

build and forming a connection between the two halves of the settlement, it also serves as a pier from which boats can leave at any time of tide. The nature of its design also admits of its being easily widened into a cart-bridge. Settlers have had work on the Herd's Point-Takahue Road.

*Punakitere*.—Nothing except repairs to two culverts, a few other small repairs, and construction of a chain of fascining has been done on this road during the season. The village-settlers have been provided with work on the Kaihu-Punakitere Road, so that their necessities, in one way, have been provided for; but Mr. Menzies, the local Inspector, reports that some of the branch roads in this settlement badly need repairs, some of the homesteads not being accessible without danger since wet weather has come on.

*Waimamaku*.—Open up 4,000 acres. Works constructed during the season are: 6½ chains widened from 6ft. to 10ft., 1½ chains of road corduroyed, and one wire foot-bridge converted into a horse-bridge. Mr. G. G. Menzies, under Mr. E. Fairburn's occasional supervision, is in charge of this and the two next-preceding mentioned roads.

*Hukerenui*.—Open up 3,000 acres. Work done during the season consists of 48ft. of bridging.

*Whananaki*.—The work done since last season has been 10 chains of 4ft.-wide road widened to 10ft., and about 500 cubic yards of landslips cleared away.

*Parua*.—Open up 1,500 acres. Work done consists of 3 chains of breast-cutting 12ft. wide by 3ft. deep, and 3 chains of metalling 12ft. wide. The village-settlers, as to road work, have been chiefly employed on the Whangarei through Taheke Road, which is a continuation northerly and westerly of Parua Main Road. Mr. A. M. Sheppard, under Mr. E. Fairburn's occasional supervision, is in charge of this and the two next-preceding-mentioned roads.

*Omaha*.—During the season the work done has been 18 chains of 8ft.-wide road widened to 14ft., 15 chains 5ft. wide widened to 7ft., 38ft. of bridging, and construction of one 50ft.-span foot-bridge. Mr. A. H. Vickerman has had charge.

*Swanson*.—Work done during the season consists of 3 chains formation 16ft. wide, 18 chains 8ft. wide, and 8ft. of bridging. Mr. E. Fairburn has charge.

*Firewood Creek*.—The works on these roads have been confined to the main one, and have already been given under the head of Waingaro-Akatea.

*Oropi Special Settlement*.—The landslips have been removed on that portion which passes across the deep gully, and also a distance of 1,056 links of new road has been made.

#### ROADS MAINTAINED BY GOVERNMENT in the Counties of PIAKO, TAURANGA, ROTORUA, EAST TAUPO, WEST TAUPO, and HAWKE'S BAY.

*Oxford to Rotorua* (30 miles).—This is the most important road in the district, as so many tourists travel on it, and nearly all the goods used in Rotorua are brought over it, thereby making the road a feeder to the railway. No new works have been done during the season. Five surface-men have been employed, and all their time has been taken up in keeping the roadway in good order, last year being the first of the heavy traffic. It is very much cut up now, as the greater part of the Sanatorium contract materials are being brought over it; consequently it has been found necessary to put all hands into the bush to fascine the worst places. Notice also has been given to the carters using the road, warning them not to overload their wagons when furnished with narrow tires, &c.

*Kaiwaka via Taupo to Maungaiti*.—During the season this road, comprising a distance of 128 miles, has been maintained, eleven surface-men and three horses having been employed on the work, which also includes repairs to Mohaka fencing, twelve culverts at Pohui, and reshingling overseer's house at Taupo, besides repairing and painting Taupo Bridge. The road at Turangakuma Hill has also been widened in the most dangerous places.

*Tauranga, Rotorua, Atiamuri* (56 miles).—During the season the works done have consisted in maintenance, on which four surface-men have been employed two-thirds of the time. The roadway has been kept in fair order, although for four months only one man could be kept on owing to funds running low. Also, two bridges with stone abutments, of 37ft. and 42ft. spans, have been constructed, and 20 chains of road metalled. One 20ft. defective bridge has been removed, and replaced by two sets of 24in. pipes and 300 cubic yards of embankment. Also, two others bridges have had defective sleepers removed, and have received new decking.

*Maketu and Te Puke to Rotorua* (38 miles).—Instructions were given last spring to have this road repaired, as nothing had been done upon it since the eruption. The £260 allowed has opened the road fairly well, and it is now in good order, requiring only occasional maintenance.

*Tikitere Road* (2½ miles).—This is a new road formed for tourist-traffic. The work has been done by contract, Native labour being employed.

*Rotorua to Waiotapu* (22 miles).—Only a short distance—about 2 miles—has been formed to continue the road towards Taupo; but the road has been properly maintained, and tracks cut through the valley between different points of view, and the whole has been well patronised by tourists. Some 2,200ft. of totara is ready to build into culverts. Two surface-men have been employed at times.

*Rotomahana* (7 miles).—This is a road designed to enable tourists who cannot endure the fatigue of a journey *via* Te Wairoa to drive out to the "ashfield" and see the Rotomahana country; but, it having been found impracticable to maintain the portion thereof passing through the volcanic mud, except at considerable expense, it has therefore only been made passable for buggies to within 5 miles of Rotomahana.

*Taupo to Wairakei* (5½ miles).—The work done during the season has been general maintenance and the following works: One 48ft.-long 36in. by 30in. culvert renewed; and replacing two stringers in Waipuwera bridge, of 27ft. span, with new ones; also redecking that bridge. Also, a survey of a short deviation to miss the Geyser Valley. Four surface-men have been employed during three-fourths and one man during one-fourth of the time.

*Taupo via Tokaanu to Waimarino*.—During the winter of 1889 the road around the cliffs on the shore of Lake Taupo was blocked for wheeled and dangerous for horse traffic. During the season