

Exhibit A.

Public Works Department, Wellington, 26th August, 1896.

SIR,—

Re *Midland Railway Company's Petition.*

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the statement showing the mining reserves proclaimed before 9th August, 1892, and the respective areas objected to and not objected to by the Midland Railway Company, which I referred to in my address before the Committee on Friday last.

The figures in the columns headed "Justifiable" and "Unjustifiable" are not quite the same as those I read to the Committee. You will probably recollect that I stated that the return had been placed in my hands during the sitting of the Committee, and I had not therefore had any opportunity of satisfying myself as to its correctness, and when examining it at the office after the adjournment of the Committee I discovered several inaccuracies. The return now furnished is correct, however, and still shows that only 169,503 acres had been proclaimed as mining reserves up to 9th August, 1892, and that the great bulk of these reserves are admitted by the company to have been justifiably made.

I have, &c.,

The Chairman, Public Accounts Committee,
House of Representatives, Wellington.

H. J. H. Blow, Under-Secretary.

P.S.—When correcting my evidence I will see that the necessary alterations in the figures I specially referred to in my address are duly made.

H. J. H. Blow.

STATEMENT showing MINING RESERVES proclaimed prior to 9th August, 1892, and the respective Areas which the Midland Railway Company regards as having been "justifiably" or "unjustifiably" proclaimed: *vide* Statement submitted by Company's Counsel to Arbitration Court (see page 16 of Parliamentary Paper D.—4B of 1896).

Number.					Area reserved.	"Justifiable."	"Unjustifiable."
					Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Westland District—							
I.	...	...	...	...	5,250	800	4,450
II.	...	...	...	...	9,900	9,900	...
III.	...	...	...	...	8,250	8,250	...
IV.	...	...	...	...	5,700	5,700	...
V.	...	...	...	...	10,000	5,400	4,600
VI.	...	...	...	...	3,500	370	3,130
VII.	...	...	...	...	10,000	9,000	1,000
VIII.	...	...	...	...	10,000	10,000	...
IX.	...	...	...	...	3,000	1,900	1,100
X.	...	...	...	...	5,000	5,000	...
XI.	...	...	...	...	3,000	130	2,870
XII.	...	...	...	...	2,000	1,336	664
XIII., 8a	...	...	...	...	1,700	200	1,500
XIV.	...	...	...	...	3	3	...
Nelson District—							
81	...	...	...	...	4,500	1,100	3,400
77	...	...	...	...	7,500	1,770	5,730
74	...	...	...	...	8,800	5,500	3,300
70	...	...	...	...	6,500	3,200	3,300
69	...	...	...	...	9,000	3,620	5,380
65	...	...	...	...	10,000	1,270	8,730
62	...	...	...	...	10,000	3,110	6,890
59	...	...	...	...	10,000	7,150	2,850
54	...	...	...	...	7,000	6,620	380
53	...	...	...	...	9,000	4,100	4,900
51	...	...	...	...	9,900	5,700	4,200
Totals					169,503	101,129	68,374

H. J. H. Blow, Under-Secretary.

Public Works Office, Wellington, 26th August, 1896.