

LINES.		Appropriations 1870-73.	Length authorized.		Open for Traffic.		A.	B.	Total Length under Contract not yet opened, including columns A. and B.	Length still to be Let.	Field Work of Surveys completed beyond Work Let.
		£	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.
Kowai	Rangiora ... ..	95,000	32 11	18 54	0 69	...	13 37	...	...	...	...
Rangiora	Addington ... ..	102,000	21 51	...	8 40	...	21 51	...	...	...	...
Rangiora	Oxford ... ..	283,000	14 40	...	...	...	14 40	...	...	...	...
Kaiapoi	Eyreton ... ..		35 40	...	17 00	28 40	35 40	...	...	...	...
Rolleston	Malvern ... ..		26 08	...	...	...	26 08	...	...	...	...
Racecourse	Southbridge ... ..		6 00	...	...	...	...	6 00	...	...	...
Waimate	Main Line ... ..	88,000	12 39	12 39	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Selwyn	Rakaia ... ..	89,000	18 31	17 18	...	...	1 13	...	...	...	
Rakaia	Ashburton ... ..	188,000	34 20	...	...	...	20 55	13 45	13 45	13 45	
Ashburton	Temuka ... ..	74,000	11 74	...	1 45	10 29	11 74	...	...	...	
Temuka	Timaru ... ..	220,000	38 05	...	...	...	6 65	31 20	31 20	31 20	
Timaru	Waitaki ... ..	60,000	0 71	...	...	...	0 71	...	...	...	
Waitaki Bridge	... ..	261,000	39 22	...	...	...	39 22	...	...	...	
Waitaki	Moeraki ... ..	430,000	52 00	...	...	...	1 13	50 67	12 00	12 00	
Moeraki	Dunedin ... ..	210,000	8 00	8 00	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Port Chalmers	Dunedin ... ..	156,000	22 00	...	...	...	22 00	...	...	...	
Tokomairiro	Lawrence ... ..	326,000	51 08	6 00	18 00	27 08	45 08	...	...	...	
Dunedin	Clutha ... ..	260,000	49 43	...	...	...	...	49 43	...	...	
Clutha	Mataura ... ..	148,000	39 56	11 27	...	9 00	28 29	...	...	...	
Mataura	Invercargill ... ..	244,000	70 00	...	...	...	50 00	20 00	20 00	20 00	
Winton	Kingston ... ..	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Surveys ...	... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
		5,575,400	1010 48	89 58	57 74	103 65	583 24	837 47	127 45	127 45	

## RAILS AND ROLLING STOCK.

Rails and rolling stock have been ordered for all the work which is now under contract; and although we have been delayed in some cases by not having a sufficiency of these on hand, the shipments now advised are so large that there is little fear of delay arising from this cause for the future.

## WORK IN NEW ZEALAND.

Contracts have been entered into for work in New Zealand to the extent of £1,885,000 during the three years 1872, 1873, and 1874, of which £627,750 was during the eleven months ending 31st May, 1874. These have principally been with local contractors, who have generally done their work remarkably well. The sum paid during the past year for work done in New Zealand, *i.e.* exclusive of the cost of rails and rolling stock, has been £600,000 nearly. Labour has been scarce during the whole year, and wages have been above 7s. 6d. a day rather than below it.

## SLEEPERS.

The Government have entered into contracts, since the beginning of 1873, for the delivery of little short of 1,000,000 sleepers, including an order for 200,000 of jarrah. The price paid for these latter (4s. 3d. each) is not high when account is taken of the superiority of jarrah to all New Zealand timber, except perhaps totara, which is not to be got in the quantity required.

## OPENED LINES.

The lines opened for public traffic during the past year have been as follows:—

Auckland to Mercer .. ..	8 miles.
Wellington to Masterton .. ..	8 "
Rakaia to Ashburton .. ..	17 "
Dunedin to Clutha .. ..	6 "
Mataura to Invercargill .. ..	11 "
Total .. ..	40 "

Owing to the difficulty of opening a part of a line for public traffic while the contractors still have the right of running on the same line, it was thought better to agree with Messrs. Brogden for the Onehunga branch of the Auckland and Mercer Railway, and with Mr. Wright for the Rakaia to Ashburton, to run trains for public convenience while the lines were still in their hands. This arrangement terminated on the 1st May for the Onehunga branch, and will terminate on the 15th July for the Rakaia and Ashburton.

The Wellington and Masterton line is being worked by the General Government, and the Otago lines by the Otago Provincial Government.