

Reporoa Settlement.—The construction of roads and drains was pushed on with during the past year, and the scheme of work is practically finished. The works carried out are as follows: Drain-construction, 10 miles 20 chains; road-construction, 12 miles. Some 45,000 ft. of timber was carried on to the settlement and used in the construction of bridges and culverts. In the construction of the roads some 14,900 yards of spoil were carted by drays and spread on the peaty roads. This work was consequently the heaviest work carried out during the year. All the works as scheduled out in the original scheme should be completed by the end of June, 1922, provided the timber now on order is delivered. The expenditure during the year was £7,949 5s. 2d., included in which is a sum of £405 19s. 4d. for posts, strainers, and battens, which will be sold to the settlers, and consequently that amount is recoverable.

Reynolds Settlement.—No further drainage-works have been carried out on this settlement. The area of 20 acres ploughed and treated during the previous year was cultivated, and sown with grasses on the 16th April, 1921. Upon inspection in June the grass was particularly well and healthy, thus demonstrating that the country, with time and judicious working, can be made profitable. The land will subside with working, and this will necessitate further expenditure in deepening the outlet drains before most of the remaining sections can be opened for selection. Expenditure during year, £174.

Lake Omapere Drainage.—This work is now complete. The total length of the outfall and drains is 52 chains, practically all of which has been through rock. The Native eel-fishing rights have been given full consideration. This necessitated the deepening of each of three independent outlets in order that the volume of water flowing through each would not be interfered with. The Remuera soldier settlement will receive much benefit from this work. Total costs for the year, £952 15s.

Tokatoka No. 3 Additional Loan Block.—The year's expenditure on this block has been confined to maintenance and improvements to drains and roads, and metalling. The drains have now been placed under the care of the Raupo Drainage Board, who will in future collect the necessary rates and maintain the works in good condition. Seventy-five chains of metalling has been completed this year, but owing to the unfavourable season this work will not be completed before the coming summer. Expenditure for the year was £4,013 17s. 9d.

Koremoa Soldier Settlement.—Development works in draining and roading this settlement were taken in hand in this period, and to date 3 miles 8 chains of drains and 40 chains of roads have been constructed. The drainage-works are well on to completion and will shortly be out of hand. The roadworks, it is hoped, will be completed within six months. Total expenditure to date, £1,222 6s. 4d.

Railway Road, Rangitaiki Plains.—The portion of road between the Tarawera River and the Awakaponga Railway-station has been formed throughout the total distance, but, owing to the soft nature of the country, it has been a very expensive undertaking, and it is found that, owing to the water from Collins drain rising in road-drains, the formation will need to be raised fully another 2 ft. or more. This is now being done. Nothing has been done by the Public Works Department to make the Tarawera railway-bridge fit for traffic, and this very necessary work will require to be finished before the railway road will be available for through traffic. Expenditure was £1,200.

Matuku Settlement.—No formation work has been done in connection with road on Matuku Settlement, but the work done previously has consolidated very well, and the settlers have a very good summer road. In the future it will be of great benefit to the settlers when the road is metalled, but this is a matter for the County Council, as no provision was made in the estimate for metalling. Four small crossings into settlers' sections were made, which was the extent of work on settlement during the year. Expenditure totalled £246 15s. 5d.

Otamarakau Settlement.—A good road has been formed where necessary from the Tauranga-Opotiki Main Road to the beach. The work consisted of banks and cutting, and was fairly heavy in parts. On the southern end two small bridges were placed across main-road drains on road-line, thus giving the settlers access to the beach. Expenditure, £322 1s. 7d.

Matata Water-supply.—The only work in connection with Matata water-supply was the continuation of pipe-line for a considerable distance to the second lower pa. The reason this was not continued previously was owing to delay in procuring pipes from Australia; but everything is now working well, and the Maoris are quite satisfied with the supply. The pipes have been flushed out on several occasions, and everything is in good working-order. Steps should now be taken to hand over the water-supply to the charge of the Whakatane County Council. Expenditure for the year, £111 13s. 4d.

General.—The following particulars give the aggregate of the principal works carried out during the year in the different districts:—

Cleaning drains	..	..	..	..	291 miles	18 chains.
Widening and deepening drains	..	..	..	..	100 "	67 "
Constructing new drains	..	..	..	..	52 "	50 "
Dredge cuts	..	..	..	..	17 "	51 "
Reforming roads	..	..	..	..	6 "	77 "
Forming new roads	..	..	..	..	27 "	79 "
Regrading roads	..	..	..	..	15 "	0 "
Metalling roads	..	..	..	..	5 "	41 "
Remetalling roads	..	..	..	..	5 "	40 "
Fencing roads	..	..	..	..	21 "	37 "
New stop-banks	..	..	..	..	7 "	40 "
Repairs to stop-banks	..	..	..	..	3 "	73 "
Levels taken	..	..	..	..	213 "	40 "
Traverses run	..	..	..	..	75 "	69 "
Willow-clearing	..	..	..	..	2 "	69 "