

Wairoa. In 1938 floods and washouts closed the line to traffic; in places the line was completely destroyed, repair work took seven months. On July 1, 1939, the line between Napier and Waikokopu was officially opened to regular passenger and goods services. Work continued steadily on the section of line from Gisborne to Waikokopu; the through line was opened on February 1, 1943.

The morning we talked to the station-master at Gisborne he was arranging the carriage to Wellington of 4 tons of cabbages and other vegetables. In a

Railway construction would be both difficult and costly. But Gisborne businessmen, farmers, and growers agree that the difficulties must be overcome, the project finished; the line north, making Auckland markets and the Westfield freezing-works more readily available, will be no less valuable to the district than the line south. The present rail route to Westfield, Auckland, through Palmerston North and Frankton Junction, covers 575 miles, wagon charges for sheep are £14, for cattle £12 4s. 6d. The proposed route, through Opotiki and Taneatua, would be 372 miles, wagon



Awaiting cargo.

year, he said, about 66,000 sheep, cattle, and pigs are railed from the district; after one large stock sale, held after a drought when feed was short, 470 of the 694 stock wagons in the North Island were used in one week to avoid losses. Inward revenue amounts to about £50,000 a year.

The East Coast railway has opened new markets in the south. North from Gisborne, however, the line goes only as far as Motuhora, with a gap of about 40 miles of rugged country to Taneatua, which is connected by rail to Auckland.

charges for sheep would be £9 17s., for cattle £8 12s. The time of the journey would be reduced from 49 hours to 26 hours.

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"Ten years ago in this ground were apple and fruit trees that reached into the sky; the 16 ft. ladders just took you to the bottom branches and then, man, you started to climb. Ten years ago I had a crop of apricots that should have packed twenty-six cases, brown-rot left me two—my wife and I had one each. Ten years ago the price of apples went to