

*Manawatu Bridge and Approaches, near Palmerston North.*—The contract work of the bridge is completed, but the approaches are still in hand, and include 46 chains of earthwork.

*Moutoa Swamp: Roads and Drains.*—365 chains of main drains have been completed, and 100 chains are now in hand.

*Upokongaro to Mangawhero.*—15 miles of roads have been laid off on this line.

*Rangitikei Bridge* (Contracts No. 1 and No. 2).—This work is now completed, and ready for final inspection.

*Lower Tauherenikau Bridge.*—This work has been completed, and the formation of the approaches is being undertaken by the Featherston Highway Board.

*Main Road, Wairarapa West County.*—This road (more particularly the Rimutaka hill and valley section) is becoming very much cut up with the large traffic, and will require close attention during the winter. The Forty-Mile Bush section has been much improved, and is in good order.

*Masterton-Opaki Road.*—Above 2½ miles of this have been formed and metalled during the past year; there remains a distance of about 2 miles yet to be finished, but the funds available last year were insufficient to complete it.

*Reclaimed Land, Wellington.*—The whole of the timber breastwork is completed, and of the earthwork there yet remain about 3½ acres to be filled in. There has been delay in laying down the permanent drains, owing to the actual position of the street lines not being determined. The fencing intended to be erected at the head of the quarry will shortly be undertaken.

I have, &c.,

JOHN BLACKETT,  
Engineer in Charge, North Island.

The Hon. the Minister for Public Works.

## APPENDIX D.

### ANNUAL REPORT ON MIDDLE ISLAND WORKS BY THE ENGINEER IN CHARGE.

The ENGINEER in CHARGE, Middle Island, to the Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS.

SIR,—

Public Works Office, Dunedin, 1st July, 1878.

I have the honor to submit the following report on the various works completed and in progress in the Middle Island during the past financial year.

In order to facilitate reference I purpose adhering generally to the arrangement of the subject and method of giving information adopted in former reports.

#### RAILWAYS.

The following table shows the lengths of railways authorized and open, together with the expenditure and liabilities, to and on the 30th June, 1878, inclusive of the lines taken over from the Provincial Governments of Canterbury and Otago:—

Name of Railway.	Total Length authorized.	Open for Traffic.	Expenditure to 30th June, 1878.	Liabilities on 30th June, 1878.
<b>MIDDLE ISLAND.</b>				
Nelson-Foxhill ... ..	M. ch. 20 11	M. ch. 19 10	£ s. d. 117,967 3 7	£ s. d. 9,350 12 11
Picton-Blenheim ... ..	18 32	17 10	159,337 0 9	3,485 13 5
Brunner-Greymouth ... ..	7 50	7 50	163,247 18 8	17,096 3 8
Westport-Ngakawau ... ..	19 63	18 70	186,435 8 2	15,691 4 11
Amberley-Waitaki, with Branches,—				
General Government Lines ... ..	255 28	255 28	1,378,831 16 7	158,046 12 7
Provincial " " ... ..	54 37	54 37	731,759 0 0	...
Waitaki-Bluff, with Branches,—				
General Government Lines ... ..	254 71	225 36	2,091,045 15 5	160,097 11 1
Provincial " " ... ..	106 12	75 41	312,225 0 0	...
Provincial Government Lines finished and opened by				
General Government ... ..	...	8 79	...	...
Winton-Kingston ... ..	68 35	59 27	228,780 10 6	8,123 15 9
Western Railways—General Government Lines ... ..	37 20		13,263 12 10	23,684 7 9
" Provincial " " ... ..			60,297 0 0	...
	842 39	741 68	5,443,190 6 6	395,576 2 1

The rate at which the several railways in the Middle Island have been completed during each financial year is as follows, details being given in Table A hereto appended:—

	Miles of Railway Opened during Financial Year.							Total.
	Up to 30th June, 1872.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.	
Middle Island ... ..	58 51	22 42	11 11	127 43	243 64	184 04	94 13	741 68