annum, equal to £1 15s. 6d. per share. I now quote £1 12s. 6d. per share, a reduction of 3s. per share on 170,000 shares, equal to £25,500. The assets now show an increase of £17,096, a total of £42,596.

I think I am justified in claiming that this offer to sell the property of the company is on very much better terms to the Government. Should you require further information or explanation to establish the financial position of the company, I will be very pleased to attend you.

I have, &c.,
THOS. G. MACARTHY,
Chairman of Directors.

The Right Hon. the Premier, Wellington.

WELLINGTON AND MANAWATU RAILWAY COMPANY (LIMITED).

Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
30th May, 1901.			Debentures ..	680,000 0 0
Railway rolling-stock, land, and buildings..	951,879 15 6		Sundry creditors	4,027 9 3
Less written off ..	191,255 4 10		Debenture interest accrued	16,346 3 1
		760,624 10 8		
Freehold lands		51,931 6 9		
Balances due by land-purchasers		51,524 9 3		
Deposits and interest accrued..		40,814 15 1		
Sundry debtors		3,481 19 11		
Railway stores		4,177 14 5		
Cash balances—				
Bank of New Zealand	10,264 15 11			
In hand—Head office	424 8 6			
" Stations..	45 0 0			
" Imprest..	22 3 3			
" Petty cash	10 19 9			
London agents and in transit ..	34,660 14 6			£700,373 12 4
		45,428 1 11	Balance of assets	257,609 5 8
		£957,982 18 0		£957,982 18 0

£257,609 5s. 8d., divided by 170,000 shares, equals £1 10s. 3d. per share.

13th August, 1901.

Half-yearly Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	*Liabilities.*	£ s. d.
Railway rolling-stock &c.	952,452 12 5		Debentures ..	680,000 0 0
Less written off ..	191,255 4 10		Sundry creditors	4,429 1 10
		761,237 7 8	Debenture interest	7,265 16 0
Freehold lands		51,221 16 0	Appropriation for dividend at 3 per cent. to shareholders for half-year	5,150 0 0
Balances due by land-purchasers		51,819 14 8		
Deposits and accrued interest ..		40,527 13 2		
Railway stores		10,181 8 2		
Sundry debtors		2,107 19 8		
Cash Balances—				
Bank of New Zealand	3,479 11 5			
In hand—Head office	348 15 1			
In hand—Stations ..	45 0 0			
" Imprest ..	36 10 4			
" Petty cash	6 16 4			
London agents and in transit ..	33,353 1 9			£696,844 17 10
		37,269 14 11	Balance of assets	257,520 16 5
		£954,365 14 3		£954,365 14 3

£257,502 divided by 170,000 shares equals £1 10s. 3½d. per share.

THOS. G. MACARTHY,
Chairman of Directors.

30th August, 1901.

Right Hon. the PREMIER to Mr. T. G. MACARTHY.

Premier's Office, Wellington, 28th October, 1901.

DEAR SIR,—

At the time you delivered to me your memorandum of the 2nd September, 1901, in which it was stated that the directors of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company (Limited), subject to confirmation by the shareholders, were prepared to sell to the Government the whole of the assets of the company, I informed you that the Government could not think of purchasing at the price named in such memorandum. The offer of the company contained therein was to remain open to the Government for acceptance till the 15th October. That time has now expired. I stated publicly, at the opening of the Waikanae Bridge, that the Government had been prepared, subject to confirmation by Parliament, to offer for the assets, as set forth in the table attached to your memorandum, an amount equal to £1 10s. per share for 170,000 shares, and aggregating an amount almost equal to the total value of the assets over liabilities, as shown in the statement of the assets and liabilities submitted by the company. Seeing that there was