

RENEWALS, DEPRECIATION, AND EQUALIZATION RESERVE FUNDS

The position with regard to the renewals, depreciation, betterments, and equalization accounts is as under :—

| Account. | Credit Balance brought forward from 1943. | Contributions, 1943-44. | Expenditure, 1943-44. | Credit Balance at 31st March, 1944. |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Renewals (track) | 945,087 | 226,824 | 209,513 | 962,398 |
| Depreciation | 1,966,613 | 959,362 | 870,033 | 2,055,942 |
| Betterments | 18,632 | 1,668 | 300 | 20,000 |
| Slips, floods, and accidents | 45,625 | 21,945 | .. | 67,570 |
| Workers' compensation | 57,699 | 77,981 | 76,960 | 58,720 |
| Insurance | 84,722 | 8,195 | 31,679 | 61,238 |
| | 3,118,378 | 1,295,975 | 1,188,485 | 3,225,868 |

RAILWAY OPERATION

The results of railway operation (excluding subsidiary services and miscellaneous non-operating revenue) on the various sections for the year ended 31st March, 1944, were as under :—

| Section. | Revenue. | Expenditure. | Net Revenue. |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| North Island Main Line and Branches .. | 8,858,955 | 7,128,390 | 1,730,565 |
| South Island Main Line and Branches .. | 4,507,164 | 4,123,354 | 383,810 |
| Nelson | 15,044 | 25,560 | —10,516 |
| Picton | 83,816 | 88,613 | — 4,797 |
| | 13,464,979 | 11,365,917 | 2,099,062 |

OPERATING REVENUE

The following table shows the operating revenue under the main headings, together with appropriate comparisons with the previous year's figures. Information regarding receipts from subsidiary services and miscellaneous non-operating revenue appears later in this report.

| Operating Revenue. | Amount. | | Variation 1944 with 1943. | | Per Cent. of Operating Revenue. | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | 1944. | 1943. | | | 1944. | 1943. |
| | £ | £ | £ | Per Cent. | | |
| Passengers, ordinary | 3,891,146 | 3,351,832 | + 539,314 | 16·09 | 28·90 | 27·00 |
| Season tickets | 384,336 | 358,677 | + 25,659 | 7·15 | 2·85 | 2·89 |
| Parcels, luggage, and mails | 435,928 | 397,142 | + 38,786 | 9·77 | 3·24 | 3·20 |
| Goods | 8,479,387 | 8,044,563 | + 434,824 | 5·41 | 62·98 | 64·80 |
| Labour, demurrage, &c. | 274,182 | 262,866 | + 11,316 | 4·30 | 2·03 | 2·11 |
| Total operating | 13,464,979 | 12,415,080 | +1,049,899 | 8·46 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

Passenger traffic was again heavy, the number of passenger journeys (ordinary) being 18,317,323, an increase of 1,146,109 (6·67 per cent.) over last year's record figure. During the year ended 31st March, 1944, civilian travel restrictions operated in the South Island for the last eleven weeks and in the North Island for the last nine weeks of the year, while last year the restrictions were operative throughout both Islands over the Easter period and in the North Island for approximately five and one-half months.

There was also an increase in the movement of Armed Forces personnel, including the furlough travelling of soldiers returning from overseas.

The comparative figures for the revenue from the conveyance of goods and live-stock are set out in the table above. The tonnage hauled, 9,026,626 tons, set a new record and exceeded last year's figure by 139,537 tons (1·56 per cent.). The average haul increased from eighty-eight miles to ninety-two miles, and this increase of 4·55 per cent. was an appreciable factor in the freight revenue return.

The principal increases in freight revenue were in respect of fresh meat, £73,253; frozen meat, £24,860; root crops, £36,085; coal, £44,721; and general merchandise, £264,133.