

view to developing that industry, carried by the Intercolonial Railway at almost an actual loss. A system of rigid economy in the working of these roads has recently, however, been adopted, and it is hoped that a much nearer approach to equality between receipts and expenses may thereby, in time, be brought about.

573. The main line of the Intercolonial Railway runs from Point Lévis, Quebec, to Halifax, a distance of 675 miles, and, in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway, now forms part of a through route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The extensions consist of $479\frac{1}{2}$ miles, making a total length of $1,154\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

574. A line of railway between Oxford Station, on the Intercolonial, and Brown's Point, on the Pictou Town branch, with a branch from Pugwash Junction to Pugwash Harbour, being altogether $72\frac{1}{3}$ miles in length, was opened for traffic on 15th July, 1890. A line of railway has also been built and put into operation by the Government through the island of Cape Breton, a distance of $98\frac{1}{2}$ miles, from Point Tupper, at the Strait of Canso, to Sydney. This road forms part of what is known as the Short Line, in which expression is comprised a scheme for connecting Montreal with Canadian Atlantic ports by the shortest route. Connections have been made by this line with the coal mines of Sydney and North Sydney, which are thus placed in direct communication with the Intercolonial system. The road connects with the Eastern Extension Railway by means of a ferry between Point Tupper and Port Mulgrave. The Government also assumed the work of constructing the link of $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Digby and Annapolis, and the road was handed over to the Western Counties Railway for operation on 27th July, 1891. All the above roads now form part of the Intercolonial system.

575. The following are figures of the traffic during the past sixteen years :—

Main line,
Intercolonial Rail-
way.

Oxford
Branch.

Cape Bre-
ton Rail-
way.

Digby and
Annapolis
Railway.

Traffic on
the Inter-
colonial,
1877-1892.