

Two large bridges are under construction, and, as the road work is well advanced, an immediate start is to be made with the next, and last, section to the Haast, on which several large bridges will be needed.

An immediate commencement is also being made with the Haast Pass Road to Otago, which will connect with the South Westland Road by a bridge near the mouth of the Haast River.

These two roads will provide direct communication between the glaciers and other scenic attractions of Westland and the lakes of Otago. Camps are being erected for 150 workmen at the Makaroro end of Haast Pass Road, but, owing to difficulty in obtaining frequent supplies by steamer, the number of men on the Main South Road of Westland cannot be immediately increased by more than fifty.

Another important work which is being started is completion of the Taumarunui-Tokaanu Road, which will give employment to 200 men. In addition to providing a shorter route between the Main Trunk district and Tokaanu, the road will open up some excellent timber country, and will enable large areas of Native land to be subdivided into farms, both along the route and at the Tokaanu end.

A commencement is also to be made with what is known as the Waitakere Ridgeway Drive as soon as Auckland local bodies have found the reasonable sum which they have been asked to contribute. This work will give employment for 200 unemployed married men of Auckland City and suburbs, and when completed will provide an excellent scenic drive near Auckland.

With regard to the present year's programme of roadworks, I am pleased to say that extensive activities have been planned for the purpose of furthering the development of the Dominion's roading-system, and it is proposed to appropriate for this purpose £500,000 more than was provided for the previous year.

The rise and fall of expenditure over the last twenty years is illustrated by graph hereunder:—

