

Good progress has been made in forming, metalling, and sealing internal roads, while a commencement has been made with sewerage reticulation, storm-water drainage, and water-supply for which a 4-ft.-diameter well, 60 ft. deep, has been completed.

R.N.Z.A.F. Flying Training School, Wigram.—Again at this station proposals have been adopted for a large increase in the establishment, and consequently an accelerated building programme has been proceeded with. The station is being developed as the permanent advanced Flying Training School, and will, when completed, provide for training four times as many trainees as formerly.

In consequence of the intended building programme, necessitating many alterations to the original layout, much work has been evolved in extending roads and essential services such as water-supply, sewerage, storm-water drainage, and electrical-power supply. This work has been carried out as it has become necessary. A tree-planting and landscaping programme was adopted and proceeded with in the appropriate season.

Work proceeded on the provision of an air-firing and bombing range at Lake Ellesmere and is now approximately 80 per cent. completed.

The following buildings were completed during the period and are now occupied: Ten residences for airmen, thirteen residences for non-commissioned officers, seven residences for officers, headquarters building, main store No. 1, oil-store, guard-house, water-tower, standby set house, sick-quarters, extension to the workshop block, P.W.D. depot, additional wing to main airmen's barracks, airmen's dormitory hutment, lubricant and inflammable store, 11,000 gallon tank for bulk fuel storage.

The following buildings are in the course of erection: Sergeants' mess and quarters, ration store, instructional block, officers' mess and quarters, car-shelters, timber hangar (265 ft. by 156 ft.), concrete hangars, Wigram type No. 3 and 4, main store No. 2.

Designs have been prepared for other additional buildings, and erection will be commenced at an early date.

CIVIL AERODROMES AND LANDING-GROUNDS.

North Auckland District.—Engineering surveys were undertaken at the following sites: Kaikohe (two sites) Dargaville (alternative site), Parengarenga Harbour (for emergency seaplane alighting area).

Construction work was in hand as follows:—

Waiapakauri: 22 acres of the original field and a 35 acres extension were regraded and sown in grass to form a field of total area of 78 acres. 22 acres of low-lying area were drained by the placing of subsoil drains. The field will be available for use next summer.

Kerikeri: 55 acres were graded, levelled, and sown in grass, and are now available for use.

Rawene: An area of tidal flat is being reclaimed by stop-banking, and some 105 acres are being set aside for aerodrome purposes.

Whangarei: An area of 113 acres at Onerahi has been graded, levelled, and sown in grass and will be available for use next summer. Other work involved included the removal and re-erection of twenty-three residences, fences, and overhead service lines; the rearrangement of water-supply services to Onerahi Township and the provision of four new tennis-courts and the formation and metalling of 73 chains of new road, together with 148 chains of existing road.

Auckland District.—Engineering surveys were undertaken at the following sites: Coromandel, Whitianga, Raglan and Rukuhia.

Construction work was carried out as follows:—

Mangere: Additional subsoil drains were installed. A building was erected for the radio-receiving and direction-finding station.

Thames: An area of 77 acres was developed as an aerodrome and will be available for use next summer. A further 112 chains of subsoil drains were placed, and the surrounding stop-banks were raised and strengthened. 92 chains of runways 50 yards wide were formed and surfaced with shell and sand. A heavy growth of fescue was eradicated.

Great Barrier (Claris Aerodrome): This field was licensed and opened for use during the year. Further marram-grass was planted to arrest sand-drift, and a shelter-shed was erected.

Maintenance: The Department undertook maintenance of the Claris Aerodrome (Great Barrier Island) and of the Ngauruhia Emergency-landing ground.

Tauranga District.—Sites were investigated at Whakatane, Te Kaha, and Waihou Bay.

Tauranga: The initial portion of this field was licensed and opened to traffic during the year. Work was commenced on an extension covering 130 acres, and for this 8,000 cubic yards of spoil have been shifted to date and 55 acres are ready for sowing. 125 chains of subsoil drains were placed on the original field, and an additional 1 mile of access road formed and metalled. A radio transmitting-station was provided and is operating.

Opotiki: This field of 109 acres was licensed and brought into use during the year. Obstructing power and telephone lines and hedges were removed, and 2 miles 6 chains of new fences placed.

Atiamuri Emergency-landing Ground: This field was graded, levelled, sown in grass, and fenced during the period. It will be available for use this coming summer.

Maintenance: The Department undertook the maintenance of the following fields: Tauranga, Opotiki, Taupo, and Rotorua, as well as the Galatea Emergency-landing Ground. Minor works were also attended to.

Gisborne District.—Sites were investigated at Rakuhia.

Construction was undertaken as follows:—

Gisborne: The western extension of 30 acres was brought into use during the year, and the southern extension of 51 acres and an area formerly occupied by the old hangar were graded, levelled, and sown in grass. A new hangar was erected by Union Airways, and a concrete apron and storm-water drainage system installed by the Department. A commencement has been made in deviating the obstructing main transmission line. A permanent radio transmission-station was provided and is operating, while the building has been erected for the receiving and direction-finding station.

Opoutama Emergency-landing Ground: Following flood damage last year, this field has been reconditioned and extended, and the flying-field now covers 30 acres.