

APPENDICES TO THE PUBLIC WORKS STATEMENT, 1875.

APPENDIX A.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RAILWAYS BY THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF.

The ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF to the Hon. the MINISTER for PUBLIC WORKS.

SIR,—

Public Works Office, Wellington, 1st July, 1875.

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the position of the railways in New Zealand now under construction by the General Government.

The expenditure on railways up to the end of the year 1873-4 was ... £1,713,613
During the present year 1874-5 it has been ... 1,857,029

Total expenditure to date ... £3,570,642
There are also liabilities on contracts to the extent of ... 1,620,365

Total expenditure and liabilities ... £5,191,007
Estimated cost of works not yet contracted for ... 900,974

Total estimated cost of railways ... £6,091,981

Of the total expenditure during the year, £702,739 was for rails, rolling stock, and charges in England, leaving £1,154,290 as the work done in New Zealand. Considering the small population of the colony, the works are certainly being pushed on as fast as is advisable. Economy in first cost would be increased if a somewhat slower rate of progress were adopted.

As the simplest way of showing the present state of the works, I append a table of the mileage and cost of the several lines authorized:—

Name of Railway.	Appropriation.	Estimated Cost.	Total Length.	Open for Traffic.	Under Construction.	Not yet Begun.
	£	£	Miles ch.	Miles ch.	Miles ch.	Miles ch.
Kawakawa ...	42,500	42,500	8 ...	...	...	8 ...
Kaipara-Riverhead ...	65,000	65,000	15 68	...	15 68	...
Auckland-Riverhead ...	127,500	127,500	22 48	...	...	22 48
Auckland-Mercer ...	344,000	364,000	45 56	45 56	...	...
Mercer-Newcastle ...	170,000	175,000	30 36	...	30 36	...
Newcastle-Puniu ...	200,000	150,000	29 30	...	10 14	19 16
Waitara-Wanganui ...	160,500	171,000	25 44	...	19 44	6 ...
Wanganui-Manawatu ...	318,000	321,500	58 35	...	34 38	23 77
Napier-Waipukurau ...	220,000	240,400	45 22	18 13	27 9	...
Wellington-Masterton ...	388,500	447,500	44* 39	14 46	20 23	9 50
Foxton-Manawatu ...	60,000	84,000	24 73	...	24 73	...
Total, North Island ...	2,096,000	2,188,400	350 51	78 35	182 65	89 31
Nelson-Foxhill ...	101,500	114,500	20 10	...	19 10	1 0
Picton-Blenheim ...	126,000	151,000	17 68	...	17 10	... 58
Greymouth-Brunner ...	84,400	121,400	7 46	...	7 46	...
Westport-Mount Rochfort ...	120,500	120,500	18 25	...	11 17	7 8
Addington-Kowai ...	197,500	197,500	32 10	20 50	11 40	...
Canterbury Branches ...	283,000	318,000	103 56	83 31	15 67	4 38
Selwyn-Rakaia ...	88,000	81,533	12 61	12 61	...	...
Rakaia-Ashburton ...	89,000	78,048	18 8	18 8	...	...
Ashburton-Temuka ...	188,000	191,000	34 3	18 29	15 54	...
Temuka-Timaru ...	74,000	71,600	12 0	...	12 0	...
Timaru-Waitaki ...	220,000	205,500	38 2	...	38 2	...
Waitaki Bridge ...	75,000	76,600	... 66	...	... 66	...
Waitaki-Moeraki ...	261,000	298,400	39 21	...	39 21	...
Moeraki-Dunedin ...	430,000	427,000	47 67	...	12 17	35 50
Port Chalmers-Dunedin ...	210,000	221,000	8 0	8 0	...	...
Dunedin-Clutha ...	326,000	372,000	51 35	6 5	45 30	...
Tokomairiro-Lawrence ...	156,000	164,000	22 0	...	22 0	...
Clutha-Mataura ...	260,000	254,000	47 72	...	25 72	22 0
Invercargill-Mataura ...	148,000	187,500	39 56	32 10	7 46	...
Winton-Kingston ...	244,000	252,500	68 36	...	50 0	18 36
Total, South Island ...	3,681,900	3,903,581	640 2	199 34	351 18	89 30
„ North Island ...	2,096,000	2,188,400	350 51	78 35	182 65	89 31
Grand Total ...	5,777,900	6,091,981	990 53	277† 69	534 3	178 61

* The section from Featherston to Masterton is not included.

† Of this total length, 188 miles were opened during the current year.