

A new single-span bridge (41 ft. by 15 ft.) was built across the Ngarua Stream at Kaihere, and at Patetonga concrete retaining face walls were erected at the concrete bridge-culvert over the Patetonga Stream.

FLAX LEASES.

Four areas, totalling 2,010 acres, were surveyed during the year, and three of these were disposed of, but unfortunately most of the standing flax on these areas perished in a disastrous fire in February last. Apart from this a good deal of cutting has been done, the revenue received during the year being £1,176 10s. 3d.

AREA THROWN OPEN DURING YEAR.

Some twenty sections, comprising an area of 1,775 acres and valued at £25,680, were opened during the year, and selected by discharged soldiers. During the ensuing year it is expected that about 4,500 acres will be offered, of an approximate value of £60,000.

VALUATIONS.

The total area thrown open for selection to date is 42,166 acres, which is valued at £307,630 for selection purposes.

GRAZING-AREAS.

The total area held under temporary grazing lease is now 6,124 acres, divided into seven sections. The annual revenue produced by these is £450.

WORKS EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

The total amount expended during the year on the area (not including special votes) was £70,836 7s. 10d. The sum of £72,875 3s. 4d. was paid out of local imprest in payment of Hauraki Plains expenditure and special votes, the principal of the latter being the metalling and maintenance votes. Day labour amounted to £23,031 13s. 6d., piecework contracts to £27,751 11s. 1d., and team-hire to £339 8s. 2d.

FUTURE PROPOSALS.

The principal works (apart from road-metalling) to be carried out in the future are as follows :—

- (1.) Continuation of Waitoa River dredging.
- (2.) Continuation of Waitakaruru-Maukoro Canal.
- (3.) Continuation of Awaiti Canal.
- (4.) Establishment of depot at Kerepechi.
- (5.) New areas for settlement.
- (6.) Concrete bridges, flood-gates, and culverts.
- (7.) New wharves.
- (8.) General development work.

GENERAL.

The books in connection with the works are kept in the Auckland Office, where all vouchers for wages, contracts, supplies, and general purposes are prepared. The local office is situated at Kerepechi.

The local officer in charge is Mr. R. S. Logan, Land Drainage Engineer, under whose supervision development work has been carried on energetically.

I have, &c.,

J. B. THOMPSON,

Chief Drainage Engineer.

The Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

SCHEDULE OF ARTESIAN BORES, 1920-21.

Bore No.	Section.	Block.	Survey District.	Total Depth (Feet).	Running Flow (Gallons per Hour).
166	30	I	Waihou ..	279	100 (about)
167	36	X	Thames ..	400	300
168	33	X	" ..	401	400
169	Eastern portion 19	XI	" ..	302	400
170	3B 2A	..	Kopuarahi ..	156	2,500
171	Maioira No. 2	XI	Thames ..	384	800
172	"	XI	" ..	250	600
173	23	XI	" ..	231	400
174	23	XI	" ..	231	400
175	2	II	Waihou ..	162	600 (pumping)
176	2	II	" ..	161	600 "
177	12	XI	Thames ..	248	600 "
178	12	XI	" ..	382	800
179	25	XI	" ..	248	500
180	26	XI	" ..	397	400
181	26	XI	" ..	331	400
182	26	XI	" ..	264	400
183	11	XI	" ..	213	400 (pumping)