STORES.

Mr. H. Baxter, Stores Manager, reports as follows:-

The value of stores (purchased under the Railway vote) on hand on the 31st March, 1908, at the various depots amounted to £233,134 18s. 7d., as against £195,056 10s. 5d. on 31st March, 1907, an increase of £38,078 8s. 2d.

The value of the stores on hand on account of additions to open lines amounted to £39,117 14s. 2d. on 31st March, 1908, as against £8,435 12s. 4d. on 31st March, 1907, an increase of

£30,682 1s. 10d.

The total value of stores on hand has therefore increased during the past year by £68,760 10s. The stock is in good order, has been carefully and systematically inspected, and is value for the amount stated.

The conduct of the staff as a whole has been very satisfactory.

I have, &c., T. Ronayne, General Manager.

The Hon. the Minister for Railways.