

RAILWAYS.

As we are now in the last session of a Parliament, it would not be out of place to review what has been accomplished in the matter of railway-construction during the term of office of the Liberal Administration—namely, since the 24th January, 1891. During this period 461 miles 75 chains of railway, constructed by the Public Works Department, has been opened for public traffic, while a length of 105 miles 61 chains has been acquired from private owners and added to the Government railway system; the total increase in the mileage of the Government railways during the period being 567 miles 56 chains. The different sections are as under:—

Railway.	Section.	Mileage.	
		M. ch.	M. ch.
Kawakawa-Grahamtown	Kamo-Hukerenui	16	0
Kaihu Valley	Opanake-Booms	0	55
Helensville Northwards	Kanohi-Woodcock's	13	40
Waikato-Thames	Te Aroha-Thames	32	3
Thames Valley-Rotorua	Putaruru-Rotorua	31	56
Gisborne-Rotorua	Gisborne-Karaka	18	15
North Island Main Trunk	Mokau-Taumarunui	66	12
Woodville-Palmerston North	Hunterville-Taihape	17	21
Wellington-Napier	Woodville-Palmerston	17	21
" "	Eketahuna-Woodville	27	69
Stratford-Ongarue	Te Aro Extension	11	18
Midland	Stratford-Oruru	11	18
Westport-Ngakawau Extension	Jackson's-Otira	10	12
State Colliery line	Ngakawau-Mokihinui	7	12
Greymouth-Hokitika	Greymouth-Coal Creek	5	1
Blenheim-Waipara	Greymouth-Hokitika	24	37
" "	Blenheim-Seddon	30	25
Inch Valley	Waipara-Scargill	2	29
Catlin's River	Inch Valley-Limekilns	11	38
Waipahi-Heriot Extension	Romahapa-Owaka	6	20
Seaward Bush	Heriot-Edievale	13	34
Catlin's-Waimahaka	Mokotua-Waimahaka	3	38
Otago Central	Owaka-Catlin's	96	20
Forest Hill	Hindon-Omakau	12	40
Orepuki-Waiiau	Winton-Hedgehope	4	40
	Orepuki-Waihoaka		
	Total	461	75
	<i>Private Lines acquired.</i>		
Kaihu Valley	Dargaville-Opanake	16	46
Westport-Mokihinui	Mokihinui Colliery line	3	69
Fernhill Branch	Fernhill Colliery line	1	60
	Stillwater-Reefton	37	9
Midland	Brunner-Jackson's	32	15
	Springfield-Otarama	4	58
	Belgrove-Motupiko	9	44
	Total	105	61
	Grand total	567	56

In addition to the above total of 567 miles 56 chains, we have 41 miles 21 chains upon which goods traffic is already being carried, and which will be available for passenger and other traffic in a few weeks.

I will now refer to the different lines of railway that have been in hand during the last year, and state the proposals of the Government with regard to each for the current year.

KAWAKAWA-GRAHAMTOWN.

Construction-work has recently been resumed at the northern end of this line on a section about four miles in length, and fair progress is being made. The distance between the completed formation at the Kawakawa end and the terminus of the open railway at the southern end is rather under eighteen miles. The