

The total return to the Department in respect of the operations of the Refreshment Branch for the past five years is as under :—

—	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
Rent	9,230	9,230	9,230	9,100	9,100
Commission	742	667	620	584	715
Rail fares	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066
Rail freights	1,790	1,825	1,818	1,851	2,349
Interest	1,108	1,102	1,124	1,129	1,291
Net profit	4,156	2,132	786	2,928	1,681
	£18,092	£16,022	£14,644	£16,658	£16,202

BOOKSTALL SERVICE.

—	1936.	1935.	Variation.	Per Cent.
	£	£	£	
Revenue	45,798	36,846	+8,952	24·30
Expenditure	43,042	34,564	+8,478	24·53
Net revenue	£2,756	£2,282	+ £474	20·77

The total return to the Department in respect of the operation of bookstalls over the last three years is as follows :—

—	1936.	1935.	1934.
	£	£	£
Net profit	2,756	2,282	1,684
Rent	4,580	3,685	2,079
Railages	167	157	40
Commission	320	257	145
	£7,823	£6,381	£3,948

The Department controls, through the Refreshment Branch, eighteen railway bookstalls. The increased revenue and expenditure for 1935–36 is accounted for in part by the fact that ten of the bookstalls were taken over in June, 1934, and consequently for the year ended 31st March, 1935, the eighteen bookstalls were not operated for the full twelve months. The increase in passenger traffic that has taken place during the year also resulted in increased patronage of the bookstalls.

The following figures showing the return to the Department from the operation of some of the bookstalls under private control, contrasted with Departmental control, show that the action of the Department in taking over and controlling the bookstalls as an integral part of railway operation has been fully justified by results :—

Location of Bookstall.	Return per annum under private control.	Return per Annum under Departmental Control.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Auckland	1,353	1,453	100
Frankton Junction	325	499	174
Palmerston North	172	562	390
Thorndon	577	1,244	667
Christchurch	595	1,462	867
Greymouth	130	308	178
Ashburton	234	528	294
Dunedin	580	1,028	448
Invercargill	104	520	416