

1896.
NEW ZEALAND.

RAILWAYS STATEMENT.

(17th July, 1896.)

BY THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS, THE HON. A. J. CADMAN.

MR. SPEAKER,—

The Railway Statement last year dealt with a period of three months working under Government control and nine months working under the control of the late Railway Commissioners.

I have now to lay before Parliament my Statement for the first complete year's working under Government management, and I have no doubt that Honourable members will be much gratified at the results shown.

The number of miles now open for traffic is 2,014, or 21 miles more than last year.

The revenue for 1895-96 has been	£1,183,041
„ for 1894-95	1,150,851
Giving an increase of	<u>£32,190</u>

The Government have considered that no reliable estimate can be formed of the earning-power of the railways in the absence of a strict debit and credit account for all services (whether public or departmental) performed both by and for the railways. In conformity with this view the railways have been credited with the sum of £36,152 for services performed for other Government Departments, and have been debited with £17,724 for services performed by other Government Departments for the railways.

By this means a sum of £18,428 has been added to the railway revenue. The net increase of railway revenue over last year's results is, when this item is deducted, therefore £13,762, to which may be added the sum of £43,000, the estimated value of concessions made by the Government in fares and freights.

Notwithstanding that an additional sum of £72,919 has been added to the capital cost of the open railways, by practising the strictest economy £2 16s. per cent. has been earned this year on a capital cost of £15,425,532, as compared with £2 14s. 6d. per cent. on a capital cost of £15,352,613 last year. Evidence of the care exercised in controlling the expenditure is shown by the rate of expenditure per cent. of revenue, as also the cost per train-mile, which in both cases have fallen as compared with last year's figures; and these results have been obtained notwithstanding that both passengers and goods have