

RAILWAYS IN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

COUNTRIES.	Date of Opening.	Miles of Railway.	Square Miles of Area to each Mile.
United Kingdom.....	Sept. 17, 1825.	20,191	6
India.....	April 18, 1853.	17,283	55
Canada.....	July 21, 1836.	14,870	223
Australasia (Total).....		12,081	262
New South Wales.....	Sept. 25, 1855.	2,263	137
New Zealand.....	Dec. 1, 1863.	2,009	54
Cape of Good Hope.....	June 26, 1860.	1,890	123
Victoria.....	Sept. 14, 1854.	2,763	32
Queensland.....	July 31, 1865.	2,304	290
South Australia.....	April 16, 1856.	1,666	543
Tasmania.....	Feb. 19, 1871.	425	62
Natal.....		542	62
Ceylon.....	Oct. 1, 1865.	191	133
Western Australia.....	Jan. 21, 1864.	651	1,630
Jamaica.....	Nov. 21, 1845.	88	47
Mauritius.....	May 13, 1862.	92	8
Newfoundland.....		111	378
Trinidad.....	—, 1880.	54	32
Barbados.....	Sept. 10, 1883.	24	7
British Guiana.....	do 1, 1864.	21	5,190
Malta.....		8	15

Railway development in Canada and Australasia.

567. Canada, it will be seen, has 2,789 miles of railway more than all the Australasian colonies combined, and 5,223 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 594,800 square miles of this country within ordinary reach of railway facilities, not much more than one-sixth of the total area. In the Australasian colonies about one-seventh of the area has been thus developed.

Railway mileage of the British Empire.

568. The total railway mileage of the British empire is 67,227, which, on the estimated area of 9,040,497* 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 more than one-fourth of the area of the whole empire being within reach of railway accommodation.

Railways in foreign countries.

569. The next table is compiled from Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1892, and gives the date of the opening of the first railway in all the principal countries of the world, other than the British empire, the length of railway lines therein, and the proportion of railway mileage to area. It will be seen that only five of these countries, viz., Austria-Hungary, France, the German empire, Russia and the United States, have a greater railway mileage than Canada. The same

* Protectorates of Africa not included.