

RELAID.

Year.	40 lb. Iron.	40 lb. Steel.	45 lb. Steel.	52 lb. Iron.	53 lb. Steel.	56 lb. Steel.	70 lb. Iron.	70 lb. Steel.	Total.
	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.	M. ch.
1891-92...	0 62	2 66	...	0 27	32 49	...	...	...	36 44
1892-93...	5 42	0 33	1 26	0 35	29 21	...	...	...	36 77
1893-94...	...	1 44	...	...	44 22	...	...	...	45 66
1894-95...	3 58	1 62	0 34	...	30 46	...	0 2	...	36 42
1895-96...	0 4	0 37	...	...	36 6	...	...	...	36 47
1896-97...	2 28	0 18	...	...	31 15	1 28	0 22	...	35 31
1897-98...	1 35	0 21	...	...	3 68	41 32	...	...	46 76
1898-99...	0 17	0 19	...	...	5 63	39 68	...	1 50	47 57
Totals	14 6	7 60	1 60	0 62	213 50	82 48	0 24	1 50	322 40

The weights and kinds of rails now existing in the lines are as under, at date 31st March, 1899:—

Weight.	Kind.	Length.
72 lb. ...	Iron ...	M. ch. 0 11
70 lb. ...	Steel ...	4 26
70 lb. ...	Iron ...	52 53
64 lb. ...	" ...	3 4
56 lb. ...	Steel ...	124 36
56 lb. ...	Iron ...	14 50
53 lb. ...	Steel ...	1,118 9
52 lb. ...	" ...	33 12
52 lb. ...	Iron ...	106 49
45 lb. ...	Steel ...	6 62
40 lb. ...	" ...	225 43
40 lb. ...	Iron ...	330 42
30 lb. ...	" ...	64 30
Total ...	...	2,084 27*

* The total mileage of the lines.

Sleepers: The number of sleepers relaid and removed during the past eight years is as under:—

Year.	Relaid.	Removed.	Difference due to Re-spacing.	
			Number.	Number per Mile of Track open for Traffic.
1891-92	139,257	139,912	...	...
1892-93	145,045	132,569	12,476	6·6
1893-94	177,502	155,827	21,675	11·1
1894-95	194,971	170,681	24,290	12·2
1895-96	214,474	188,291	26,183	13·0
1896-97	243,398	210,588	32,810	16·3
1897-98	286,343	243,479	42,864	20·8
1898-99	331,301	282,326	48,975	23·5

The column showing difference between those relaid and removed indicates the additional sleepers put in in new-standard tracks over the previous practice.

The current year's requirements are estimated thus:—

Ordinary renewals	...	...	...	287,000
For relaying sixty-nine miles, at 484	...	...	...	33,396
For re-spacing, say, fifty-eight miles	...	...	...	25,604

Total ... 346,000

I estimate that the sleepers required for relaying during the next six years will be approximately according to subjoined table:—