

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW ZEALAND
GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

New Zealand Government Railways,

SIR,—

Head Office, Wellington, 18th August, 1925.

We have the honour to report on the working of the railways for the financial year ended 31st March, 1925.

The Pukemiro—Glen Afton Section, 1 mile 54 chains; the Kohuratahi—Tahora Section, 5 miles; the Makaraka—Ngatapa Section, 11 miles 33 chains; the Arthur's Pass—Otira Section, 8 miles 18 chains, were taken over and opened for traffic during the year, making the total mileage open for traffic on the 31st March, 1925, 3,085 miles.

The capital invested in the lines open for traffic, including the steamers and plant on Lake Wakatipu, on the 31st March, 1925, was £44,570,746, as against £41,399,427 for the previous year, an increase of £3,171,319. This amount includes £2,175,522, construction charges on lines already taken over from the Public Works Department, £742,922 on new works charged against Capital Account under "Additions to open lines," and £252,875 expended under the Railways Improvement Authorization Act, 1914.

The gross receipts for the year amounted to £7,112,524, as against £6,984,211 for the previous year, an increase of £128,313.

The net revenue, £1,567,108, is equal to a return of 3.55 per cent. on the capital invested in the lines open for traffic, and 3.08 per cent. on the capital invested in the opened and unopened lines.

The train mileage for the year was 9,083,623, in addition to 409,455 miles run by assisting engines, as against 8,675,636 and 348,867 miles respectively the previous year. The particulars are as follows:—

Section.	1924-25.			1923-24.			* Increase. † Decrease.
	Train Mileage.	Assisting Engine Mileage.	Total.	Train Mileage.	Assisting Engine Mileage.	Total.	
Whangarei ..	134,858	2,070	136,928	126,680	1,060	127,740	9,188*
Kaihu	17,232	..	17,232	18,132	..	18,132	900†
Gisborne	65,609	245	65,854	63,331	239	63,570	2,284*
North Island Main Lines and Branches	5,238,099	308,752	5,546,851	5,006,506	261,605	5,268,111	278,740*
South Island Main Lines and Branches	3,438,695	94,058	3,532,753	3,281,071	83,271	3,364,342	168,411*
Westport	87,640	2,334	89,974	79,016	466	79,482	10,492*
Nelson	56,469	958	57,427	57,035	1,365	58,400	973†
Pictou	45,021	1,038	46,059	43,865	861	44,726	1,333*
	9,083,623	409,455	9,493,078	8,675,636	348,867	9,024,503	468,575*

The mileage run by assisting engines will not, in future, be included in the Department's statistics and has not been included in this year's returns.

Extensive slips and floods were experienced in the North Island during the year, resulting in serious damage to the track and consequent dislocation of traffic on several lines. The districts principally affected were—North Auckland, where through traffic was interrupted from the 3rd April to the 13th May; the Toko Branch, between Pohokura and Whangamomona, where the line was completely blocked for traffic from the 5th April to the middle of July; and the Rimutaka Incline, which was blocked by slips from the 1st to the 7th November.

The following figures, which include delays from every cause, and give the record of the late arrival at destination of the principal trains during the year, indicate that, notwithstanding the unforeseen difficulties caused through slips, floods, and other circumstances, the trains have, generally speaking, run well up to schedule:—

	Average Late Arrival.	
	Min.	Min.
Long-distance passenger-trains	3.64	against 3.51 last year.
Suburban trains	0.65	„ 0.71 „
Long-distance mixed trains	4.63	„ 4.26 „

The number of ordinary passengers carried during the year was 12,424,012, a decrease of 1,412,299 when compared with last year. 486,065 passengers were carried at holiday excursion fares, an increase of about 12 per cent. on the previous year; 76,057 children and teachers and adults at the school, factories, and friendly societies rate, as compared with 200,748 carried the previous year. The decrease in this traffic can be ascribed practically wholly to the epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Season tickets issued during the year numbered 537,554, an increase of 11,810. Workers' twelve-trip tickets issued numbered 136,563, an increase of 3,561; and workers' weekly tickets issued on suburban lines numbered 331,861, an increase of 18,750.