

554. Canada, it will be seen, has 2,845 miles of railway more than all the Australasian Colonies combined, and 5,033 miles more than the continent of Australia ; but on the assumption that a railway only opens up country to the extent of about 20 miles on either side, there is yet a vast amount of country waiting for development, as on that basis there are only 533,800 square miles of this country within ordinary reach of railway facilities—rather more than one-seventh of the total area. In the Australasian Colonies about one-eighth of the area has been thus developed.

Proportion of railway development to area.

555. The total railway mileage of the British Empire is 60,668, which on the estimated area of 8,235,151 square miles, gives an average of one mile of railway to every 135 square miles, and on the assumption in the preceding paragraph allows for rather less than one-third of the area of the whole Empire being within reach of railway accommodation.

Railway mileage of British Empire.

556. The latest available figures place the railway mileage of the world at 359,071 miles, which gives an average of one mile of railway to every 142 square miles, and provides railway accommodation for rather more than one-fourth of the total area.

Railway mileage of the world.

557. The next table gives particulars of the railways in the principal foreign countries in 1887 and 1888 :—

Railways in foreign countries.