

The opening of the new station at Wellington on 19th June, 1937, was instrumental in greatly increasing the turnover of the Refreshment Branch, the receipts from Wellington being £22,412, or 15·70 per cent. of the total turnover. The increase shown by the remaining rooms is 16·47 per cent.

The main factors contributing to the improved turnover were the visit of the 1937 South African Rugby Football Team, which drew record attendances at all fixtures participated in by the visitors, and the improved economic conditions prevailing making it possible for those undertaking journeys by rail to spend more freely. The latter aspect is one which is particularly noticeable among excursionists.

The expenditure for the year increased by £39,812 (39·37 per cent.), this being mainly due to the restoration of wages and salaries to the 1931 level, to the granting of an improved wages schedule to waitresses and general staff, and to increased consumption of stores and provisions consequent upon the greater turnover of business.

The actual return to the Department in respect of the operations of the Refreshment Branch for selected years since 1930 is as under :—

	1930.	1932.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rent	11,170	9,100	9,230	9,230	9,230	9,219	9,817
Commission on cash collections ..	970	715	620	667	742	842	1,130
Rail fares	1,287	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066	1,066
Rail freights	3,234	2,349	1,818	1,825	1,790	2,084	2,443
Interest	1,099	1,291	1,124	1,102	1,108	1,111	1,230
Net profit	6,981	1,681	785	2,132	4,156	2,226	1,849
Total	24,741	16,202	14,643	16,022	18,092	16,548	17,535

BOOKSTALL SERVICE.

	1938.	1937.	Variation.	
	£	£	£	Per Cent.
Revenue	76,719	54,417	+22,302	40·98
Expenditure	73,232	51,245	+21,987	42·91
Net Revenue	<u>£3,487</u>	<u>£3,172</u>	<u>+ £315</u>	<u>9·93</u>

The number of bookstalls (18) at present being operated by the Department is the same as during the previous year. The increased passenger traffic and the improved economic conditions have resulted in increased patronage.

The increase in wages and salaries as a result of the return to the 1931 level and other wage increases to attendants, together with the higher cost of commodities, were the chief causes of the higher expenditure this year.

The actual return to the Department in respect of the operation of bookstalls is as under :—

	1938.	1937.
	£	£
Net profit	3,487	3,172
Rent	6,905	5,442
Railages	189	192
Commission on cash collections ..	537	381
Total	<u>£11,118</u>	<u>£9,187</u>

ROAD MOTOR SERVICES.

	1938.	1937.	Increase.	
	£	£	£	Per Cent.
Revenue	276,527	198,751	77,776	39·13
Expenditure	254,553	177,053	77,500	43·77
Net Revenue	<u>£21,974</u>	<u>£21,698</u>	<u>£276</u>	<u>1·27</u>

After providing for interest on capital and for writing down capital by way of depreciation, the operations of this service show a net revenue of £21,974, compared with £21,698 last year, an increase of £276.