

CIVIL DUTIES.

Attending Civil Courts.—The probationary sergeant in charge of the Clyde Station attends the Resident Magistrate's Court twice per week, being employed as clerk and interpreter to that Court, and also accompanies the Resident Magistrate to Mahia (36 miles) and Mohaka (15 miles) every three months.

One constable proceeded to Mahia in March with the Resident Magistrate's Court, and constables are frequently detailed for this purpose on the application of the Resident Magistrate.

Steps taken for the Prevention of Crime.—The public-houses at Te Kapu and Marumaru (three in all) are under close police supervision. Constables have been frequently stationed at Clyde for ordinary police duties during the absence of the district constable. While the Land Court was being held at Clyde such strict police supervision was held as to call forth a high compliment from His Honor Judge Rogan, on the marked freedom from crime and disturbance during the time that 500 or 600 Natives were in attendance.

Attending Lands Court.—Three constables attended Judge Rogan's Court at Clyde, from 29th October to 12th November, 1875, and from 26th to 29th February, 1876, both inclusive. After the sitting of the Lands Court, Messrs. Locke and Hamlin, Native Lands Purchase Commissioners, held large Native meetings at Te Kapu for the purpose of paying Natives for land, and a strong body of Armed Constabulary attended every day for police duty, rationing, &c.

Taking Census, &c.—The agricultural statistics for No. 8 sub-district, Hawke's Bay Province, and No. 7 sub-district, Auckland Province, were collected by Sergeant Brownlow and mounted-constable Tunks. One sergeant acts under instructions from the Auckland Provincial Treasury as collector of educational rates, Auckland Province. Probationary Sergeant Carr was employed as Deputy Returning Officer from 14th to 16th January, 1876, at Mahia, for the Eastern Maori Electoral District.

PUBLIC AND USEFUL WORKS.

Nature and Extent of Roadworks.—The road between Te Kapu and Waikaremoana, a distance of 30 miles, has been kept in repair since 1st July, 1875, slips removed, fresh cuttings made, bridges and culverts newly constructed and repaired. After the heavy freshet in the Waiau and Waikare Tabeke Rivers in January last, this road in places had to be entirely re-made. At that time 22 men were employed thereon. Two men are now constantly at work keeping the portion between Te Kapu and Ohuka in repair. From Ohuka to the Tarapatiki Crossing this work is performed by the members of the Force stationed at Ohuka. From Tarapatiki to Onepoto the men stationed at the latter place keep the road in order. A canoe and posts have been placed at the Tarapatiki Crossing, where a wire rope will now be stretched. Great difficulty was experienced during the early part of the year owing to this crossing being unfordable for the space of two months, during which period a difficult and circuitous route had to be taken.

On the 14th February, when the Onepoto Road was opened sufficiently for horse traffic, the road party commenced repairing the damage done to the dray road between Wairoa and Opoiti by the January floods, being a distance of 12 miles. This work was finished on 11th March. From the 10th October, 1875, this road has been kept in repair by 2 constables detailed for that purpose. In repairing this damage 1 sergeant and 17 constables were employed, working altogether 408 days. The whole of the cuttings had to be thoroughly repaired, and in some places re-formed, the old cuttings being in many places swept bodily away; 2 culverts were replaced, and the approaches to 4 bridges repaired. From 13th to 16th March, 1 sergeant and 18 constables were employed repairing the approaches to the Scamperdown Bridge and dray road between Te Kapu and Wairoa—6 miles. On this road the men were employed a total of 76 days. On the 17th March work was commenced on the Wairoa-Whakaki Road, clearing line for dray road between Clyde and the beach, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles being cleared of manuka, flax, toe-toe, &c., and 13 chains of ditching and formation finished up to 12th May. On this road 1 sergeant and 12 constables were employed in March for 169 days; in April, 209 days; and up to 12th May, 1 sergeant and 10 constables a total of 110 days. On the 17th March, 4 constables were detailed to Marumaru to keep the road between Te Kapu and Opoiti in repair, and 2 constables to keep the road in order between Opoiti and Te Reinga, a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The Marumaru party besides keeping the road in good repair, have cut a new line of road across the Marumaru Flat for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, clearing manuka, &c., and here formed a passable road across Cohen's Flat (1 mile). During March, 4 constables were employed 52 days in April, 1 sergeant and 4 constables 110 days, and up to 12th May, 1 sergeant and 4 constables, 48 days. The road between Opoiti and Te Reinga has been kept in good order, slips removed, and water-tables opened. During the month of March, 2 constables were employed a total of 54 days; during April, 54 days; and up to 12th May, 20 days.

I would here take the opportunity of stating that it is but recently that road works of any extent have been carried out in this district, and that at the beginning the weather was very unfavourable.

On the 3rd April, Sub-Inspector Maclean visited and reported on the road works then being carried on by the Natives at Ahinunu, on the inland road to Poverty Bay.

Bridges and Culverts.—Between Te Kapu and Ohuka, 4 bridges and 19 culverts have been either replaced or entirely rebuilt; between Ohuka and Tarapatiki, 2 new bridges built and 4 culverts replaced; between Tarapatiki and Onepoto, 2 bridges and 2 culverts repaired; on the Wairoa-Opoiti Road, 2 bridges repaired and 4 culverts replaced. All the above bridges are small works, the largest being about 24 x 8 feet. The approaches to the Scamperdown and Hikairai Bridges on the Wairoa Road have also been repaired.

Houses, Stables, &c.—At Te Kapu Station, the stables (6-stall, loose box, and hay-loft) have been finished, 5,000 feet timber being sawn for that purpose by members of the A.C. Force. All the buildings have been repaired and kept in good order. At Onepoto Station an addition has been built to the officers' quarters, for which purpose 1,000 feet timber were sawn by the men of that station, the buildings painted and repaired. At Ohuka the whares (raupo) have been re-thatched.