

BUILDINGS.

The total number of buildings of all descriptions used in connection with works is thirty-three, and are in occupation by workman, &c., or are being used as stores. Additions were made to Engineer's and Foreman's quarters during the year.

FLOATING PLANT.

This consists of two Priestman dredgers, one steamer, five oil-launches, three pontoons, and sundry small punts. All are in good order and in constant use.

ARTESIAN BORING PLANT.

The total number of artesian bores sunk to date is thirty-one, of which number twenty-seven have been sunk for settlers. Arrangements have been made for time repayment of actual cost of bores sunk for settlers. Flows have been obtained ranging from 3,000 gallons per day to 115,000 gallons per day. The water still continues to be mineralized, but the settlers are more than satisfied with it as a supply for stock. It will probably be necessary to purchase another plant shortly, as the demands are too great upon one plant. Schedules of each bore (twenty-two) sunk during year are attached hereto, and are of interest geologically.

LIGHT RAILWAY.

In order to economically deal with the formation of roads in peat country where sufficient spoil could not be won from the drains, authority was obtained for the purchase of necessary plant to enable a light railway-line of 2 ft. gauge being laid down. One 12 B.H.P. Universal oil-locomotive and ten steel side-tipping wagons are now under order, and should shortly arrive in the Dominion. A supply of 50 tons of light rails is to hand, and a further quantity of 20 tons is on order. Many miles of access-roads leading to the Piako River will be formed by this plant, as spoil must be brought from the foot-hills for purpose of making roads in deep peat country.

It is intended to also utilize spoil from Waitakaruru-Maukoro Canal for road purposes. When the metalling of roads is taken in hand the plant will be invaluable.

WORKS PERFORMED.

The following works have during the last year been executed by co-operative, piecework, and special contracts: Excavation Puhanga Canal, 32,002 cubic yards; combined new drain and road formation, 21 miles 43 chains; forming township roads (Pipiroa), 37 chains; road-formation (Waitoa), 7 chains; spreading spoil, 18 chains; combined road, drain, and bank, 36 chains; new road-drains, 7 miles 55 chains; deepening and widening road-drains, 17 miles 28 chains; clearing bush and scrub on road-lines, 5 miles 61 chains; cleaning road-drains, 16 miles 11 chains; new subdivisional and outlet drains, 8 miles 41 chains; deepening and widening subdivisional and outlet drains, 32 miles 14 chains; Waitoa main outfalls, 1 mile 46 chains; cleaning subdivisional drains, 44 chains; moving timber from drains, 2 miles 37 chains; combined drain and stop-bank, 40 chains; deepening stop-bank drain, 2 miles 46 chains; cleaning stop-bank drain, 69 chains; clearing Waitakaruru Stream, 2 miles 75 chains; sluicing peat, Waitakaruru Canal, 10 chains; clearing bush on section lines, 3 miles 41 chains; snagging Piako River, 5 miles 34 chains; fencing, 34 chains; cutting and supplying 600 bundles fascines.

The following works were performed by day-labour: Snagging Waitoa River, 6 miles 30 chains; road-formation, 6 miles 10 chains; new road-drains, 2 miles 7 chains; deepening road-drains, 8 miles 27 chains; cleaning road-drains, 7 miles 55 chains; clearing scrub on road-lines, 40 chains; deepening and widening Whakahoro Drain, 3 miles 5 chains; deepening and widening subdivisional drains, 4 miles 7 chains; strengthening stop-banks, 15 miles 74 chains; fencing, 78 chains; flood-gates erected, 17; one motor-launch built; wharves erected, 5; bridges and culverts built, 54; supply of poles for protection-works, 1,830 poles; supply of fascines for protection-works, 3,520 bundles; artesian bores sunk for settlers, 22; sheds erected, 7; spoil excavated by dredgers, 131,902 cubic yards.

Many other works too numerous to mention have been performed by day-labour. A daily average of about a hundred men have been employed upon day-work, and a daily average of about 145 men upon co-operative and piecework, &c. Experience on this class of work has shown that day-labour is entirely satisfactory. A great deal of work has been given to settlers, both as regards day-labour and general contracts.

CATTLE.

A total of sixty-nine head of mixed young cattle are now on the ground. During the year some hundred and fifty head of cattle were purchased at a cost of £350 11s., and subsequently eighty-one head were sold at suitable times, realizing a net sum of £262 1s. 6d., so that the sixty-nine head mentioned above stand at a cost of £88 9s. 6d., but should eventually realize about £200, thus showing a good profit upon the transaction, as grazing costs nothing.

GRASS-SEED FOR SETTLERS.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Lands Committee, assistance is being granted settlers in procuring grass-seed to replace that lost through ravages of crickets last season. Orders for grass-seed are now issuing, and repayment will be made by promissory notes.