contract

WORKS PERFORMED DURING THE YEAR.

The	following works were carried out under either the piecework o	r co-	operat	ive
system :-	-		M.	ch.
	Double-drain and road formation		0	13
	Widening and deepening road-drains and spreading spoil		8	17
	New drain and road formation		0	17
	Clearing scrub and bush for road-formation—Hauraki Plains		2	17
	,, ,, Patetonga South		0	39
	Cleaning road-drains		36	4 9
	New road-drains		1	25
	Road-formation—Hauraki Plains		0	15
	,, Waitakaruru Loan Block		0	52
	New outlet drains		18	14
	Deepening and widening outlet drains		25	33
	Cleaning outlet drains		22	70
	New subdivisional drains		0	29
	Deepening subdivisional drains		1	55
	Cleaning stop-bank drains		10	50
	Stop-bank and drain formation—Hauraki Plains		0	8
	,, Waitakaruru Loan Block		0	71
	Stripping peat—Waitakaruru Canal		0	1
	Snagging Waitoa River		1	0
	Removing heavy timber from drains		2	40
	Fencing		1	57
	Distance covered		$\frac{-}{135}$	$\overline{32}$

Under this heading the following were also supplied: Fascines for road purposes, 3,516 bundles; posts, 718; timber for bridges, 6,000 ft.; piles for wharves, 10; sleepers for tramway, 1,990; metal supplied at Pipiroa, 2,650½ cubic yards; metal loaded at Kauaeranga, 82 cubic yards; metalling of Turua Road (166 chat hy, der lebuse).

e following works were carried out by day labour:—							
Blinding and raising peat roads with sand (3,000 yards)							
Forming roads—Hauraki Plai	118					3	20
New road-drains						1	19
Deepening road-drains	• • •					14	64
Cleaning road-drains						33	27
New outlet drains						3	3
Deepening and widening outlet	drains					10	33
Cleaning outlet drains						16	60
Strengthening stop-banks						3	60
Cleaning stop-bank drains						16	56
Deepening stop-bank drains						0	18
Discing and rolling roads						20	0
Snagging Waitoa River						1	22
Spreading spoil on roads						0	71
Erection of fence						0	20
Spreading metal on roads						2	0
Distance covered			• • •			131	33

Under this heading the following were also performed: Construction of bridges, 2; construction of culvert, 1; construction of flumings for flood-gates, 6; construction of shed, 1; artesian bores for settlers, 23; supply of fascines, 1,400 bundles; spoil removed by dredgers, 147,740 cubic yards.

CATTLE.

Of the cattle purchased in 1911, the remaining thirteen were sold during last year for £52 19s. The total amount expended under this heading was £350 11s., whilst the return from auction, &c., was £508 9s. 9d., which discloses a very good return considering that these were only grazing on the partly drained country. Thirteen head of cattle have had to be written off the books on account of deaths, &c.

FIRES.

Early in 1914 a fire commenced at Ngarua, and, fanned by the wind, rapidly spread towards Waikaka, and threatened the tram-line leading from the wharf. Men were instantly stationed to protect the line and fight the fire, and I can safely say that the damage sustained was very slight. About 50 acres of grass was burnt, whilst in a few places the sleepers on the tram-line were burnt, but have since been repaired. A large area of unoccupied Crown land was burnt, and as it was considered advisable to sow grass-seed on this area, especially near the line, where it will act as a break, tenders were invited for the supply of grass-seed, and are returnable shortly.

FLAX AREAS.

During the year no flax areas were offered for auction, but the sum of £2 16s. 9d. was received from areas let during the previous year. The fires of January and succeeding months burnt several large areas of flax ready to be milled, and I do not consider that any revenue will be derived from this source during the coming year.

METALLING OF ROADS.

During the financial year ending March, 1913, a sum of £3,500 was voted for the metalling of roads, whilst during last year a further sum of £3,000 was voted.