

APPENDIX B.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC WORKS BY THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

The ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF to the HON. the MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

SIR,—

Wellington, 1st April, 1917.

I have the honour to submit the following report upon the various works completed and in progress throughout the Dominion during the period from the 1st April, 1916, to the 31st March, 1917.

There has been a further considerable reduction in the amount of work in hand, the number of men employed upon the works under my control having decreased by about one-third during the year. This is mainly due to the great reduction in the supply of suitable labour owing to the operation of the Military Service Act, but the position has in no way improved as regards the obtaining of certain classes of material and plant, notably rails and fastenings and structural steel. The staff has been further depleted by enlistments and resignations, but is still sufficient for present requirements.

RAILWAYS.

ABSTRACT.

The following table shows the expenditure and liabilities on Government railways in New Zealand up to the 31st March, 1917:—

Name of Railway.	Total Length of Railway or Section.	Open for Traffic.	Expenditure to 31st March, 1917.	Liabilities on 31st March, 1917.
	M. ch.	M. ch.	£	£
Kaihu Valley	24 30	19 58	104,163	..
Kawakawa-Hokianga	45 25	16 25	195,943	1,605
Opua Wharf - Grahamtown (Onerahi)	58 6	58 6	522,548	..
Whangarei southward	19 77	..	135,241	6,238
North Auckland Main Trunk Railway (from Helensville)	86 22	47 77	829,822	1,200
Helensville - Te Awamutu, with Branches	163 48	146 19	2,352,566	97,664
Hamilton-Thames, with Branches	127 35	87 20	595,749	320
Thames Valley - Rotorua	69 33	69 33	366,995	..
Tauranga-Opotiki, with Branches	138 27	..	309,786	8,000
Gisborne-Opotiki	93 45	44 34	615,091	7,551
Napier-Gisborne	206 39	..	216,781	2,352
Wellington-Napier and Palmerston North (including Te Aro Extension and Greytown and Martinborough Branches)	249 44	233 12	2,547,594	..
Wellington-Waitara, with Branches	350 11	285 59	2,683,783	710
Stratford-Okahukura	101 27	37 53	846,315	58,461
North Island Main Trunk (Marton-Te Awamutu), including Raetihi Branch	218 42	209 69	2,786,966	1,585
Picton-Waipara (South Island Main Trunk Railway)—				
Picton southwards	92 38	56 6	650,905	107
Waipara northwards	90 45	44 14	374,377	..
Nelson-Belgrove	22 73	22 73	199,964	..
Midland Railway*	239 75	179 67	1,983,497	4,962
Westport-Ngakawau	19 56	19 56	188,009	..
Westport-Ngakawau Extension to Mokihinui†	7 12	7 12	..	..
Mokihinui Colliery Line‡	3 69	3 69	..	..
Westport-Inangahua	26 0	5 74	152,575	14
Ngahere-Blackball	3 40	3 40	147,532	..
Greymouth-Coal Creek	8 70	8 70	254,999	..
Greymouth-Brunner	7 51	7 51	150,651	..
Greymouth-Waitaha	50 32	38 68	338,274	..
Culverden-Hammer Motor-cars and Sheds .. .. .	..	..	3,834	..
Hurunui-Waitaki, with Branches	501 52	443 8	2,638,542	403
Canterbury Interior Main Line—Oxford-Temuka	83 0	11 44	59,362	..
Waitaki-Bluff, with Branches	600 21	546 16	4,943,442	..
Otago Central	182 51	134 78	1,339,905	1,743
Invercargill-Kingston, with Mararoa Branch	117 4	97 44	386,290	..
Forest Hill Railway—Winton-Hedgehope§	12 40	12 40	22,984	..
Western Railways	94 8	70 31	336,653	..
Preliminary Surveys .. .. .	..	..	41,652	..
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	10,337	..
Stock of Permanent-way on hand .. .. .	..	..	77,805	58,252
Rolling-stock .. .. .	..	..	6,535,094	79,395
Total	4,116 48	2,970 46	|| 35,946,026	330,567

* The amount shown as expenditure represents the net amount charged against the Dominion.

† The funds for this extension—namely, £35,501 2s. 11d.—were provided by the Westport Harbour Board.

‡ The funds for purchase of this line, £15,745, were provided by the Westport Harbour Board.

§ The expenditure on this line as a tramway was made by the Lands Department.

|| Includes expenditure on railways under Hutt Road and Railway Improvement, Railway Improvement Authorization Act and Railway Improvement Authorization Act 1914 Accounts.