

cubic yards rock. The rock goes through forest country, and branches off from Waikanae-Hutt Road, running in an easterly and south-easterly direction along the Ngatiawa River. A small branch road off the Ngatiawa Road has been felled and cleared for 33 chains, and formed 6ft. wide for 24 chains. The engineering plan for this portion was received during the year.

*Rangiora Road.*—This road is 1 mile 22 chains in length, for which the engineering survey plans were received during the year. Bushfelling and clearing have been completed, and 65 chains of a 6ft. track formed; but the whole 1 mile 22 chains is now passable for horse-traffic. A total length of 126ft. of culverts, 12in. by 12in. to 2ft. by 3ft., have been built; also a small log-bridge of 8ft. span. The road passes through forest country, branching off from the Waikanae-Hutt Road, and running in a south-easterly direction.

A considerable amount of work has passed through my hands during the year, ninety-four miles of new roads having been opened up, including, among the various descriptions of work necessary to be done for these roads, the removing of over 70,000 cubic yards of rock, and the construction of about one mile and three-quarters of culverts of various sizes, ranging from 6in. in diameter to 5ft. by 5ft. box-culvert. Sixteen miles and a half have also been improved by the roads being either metalled or widened out; also, the roads already made but not handed over to the local authorities have had to be maintained. With the exception of that done by Road Boards and County Councils, by grants from the Government, the work has been carried out under the co-operative system, 270 co-operative contracts having been completed, by which 510 men have received work. The total expenditure is close on £23,000 for the year.

It is a matter of regret to me that so much of my time has to be occupied in attending to office duties which might more advantageously be employed in a more frequent inspection and supervision of the several roadworks on the ground. As matters stand, it is almost impossible to grapple satisfactorily with both the office and field work. A vast amount of clerical work is entailed in carrying out the work, and with my present staff overtime is constantly indulged in in order to keep pace with the work.

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