

RAILWAY OPERATION.

The results of railway operation (excluding subsidiary services and miscellaneous non-operating revenue) on the various sections for the year ended 31st March, 1942, were as under :—

Section.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
North Island Main Line and Branches ..	6,603,533	5,511,535	1,091,998
South Island Main Line and Branches ..	3,586,282	3,204,456	381,826
Gisborne	25,998	35,380	—9,382
Westport	114,629	81,984	32,645
Nelson	11,211	20,204	—8,993
Pictou	42,227	49,033	—6,806
Total	10,383,880	8,902,592	1,481,288

OPERATING REVENUE.

The following table shows the *operating revenue* under the main headings, together with appropriate comparisons with the previous year's figures. Information regarding receipts from *subsidiary services* and miscellaneous non-operating revenue appears later in this report.

Operating Revenue.	Amount.		Variation 1942 with 1941.	Per Cent. of Operating Revenue.	
	1942.	1941.		1942.	1941.
	£	£	£	Per Cent.	
Passengers, ordinary	2,335,907	2,054,152	+281,755	13·72	22·49
Season tickets	322,871	291,566	+ 31,305	10·74	3·11
Parcels, luggage, and mails ..	325,897	317,819	+ 8,078	2·55	3·14
Goods	7,174,060	6,818,603	+355,457	5·21	69·09
Labour, demurrage, &c. ..	225,145	212,050	+ 13,095	6·18	2·17
Total operating	10,383,880	9,694,190	+689,690	7·11	100·00

With the exception of luggage, which shows a small decline, the revenue under all heads has again shown improvement, the variations with the previous year for main classes of traffic being—Passenger, 13·72 per cent. increase; parcels, 6·98 per cent. increase; goods, 5·21 per cent. increase; and miscellaneous, 6·18 per cent. increase.

Passenger journeys (ordinary) in 1941–42 exceeded the previous year's figures by 1,665,540 (17·64 per cent.) and reached the high total of 11,105,627. This substantial increase was brought about very largely as the result of diversion of road traffic to rail in consequence of petrol restrictions and to the movement of the armed forces.

Receipts from the conveyance of goods and live-stock, and the tonnage of goods carried, were the highest ever recorded in the history of the system, the figures for 1941–42 compared with the previous year being :—

	1942.	1941.	Increase.	Per Cent.
Revenue	£7,174,060	£6,818,603	£355,457	5·21
Tonnage	8,473,765	8,426,182	47,583	0·56

The increase in freight revenue is reflected in the majority of goods commodities, the principal increases being in respect of live-stock, £44,762; coal, £49,997; frozen meat, £48,556; and general merchandise, £230,950. General merchandise traffic benefited by the placing on rail of large quantities of military stores and equipment.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows the *operating expenditure* under the main headings, together with appropriate comparisons with the previous year's figures :—

Operating Expenditure.	Amount.		Variation 1942 with 1941.	Percentage of Operating Revenue.	
	1942.	1941.		1942.	1941.
	£	£	£	Per Cent.	
Maintenance—					
Way and works	1,615,382	1,544,202	+ 71,180	4·61	15·56
Signals	238,169	213,623	+ 24,546	11·49	2·29
Rolling-stock	2,211,476	2,043,976	+167,500	8·19	21·30
Examination, lubrication, and lighting of vehicles	100,473	90,083	+ 10,390	11·53	0·97
Transportation—					
Locomotive	2,013,445	1,953,913	+ 59,532	3·05	19·38
Traffic	2,479,852	2,322,492	+157,360	6·78	23·88
General charges	243,795	238,501	+ 5,294	2·22	2·35
Totals	8,902,592	8,406,790	+495,802	5·90	85·73