

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS

No. 3.

HON. DEFENCE MINISTER TO OFFICER COMMANDING Waikato.

SIR,—

Alexandra, 6th March, 1871.

It appears that out of the £12,400 given by the General Government to the Province of Auckland, a sum of some £1,300 has been apportioned by the Provincial Council to the different Road Boards in Waikato.

I have in consequence to request that where men of your force are to be employed on road works, you will put yourself into communication with the Road Board of the district, with a view of obtaining its co-operation.

This will best be attained by the Board making the requisite bridges and culverts, while your men carry on the road work. A great readiness seems to be displayed on the part of the settlers, irrespective of Road Boards, to aid in road work, by giving the assistance of drays. &c. Of such offers you will, of course, avail yourself.

Lieut.-Colonel Lyon.

I have, &c.,

DONALD M'LEAN.

No. 4.

Lieut.-Colonel LYON to HON. DEFENCE MINISTER.

SIR,—

Hamilton, May 22nd 1871.

Memo. for Officer Commanding Waikato District, from the Hon. the Defence Minister, bearing date Alexandra, 23rd February, 1871.

I have the honor to report for your information that in accordance with instructions received, (as per margin) working parties of the Armed Constabulary force have been employed since the month of March, 1871, in constructing the road from Rangiaowhia to Cambridge, through the Moana Tua Tua swamp, in repairing and re-making the road between Hamilton and Alexandra *via* Ohaupo; and further, a small party in doing the same on the Hamilton and Cambridge road.

This latter piece of work, though not actually mentioned in authority marginally noted, I undertook, as I considered it necessary in a military and defensive point of view.

I beg to state that I have been compelled to withdraw the working party from the Moana Tua Tua swamp, as the severity of the work in water at this time of the year caused much sickness, (see attached copy of report from Assistant-Surgeon Carey, Armed Constabulary).

Attached is a tabular statement, showing particulars as to work done to 30th April by Armed Constabulary in the district, with all information that could be furnished on the subject.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Defence Minister,
Wellington.

WILLIAM C. LYON, Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding Waikato District.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

The ASSISTANT SURGEON, Armed Constabulary, to Lieut.-Colonel LYON.

SIR,—

Hamilton, May 17th, 1871.

Having, according to instructions, visited yesterday the camp of No. 3 Road Party, at work in the swamp at Mangapiko, beyond Rangiaowhia, I have the honor to report that I found the men suffering much from rheumatism, catarrh, and diarrhoea, the effect of exposure to so much wet; and I cannot but think that a continuance of such work in the winter season would act very injuriously upon their health. I would, therefore, recommend that it be discontinued for the present.

I have, &c.,

Lieut.-Colonel Lyon,
Commanding Waikato District,
Hamilton.

J. CAREY,
Assistant-Surgeon, A.C.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

REPORT OF SURVEY AND WORKS from 8th MARCH TO 30th APRIL.

	Distances completed.		Partially completed.		No. of Days on Work.		No. of actual Working Days.	Average No. of Men.	Cost of Immediate Supervision.	Cost of Labor, at 4s.	Total Cost.	Average Cost per chain.	Officer acting as Engineer.	Incidental Expenses.				
	chs.	lks.	chs.	days	days	days												
Rangiaowhia to Cambridge	30	0	6	40	22	15	14	18	0	110	16	0	125	14	0	4	3	9 ³ / ₄
Hamilton to Ohaupo ...	58	0	3	46	31	18	17	13	6	145	2	0	162	15	6	2	16	1 ¹ / ₂
Ohaupo to Alexandra ...	100	79	...	64	34 ¹ / ₂	19	23	4	6	186	2	0	209	6	6	2	1	6
Hamilton to Cambridge ...	60	0	25	28	20	13	6	5	0	63	18	0	70	3	0	1	3	4 ³ / ₄
	248	79	34	75	62	1	0	505	18	0	567	19	0	2	5	8

Total Expenditure, inclusive of everything, £609 9s. 1¹/₂d.

WILLIAM C. LYON, Lieut.-Colonel,
Commanding Waikato District.