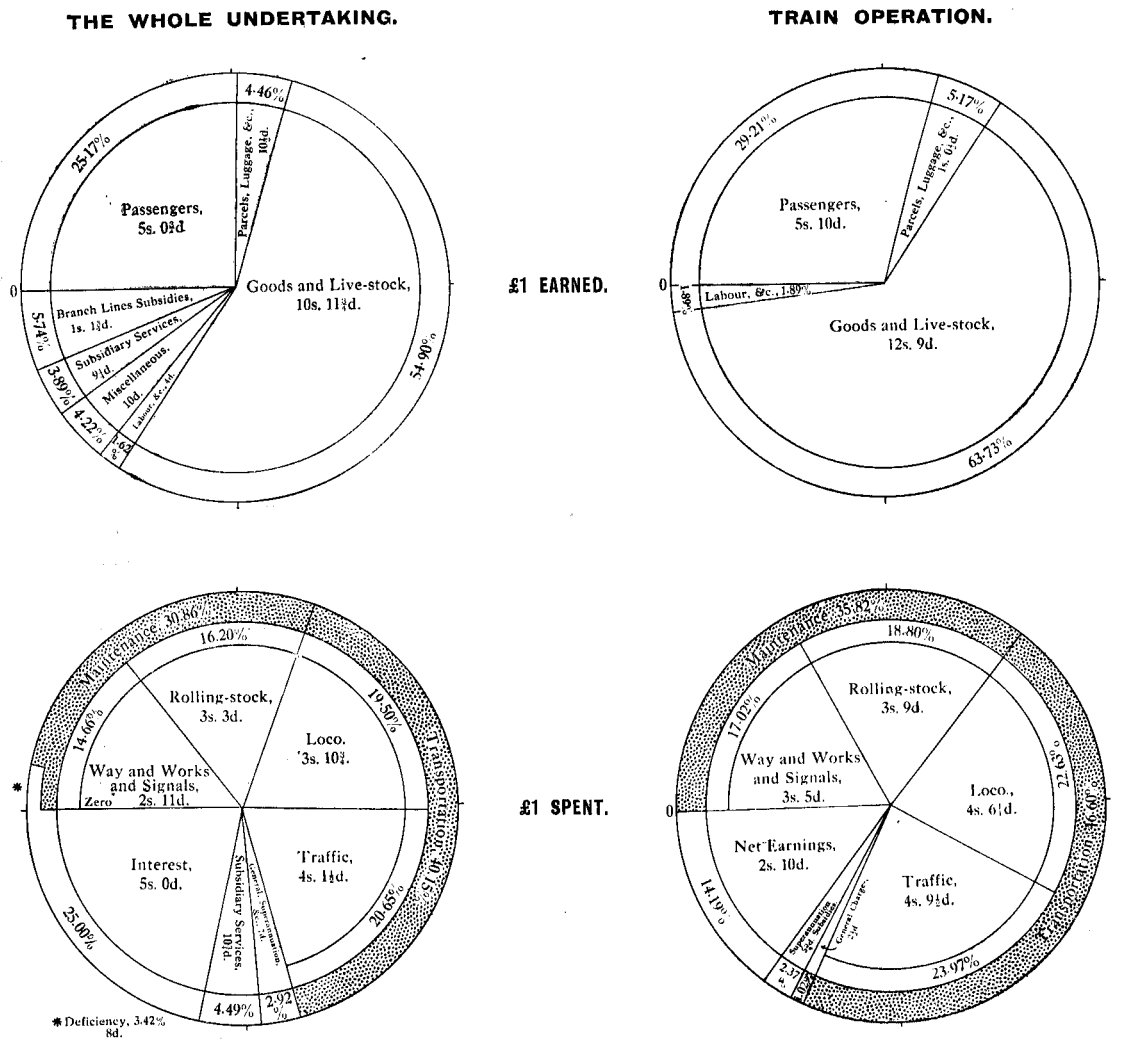


*Renewals and Equalization Funds.*—The position as regards payments to and expenditure from the renewals and equalization funds during the year is shown below :—

|                               | Balance from<br>Previous Year. | Contributions. | Expenditure. | Balance.  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
|                               | £                              | £              | £            | £         |
| Renewals .. .. .              | 636,738                        | 615,674        | 321,542      | 930,870   |
| Fire insurance .. .. .        | 10,444                         | 12,373         | 4,688        | 18,129    |
| Slips, floods, &c. .. .. .    | 9,826                          | 21,504         | 4,730        | 26,600    |
| Workers' compensation .. .. . | 14,975                         | 44,483         | 41,198       | 18,260    |
| Betterments .. .. .           | 13,700                         | 1,433          | 39,207       | Dr.24,074 |
|                               | 685,683                        | 695,467        | 411,365      | 969,785   |



*New Lines opened.*—The Waihi-Tahawai Section (13 miles 8 chains) and the Petone-Waterloo Section (2 miles 50 chains) were taken over and opened for traffic during the year, making the total mileage opened for traffic on the 31st March, 1928, 3,180 miles.

*Train-mileage.*—The train-mileage for the year was 10,838,594 miles, as against 10,723,864 miles the previous year, an increase of 114,730 miles. The particulars are as follows :—

| Section.                                    | 1927-28.   | 1926-27.   | Increase<br>Miles. |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Kaihu .. .. .                               | 17,738     | 17,668     | 70                 |
| Gisborne .. .. .                            | 82,211     | 84,961     | Dec. 2,750         |
| North Island Main Line and Branches .. .. . | 6,479,921  | 6,402,044  | 77,877             |
| South Island Main Line and Branches .. .. . | 4,049,450  | 4,004,155  | 45,295             |
| Westport .. .. .                            | 94,140     | 95,309     | Dec. 1,169         |
| Nelson .. .. .                              | 63,292     | 71,478     | Dec. 8,186         |
| Picton .. .. .                              | 51,842     | 48,249     | 3,593              |
|                                             | 10,838,594 | 10,723,864 | 114,730            |