

1890.
NEW ZEALAND.

ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKING RAILWAYS
BY THE NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

Presented to Parliament in pursuance of "The Government Railways Act, 1887."

To the Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS.

SIR,— Government Buildings, Wellington, 20th June, 1890.
We have the honour, in compliance with the direction in section 61 of "The Government Railways Act, 1887," to submit the annual report on the working railways of New Zealand for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1890, for presentation to Parliament.

REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND TRAFFIC.

The returns of traffic, revenue, and expenditure of the various sections of railways are presented in the same tabular form as in the annual reports of previous years, and afford means of comparison with the results formerly attained.

The outcome of the year's work is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Gross earnings	1,095,569	13	10
Working expenses	682,787	4	6
Net profit	£412,782	9	4

The net profit of £412,782 on a capital cost of £13,899,995 on 1,809 miles of railway gives a return of £2 19s. 5d. per cent., as against £2 12s. per cent. on £13,472,837 and 1,777 miles in the previous year.

There is a satisfactory increase in all kinds of traffic. It is an excellent criterion of the increased productiveness of the colony that the greatest increases are in the carriage of live stock, grain, wool, and merchandise.

The increase in passenger-traffic has been general throughout the colony. On the Hurunui-Bluff Section this was chiefly due to the Dunedin Exhibition, for which through return fares were arranged with the Union Steam Shipping Company for excursionists from Australia and the North Island, and low local excursion-fares were extensively adopted. It is gratifying to us to have received from the Exhibition Commissioners special thanks on account of the facilities given for visiting the Exhibition by rail.

The extensions of railway to Mokau, Kanohi, Springburn, and Hindon, opened during the year, while adding to the expenses, have brought no net revenue; the extension to Eketahuna is the only one which has given satisfactory traffic results.

The traffic for the last eleven years has been as follows:—

Year.	Miles.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Tonnage.	Parcels, &c.	Cattle, Sheep, &c.	Passengers.	Season-tickets.
		£	£		No.	No.	No.	No.
79-80	1,172	762,573	580,030	1,108,108	180,331	285,209	2,967,090	5,077
80-81	1,277	836,454	521,957	1,377,783	286,865	300,704	2,849,561	6,499
81-82	1,319	892,026	523,099	1,437,714	316,611	343,751	2,911,477	7,207
82-83	1,358	953,347	592,821	1,564,793	341,186	477,075	3,283,378	8,621
83-84	1,396	961,304	655,990	1,700,040	359,896	686,287	3,272,644	9,036
84-85	1,477	1,045,712	690,026	1,749,856	347,425	729,528	3,232,886	8,999
85-86	1,613	1,047,419	690,340	1,823,767	349,428	858,662	3,362,266	10,717
86-87	1,727	998,768	699,072	1,747,754	372,397	942,017	3,426,403	11,821
87-88	1,758	994,843	687,328	1,735,762	399,109	940,209	3,451,850	11,518
88-89	1,777	997,615	647,045	1,920,431	399,056	919,392	3,132,803	11,817
89-90	1,809	1,095,569	682,787	2,073,955	406,546	1,069,253	3,376,459	12,311