

4. The operations have been so far successful that all serious impediments from Omaha to Stanley, a distance of about 45 miles, have been cleared, and the river rendered navigable for steamers drawing not more than 3 feet. The steamer "Kotuku," 82 feet long and 20 feet beam, now running on the river, carries, on a 3-foot draft, 35 tons of cargo during six months in summer, and 50 tons during the remaining six months of the year.

5. There still remain some obstructions between Omaha and the Ohinemuri Junction, which, as soon as the Maori opposition is removed, will be cleared.

6. The total cost to the 1st January last of all labour, material, and appliances amounts to the sum of £7,442 4s. 5d.

7. The result of the operations is that the clearing of the navigation of this beautiful river has opened a very large area of valuable lands owned by Government and private individuals for advantageous settlement, and provided a cheap means of transit for agricultural and other produce, without transhipment, from Stanley, the head of the navigation, to the Port of Auckland.

I have, &c.,

J. C. FIRTH.