

941. The following table gives the railway mileage in British possessions, together with the date of opening, number of persons and number of square miles of area to each mile of railway :—

## RAILWAYS IN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

COUNTRIES.	Date of Opening.	Miles of Railway.	Square Miles of Area to each Mile.
United Kingdom.....	Sept. 17, 1825.	20,325	6
India.....	April 18, 1853.	17,768	54
Canada.....	July 23, 1836.	15,320	<del>223</del>
Australasia (Total).....		12,347	262
New South Wales.....	Sept. 25, 1855.	<del>2,205</del> 2,351	137
New Zealand.....	Dec. 1, 1863.	2,036	54
Cape of Good Hope.....	June 26, 1860.	2,252	123
Victoria.....	Sept. 14, 1854.	2,903	32
Queensland.....	July 31, 1865.	2,313	290
South Australia.....	April 16, 1856.	<del>1,064</del> 1,874	543
Tasmania.....	Feb. 19, 1871.	475	62
Natal.....		399	62
Ceylon.....	Oct. 1, 1865.	191	133
Western Australia.....	Jan. 21, 1864.	<del>651</del> 2,204	1,630
Jamaica.....	Nov. 21, 1845.	101	47
Mauritius.....	May 13, 1862.	92	8
Newfoundland.....		243	378
Trinidad.....	1880.	54	32
Barbados.....	Sept. 10, 1883.	24	7
British Guiana.....	Sept, 1, 1864.	21	5,190
Malta.....		8	15

Canada, it will be seen, has 2,973 miles of railway more than all the Australasian colonies combined, and 5,484 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 612,800 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.

942. 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.

\* Protectorates of Africa not included.