

SESS. II.—1897.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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# RAILWAYS STATEMENT.

(28th September, 1897.)

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

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MR. SPEAKER,—

This is the third annual Railways Statement which I have had the honour of making, and I am glad to say that the results of the year's work are such as to make my task an unusually pleasant one.

I propose to review the transactions of the year in the following order: First, the transactions as a whole, under the heading of "General"; second, Earnings; third, Working Expenses; fourth, Expenditure for Additions and Improvements to Open Lines charged to Capital Account; fifth, Midland Railway (results of working); sixth, Concluding Remarks.

## 1. GENERAL.

The number of miles now open for traffic is 2,018, as against 2,014 last year.

The revenue for 1896-97 has been	...	...	...	£1,286,158
" for 1895-96	...	...	...	1,183,041
Giving an increase of	...	...	...	<u>£103,117</u>
The expenditure for 1896-97 has been	...	...	...	£789,054
" for 1895-96	...	...	...	751,368
Giving an increase of	...	...	...	<u>£37,686</u>
The excess of revenue over expenditure for 1896-97 has been	...	...	...	£497,104
" " for 1895-96	...	...	...	431,673
Giving an increased net return of	...	...	...	<u>£65,431</u>

These results are phenomenal, and enable the Government to show a return of £3 3s. 10d. per cent. on the capital cost (£15,577,392), as against £2 16s. per cent. last year.

During the year considerable additions have been made to the regular train services. Additional trains have been put on between Hamilton and Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Paeroa, New Plymouth and Hawera, Hawera and Wanganui, Wellington and Lower Hutt, Masterton and Eketahuna, Greymouth and Reefton, Springfield, Darfield and Christchurch. The Canterbury North line train services to and from Christchurch have been quickened and added to. Additional workmen's trains have been provided between Christchurch and Islington. The train services between Lumsden and Invercargill, and Invercargill and the