

COMPARISON OF TONNAGE AND WAGONS, 1890-1906.

Year.	Goods Tonnage.	Goods Wagons.	Wagon-capacity.	Average Tonnage carried per Wagon.	
				Per Annum.	Per Day.
	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Tons cwt. qr.	Tons cwt. qr.
1890	2,073,955	7,198	44,576	288 2 2	0 18 2
1906	4,241,422	12,292	94,047	345 1 0½	1 2 0
Increase	105 per cent.	71 per cent.	111 per cent.	...	...

This statement shows that the average load per truck is exceedingly small, due to the length of time the bulk of the trucks are allowed by consignees to remain under load; it also shows that the rolling-stock has increased at a greater rate than the traffic, the figures being—traffic increase, 105 per cent.; rolling-stock capacity increase, 111 per cent.: difference in favour of rolling-stock, 6 per cent.

The report and balance-sheet of the Government Railways Superannuation Fund for the year just ended shows that the fund is making satisfactory progress. On the 31st March, 1903, the accumulated fund amounted to £7,056 11s. 9d. In 1904 it was £40,357 17s. 3d. In 1905, £68,670 7s. 8d., and at the 31st March, 1906, it stood at £90,984 11s. 10d. The allowances paid during the year amounted to £21,521 10s. 1d., representing grants to 525 persons. £422 4s. 3d. was paid to legal representatives of deceased members, and £1,830 18s. 6d. refunded to contributors who left the service voluntarily or otherwise. The annual liability of the fund at the 31st March last was £25,462 1s. 10d.

The following statement shows in a concise form the progress of the railways during the period 1900 to 1906:—

COMPARISON OF THE RAILWAY TRAFFIC AND ROLLING-STOCK ACCOMMODATION IN 1900-1906.

		31st March, 1900.	31st March, 1906.	Increase.	Per Cent. of Increase.
Passengers (number)	..	5,468,284	8,826,382	3,358,098	61
Season tickets	..	63,335	147,989	84,654	134
Parcels	..	624,115	892,037	267,922	43
Horses	..	11,474	17,008	5,534	48
Carriages	..	1,159	2,376	1,217	105
Dogs	..	27,066	40,097	13,031	47
Drays	..	1,345	2,350	1,005	74
Cattle	..	65,063	119,311	54,248	83
Sheep	..	2,523,787	3,348,685	824,898	32
Pigs	..	36,049	92,702	56,653	157
Chaff, lime (tons)	..	77,292	144,884	67,592	87
Wool	..	104,621	116,086	11,465	11
Firewood	..	92,126	106,510	14,384	15
Timber	..	334,677	534,533	199,856	59
Grain	..	764,033	772,258	8,225	1·07
Merchandise	..	536,428	628,603	92,175	17
Minerals	..	1,218,698	1,938,548	719,850	59
Total tonnage	..	3,127,874	4,241,422	1,113,548	35
Total revenue	..	1,623,891	2,349,704	725,813	44
Locomotives (number)	..	304	395	91	30
„ tractive power (lb.)	..	2,407,279	3,920,993	1,513,714	63
Passenger-cars (number)	..	577	906	329	57
Passenger-cars, seating accommodation	..	22,090	37,083	14,993	68
Brake-vans	..	220	315	95	43
Sheep-trucks	..	609	846	237	39
Total trucks, all classes	..	10,075	13,812	3,737	37
Truck carrying-capacity (tons)	..	63,778	101,005	37,227	58
Train mileage run	..	4,187,893	6,413,573	2,225,680	53