

*Kenana-Rangiuru Road.*—Mr. Goldsmith, at date of last year's report, had completed four and a half miles of this line as a 12-ft. road, and since then he has carried it through the Crown lands a further distance of two and a quarter miles, at a cost of about £70 per mile, being one of the cheapest cart-roads I know of. The lands it was intended to open were all taken up the day they were offered on perpetual lease.

*Tokaanu-Waimarino*, which is a continuation of the Taupo-Murimotu Road, thirty-six and a half miles of which had been constructed by Mr. A. B. Wright at the date of last report, is a line of road which the Government directed should be made by aid of the Constabulary, to serve as a feeder to and to effect connection with the Central Trunk Line of railway at Waimarino, a Native village on the plains of that name, situated at the south-west base of Ruapehu. Up to the date when the Constabulary were recalled to aid in the construction of the defence works of the colony, ten and a half miles of 15-ft. road had been completed, excepting a bridge over the Poutu River, the timber for which is still preparing. Since the end of April no work on the road has been done (excepting preparing bridge-timber), though Mr. Wright has graded three and a half miles ahead of the road-work. Mr. Wright also made three explorations from Tokaanu to Taumarunui, on the Wanganui, with a view of determining whether the road could not be taken that way; but the difficulties of the country would have made it too costly an undertaking to adopt. The present line will run through open undulating country nearly all the way to Waimarino, and, skirting the bases of Tongariro and Ruapehu as it does, will afford the most charming views of those fine mountains. It is quite certain that, when this road is opened to Waimarino and the trains running there daily, few roads in the country will be more used by tourists, who will take this route, and then *via* Taupo to Rotorua. The country it passes through near the mountains is all fair pastoral land, with rolling grass-covered hills, diversified by many streams and clumps and belts of wood. A few men are engaged on the formed portion of the road in removing the slips which always occur on new works.

*Wairoa and Gisborne.*—Works on this line appear to have been mostly in the building of bridges, forty-four in number, and a few chains of formation. The road is now open for drays from Wairoa to Te Reinga; but, Mr. Baker adds, "until it is metalled it will never be a good winter road." Mr. B. Lambert has had charge of the works here. The works at the Gisborne end of this road have been delayed owing to difficulties about a deviation, which the Cook County propose to overcome by taking it under the Public Works Act.

*Rotorua via Galatea to Wairoa.*—The accompanying detail report by Mr. J. C. Blythe of his exploration of this line will furnish full information as to its capabilities of construction and of the difficulties of the country. As instructions in regard to this work are of so late a date, nothing beyond the exploration and the starting of a grade survey from the Village of Wairoa, Tarawera, has been done; but Mr. Blythe will push on with his grading, and, as the country as far as Galatea is very easy, this will not take long.

The Clerk to the County of Cook furnishes the following abstract of works executed by the county out of grants from Government to open up lands before sale during the year:—

*Gisborne-Waipu Inland Road (Gisborne End).*—Sixteen miles thirty-two chains of road widened to 12ft. and sharp bends flattened: five bridges constructed—namely, one truss-bridge, 45-ft. span; one truss-bridge, 45-ft. span, and two plain spans of 25ft. each; one plain bridge, 25-ft. span; and two of 20-ft. span each: fifty-eight culverts constructed with kauri timber, sizes varying from 2ft. by 2ft. to 9in. by 9in.: 244 chains of bush and scrub fallen, 66ft. wide: 100 chains of new drains cut: wheel-guards affixed to seven old bridges. The culverts and bridges on sections 4, 5, and 6 have yet to be constructed, and two and a half miles of new formation on section 6 to be completed. Total cash received on account of this road, £2,000. Expended to date, £1,977 19s. 6d.; balance due to contractors exclusive of extras, £1,564; Engineer's supervision, advertising, &c., say £150: total, £3,691 19s. 6d.

*Gisborne-Waimata Road (Gisborne End).*—Nine miles sixty chains of bridle-track, widened to 10ft. on solid: 154ft. drain-pipes laid: 105 box-culverts constructed of kauri timber, sizes varying from 3ft. by 3ft. to 9in. by 9in.: four and a half chains fascining: seventy and a half chains of bush and scrub cleared 66ft. wide: one mile sixty-eight chains of old drain widened and deepened: one mile fifty chains new drain cut: one bridge, 66ft., of two 25-ft. spans and one 16-ft.: one bridge, 20-ft., and one of 16-ft. span: seven miles new line laid off ready for calling for tenders, and several deviations made. Expended to date, £1,292 18s.; balances due to contractors, £250; Engineer's supervision and advertising, say £90: total, £1,632 18s. Total cash received from Government to date, £943.

*Arakihi Road, Tolago Bay.*—Ten miles of this road have been pegged out, and considerable deviations made from the original line. The plans of bridges and sections of drains have been prepared in readiness for calling for tenders for the work. Total expenditure on surveys and plans prior to notice that work would not be gone on with at present, £195: about £25 more will be required to complete surveys and plans. No money received on account of this road.

*Gisborne-Wairoa Inland Road (Middle Portion of Line).*—Six miles ten chains surveyed; six miles pegged off ready for calling for tenders. Plans of deviations of two and a half miles through Waihou Native Reserve have been forwarded to Survey Department. Total cost of surveys and plans, £319 4s. 6d.; part payment to Wairoa Council for Opoiti Bridge, £125 12s.: total, £444 16s. 6d. Total received from Government, £425 12s.

Mr. Barnard has had the general supervision of the above roads being constructed by the county.

I furnish below a statement in tabular form of the works performed under direction of the department for the past year.

S. PERCY SMITH Assistant Surveyor-General.