

On account of the difficulty in obtaining tradesmen, coupled with the limited workshop accommodation, machinery, and stores, it has been necessary to work some of the shops overtime.

Steps have been taken to light the Petone Workshops with electricity. This should be extended to all of the workshops.

The work of seating second-class cars with cushions has been put in hand.

On account of the difficulty experienced in procuring iron castings it was found necessary to build a foundry at Petone. This is now in working order.

Three dining-cars for use on the Hurunui-Bluff Railway have been completed during the year, the cooking being done by compressed gas, which is the only instance in the colonies.

Seven hundred and ninety-eight car, van, wagon, and crane axles have been renewed during the year. This work should be pushed forward.

With a view to insure greater safety on the Fell incline, nickel-steel crank axles have been ordered for the Fell locomotives.

The following table gives particulars of repairs, &c., to locomotives for the year:—

—				Number.	Class of Engine.
Number passed through shops ...	...	...	...	254	1 A, 9 B, 6 C, 17 D, 3 E, 42 F, 14 FA, 2 G, 10 H, 26 J, 5 K, 2 L, 3 LA, 2 M, 12 N, 7 O, 7 P, 14 R, 2 S, 8 T, 22 U, 7 V, 3 W, 26 WA, 2 locomotives for Castlecliff Railway Company, 1 locomotive for Kaitangata Coal and Railway Company, and 1 locomotive for Public Works Department.
Built new ...	...	...	...	4	1 B, 2 U, and 1 WA.
Erected ...	...	...	...	10	4 B and 6 U (imported from Great Britain).
Converted ...	...	...	...	1	L to LA.
Thoroughly overhauled ...	...	...	...	33	2 C, 4 D, 1 E, 7 F, 2 FA, 1 G, 2 H, 2 J, 1 K, 2 M, 1 N, 1 P, 4 R, 1 V, 1 W, and 1 locomotive for Public Works Department.
Heavy repairs ...	...	...	...	84	1 C, 5 D, 1 E, 16 F, 5 FA, 1 G, 3 H, 12 J, 4 K, 2 LA, 3 N, 5 O, 2 P, 5 R, 1 S, 5 T, 3 U, 5 V, 4 WA, and 1 locomotive for Castlecliff Railway Company.
Light repairs ...	...	...	...	122	1 A, 4 B, 3 C, 8 D, 1 E, 19 F, 7 FA, 5 H, 12 J, 2 L, 8 N, 2 O, 4 P, 5 R, 1 S, 3 T, 11 U, 1 V, 2 W, 21 WA, 1 locomotive for Castlecliff Railway Company, and 1 locomotive for Kaitangata Coal and Railway Company.
Painted and varnished ...	...	...	...	52	1 B, 3 C, 5 D, 9 F, 2 FA, 2 H, 7 J, 1 LA, 2 M, 1 N, 1 O, 3 R, 3 T, 4 U, 3 V, 4 WA, and 1 locomotive for Castlecliff Railway Company.
Touched up and revarnished ...	...	...	...	79	4 B, 1 C, 2 D, 14 F, 6 FA, 6 J, 4 K, 1 L, 1 LA, 1 N, 4 O, 3 P, 7 R, 1 S, 2 T, 12 U, 3 V, 6 WA, 1 W.

Five Class B heavy consolidation locomotives for goods traffic are being built at Addington.

Three Class WA locomotives for mixed traffic on heavy grades are being built at Hillside, to replace one Class A, one Class C, and one Class D locomotives, which are unsuitable for further service.

The conversion of six Class L locomotives to LA and six Class F locomotives to FA is in hand.

The following table gives particulars of repairs, &c., to locomotive boilers for the year:—

Year ending 31st March, 1900.	Number passed through Shops.	Built new.	Heavy Repairs.	Light Repairs.	New Tubes.	Tubes pieced.	New Barrels.	New Smoke-box Tube-plates.	New Copper Fire- boxes complete.	New Copper Tube-plates.	Boilers patched.
Boilers ...	163	17	48	90	32	32	2	5	7	5	45

Twenty-five new boilers are in hand.