

A comparison of the results obtained on the various services is as follows :—

	1938 Profit. £	1937 Profit. £	Net Revenue Variation. £
Auckland–Rotorua	3,532	..	+3,532
Wellington–Wanganui	1,491	1,901	— 410
Wellington–Johnsonville	1,768	2,567	— 799
Hutt Valley – Wellington	11,396	9,894	+1,502
Napier–Hastings	3,403	3,405	— 2
Christchurch services	297	105	+ 192
Hokitika services	129	2,667	—2,538
Dunedin services	370	2,026	—1,656
Waipahi–Edievale	Loss 109	Loss 78	— 31
Invercargill services	Loss 303	Loss 789	+ 486
Total	£21,974	£21,698	+ £276

During the year several new services were inaugurated, while nine additional services were purchased and taken over. Revenue for the year increased by £77,776 (39·13 per cent.), this being mainly due to the expansion effected in the activities of the Branch and also to the satisfactory degree of patronage accorded the various services during the year. The increased receipts consequent upon the visit of the South African Rugby Football Team, together with the increased traffic resulting from the visit of a larger number of “cruise” tourist ships, and the improved economic conditions prevailing generally all combined to make the results of the year’s operations one of the most satisfactory in the history of the Branch.

A comparison of passenger journeys and mileage operated is as follow :—

	1938.	1937.	Increase. Per Cent.
Passenger journeys ..	5,446,339	4,556,316	890,023 19·53
Mileage ..	4,856,503	3,531,623	1,324,880 37·51

Expenditure increased by £77,500 (43·77 per cent.). This increase is mainly due to higher wages-costs and to the improved working-conditions now operative throughout the Branch and also to the increased cost of fuel, the cost of motor-spirit having been increased twice during the year (1d. per gallon from 27th April, 1937, and 1d. per gallon from 1st March, 1938). No increase in the fare schedules has been made to meet the increased operating-costs.

Passenger services taken over during the year were as follow :—

Name.	Route.	Date taken over.
Olsen’s	Hokitika–Rimu	12th July, 1937.
“K” Motors, Ltd.	Hamilton–Rotorua–Opotiki	} 6th September, 1937.
	Rotorua–Wairakei, and Rotorua thermal district sight-seeing	
J. Gibson’s	Auckland–Auckland (tourist)	25th October, 1937.
Markey’s	Auckland–Hamilton	25th October, 1937.
Patterson’s	Reefton County (goods)	13th December, 1937.
Hunter’s	Wellington – Titahi Bay	19th December, 1937.
Kingston’s	Akaroa (sight-seeing)	20th December, 1937.
Curran’s	Blenheim–Parnassus	} 31st January, 1938.
	Kaikoura–Waiau	
Riseley’s	Invercargill–Dunedin (goods)	21st March, 1938.

New passenger services inaugurated during the year were :—

Christchurch – Arthur’s Pass	18th June, 1937.
Culverden–Wesport (via Lewis Pass)	1st November, 1937.
Hokitika–Greymouth	14th February, 1938.

The route mileage of the road services is now 2,294 miles.

The total fleet operated by the Branch as at 31st March, 1938, was 263 vehicles of all types, comprising 86 omnibuses, 135 service and rental cars, 26 lorries, and 16 miscellaneous vehicles. During the year 14 new omnibuses, 6 new service-cars, and 8 new private-hire cars (procured for tourist work) have been put into service.