in both cases. At the Mohaka Viaduct site a camp was erected, staff installed, and plant and materials are coming to hand in readiness for the early prosecution of this important undertaking. When the year closed the preparatory work was well in hand, and a start had been made on the erection of the towers for the cable-way which will be used for placing the steelwork.

WESTPORT-INANGAHUA RAILWAY.

The Te Kuha - Cascade section has been maintained during the year by the Department to handle the coal traffic from the Cascade Mine. Apart from this maintenance no other work was carried out during the period.

SOUTH ISLAND MAIN TRUNK RAILWAY.

No constructional work was carried out on this line since my last report; only a very limited amount of maintenance has been carried out, and surplus material has been disposed of as opportunity offered.

The completion of this line has now been authorized by Cabinet, and work on accommodation was commenced almost immediately after 30th June.

A large amount of new plant has been ordered so that a vigorous and progressive policy of construction may be put in hand.

IRRIGATION.

CENTRAL OTAGO.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SCHEMES.

As shown in the table below, there are now thirteen schemes in operation on a trading basis. The total area irrigated during the season was 43,847 acres, water being supplied to 459 irrigators. The corresponding figures for the 1934–35 season were 38,027 acres and 402 irrigators, the increase being due chiefly to the inclusion of the Omakau scheme, which is now nearing completion.

Excluding this scheme, in which water is purchased as it is required and in which no irrigation agreements are in operation, an area of 38,847 acres was irrigated, as against an area of 44,158 acres which should have been irrigated. The difference was the area to which water was refused on account of the non-payment of the water rates.

The total irrigable area now commanded on all schemes is 60,000 acres.

Generally speaking, the season was a successful one, and was notably free from destructive thunderstorms. The spring and summer were more than usually dry, but stream-flows were well maintained and no shortage of supplies occurred on any schemes. The comparative absence of dry, hot winds during the summer tended to offset the low rainfall.

The completed schemes now in operation are shown in the following table, which also indicates the areas actually irrigated, the area that should have been irrigated if the settlers had paid their arrears of rates, and the number of irrigators in each scheme:—

Scheme.			Area actually irrigated.	Area that could be irrigated.	Number of irrigators.
			Acres.	Acres.	
Arrow River			1,761	2,864	39
Ardgour			1,342	1,364	13
Bengerburn			114	144	13
Earnscleugh			1,865	2,058	47
Galloway			2,591	2,618	22
Hawkdun			7,473	8,736	59
Idaburn			565	565	8
Ida Valley			10,689	11,474	55
Last Chance			1,848	2,118	32
Manuherikia			4,781	5,622	72
Tarras			2,574	2,725	19
Teviot River		• •	3,244	3,870	47
			38,847		426
Omakau		• •	5,000	••	33
Totals			43,847	44,158	459

The Omakau scheme was in its first year of operation, and $\operatorname{th}_{b_{\ell}}$ γ now commanded is 13,400 acres.

The financial results of the year's operations are as follow expenses, £14,666; gross profit on working, £8,225.

As far as possible water rates were collected in advance their payments. Since 31st March, the amount collected review, £17,023.

2.891; working-

rears with under