

SOUTHLAND.

Te Anau Jetty.—This work was commenced last year on a vote of £100. An additional £40 was granted for the purpose of lengthening the structure into deeper water, and the work has since been completed.

Mossburn-Te Anau Road.—No money has been expended here during the period under notice. It is, however, proposed to raise a loan of about £2,500 on the security of some 20,000 acres of small grazing-runs which will shortly be offered for lease.

Wrey's Bush Bridge.—This bridge was commenced last year on a grant of £1,000 from Government. Subsequently an additional £190 was given, in order to lengthen the span by 100ft., and it is now 620ft. long. The approaches were let under separate contract and are nearly completed. The county pays for these, so that the work is finished so far as this department is concerned.

Otautau Bridge Subsidy.—This bridge, which was subsidised to the extent of £250, was begun last year, and was finished last October. It is 320ft. long, and cost £634.

Lillburn Roads and Bridges.—£1,252 was voted for the purpose of giving access to land lately opened in this district. It is proposed very shortly to expend the money in opening up the road through Lillburn Valley, so as to make this passable for wheel-traffic.

Tracks to McLaren's Run.—Authority has not yet been issued for expenditure of the £120 voted for this purpose.

Orepuki-Wairaurahiri.—£478 12s. 6d. was spent in felling, clearing, and logging-up 5·5 miles of this road, which gives access to the new settlements in Longwood District, and at present terminates at the lower bridge-crossing on Waiau River.

Riverton-Orepuki.—84 chains have been felled, cleared, and formed, from Pahi Railway-station towards Orepuki, at a cost of £267 7s. 10d., the Government having subsidised the work to the extent of £250.

Riverton-Colac Bay Road.—The Wallace County has been granted subsidies amounting to £450, with which, in addition to county funds, it has spent £865 6s. 10d. on about three miles of road between Riverton and Colac Bay, the work consisting of bush-felling, clearing, stumping, formation, culverts, and a 12ft. bridge. This now affords a fairly good road for wheel-traffic between Riverton and Orepuki.

Wright's Bush.—30 chains of this road have been formed and gravelled, at a cost of £100, the amount of Government subsidy.

Waimatuku Bush.—23½ chains of this road have been cleared, formed, and gravelled between Woodfield Village and Waimatuku with a subsidy of £100. In addition, 19½ chains of bushfelling, clearing, and formation have been done.

Centre Bush.—A contract for felling and clearing 155 chains of this road has been let for £108 10s., and will be completed by the middle of May. This road will bring the Otapiri Gorge settlers into the most direct communication they can have with the Invercargill-Kingston Railway. The balance of vote of £300 will be spent in formation and culverts when the first contract has been completed.

Winton Drains.—This work completes a gap between Benmore and Winton in a much-needed system of drainage for the low-lying country between those places, and has been effected at a cost of about £1,100, £700 of which was contributed as a subsidy, and the balance by loan and rates. The channels cut will afford outfalls for some 2,500 acres of Crown land.

Forest Hill Road.—A subsidy of £200 has been spent on 29 chains ditching, 91·5 chains bush-felling and logging-up, and two bridges of 36ft. and 8ft. span. The amount was not sufficient to do all that was required, and a further sum has been asked for. The road would render more accessible some thirty-seven ten-acre sections in East Winton.

Grove Bush.—38 chains of formation and gravelling have been done for £200.

Makarewa-Hedgehope.—A subsidy of £200 has been spent on 53·5 chains formation and gravelling.

Makarewa to Shark's Tooth.—41 chains of gravelling and formation have been done for the subsidy of £150.

Tisbury-Waimatua.—A subsidy of £300 was voted to make a road parallel to the Seaward Bush Railway between these places; and a contract has been let for 193 chains bush-felling and clearing, the same length of formation, 43 chains curduroying, twelve log culverts, and one 12ft.-span bridge. This track will render more accessible some 1,500 acres of Crown land.

Invercargill Hundred, Block XX.—51 chains of formation and gravelling have been made with the vote of £200.

Clifton to Seaward Bush.—Several small contracts have been let for making the village sections already selected more accessible, and these have absorbed the grant of £200. A further grant of same amount is now being expended in the same way.

Blocks II. and III., Campbelltown Hundred.—A grant of £750 has been spent on the main road between Invercargill and the Bluff. This has formed 131 chains, cleared 350 chains, and gravelled the softest parts, besides banking and rubble pitching across a stretch of road below high-water mark.

Campbelltown Hundred.—236 chains have been re-formed and 80 chains tussocked with the £100 vote.

Oteramika Hundred, Block I.—The vote of £100 has not yet been expended, and it is proposed to hand this to the local Board to deal with, subject to the approval of this department.

Oteramika Gorge.—68 chains have been formed and gravelled with the subsidy of £200.

Takanui-Niagara.—The vote of £300 taken for this work was spent in gravelling a portion of the main road between Fortrose and Waikawa, under the co-operative system of contracts.