, Road Surveyor.

HAWKE'S BAY.

Rotorua-Galatea-Waikaremoana.—7 miles 33 chains of bridle-road from 8 ft. to 14 ft. wide have been constructed, with the necessary culverts and bridges; seventeen culverts, of a total length of 375 ft., and four bridges, of a total span of 63 ft., have been built, and fords made at the stream-crossings. It is all in forest country, and the forest has been felled a chain wide, except where the road touches the lake, the road being now completed to the Mokau Falls, 16½ miles from Onepoto. Of building timber, 70,773 ft. has been sawn and 3,500 shingles split, ready for any buildings which may be required, the works all being carried out by co-operatives. The road goes over very rough, hard country, where progress is slow and the work expensive. The whole length of road from Onepoto to Mokau—16½ miles—has been maintained.

Opotiki-East Cape.—Assisted by a grant of £100, the Waiapu County Council has constructed 95 chains of a 5 ft. bridle-road, including forest-clearing, with eight culverts, of a total length of 48 ft., the work being carried out under the supervision of the county engineer, Mr. O'Ryan.

Awani-Tikitiki.—The Waiapu County Council, out of a grant of £300, has widened 140 chains of the bridle-road into a 12 ft. dray-road, with culverts of a total length of 240 ft., and one bridge of 16 ft. span, while 20 chains have been metalled, the work being carried out under the supervision of the county engineer, on plans and specifications approved by the department.

Whareponga-Reporua.—3 miles 25 chains of bridle-track, 6 ft. and 7 ft. wide, have been constructed, with two 18 ft. bridges and twenty-eight box-culverts, the work being carried out by the Waiapu County Council out of a grant, plans and specifications being approved by the department.

Gisborne-Waimata.—The Cook County Council has expended the balance of a grant in forming and gravelling 40½ chains and metalling 32 chains of the main road.