

1900.
NEW ZEALAND.

RAILWAYS STATEMENT.

(17th August, 1900).

BY THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS, THE HON. J. G. WARD.

Mr. SPEAKER,—

In presenting this, my first annual Railways Statement, I have great pleasure in announcing that, notwithstanding the fact that for several years past we have become accustomed to phenomenal increases in our railway business, the year 1899–1900 has proved to be the record year for the New Zealand railways; the business carried on and the revenue received not only having exceeded that of any previous year, but the increased receipts of the past year over the immediately preceding year have exceeded all former increases.

It is my earnest desire to so administer this great undertaking that the people of New Zealand will derive the greatest amount of assistance therefrom in developing the resources of the country, and that the convenience, education, and relaxation of our fellow-colonists may be provided for in the best possible manner.

In dealing with the transactions of the year, I shall, in accordance with previous usage, subdivide my remarks as follows: First, general summary of results during the year, under the heading of “General”; second, “Earnings”; third, “Working-expenses”; fourth, “Expenditure for Additions to Open Lines and Rolling-stock charged to Capital Account”; fifth, “Midland Railway (Results of Working)”; sixth, “Concluding Remarks, and Forecast.”

1. GENERAL.

The number of miles now open for traffic is 2,104, as against 2,090 last year.

The revenue for 1899–1900 has been	...	...	...	£1,623,891
„ 1898–1899	...	...	...	1,469,665
An increase of	...	...	...	<u>£154,226</u>
Increase 1898–1899 over 1897–1898	...	...	...	£93,657
1897–1898 „ 1896–1897	...	...	...	89,850
1896–1897 „ 1895–1896	...	...	...	103,117
1895–1896 „ 1894–1895	...	...	...	32,190
A total increase for the past five years of	...	...	...	<u>£473,040</u>
The working-expenses for 1899–1900 have been	...	...	...	£1,052,358
„ 1898–1899	...	...	...	929,738
An increase of	...	...	...	<u>£122,620</u>
The excess of revenue over working-expenses for 1899–1900 has been	...	...	...	£571,533
„ „ 1898–1899	...	...	...	539,928
Giving an increased net return of	...	...	...	<u>£31,605</u>