

464. The following comparisons have reference only to public railways, and not to those belonging to the Government. There was an increase of 592 in the number of miles in operation, of 220,589 in the number of passengers, of 967,396 in the number of tons of freight carried, and apparently a decrease of 191,078 miles in the number of miles run by trains. The receipts showed an increase of \$1,176,365, while the working expenses, which in 1885 averaged \$2,372 per mile, for the past year averaged \$2,233, being a decrease of \$139 per mile. The proportion of working expenses to receipts decreased 2 per cent., the largest decrease, viz., 9 per cent., being on the Canada Southern. The total percentage is considerably higher than in most European countries, the proportion there generally ranging from 50 to 55 per cent. In the Australasian Colonies, in 1884, the proportion was 63 per cent., and in India, in 1885, it was only 49 per cent.

Proportion of working expenses to earnings.

Expenses of Government railways.

465. The expenses of working the Government railways are very considerable, and are in excess of the receipts. There was an increase of 3 per cent. in the proportion of working expenses over receipts during 1886. The State lines of France and Austria show proportions of expenses to receipts of 90 per cent. and 92 per cent. respectively.

Accidents in Canada

466. The following is a statement of the number of accidents in connection with the railways in Canada, including Government railways, for the last 11 years:—

	Killed.	Injured.
1876	109	304
1877	111	317
1878	97	361
1879	107	66
1880	87	102
1881	99	147
1882	147	397
1883	169	550
1884	227	796
1885	157	684
1886	141