

River, and eventually also to Ohura. This steamer is specified to be 77 ft. long, 12 ft. beam, with a draught, when light, of 11 in., and a speed of thirteen miles an hour for four hours' continuous run. She is to be furnished with twin turbine screws, quadruple-expansion engines, and Thornycroft's water-tube boilers. This boat is expected to be on the river before next summer.

*Wanganui Office.*—A vote of £300 for the erection of new buildings was on last year's appropriations, but, chiefly owing to pressure of other business, the work has not yet been started.

G. T. MURRAY, Road Surveyor.

## WELLINGTON.

*Te Ngaue Road.*—This road is situated in the Kaimanuka and Te Ngaue Blocks, and a sum of £200 was granted to the Patea County Council for its construction. The record of work done during the past year is as follows: Two miles of bush felled and cleared, 73 chains of scrub felled and cleared, 2 miles 67 chains of road formed 12 ft. wide, 103 chains of drains made, and 54 culverts put in, of a total length of 1,070 lineal feet. This road will afford access to the sections in the Te Ngaue Block.

*Kawatau Valley Road.*—This road has been widened out for dray-traffic for a distance of 2 miles 45 chains fronting the Kawatau Improved-farm Settlement. 74 chains of road has been graded and pegged; 46 chains of bush felled and cleared; one plain bridge, with a 25 ft. span, erected; one culvert, 12 in. by 12 in., 25 ft., laid; 4,759 cubic yards of slips removed; 120 chains of water-tables opened; 1,835 cubic yards of rock excavated; 65 chains of drains made; and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  chains of embankments formed. 1 mile 17 chains of road has been maintained. The old dray-road formation which passes along the Rangitikei River cliffs has been very expensive to maintain; the papa rock still continues to break away from the cliffs overhead. The recent heavy flood in the river has also done considerable damage to the road. Several chains of road will require to be widened during the coming year before the road can be used for dray-traffic.

*Kawatau Valley Road (Marton No. 1 Block).*—80 chains of bush has been felled and cleared;  $33\frac{1}{2}$  chains of road formed; three log bridges, with a total length of 46 ft., erected; three culverts (12 in. by 12 in., 12 in. by 18 in., and 4 ft. by 3 ft., a total length of 80 ft.) laid;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  chains of drains made; 1 chain of embankments formed; and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  chains of widening to 16 ft. This road, which passes through the Marton No. 1 Block, has been formed  $33\frac{1}{2}$  chains as a horse-road, on sideling ground, thus making the road open for horse-traffic as far as the Kew Road. Bushfelling and clearing has been done beyond that point for a distance of one mile; but this portion will not be available for traffic until it is formed.

*Ngaio Road.*—According to my last annual report, the above road, which is a horse-road, had been formed on steep sideling ground to the Kawatau River, a distance of 52 chains. The only work done during the year was the clearing of slips and widening out parts of the road which had been washed away by the Kawatau River. 40 chains of road was maintained, and 130 cubic yards of slips of earth and rock removed.

*Totara Road (Kawatau Block).*—The work done on this length of road (about 54 chains) has made it passable for dray-traffic. The road branches off from the Kawatau Valley Road, and gives access to four sections in the Kawatau Improved-farm Settlement. 40 chains of road has been maintained during the year, 2 chains was widened to 16 ft., and 1 chain of embankment was formed.

*Kew Road (Marton No. 1 Block).*—When my last annual report was made work on this road had only just commenced, 40 chains of bush having been felled and cleared. During the past year a further 48 chains of bush has been felled and cleared; 53 chains of road, 6 ft. wide, on sideling ground, formed; two log bridges (one 19 ft. and one 20 ft.: total, 39 ft. long) erected; and 380 cubic yards of rock taken out. The 53 chains of formation mentioned above is now open for horse-traffic. Further bushfelling contracts are now in hand for another 56 chains, which will connect with the Titirangi Road.

*Titirangi Road (Marton Nos. 1 and 2 Blocks).*—This road passes wholly through a forest country, and is passable by a 4 ft. horse-track for a distance of 2 miles 18 chains from its junction with the Lagoon Road. During the year 2 miles  $8\frac{1}{2}$  chains of road has been graded and pegged; 1 mile  $73\frac{3}{4}$  chains of bush has been felled and cleared; 2 miles 18 chains of road formed; two bridges, total length 20 ft., erected; 540 cubic yards of slips cleared; and 7,243 cubic yards of rock removed. To make this road passable by a 6 ft. track to Section 7 a further expenditure of money will be required.

*Titirangi Road (Kawatau Block).*—This road passes through dense forest country, and during the year the bush has been felled and cleared for a distance of 2 miles 36 chains from the Kawatau Valley Road, and the road has been graded and pegged for two miles on sideling ground. The formation will be started shortly. The road is not yet passable for horse-traffic.

*Lagoon Road (Marton Nos. 1 and 2 Blocks).*—The formation of this road, 6 ft. wide, has been carried from the Auputa Road to tap Section 11, a distance of  $63\frac{1}{2}$  chains,  $58\frac{1}{2}$  chains of which pass through heavily-timbered flat. On the northern end, between traverse-peg lx. and the Titirangi Road, the Lagoon Road has been widened in places from a 3 ft. to a 6 ft. horse-track, a length of 63 chains. This road requires the expenditure of a small sum of money on necessary culverts, bridges, tunnels, grubbing of roots, stumps, &c., in order to make it passable as a 6 ft. horse-track. During the year  $63\frac{1}{2}$  chains of road has been graded, &c.; 135 chains formed; one bridge, 8 ft. wide and 40 ft. in length, erected; eight culverts built—sizes 12 in. by 12 in. and 12 in. by 18 in., total length 146 ft.; 2,108 cubic yards slips cleared; 70 chains water-tables opened; 4,923 cubic yards of rock excavated; and 3 chains of drains made.