

*Hykamui-Kakariki Road leading to Kakariki Special Settlement.*—Just before the end of the financial year an engineering survey of 1 mile 27 chains was made, and the work of formation will be immediately undertaken.

*Newman-Stirling Road.*—In March, 1898, the sum of £300 was granted to the Eketahuna Road Board, and I have been informed that tenders have been invited for the immediate prosecution of the work.

*Mangaone Road (Norling's), Tiraumea North.*—The operations on this road are under the control of the Eketahuna Road Board, to whom a grant of £200 was made in February, 1897. The road, which passes through open country, has been formed for dray traffic for 25 chains, 20 chains of which has been metalled 9 ft. wide and 6 in. deep. Several culverts have also been laid.

*Eketahuna-Alfredton Road.*—In June last a grant of £50 was made to the Wairarapa North County Council for the purpose of metalling and repairing this road. This has been done to the extent of laying 222 cubic yards of metal in places on the road that have suffered damage by traffic into the Pongaroa district.

*Barton's Road, Wairere.*—During the year 32 chains of this road has been felled and cleared of scrub, graded, and pegged. Upwards of 30 chains has been formed 13 ft. wide, sufficient for dray traffic; one bridge, of a single span, 30 ft. long, has been erected; and nine 10 in. by 12 in. culverts, 170 ft. in length, have been laid. Operations on this road are under the control of the Mauriceville Road Board, to whom the sum of £250 was granted, the whole of which has been expended.

*Barton's Road.*—An engineering survey of 2 miles 66 chains of this road has been made, 57 chains of bush felled and cleared, 1 mile 69 chains of formation 6 ft. wide, 16 chains 12 ft. wide, and 60 chains 16 ft. wide; 148 cubic yards of slips have been cleared, 7 chains of drains cut, and nearly 6 chains of embankment formed. No less than forty-one culverts, of a total length of 803 ft., and of the following dimensions, have been laid: Nine 12 in. by 18 in., twenty-six 12 in. by 12 in., three 12 in. by 36 in., one 12 in. by 48 in., one 16 in. by 18 in., and one 24 in. by 36 in. These culverts have all been constructed of such length as to admit of the road being widened without requiring any addition or alteration. A 24 ft. span bridge is also in course of construction, and will be completed very shortly. This road, which for 76 chains is available for dray traffic, for 1 mile 69 chains is a 6 ft. horse-road, with good grades. It connects with a road already made, and opens communication between the Alfredton and Tiraumea districts with Masterton, Mauriceville, and Mangamahoe.

*Mangatainoka Valley Road.*—In May, 1897, the sum of £200 was granted to the Eketahuna Road Board to be expended on this road. Plans and specifications were applied for, but have not yet been received; consequently, up to the present time no payment has been made. Just prior to the end of the financial year £200 was authorised, which amount is to be expended by this department, and works will be commenced immediately.

*Parkville-Mangatainoka Road.*—£200 was authorised to be expended on this road, and steps were taken to arrange for the right of way, but in consequence of certain settlers being unwilling for the road to go through their holdings it was left to the local body to perfect arrangement, but up to the present time nothing has been determined.

*Kaiparoro Roads.*—In February last £200 was authorised for expenditure on these roads, but at the termination of the financial year nothing had been done. The work, however, will immediately be put in hand.

*Mount Holdsworth Tracks.*—In January last £300 was authorised for expenditure, £150 of which was shortly afterwards transferred to the Taratahi-Carterton Road Board for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Mangatarere Stream, and I understand that the remaining £150 is to be handed over to the local body to be expended on the Mount Holdsworth Tracks.

*Pori Road.*—The sum of £150 was granted to Wairarapa North County Council for this road, the whole of which has been expended in the removal of slips and various other repairs.

*Ruamahanga Bridge (£1 for £1), Masterton-Gladstone Road.*—In September, 1897, £500 was granted (£1 for £1) to the Taratahi-Carterton Road Board as a contribution to assist in repairing flood damages.

*Ruamahanga Bridge (Repairs).*—The sum of £200 has been expended on repairs to this bridge by the Taratahi-Carterton Road Board, to whom it was granted in September last. Included in these repairs was the construction of a large crate groin to protect the eastern approach.

*Makakahi Road, Kaiparoro Block.*—In my reports for last year it was stated that this horse-road was felled and cleared for a total length of 1 mile 49 chains, and formed 6 ft. wide for 54 chains. During this year nothing further has been done, owing to the want of funds.

*Tenui Bridge and Road, Taueru Bridge, &c. (Contribution).*—In January, 1897, £300 was granted to the Wairarapa North County Council, none of which has been expended. This bridge was duly reported on by myself, but up to the present time the County Council has taken no action in the matter.

*Uruti-Castlepoint Road.*—This dray-road is formed 16 ft. wide, and passes through open country. The Wairarapa North County Council was granted £100 in December, 1896, which has been expended in payment of felling and clearing upwards of 43 chains of scrub, and repairing nearly 35 chains of the road. The locality of the work is between the Blairlogie Homestead, on the East Coast Road, and the junction of the Tenui loop-line at Birkett's.

*Wingate, or Castle Hill, Road.*—The following work has been done on this road during the year: 49 chains of scrub-felling and -clearing, 88 chains of 12 ft. formation, and 100 chains of bridle-track, 4 ft. formation. The Wairarapa North County Council has control of the work, for which a grant of £180 was issued in March, 1897.

*Mikumiku Bridge.*—In March, 1897, the sum of £500 was authorised for the construction of this bridge. The amount was afterwards granted to the Masterton Road Board, who assumed control of the work. The bridge has two spans of 72 ft. and 45 ft. each, making a total length of 117 ft.;