

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the
Dominion of New Zealand.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

In pursuance of the Commission issued to us by the Governor-General by Warrant dated 18th October, 1924, whereby we were appointed and authorized to inquire into and report to you upon the following questions, namely:—

The financial arrangements, management, equipment, and general working—including the administration, control, and economy—of the Railway service in New Zealand, and more particularly—

- (1.) The organization and running of the passenger and goods traffic, the services rendered, the scales of fares and freights operating, the finance and financial returns;
- (2.) Matters appertaining to the organization and conduct of the mechanical section of the system in relation to the respective types of locomotives and rolling-stock adopted, cost, economy of life and use, equipment, renewal, and maintenance charges;
- (3.) Matters relating to the construction, renewal, and maintenance of permanent-way, including station equipment and the systems of signalling and interlocking adopted;
- (4.) Improvements and new works that may be deemed to be essential to cope more economically with present and prospective traffic, including new station buildings, yards, deviations, &c., and the order in which such works should be carried out;
- (5.) Whether the present discretionary powers held by the District Traffic Managers are sufficient under existing conditions, having regard to the increasing competition by road and sea;
Whether more satisfactory and expeditious handling of traffic could be brought about by decentralization;
- (6.) Delegating powers to District Managers to enable them to make reduced quotations for traffic in exceptional cases to counteract competition or secure business;
- (7.) The general viewpoint of the staff in dealing with the Department's business;
- (8.) Whether the steps at present taken to secure excursion traffic in connection with big events are sufficient;
- (9.) Whether the present statistical data compiled by the Department is sufficient to enable transportation officers to accurately gauge the cost of services in dealing with general transportation matters;
- (10.) The policy of the Government in connection with the leasing and the construction of private sidings;
- (11.) The use of rail motor-cars and the type suggested for New Zealand conditions;
- (12.) The construction of a special rolling-stock, heavier or lighter, to meet special conditions in various districts;
- (13.) The costing and statistical methods in the Maintenance, Workshops, and other branches,

we have the honour to submit the following report:—