

APPENDIX B.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS BY THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

(1ST JULY, 1915, TO 31ST MARCH, 1916.)

The ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF to the Hon. the MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

SIR,—

Public Works Office, Wellington, 11th May, 1916.

I have the honour to submit the following report upon the various works completed and in progress throughout the Dominion during the period from the 1st July, 1915, to the 31st March, 1916.

In view of the early session of Parliament this report covers a period of only nine months instead of twelve, consequently the progress to be recorded is less than usual. Moreover, the activities of the Department have been greatly curtailed owing to circumstances arising out of the war. The necessity for economy in the expenditure of public funds has led to the cessation of work on several lines of railway, as well as a gradual reduction in the number of men employed on the other lines and on road-construction. The erection of various important structures has been deferred owing to the impossibility of obtaining structural steel and other materials, while nearly all works have been hampered and delayed owing to difficulty in obtaining plant or material. It has not even been practicable to proceed with survey-work owing to lack of engineering assistance, practically the whole of the members of our professional staff who are fit and eligible having volunteered for active service. The draughting and clerical staff is also well represented in the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces. On the other hand, our staff of overseers, gangers, tradesmen, &c., which includes a larger proportion of elderly or ineligible men, has not been depleted to the same extent, and there has been some little difficulty in providing suitable employment for all permanent officers, although the position in this respect is by no means acute.

RAILWAYS.

ABSTRACT.

The following table shows the expenditure and liabilities on Government railways in New Zealand up to the 31st March, 1916:—

Name of Railway.	Total Length of Railway or Section.	Open for Traffic.	Expenditure to 31st March, 1916.	Liabilities on 31st March, 1916.
	M. ch.	M. ch.	£	£
Kaihu Valley	24 30	19 58	104,113	..
Kawakawa-Hokianga	45 25	16 25	188,067	2,700
Opua Wharf - Grahamtown (Onerahi)	58 6	58 6	522,088	..
Whangarei southward	19 77	..	87,953	8,188
North Auckland Main Trunk Railway (from Helensville)	86 22	47 77	792,830	1,969
Helensville - Te Awamutu, with Branches	162 74	158 21	2,177,795	488
Hamilton-Thames, with Branches	115 33	75 18	537,137	1,475
Thames Valley - Rotorua	69 33	69 33	366,541	..
Tauranga-Opotiki, with Branches	138 27	..	255,719	2,500
Gisborne-Opotiki	93 45	44 34	602,841	1,500
Napier-Gisborne	206 39	..	198,433	21,438
Wellington-Napier and Palmerston North (including Te Aro Extension and Greytown and Martinborough Branches)	249 44	233 12	2,536,447	..
Wellington-Waitara, with Branches	350 11	285 59	2,646,515	2,911
Stratford - Okahukura	101 27	37 53	795,913	57,266
North Island Main Trunk (Marton - Te Awamutu), including Raetihi Branch	218 42	209 69	2,766,063	900
Picton-Waipara (South Island Main Trunk Railway)—				
Picton southwards	92 38	56 6	643,875	1,138
Waipara northwards	90 45	44 14	374,183	..
Nelson-Belgrove	22 73	22 73	199,741	..
Midland Railway*	239 75	179 67	1,924,983	6,947
Westport-Ngakawau	19 56	19 56	188,009	..
Westport-Ngakawau Extension to Mokihinui†	7 12	7 12	..	..
Mokihinui Colliery Line‡	3 69	3 69	..	..
Westport-Inangahua	26 0	5 74	152,419	120
Ngahere-Blackball	3 40	3 40	147,537	..
Greymouth - Coal Creek	8 70	8 70	255,056	..
Greymouth-Brunner	7 51	7 51	150,651	..
Greymouth-Waitaha	50 32	38 68	338,201	..
Culverden-Hammer Motor-cars and Sheds	..	..	3,834	..
Hurunui-Waitaki, with Branches	501 52	443 8	2,619,587	255
Canterbury Interior Main Line—Oxford-Temuka	83 0	11 44	59,343	..
Waitaki-Bluff, with Branches	600 21	546 16	4,930,867	15
Otago Central	182 51	134 78	1,318,013	1,678
Invercargill-Kingston, with Mararoa Branch	117 4	97 44	386,290	..
Forest Hill Railway—Winton-Hedgehope§	12 40	12 40	22,984	..
Western Railways	94 8	70 31	336,181	2
Preliminary Surveys	..	..	41,453	50
Miscellaneous	..	..	10,337	..
Stock of Permanent-way on hand	..	..	118,190	71,992
Rolling-stock	..	..	6,804,188	109,995
Total	4,103 72	2,970 46	35,104,327	293,522

* The amount shown as expenditure represents the net amount charged against the Dominion.

† The funds for this extension—namely, £35,501 2s. 11d.—were provided by the Westport Harbour Board.

‡ The funds for purchase of this line, £15,745, were provided by the Westport Harbour Board.

§ The expenditure on this line as a tramway was made by the Lands Department.

|| Includes expenditure on railways under Hutt Road and Railway Improvement, Railway Improvement Authorization Act and Railway Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Accounts.