

as have been entered on will be detailed in the Survey Report up to the 30th June. But in anticipation of that a short sketch will be given here of the works in the several districts.

AUCKLAND.—North of Auckland.—There are about one million acres of Crown lands in this district. The main work under the Crown lands votes has been the formation and exploration of road from Okaihu to Victoria Valley. It is now under contract to the Waihou, at the head of Hokianga Harbour. This is an important line running across the peninsula diagonally from Kawakawa to Awanui.

The line from Kaihu over Maunganui Bluff is nearly completed. This line runs through a large area of Crown lands, surveyed and mapped, and which would in ordinary course have been offered during the year for settlement, but they are now withheld as a bonus for the construction of the Kaihu Railway, under the Railways and Land Acts of 1881 and 1882.

There is a block of 40,000 acres of Crown lands lying between the main Whangarei to Kawakawa Road and the coast line at Helena and Sandy Bays. A road has been run across the block from the main road, with branches to these bays.

Helensville to Kaipatiki.—The river was bridged about half a mile from railway-station, Helensville, and the road is now being ditched and formed through the flats, so as to give the deferred-payment settlers a chance of going out and in to their sections.

Tauranga to Te Puke and Matata.—This is part of the future main coach-line from the Bay of Plenty to Opotiki and Gisborne. It has been formed for coach-traffic to intersection with Maketu to Rotorua Road, and the formation continues on through the Pukeroa Block of Crown lands, 16,000 acres, which has been surveyed and mapped for more than a year, but is now withheld, along with all the Crown lands in the same district, for the Tauranga-Rotorua Railway.

Opotiki to Waiotahi, and Opotiki to Ormond.—This is the other and east part of the road, Bay of Plenty to Gisborne. The formation of road from Opotiki to Waiotahi is now in progress: it had been long delayed pending arrangements for taking it through private property. From Opotiki to Ormond the line has from the Ormond end been felled a chain wide, and the old track repaired to a stream about six miles beyond the Motu Bridge. Two clearings of about five acres each have been made about ten miles apart, and both they and the road have been sown in grass, to serve as feeding and camping grounds for cattle being driven through. The old sloppy track through Whitikau flats has still to be taken, as there are yet eight or nine miles of Crapp's new line unformed. The ten miles of the new line formed are of no use for through traffic until the other eight or nine are formed also. Instructions have been given to push the road through. When this is done the surveyed block at Motu Bridge should be opened for selection, and encouragement given to the establishment of an accommodation-house for travellers.

Ormond to Waiapu.—Is being formed from both ends as a bridle-track, and cross lines of road have been surveyed in from Tolago Bay and one or two other points to intersection with main line. In this way the large tract of country behind the East Cape and Gisborne is being steadily opened up, despite Native obstruction.

Gisborne to Waimata.—Completed to Waimata River, and settlement of block well begun.

Gisborne to Wairoa.—Formed for dray-traffic from the Gisborne end to the Waihou Lakes. The rest of the line under formation, excepting the part in the middle, about five or six miles, between the lakes and Te Reinga, which is soon to be surveyed for construction. When this line is opened throughout it will allow of coach-traffic between Gisborne and Wairoa, and will render accessible several large blocks of Crown lands which at present are completely shut out from access.

Ruakituri Block.—This valuable block of 40,000 acres has been opened up by a road from Te Reinga up the Ruakituri Valley, and by one from the main road, near Fletcher's, running along the main ridge through the block. There are also one or two cross-roads connecting these lines now in course of formation. The block has been surveyed and will be ready for disposal in the spring.

Taupo via Rotoaira, &c.—This road is being formed between Taupo and Tokano around the east side of the lake: it is part of the future main road of the North Island, between Rotorua, Taupo, and the West Coast.

Huihuitaha to Patetere.—Road completed for some time. Block of 11,000 acres surveyed and mapped, but withheld for bonus for proposed Thames-Rotorua Railway.

TARANAKI.—The roading in this district has been confined to the bush-blocks behind the Waimate Plains, and to the blocks of the Continuous Reserve, the property of the Natives. The felling and clearing are now proceeding over 20,000 acres of surveyed bush-lands, which will be offered for disposal as soon as the roads are cleared.

HAWKE'S BAY.—The principal road-line under attention in this district is Tahoraite to Tautane. The exploration of the road through a hilly bush-country was completed a few months ago. It opens up an entirely new district, and runs across from Tahoraite to the coast, a distance of about forty miles. At the Tautane end, where there is a block of 59,000 acres of Crown lands, ten miles of the road are now being felled, cleared, and formed into the middle of the above area.

The *Puketitiri Bush* has been rendered accessible by road.

The *Ahuturanga and Maharahara Blocks* near Woodville have been opened out by road-formations. These blocks have been disposed of principally on the deferred-payment system.

Mohaka and Waitara Road-line is now under engineering survey.

WELLINGTON.—Otamakapua Block.—Now explored, but it is not proposed to do more at present than extend Kimbolton Road through Waitapu Block (about six miles) to the border of Otamakapua.

Momahaki Block.—Roads formed, and a number of settlers on the ground.

Tokomaru Block.—Main road-lines through the block formed, and most of the land opened on deferred payment, selected.

Wanganui to Murimotu.—Road opened out on Field's line, from Mason's to Murimotu, for horse-traffic. Is now being widened and improved.

Marton to Murimotu.—Road widened from Hunterville to Crown lands, Otairi Block, about six miles. It is intended to continue improvements on towards Murimotu.