

The revenue under all heads has shown substantial improvement, the increases being particularly heavy in the case of passenger revenue (43·49 per cent.) and parcels, luggage, and mails revenue (21·86 per cent.).

Passenger journeys (ordinary) in 1942-43 exceeded the previous year's figure by 6,065,587 (54·62 per cent.), reaching a new record of 17,171,214. During the major portion of the year under review it was found necessary to curtail civilian travel. A permit system was introduced restricting travel for distances of over one hundred miles to those on essential business or with special reasons. These restrictions were applied in both Islands over the Easter period in April, 1942, and in the North Island from 27th July, 1942, to 12th January, 1943, with considerable intensification during the period of the acute coal shortage between 16th September and 3rd October, 1942. Despite these limitations, the number of ordinary passenger journeys exceeded those in the previous record year, 1920-21, by 1,855,574.

The substantial increase was due largely to the diversion of road traffic to rail in consequence of the petrol restrictions and tire shortage, and to the movement of the armed forces.

Receipts from the conveyance of goods and live-stock and the tonnage carried showed substantial increases on last year's record figures. The comparative revenue figures are set out in the table above, while the tonnage for 1942-43 was 8,887,089 tons, compared with 8,473,765 tons for 1941-42, an increase of 413,324 tons (4·88 per cent.).

The principal increases in freight revenue were in respect of grain, £42,290; fresh meat, £56,966; butter, £40,259; wool, £42,436; timber, £132,025; cement, £54,994; and general merchandise, £555,695.

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 1943 with 1942.		Percentage of Operating Revenue.	
	1943.	1942.				
	£	£	£	Per Cent.	1943.	1942.
Maintenance—						
Way and works ..	1,829,311	1,615,382	+ 213,929	13·24	14·73	15·56
Signals ..	271,499	238,169	+ 33,330	13·99	2·19	2·29
Rolling-stock ..	2,380,260	2,211,476	+ 168,784	7·63	19·17	21·30
Examination, lubrication, and lighting of vehicles	119,213	100,473	+ 18,740	18·65	0·96	0·97
Transportation—						
Locomotive ..	2,311,134	2,013,445	+ 297,689	14·79	18·62	19·38
Traffic ..	2,862,653	2,479,852	+ 382,801	15·44	23·06	23·88
General charges ..	245,589	243,795	+ 1,794	1·32	1·98	2·35
Totals ..	10,019,659	8,902,592	+1,117,067	12·55	80·71	85·73

SUBSIDIARY SERVICES

The following table shows the variations in revenue and expenditure for the year as compared with 1941-42 :—

Subsidiary Services.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	Amount, 1943.	Variation, 1943 with 1942.		Amount, 1943.	Variation, 1943 with 1942.	
	£	£	Per Cent.	£	£	Per Cent.
Lake Wakatipu steamers ..	8,892	+ 1,739	24·31	13,384	+ 2,033	17·91
Refreshment service ..	363,509	+112,466	44·80	318,462	+ 90,185	39·51
Bookstall service ..	184,866	+ 44,002	31·24	178,427	+ 46,267	35·01
Advertising service ..	27,637	— 105	0·38	25,679	+ 765	3·07
Dwellings ..	153,610	+ 6,221	4·22	212,822	— 7,582	3·44
Other buildings ..	43,271	+ 4,738	12·30	27,055	— 858	3·07
Road motor services ..	554,979	+ 3,826	0·69	506,925	— 1,498	0·29
Miscellaneous revenue (non-operating)	377,149	— 13,432	3·44	..	..	..
	1,713,913	+159,455	10·26	1,282,754	+129,312	11·21

Both the increases and decreases in subsidiary services revenue and expenditure, as indicated in the foregoing summary, are attributable in the main to factors arising from the war and to which reference has already been made.