3 C.—11.

No. 18, Monighan Dredge: This plant, after being idle for some time, was placed in commission on the Kopeopeo Canal, and to date has done a creditable amount of work under fairly difficult conditions. The spoil excavated is being placed on either side, and one bank will eventually be used as a roadway and the other as a stop-bank, both serving to prevent the escape of flood-waters on to the adjoining low-lying country. The distance covered during the period was 111½ chains, a total of 90,600 cubic yards of spoil being excavated.

No. 21, Bay City: This dredge was put into commission early in the period to excavate a drain to serve low-lying country in Sections 137A and 140, which cannot economically be drained into the Omeheu Drain. This was completed after two months' working, and the plant was again laid up. This plant will shortly commence maintenance work in the Tarawera Western Drain. The length of canal completed during the period was 70 chains, 17,500 cubic yards of spoil being excavated.

Bridges, Flood-gates, &c.—In addition to the large Kopeopeo flood-gate, three small flood-gates and seven sill bridges were erected during the year.

Drains and Stop-banks.—The only new stop-banking carried out in the period was that done by the dredges and already enumerated. A length of 87 chains of existing drain was taken over and improved.

Drains in Operation.—The total length of drains in operation is as follows: Dredge cuts, 67 miles 35 chains; main outlet drains, 106 miles 24 chains; road-drains, 30 miles 46 chains.

Roads opened.—The total length of roads opened is $113\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of which 85 miles have been constructed by the Department.

Buildings.—These consist of Engineer's cottage, and twelve cottages and huts for workmen, office buildings, machine-shop, smithy, store, sheds, &c. All men occupying quarters pay rent for same.

Workshops.—The workshop and smithy have been kept fully employed on repair work for dredges and general machinery, and the ironwork for general construction-work.

Rolling-stock.—The Thornycroft lorry, now in its seventh year, has done practically all the general

cartage of supplies throughout the works.

Plant and Machinery.—This consists of two Priestman grab dredges, two Monighan walking dragline excavators, one Bay City walking dipper, one Priestman pontoon, two coal-punts, three oil-launches, and six small boats and punts.

Summary of Work Don	e:			Μ.	Ch.	Cub. Yds.
Cleaning drains		 	 	107	0	
Deepening and wi	dening	 	 	3	17	5,140
Spoil dredged		 	 	9	$68\frac{1}{2}$	359,080
Levels taken		 	 	66	50	
Survey traverses		 	 	7	0	

Proposed Works.—Completion of the Tarawera stop-banking and river improvement; Kopeopeo diversion excavation, flood-gates, bridges, and road formation, and general maintenance included in which is the redredging of the Tarawera Western Drain.

Rates.—Some 725 demands for rates were issued during the year covering a total sum of £4,716

14s. 8d. During the year rates collected amounted to £7,133 0s. 6d.

Works Expenditure (General).—The total amount of expenditure recorded for the year was £16,550 6s. 10d., day labour accounting for £8,651 3s. 1d., and forty-six piecework contracts totalling £1,394 16s. 9d. The sum of £9,486 1s. 7d. was paid from Whakatane Imprest Account.

I have, &c.,

R. G. MACMORRAN,

The Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

Chief Drainage Engineer.

RANGITAIKI LAND DRAINAGE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1928.

Receipts.						Payments.					
To Cash in Public Account,			s.	d.	£	s.	d.	By Drainage-works, stop-banks, cleaning channels, £	s.	d.	
1927 4,839 4 4			4				and other expenditure incidental to drainage				
Cash in Investment Acc	ount, 1st	•						operations 10,921	8	11	
April, 1927	·	10,000	0	0				Engineering and administration expenses 540		1	
* '					14,839	4	4	Fuel 1,380	12	9	
Proceeds from sales and	transfers							Legal expenses 6	0	0	
of plant, &c., to other	works				602	5	9	Material and stores 1,808	4	7	
Subsidy from Consolidat								Plant and machinery 166	7	4	
for maintenance of c	ompleted	•							13	3	
works					3,200	0	0	Travelling-expenses 41	12	3	
Rents					132	7	10	Interest on debentures recouped to the Consoli-			
"Thirds"			-		10	4	8	dated Fund 5,010	0	0	
Rates					7,213	2	11				
Interest on investments					574	2	8	Balance— £ s. d.			
Sundries					316	7	0	Cash in Public Account 3,807 13 0			
								Investment Account 2,000 0 0			
								5,807	13	0	
				£	26,887	15	2	£26,887	15	2	
									-		