

Attending Native Land Court.—A non-commissioned officer and five men of the Armed Constabulary were in daily attendance on the Hawke's Bay Native Lands Alienation Commission, at Napier, from the 25th January to the 18th April, 1873.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

Nature and Extent of Road Work.—At Opepe, 316 chains road completed, 18 feet wide, comprising in block and side cuttings removal of 11,959 cubic yards of earth; remainder formation, 18 chains mitre drain fascined—fascining fastened with matai pegs; 10 chains drain, 2 feet x 2 feet, to carry off water from roadway. Formed portion of the road at each side of station kept in repair; the cuttings require constant attention to prevent scouring, especially after the heavy rains prevalent in Taupo.

Tapuaeharuru: 84 chains road, 18 feet wide, completed.

Runanga: 110 chains 61 feet road, 18 feet wide, completed; and 48 chains 32 feet road widened 8 feet; 541 cubic feet stone retaining wall built; 16,538 cubic yards earth removed in formation of road.

Tarawera: 8.39 chains new road completed; 27.81 chains roadway widened, and slips containing 2,172 cubic yards earth removed from roadway.

Total earth removed, 7,351 cubic yards. A sod retaining wall for turn-table, 90 feet long, 6 feet broad, and 8 feet high, was also erected. In addition to these works, 8 miles, formed portion of the road in the vicinity of the station, was kept in repair.

Te Haroto: 10 chains road, 15 feet wide, leading from main road to blockhouse. Up to 9th January, when the men at this post (with the exception of a sergeant and two constables) were transferred to the Tarawera Station, 7½ miles of road were kept in repair. This work was of such a nature that it could not be measured,—namely, clearing culverts and drains, filling in ruts, fascining soft places, and removing logs and landslips.

Building Bridges and Culverts.—Opepe: 2 long culverts, 25 feet x 4 x 3, very substantial timber, squared in the bush, and hauled to the ground by Armed Constabulary draught-horses an average distance of 30 chains.

Tapuaeharuru: 1 culvert, 24 feet x 2 x 2.

Runanga: 2 stone culverts, 30 and 31 feet long respectively, x 2 feet x 1½. 11 wooden culverts; also erected timber for latter, prepared by Road Engineer, and drawn to roadway by Armed Constabulary draught-horses; also the materials for stone culverts.

Tarawera: 3 culverts each 25 feet long, 1 of 32 feet, and 1 of 30 feet, each 1½ foot x 1½ foot; and 1 culvert 25 feet 12 inches x 12 inches.

Building Houses, Stables, &c.—Opepe: Farrier's and blacksmith's shop, 20 feet x 20 feet, slab sides and shingle roof, completed; small building, 12 feet x 10 feet, added to stables for storing forage and keeping saddlery. Loft to storeroom, 20 feet x 12, making an upper floor for storing articles not in frequent use. Men's messroom, 30 feet by 16, roofed and shingled.

Tapuaeharuru: A portion of men's barrack room, accidentally burned, rebuilt; addition of 12 feet x 12 feet to officers' quarters. Timber cut at, and carted from Opepe. Boat sheds repaired, and reading-room 20 feet x 12 erected.

Tarawera: A 3-stall wooden stable, with shingle roof, 24 feet x 14 feet erected.

The whole of the wooden chimneys at Opepe, Tapuaeharuru, and Runanga have been pulled down and replaced by pumice ones, pointed with mortar.

Spouting has been put round the whole of the building, in the Opepe, Runanga, and Tarawera stockades, to carry the water into casks placed conveniently. Each stockade has eight casks of 90 gallons each, which are kept continually filled with water. The casks were packed in staves from Napier, and put together at the redoubts.

Fencing Paddocks and Laying down in Grass.—At Opepe, one of the paddocks has been considerably enlarged, 3 chains three-railed and 53½ chains two-railed fence being added; one paddock containing 17 acres, and one 50 acres, have been laid down with grass, and clearing and burning scrub has been done to a considerable extent, ready for laying down in grass during the coming spring; 120 posts and 320 rails have been split and forwarded to Tapuaeharuru for fencing. Another piece of fencing is in course of erection, which, when completed, will comprise an enclosure of about 100 acres.

Thirty chains of four-rail fence erected round vegetable garden.

At Tapuaeharuru, about 18 chains of fencing have been put up in addition to that already completed, about 3 acres ploughed and laid down in grass, and 20 acres cleared of scrub and ready for grass seed in the spring.

The fencing of the old paddocks at each station has been kept in repair, and renewed where the decaying or breaking of any of the posts or rails rendered it necessary. The non-commissioned officer and two men stationed at Te Haroto since 9th January are constantly employed at the paddock there, repairing fence and clearing away fallen timber.

REMARKS.

Two drays and four draught-horses, in charge of members of the force, are kept constantly employed in conveying oats from Runanga to Opepe and Tapuaeharuru, in conveying fencing, building, and other material from Opepe to Tapuaeharuru, and latterly, since the road has been opened, in conveying stores from Tarawera to Opepe.

Six pack-horses in charge of the mounted men of the force, who take this duty in turn, have been constantly employed between Napier and Opepe, a distance of eighty-four miles, in the conveyance of clothing, necessaries, stores, nails, medicines, saddler's material for repair of saddlery and harness, horse shoes and nails, ammunition, camp equipment, stationery, &c.

The pumice for the chimney was collected by members of the force from gullies, with great trouble brought down to the road, and thence carted to the redoubts.

About thirty cord of manuka timber was purchased from the Native owners at Opepe (that in the Government portion of the bush being all expended), felled, cut into lengths of 4 feet, and converted into charcoal for the farrier's use.