

*Gisborne-Opotiki.*—Sixty-six miles of this road, running through rough forest country, has been maintained, seven surfacemen being employed. A large number of new culverts have been put in, and the road generally improved.

*Gisborne-Rotorua Stock Route.*—Mr. Llewellyn Smith, District Surveyor, has explored the country between Ngatapa and Ruatahuna for a stock-track, and has located a route which is now being cut out. The distance will be about thirty-six miles, through rough forest country.

*Wairoa-Gisborne.*—Thirty-nine miles has been maintained and 30 chains metalled by the Cook County Council out of grants.

*Opoiti Bridge.*—A grant of £1,500 was made to the Wairoa County Council for this bridge, which is an important one, situated on the Gisborne-Wairoa main road. After some delay the work has been started, the concrete piers and apron having been partly constructed, towards the expense of which £263 5s. has been paid out of the grant. I hope that the work will be pushed on and completed before the winter, it being a dangerous river to cross in flood. The work is being carried on under the supervision of the county engineer, the plans having been approved by the department.

*Hikurangi Block.*—2 miles 8 chains of bridle-road has been constructed by co-operative labour. This road gives access to sections of Crown lands taken up.

*Ruakituri Block.*—2 miles of bridle-road has been widened and cleared of slips by co-operative labour. This road gives access to the Ruakituri Settlement.

*Nuhaka.*—Two miles of a 12 ft. dray-road, with necessary culverts, has been constructed by the Cook County Council, under the supervision of their engineer, it being a continuation of the Nuhaka Main Road, and a portion of the Wairoa-Nuhaka-Gisborne Road, which, when completed throughout, will be of great advantage to the Nuhaka Settlement and visitors to the hot springs.

*Nuhaka Springs.*—A sum has been expended on improving the track from the accommodation-house through the forest to the springs, and improving the baths. It is not, however, proposed to make a carriage-road to the springs, for to do so the bush would have to be felled, which would quite destroy the beauty of the springs, the bush being a very fine one, and much admired by visitors.

*Nuhaka-Gisborne.*—6 miles 24 chains have been constructed by the Cook and Wairoa County Councils out of grants, the work being done under supervision of their engineers. As before mentioned, this is an important road, and I hope to see its construction pushed on during the year.

*Holder's Road.*—1 mile 48½ chains of dray-road has been constructed, being a grant to the Kumeroa Road Board, under whose supervision the work has been carried out. The cost includes £30 paid for land, and some fencing.

*Ormondville-Waikopiro.*—A grant was made to the Ormondville Town Board towards the construction of a deviation on this road. Contracts have been let, but little done in the way of construction. Compensation had to be paid for the land taken for the road.

*Waikopiro Improved-farm Settlement.*—The dray-road through the settlement has been maintained, and 1 mile 54 chains of bridle-road formed to give access to sections, settlers being employed on the works.

*Waikopiro Roads.*—19 chains of dray-road and 4 miles 8 chains of bridle-road, with forty-four bridges and culverts, have been constructed by co-operative labour, under the supervision of Mr. Dorney.

*Woodville (Block II.).*—20 chains of a 9 ft. road, with two culverts, have been constructed, to give access to a section.

*Takapau-Kopua (£1 for £1).*—The Takapau Road Board, out of a pound-for-pound-grant of £500, has expended £267 17s. 6d. on the construction of 26 chains of dray-road and four bridges, the work being carried out under the supervision of its engineer, on plans approved by the department.

*Norsewood-Apiti.*—69 chains have been felled 1 chain wide, and cleared 33 ft., and a 10 ft. road constructed, with ten culverts, by co-operative labour, under the supervision of Mr. Robertson.

*Ruahine Block.*—1 mile 8 chains of a 14 ft. dray-road, with necessary culverts, has been constructed, by co-operative labour, working under Mr. Marshall's supervision. This is the main road through the Ruahine Settlement.

*Flood-damages.*—£7,600 was granted to the Hawke's Bay County Council, being a pound-for-pound subsidy to assist them in erecting bridges and repairing roads destroyed in the Easter flood. During the year the Council have spent £8,075 17s. 9d. in building the following bridges, viz.: Marshall's Crossing, Okawa, Waitangi, Redclyffe, Ohiwia, Kikowhero, Hastings and Havelock, Kuripapango, Rissington, Waihou, and Omahu, and repairing road-damages.

*Elsthorpe.*—3 miles 54½ chains of a 15 ft. dray-road has been constructed, with necessary culverts, by co-operative labour, working under Mr. Marshall's supervision. This is the main road through the Elsthorpe Settlement, and on completion of a few culverts it will be handed over to the Oero Road Board.

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH, Chief Surveyor.