

Little River Branch. (Distance, 22 miles 13 chains.)

The operating revenue and expenditure per mile for this branch for the past four years was :—

Year.	Branch Revenue.	Feeder Value.	Total Revenue.	Working-expenses.	Interest.	Total Loss.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927	462	21	483	690	216	423
1928	422	17	439	713	218	492
1929	413	18	431	709	219	497
1930	408	16	424	675	222	473

The operating revenue and expenditure for the whole branch for last year was as follows : Branch revenue, £9,381 ; feeder value, £371 ; total revenue, £9,752 ; working-expenses, £15,536 ; interest, £5,106 : total loss, £10,890.

The passenger traffic, which is maintained by an electric rail-car, averages about twenty-four per trip, including school-children, and, unless there is a marked improvement, your Commission recommends discontinuing the passenger service, also that the goods-train at present running daily be run on three days per week only. It is estimated that the reduced train service will effect a saving of £1,200 per annum.

Southbridge Branch : Hornby to Southbridge. (Distance, 25 miles 39 chains.)

The operating revenue and expenditure per mile for this Branch for the past four years was :—

Year.	Branch Revenue.	Feeder Value.	Total Revenue.	Working-expenses.	Interest.	Total Loss.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927	945	81	1,026	902	205	81
1928	884	75	959	788	188	17
1929	917	78	995	894	189	88
1930	862	60	922	899	198	175

The operating revenue and expenditure for the whole branch for last year was as follows : Branch revenue, £22,422 ; feeder value, £1,550 ; total revenue, £23,972 ; working-expenses, £23,393 ; interest, £5,148 : total loss, £4,569.

If the locomotive depot at Southbridge cannot be closed the only saving that can be made on this branch is by cutting out mixed trains and running goods-trains in lieu thereof, saving about £900 per annum. Your Commission recommends that this be done.

Whitecliffs Branch : Darfield-Whitecliffs. (Distance, 11 miles 41 chains.)

The operating revenue and expenditure per mile for this branch for the past four years was :—

Year.	Branch Revenue.	Feeder Value.	Total Revenue.	Working-expenses.	Interest.	Total Loss.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1927	323	156	479	470	97	88
1928	306	131	437	693	93	349
1929	256	122	379	348	95	64
1930	202	86	288	365	93	170

The operating revenue and expenditure for the whole of the branch for last year was as follows : Branch revenue, £2,424 ; feeder value, £1,034 ; total revenue, £3,456 ; working-expenses, £4,389 ; interest, £1,116 : total loss, £2,049.

Goods traffic only is worked on this branch. The passenger traffic is catered for by a railway bus service, which your Commission has recommended be discontinued. The only economy which can be effected on this line is a slight saving in maintenance costs.