

The permanent survey of the Gisborne-Karaka Railway has been extended about four miles during the year.

The survey of the Stratford-Whangamomona line has been continued up to 22 miles 55 chains from Stratford, and a trial line to connect with the Ngaire route. This survey goes *via* Huiroa, but further survey may give a shorter line.

A trial survey for 7 miles of the Wainuiomata route for the Rimutaka deviation of the Wellington-Woodville Railway was made during the year, also a reconnaissance survey of the proposed coast route. The length, Petone to Carterton, *via* Gollan's Valley, coast, and Martinborough, is about 70 miles.

A reconnaissance survey has been made of possible routes of railway from Masterton to Dannevirke *via* Rakanui, Pongaroa, and Weber; also of alternative lines—one, starting from Mauriceville, passes through Alfredton and joins the first at 36½ miles from Masterton; the other starts from Pahiatua, passes through Makuri, and joins the first line just north of Pongaroa.

An extension of the permanent survey of the Midland Railway from Reefton to Inangahua is in progress. The survey has been finished to 55 m. 60 ch., a length of 16½ miles from the end of the Reefton contract. Several trial surveys were made along routes proposed to bring the railway into Reefton, but these all proved unsatisfactory, and the original direct route was adopted.

A permanent survey was made of the proposed Ngahere-Blackball branch line.

The survey of the Hokitika-Ross Railway was started in December last. After a very full examination of the river the line was located on the most direct route leading from the Hokitika Railway-station. The permanent survey has been extended to 30 m., and the trial survey to the Totara River.

The Coal Creek Railway has been repegged.

The surveys for the long tunnel at Arthur's Pass were stopped in August last. In January last Mr. V. G. Bogue visited the pass, and reported on various alternative routes. A start has been made with the surveys suggested by Mr. Bogue.

A land-plan survey of the Otago Central from 79 m. to 105½ m. is partially completed. A contract for the land-plan survey for the Catlin's River Railway Extension has been satisfactorily completed.

Alternative surveys have been made of the extension of the Seaward Bush Railway from Waimahaka. One *via* Tokonui is sixteen miles long, and joins the first trial line at Bogle's Creek. Another trial line has been run to the same point by a route only about thirteen miles long.

A trial line for a light railway was made from Anderson's Bay to near Portobello, a length of about 12 miles 27 chains.

SLEEPERS.

A large number of contracts and agreements for the supply of sleepers were current during the year ending the 31st March last, and the deliveries made in the districts from which they were obtained were as follows:—

Auckland District—27,595 totara, 5,974 puriri, 2,707 matai; Stratford District—8,991 rimu; Hunterville District—60,086 totara; Nelson District—1,000 matai, 100 birch; Westport District—4,939 totara, 36,752 silver-pine; Westland District—1,501 totara, 100,976 silver-pine; Otago District—3,700 totara, 7,322 matai, 3,049 blue-gum.

Details of contracts current during the year ending 31st March last will be found in Appendix D.

ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC.

Westport District.—Two short contracts are in progress on the Westport-Waimangaroa Road. Denniston Hill Road was widened and metalled for a length of 1 mile 50 chains. The Karamea Bridge was finished in February last. New beacons were erected and rocks blasted in the Little Wanganui River, and also some snagging done. A road to the Little Wanganui Wharf was surveyed. Reports for the Mines Department were furnished on: Road, Long Tunnel to Addison's Flat; road, Coalbrookdale to Cedar Creek; Millerton Road; road, Deadman's Creek to Brighton; Nile Suspension Bridge; road, Bradshaw's Terrace; road, Wilson's Lead; road, Lyell Bridge to Ryan's; road, Eight-mile to Lyell; road, Charleston to Brighton; road, Millerton to Mine Creek; on removal Warrigal Islands, Mokihinui River; road, Brighton, Grey County; road, Little Wanganui Wharf to Beach; road, Granity Creek South; road, Addison's to Buller (loop-line road); road, Mokihinui to Westport; road, Mokihinui to Ngakawau; road, Lyell to Cedar Creek; road, Fairdown to Waimangaroa; road, Waimangaroa to Buckfield; pack-track, Mullocky Creek to Karamea; Oparara Road; Fenian Creek Road; Orawaiti Bridge; Bradshaw's Lead Road; road, Karamea Mud-flat; road, Land of Promise; road, Caroline Terrace; road, Stony Creek to Waimangaroa; road, Cascade Creek; road, Addison's; road, Costello's Hill; road, Fairdown to Waimangaroa.

Greymouth District.—An additional 2 miles 25 chains of the Great South Road was widened and metalled; this joins the previously widened portion of the road. A heavy slip on the road at Mount Hercules has been removed. Some repairs at the Forks-Waiho end have been made. Two small co-operative contracts have been let for renewals of bridges. The piers of the Taylorville Suspension Bridge have been renewed in ironbark, the cables tarred, and the bridge put in an efficient state. The Clarke River Track was repaired during the year by day labour. The Ahaura road-bridge repairs were finished during the year, and the works on the Potts Creek Bridge finished. Repairs to works on Lake Hochstetter Track were done during the year, consisting of replacing a horse-bridge, repairing culverts, and clearing drains. A small co-operative contract for repairs to the Ahaura-Orwell Creek Road has been carried out. A short length of the Ahaura-Haupiri Road was widened by contract. The Saltwater Creek road-bridge was repaired, and work was finished on the Sawyer's Creek Bridge. Plans were prepared for a horse-bridge over Moonlight Creek.