

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

Railway mileage in British possessions.

RAILWAYS IN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

COUNTRIES.	Miles of Railway.	Number of Persons to each Mile.	Square Miles of Area to each Mile.
United Kingdom.....	20,073	1,887	6
India.....	16,996	12,975	63
Canada.....	14,634	331	236
Australasia (Total).....	11,488	331	267
New South Wales.....	2,263	501	137
New Zealand.....	1,945	322	54
Cape of Good Hope.....	1,890	808	123
Victoria.....	2,470	532	41
Queensland.....	2,142	184	312
South Australia.....	1,756	179	514
Tasmania.....	399	367	66
Natal.....	339	1,604	62
Ceylon.....	191	15,750	133
Western Australia.....	513	97	1,902
Jamaica.....	67	9,545	63
Mauritius.....	92	3,922	8
Newfoundland.....	111	1,778	378
Trinidad.....	54	3,852	32
Barbados.....	24	7,597	7
British Guiana.....	21	13,566	5,190
Malta.....	8	20,708	15

843. Canada, it will be seen, has 3,146 miles of railway more than all the Australasian colonies combined, and 5,490 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 585,360 square miles of this country within ordinary reach of railway facilities—just about one-sixth of the total area. In the Australasian colonies about one-eighth of the area has been thus developed.

Proportion of railway development to area.

844. The total railway mileage of the British empire is 64,836, which, on the estimated area of 9,114,657* square miles, gives an average of one mile of railway to every 140 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.

Railway mileage of British empire.

* Protectorates of Africa not included.