

Subsidiary Services Expenditure.—The particulars of the expenditure in connection with subsidiary services are as follow :—

		1930-31.	1929-30.	1928-29.
		£	£	£
Lake Wakatipu steamers .. ..	.. ..	14,064	18,374	17,425
Refreshment service .. ..	.. ..	116,506	125,230	116,391
Advertising service .. ..	.. ..	48,692	53,151	50,720
Departmental dwellings .. ..	.. ..	178,410	187,816	170,073
Leases bookstalls, &c. .. ..	.. ..	9,804	9,144	8,483
Road-motor services .. ..	.. ..	109,191	117,118	111,712
		<u>£476,667</u>	<u>£510,833</u>	<u>£474,804</u>

Analyses of the above variations are contained under the appropriate heading for each of these services as set out later in this report.

PASSENGERS.

An analysis of the passenger revenue is as follows :—

—		1931.	1930.	Variation.	Per Cent.
Passenger journeys—					
Ordinary .. ..	.. ..	7,265,912	8,469,038	—1,203,126	14·21
Season .. ..	.. ..	15,521,144	16,911,076	—1,389,932	8·22
Total .. ..	.. ..	22,787,056	25,380,114	—2,593,058	10·22
Revenue—		£	£	£	£
Ordinary .. ..	.. ..	1,531,376	1,733,512	—202,136	11·66
Season .. ..	.. ..	247,349	262,415	—15,066	5·74
Total .. ..	.. ..	1,778,725	1,995,927	—217,202	10·88
Passenger train-miles .. ..	.. ..	4,874,650	5,037,775	—163,125	3·24
Revenue—		£	£	£	£
Per mile of line .. ..	.. ..	539	607	—68	11·2
Per train-mile .. ..	.. ..	87·58d.	95·08d.	—7·50d.	7·8

The variations exclusive of season tickets were distributed as follow :—

	1931 compared with 1930.		1930 compared with 1929.	
	Journeys.	Revenue.	Journeys.	Revenue.
Ordinary	£		£
Suburban	—754,377	—222,108	—454,773
Holiday excursion	—367,794	—15,451	—163,580
Other reduced fares	+43,636	+56,354	—224,635
	—224,591	—20,931	+265,759
Total	—1,203,126	—202,136	—577,229
				—134,534

The principal decrease for the year was in ordinary passengers, £222,108 ; the revenue in first- and second-class passengers under this heading decreased by 25·5 per cent. and 16·6 per cent. respectively as compared with 1930.

The increase in holiday-excursion traffic was due to the fact that the Easter holidays for 1930 were late in April and were included in the figures for the year under review. A large proportion of advance bookings for Easter, 1931, are also included in the passenger returns for the past year.

The bookings for the Christmas issue of holiday-excursion tickets from 15th December, 1930, to 15th January, 1931, show a decrease of £13,500 as compared with the previous year, while the ordinary issues in the same period decreased by £13,250.

The Royal Commission on Railways recommended an increase in the ordinary, holiday-excursion, season tickets, and workers' weekly fares, and these increases were brought into operation on 16th November, 1930. In a period of depression such as has existed in the Dominion for some time past it is difficult to estimate what effect this increase has had on the issues for the various classes of tickets.