

All items in the miscellaneous luggage group show increases. Revenue from the carriage of dogs, bicycles, &c., and from “left” and “checked” luggage shows the satisfactory increase of 11·89 per cent., which is considerably in excess of the increase in passenger travel. Revenue from bulk newspaper traffic again shows an increase (9·59 per cent.), due to a continued improvement in the circulation of newspapers and periodicals.

The following table shows the variations under the heading of “Mails” :—

			1938.	1937.	Variation.	
			£	£	£	Per cent.
Mails in guards' vans at half parcel rates..			55,080	50,904	+4,176	8·20
Railway travelling post-office service ..			27,818	27,627	+191	0·69
Mails carried in wagons .. ..			18,040	12,465	+5,575	44·73
Total .. ..			£100,938	£90,996	+£9,942	10·93

The travelling post-office service is paid for on a mileage basis.

GOODS AND LIVE-STOCK.

The revenue and tonnage of goods and live-stock for 1938 compare with the previous year as follow :—

		1938.	1937.	Increase.	Per Cent.
Revenue	.. ..	£5,411,297	£4,846,417	£564,880	11·66
Tonnage	.. ..	7,516,049	6,813,240	Tons 702,809	10·32

Although the tonnage of goods and live-stock carried is 3·50 per cent. below the peak year of 1930, the business handled was far greater in 1938, as is shown by an increase over 1930 of 9·63 per cent. in net ton-miles. The revenue earned in 1938 is the highest for any year on record. The average haul rose from 66 miles in 1930 to 75 miles in 1938. Little variation was shown in the receipt per ton-mile, the 1930 figure being 2·32d., compared with 2·35d. in 1938.

The beneficial effects of the generally favourable season have been reflected in the financial returns for the year, and the tonnage of general merchandise, live-stock, wool, dairy-produce, and manures handled was such as to tax the available rolling-stock to the utmost limit.

A comparison of tonnage and revenue from 1930 to 1938 is afforded in the following table :—

Year.	Tons.	Revenue.	Variation as compared with Previous Year in each Case.			
			Tons.	Per Cent.	Revenue.	Per Cent.
		£			£	
1930 .. ..	7,788,973	4,904,324	+ 175,324	2·31	+ 58,199	1·20
1931 .. ..	6,957,709	4,487,357	— 831,264	10·67	—116,967	8·50
1932 .. ..	5,824,811	4,019,600	—1,132,898	16·28	—467,757	10·42
1933 .. ..	5,490,686	3,745,777	— 334,125	5·74	—273,823	6·81
1934 .. ..	5,642,199	3,911,245	+ 151,513	2·76	+165,468	4·42
1935 .. ..	6,023,960	4,138,434	+ 381,761	6·77	+227,189	5·81
1936 .. ..	6,188,805	4,359,750	+ 164,845	2·74	+221,316	5·35
1937 .. ..	6,813,240	4,846,417	+ 624,435	10·09	+486,667	11·16
1938 .. ..	7,516,049	5,411,297	+ 702,809	10·32	+564,880	11·66

A comparison with 1937 of the tonnage of commodities under six main headings is as follows :—

		1938. Tons.	1937. Tons.	Variation	
				Tons.	Per Cent.
Agricultural products .. ..		585,181	588,255	— 3,074	0·52
Animals and their products .. ..		1,386,996	1,298,848	+ 88,148	6·79
Products of mines .. ..		2,231,051	2,070,207	+160,844	7·77
Products of forests .. ..		579,216	531,111	+ 48,105	9·06
Benzine, cement, and manures .. ..		1,234,365	959,542	+274,823	28·64
Miscellaneous .. ..		1,499,240	1,365,277	+133,963	9·81
Totals .. ..		7,516,049	6,813,240	+702,809	10·32