

The expenditure on the electric block working, telegraph and telephone facilities, and electric lighting for the year was,—

New works—					£	s.	d.
Electric tablet working	..	..	..	..	7,198	0	9
Electric lock and block	..	..	..	..	3,867	12	10
Telegraph and telephone lines	..	..	..	..	2,329	13	9
Electric light	..	..	..	..	700	6	8
					<u>£14,095</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>
Maintenance—							
Electric block working and telegraph and telephone lines	..	..	..	..	7,266	16	8
Lines maintained by Post and Telegraph Department	..	..	..	..	3,143	5	6
Electric light	..	..	..	..	1,405	12	0
					<u>£11,815</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>
Public telephone-exchange connections					£2,324	13	4

TRAFFIC.

Mr. H. Buxton, Chief Traffic Manager, reports as follows :—

Kawakawa Section.

Revenue, £2,834 ; decrease, £98.

Passengers, parcels, grain, and merchandise show increases, but there are decreases in chaff, &c., firewood, timber, and minerals.

Whangarei Section.

Revenue, £29,393 ; increase, £1,007.

The bulk of the increase is in passengers. The principal variations in tonnage were an increase of 12,300 tons of minerals and a decrease of 6,500 tons of timber.

Kaihu Section.

Revenue, £4,117 ; decrease, £232.

The decrease is in passenger traffic due to a movement of population from the gumfields. Goods traffic improved slightly.

Gisborne Section.

Revenue, £14,191 ; increase, £1,235.

There was a slight decrease in the number of passengers and in the number of sheep, but goods traffic generally increased.

North Island Main Line and Branches.

Revenue, £1,742,243 ; increase, £175,992.

The principal items of traffic were :—

	Number.		Number.
Passengers	5,675,271 ; increase,		90,621
Season tickets	135,082 ;		18,523
Parcels, &c.	526,479 ;		41,509
Live-stock	3,142,180 ;		537,186
	Tons.		Tons.
Goods	1,612,054 ;		217,859

The revenue per mile of railway rose from £1,472 0s. 10d. last year to £1,614 18s. 10d. this year (an increase of £142 18s.), and per train-mile from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 11½d.

The variations of traffic in the different districts were approximately as follows :—

Auckland District.—Revenue, £670,785 ; increase, £95,061.

There were large increases in passengers at Auckland suburban stations and at Taumarunui. From Auckland Station there was a decrease of nearly 22,000 owing to the absence of Easter holiday traffic.

The sale of season tickets increased by 14,000, chiefly at Auckland, Avondale, and Henderson.

Parcels increased by over 20,000 ; cattle by 15,000 ; sheep by 42,000, and pigs by 9,700.

There were also large increases in tonnage, the principal items being grain 22,000 tons, timber 11,000 tons, coal 28,000 tons, and other minerals 28,000 tons.

There was a slight decrease in chaff.

There was a considerable improvement in the cattle traffic from the northern district.

The increase in timber was chiefly from the King-country mills, but the mills on the Rotorua line also gave a substantial increase. Notwithstanding the dry season, the shipments of butter at Onehunga increased by 1,200 tons.

Wanganui District.—Revenue, £381,473 ; increase, £47,156.

Passengers show a slight decrease in numbers, but the passenger revenue improved.

Parcels increased by nearly 10,000.

There were small increases in the numbers of cattle and pigs.

Sheep increased by 168,600.