

578. The Prince Edward Island Railway runs the whole length of the island, a distance of $154\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and, including extensions, has a total length of 211 miles. The traffic during 1892 was very dull, and there was a decrease of 6,119 in the number of passengers and of 8,446 tons in the quantity of freight carried. The receipts decreased by \$16,815 and the working expenses increased by \$31,716, this increase being in part due to an extraordinary expenditure for laying new steel rails. In proportion to its cost, the traffic on this road is very light, and it will probably be some years before the earnings will equal the expenditure. The following are traffic figures for the last five years :—

TRAFFIC ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY, 1888-1892.

YEAR.	Earnings.	Working expenses.	Excess of expenses.	Freight carried.	Passengers carried.
	\$	\$	\$	Tons.	No.
1888.....	158,364	229,640	71,276	59,633	131,246
1889.....	171,370	247,559	76,190	55,682	152,780
1890.....	160,972	266,486	105,514	51,604	133,099
1891.....	174,258	257,990	83,732	59,512	145,508
1892.....	157,443	289,706	132,264	51,065	139,389

579. The annual receipts during the five years have averaged \$779 per mile and the expenses \$1,224, being an average annual excess of expenditure of \$445 per mile. The average annual quantity of freight carried was 263 tons per mile and the average number of passengers 665 per mile.

580. The Windsor Branch is owned and maintained by the Government, but is operated by the Windsor and Annapolis Railway, who pay one-third of the gross earnings to the Government. The Government's share is generally more than sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance, and during 1892 the profits amounted to \$13,994. The road runs from Windsor to Windsor Junction, a distance of 32 miles.

581. The following table shows the amounts spent by the Government during the last five years on the construction, staff and maintenance of railways :—

Government expenditure on railways, 1888-1892.