

An indication of the increases in the costs of stores and materials is given by the following table of the comparative costs, pre-war, and present day, of a few of the commodities used by the Department:—

Commodity.	1939.	1946.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Axles, steel (each)	5 13 8	9 13 2
Axles, steel (each)	8 12 0	10 3 8
Brake-hoses (imported), (each)	0 2 7	0 5 10½
Brake-hoses (New Zealand), (each)	0 12 2
Tarpaulin canvas (per yard)	0 2 5½	0 7 10
Cotton-waste (per hundredweight)	2 8 8	4 18 4
Copper ingot (per ton)	72 10 0	93 11 6
Iron, pig (per ton)	5 14 0	7 13 0
Oils (per gallon)—		
Axle	0 0 11½	0 1 11
Bearing	0 2 10½	0 4 0
Cylinder	0 2 4½	0 3 7
Springs, steel coil (each)	0 7 9	0 11 1
Hose, steam-heating (each)	0 4 11	0 13 6
Boiler-tubes (each)	0 14 8	0 19 1½
Sleepers, hardwood (each)	0 5 11	0 12 8

The prices of many other commodities are not comparable, as supplies cannot now be obtained from the previous source.

SUBSIDIARY SERVICES

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, and net revenue for the various subsidiary services are set out in Statement No. 9A, and the following table shows the variations in revenue and expenditure with last year:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	Amount, 1946.	Variation, 1946 with 1945.		Amount, 1946.	Variation, 1946 with 1945.	
	£	£	Per Cent.	£	£	Per Cent.
Lake Wakatipu steamers ..	10,671	+ 1,475	16·04	19,527	+ 5,491	39·12
Refreshment service ..	366,148	+ 24,619	7·21	339,126	+ 14,192	4·37
Bookstall service ..	183,827	— 7,430	3·88	179,803	— 7,007	3·75
Advertising service ..	40,304	+ 4,941	13·97	32,758	+ 2,698	8·98
Dwellings ..	158,266	+ 471	0·30	270,998	+ 33,179	13·95
Other buildings ..	48,003	+ 2,686	5·93	33,821	+ 2,988	9·69
Road motor service ..	1,098,944	+ 278,922	34·01	959,087	+ 220,197	29·80
Miscellaneous revenue (non-operating)	434,097	+ 23,133	5·63
Totals ..	2,340,260	+ 328,817	16·35	1,835,120	+ 271,738	17·38

The variations on the expenditure side reflect generally the rising costs of wages and materials.

The most pronounced increase on the revenue side is in the road motor services. Since the relaxation of wartime controls, services have been reinstated and expanded. New services have also been inaugurated and some purchased from private operators.