

Public Works (1899) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 636. *Hy.*

DATED 5th June 1899.

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Suspense balance, objectionable
outlay and floating Cheques*

*Coming to the Agents, Mr. S. Shy, Resolution
of the Govt. of India on the note proposed by the
Accountant General, P.W. Dept. on the — at the
end of the offl. year 1897-98, & inviting atten-
tion of the Agents to certain points after note
to remedy the irregularities pointed out at
an early date.*

Indexed.

P. W. Ry
CURRENT No. 726.

No. 82 A-R.

Dated 25th April 1899

Received

Registered 2nd June 1888.

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Suspense balances,
objectionable outlay
and floating cheques at
the end of the official
year 1897-98.

Forwarding for
information & guidance
Resolution of the Govt. of
India on the Note by the
Accountant Genl. &c. &c.

2 The Agent & Manager M.R.
" " S.R.
" Examiner G.R. & Aud.
" Com: Engr. for R.R.

BAC TOGRAPH

FURTHER PAPERS.

No. 82 A.—R.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.

Railway.

Simla, the 25th April 1899.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

Suspense balances, objectionable outlay and floating cheques at the end of the official year 1897-98.

Read the following :—

Note by A. R. BECHER, Esq., Accountant General, Public Works Department, No. 069 R., dated 8th March 1899.

I.—SUSPENSE BALANCES.

I.—SUSPENSE BALANCES.

Excluding the three Guaranteed Railways, which are separately dealt with in this note, the suspense balances outstanding at the close of 1897-98, arranged by major heads of account, were as shown below :—

MAJOR HEAD.	AFFECTING CHARGE TO GRANT.										AFFECTING CREDIT TO REVENUE.										DEBT BALANCES.											
	CAPITAL.										REVENUE.																					
	London Invoices.		London stores.		Purchases.		Sales.		Stores.		Workshop Suspense Account.		Manufactures.		Miscellaneous Advances.		Demands Payable.		Miscellaneous advances.		Traffic Account.		Foreign Railways.		Bhopal Railway Working Account.		Deposits.		Railway Provident Institution.		Civil Engineers' Provident Fund.	
	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.
XXVI and 38.— State Railways— Revenue Account	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
37 and 48.—Con- struction expendi- ture	1,42,707	67,411	26,29,677	4,28,626	5,34,390	2,43,210	...	...	4,30,95,034	8,79,703	73,602	14,96,028	4,30,831	18,89,720	...	...	44,66,381	6,31,190	6,31,190	46,49,700	22,378	2,04,117	77,690	1,30,708	31,37,898	24,582	76,60,483	...	...	44,271	36,89,992	
40.—Subsidized Railways—Land.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41.—Miscellaneous Railway Expendi- ture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Capital Account of Indian Railway Companies	72,113	6,47,547	27,11,297	1,40,710	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	2,14,820	7,14,968	53,40,974	5,69,336	5,34,390	2,45,007	...	...	6,40,65,221	9,04,573	1,34,763	16,84,172	4,30,831	11,79,079	44,66,381	6,31,190	46,49,700	22,378	2,04,117	77,690	1,30,708	46,44,730	24,582	77,04,754	36,89,992	...	...	...	...	...	...	

2. Examiners have certified that the detailed audit of these balances, *vide* Public Works Department Code (5th Edition), Volume II, Chapter III, paras. 90—96, has been carried out, and that, with the exception of those brought specially to notice as irregular or exceptional, all the component items of each balance are current and efficient.

GENERAL REMARKS.

3. *London Invoices.*—This head is not now used by State Railways proper, and the balances represent generally unadjusted liabilities or advances on account of stores and the cash balances in the hands of the Board of such lines as work through Boards of Directors in London. The amount entered against the State Railway Stores Branch represents the unadjusted balances of exchange on English stores at the end of the year.

4. *London Stores.*—Of the 53½ lakhs of English stores, which were in transit at the close of the year 1897-98, about 13½ lakhs were for the East Indian Railway, 3¼ lakhs for the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, 5¼ lakhs for the Eastern Bengal Railway, 1¾ lakhs for the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, 11½ lakhs for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, 2¼ lakhs for the Southern Mahratta Railway, four lakhs for the Brahmaputra-Saltanpur Railway, two lakhs for the Burma Railways, and four lakhs for the South Behar Railway.

5. *Stores.*—Almost 81 per cent. of the value of stores in stock is borne on the books of the open lines; although charged to Capital in the first instance, a large portion of these stores is intended for, and will eventually be utilized by, Revenue. There was an increase of 13¾ lakhs in the stock of stores during the year under review. The principal increases are on the East Indian, Eastern Bengal, Mari-Attock Railways and Indus Bridge Section of the Kotri-Rohri Railway, due to the receipt of material for the construction of extensions and new projects. Detailed explanations of the fluctuations are given further on in this note.

6. *Demands Payable.*—Over 44½ lakhs of liabilities stood in this account at the end of the year, representing mainly working charges of the month of March brought in by journal entry. There was an increase of nearly one lakh over the balance on 31st March 1897. Taking into consideration the total monthly charge for working expenses, the above balance of 44½ lakhs appears reasonable.

7. *Purchases.*—The debit balance under this head is due chiefly to a remittance to England for English stores and to payments made for sleepers purchased but not brought on to "Stores" having been debited to "Purchases" instead of to "Miscellaneous Advances" in the accounts of the Tapti Valley and East Indian Railways.

8. *Traffic Account.*—The debit balance of nearly 46½ lakhs is 12½ lakhs in excess of the balance at the end of 1896-97. The principal increases are:—East Indian Railway 3¼ lakhs, due chiefly to increase in through traffic; Eastern Bengal Railway one lakh, due to increased traffic in the last quarter of the year, and North-Western Railway 6½ lakhs, due to large out-standings against the Commissariat Department on account of the Frontier operations.

9. *Debt Head Balances.*—The amount held under "Deposits" represents chiefly (1) Security deposits of contractors; (2) Contributions for work for private persons and public bodies; (3) Unpaid wages, and (4) Earnings of railways held temporarily in the accounts of the working lines pending adjustment at the close of the calendar half-year. The balances also include (a) amount deposited by the Gwalior and Bhopal Durbars for completion of works on the Bina-Goonna and Bhopal-Ujjain Railways, and (b) amounts deposited by the Guna-Bara-Kotah Railway and the Jodhpur Durbar to meet the cost of stores indented for from England.

The balance under "Deposits" does not include the amounts invested in Government Securities from security deposits of employes and from assets of

Guarantee Funds by some of the State lines worked by Companies. The total amount so invested at the end of 1897-98 was Rs. 4,62,950.

The balance at the close of the year under "Fines" is Rs. 43,527 less than the balance at the end of 1896-97. This balance is exclusive of the amount invested and deposited in the Government Savings Bank, which amounted to Rs. 1,97,019 at the end of 1897-98.

The balance in the account of the Railway Provident Institution shows an increase of only Rs. 1,23,842 over the previous year's balance which is much less than the normal yearly increase. This is owing to the greater part of the amount at credit of the Burma Railway having been withdrawn from the Government accounts and paid over to the Company. The balance under this head includes Rs. 44,271 at the credit of non-pensionable employés on State lines under construction and in the offices of the Director General of Railways, Consulting Engineers, and Government Examiner.

The Civil Engineers' Provident Fund increased by Rs. 2,30,792 during the year from normal transactions.

XXVI AND 38.—STATE RAILWAYS—REVENUE ACCOUNT.

10. The balances shown in the general abstract under these heads were distributed over the various railways as follows:—

NAME OF RAILWAY.	SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS AFFECTING CHARGE TO GRANT AND CREDIT TO REVENUE.							DEBIT HEAD BALANCES.		
	Demands Payable.	Miscellaneous Advances.	Traffic Account.		Foreign Railways.		Bhopal Railway Working Account.*	Deposits.	Railway Fine Fund.	Railway Provident Institution.
			Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.				
IMPERIAL.	Cr.	Dr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Cr.	Cr.	Cr.	Cr.
East Indian	7,79,400	3,07,131	11,84,373	...	...	...	...	6,80,942	2,394	...
Rajputana-Malwa	4,59,487	64,987	4,89,435	...	24,742	...	...	4,07,153	...	19,20,175
Bhopal	...	...	...	22,378	...	...	...	60,568	...	...
Warora Colliery	14,279	60	...	...	...	...	...	4,580	...	20,771
Umara Colliery	17,247	193	1,650	...	...	...	...	1,409	...	10,605
Bengal-Nagpur	2,64,361	7,780	2,15,872	...	57,214	...	...	57,209	685	...
Bengal Central	41,431	7,144	28,926	...	...	5,556	...	14,071	2,737	...
Eastern Bengal	4,05,584	32,363	3,61,597	...	...	49,238	...	2,70,594	...	12,37,743
Bengal and North-Western and Tirhoot	2,01,978	59,945	81,814	...	43,946	...	...	1,47,976	1,281	...
Oudh and Rohilkhand	2,11,859	9,551	1,50,515	...	37,208	...	...	1,05,567	125	7,68,855
Indian Midland	1,53,378	4,233	1,46,025	...	1,974	...	1,20,708	2,30,879	287	...
Lucknow-Bareilly	57,171	7,457	38,814	...	10,800	...	...	1,24,204	883	...
North-Western	8,62,847	62,030	13,23,783	...	9,749	...	...	5,38,965	...	35,19,153
East Coast	1,54,801	34,463	1,59,849	...	2,643	...	...	1,34,053	...	1,42,210
Southern Indian	2,01,956	285	1,15,053	...	...	1,087	...	17,003	10,869	...
Southern Mahratta	3,24,026	25,692	1,81,462	...	15,841	...	...	2,67,237	692	...
Assam-Bengal	57,616	3,051	24,514	...	...	21,859	...	7,919	2,407	...
Burma	2,48,737	4,760	1,42,932	...	...	...	...	67,411	2,220	30,281
TOTAL IMPERIAL	44,56,158	6,31,128	46,46,614	22,378	2,04,117	77,690	1,20,708	31,37,740	24,582	76,49,793
PROVINCIAL.										
Jorhat	4,537	62	849	...	...	...	...	98	...	4,535
Cherra-Companygunj	2,767	...	2,237	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,855
Hyderabad-Umarkot	2,919	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL PROVINCIAL	10,223	62	3,086	...	...	...	...	98	...	10,690
GRAND TOTAL	44,66,381	6,31,190	46,49,700	22,378	2,04,117	77,690	1,20,708	31,37,838	24,582	76,60,483

* Bhopal Railway Working Account.—The balance under this head represents the earnings of the Bhopal State Railway held in suspense on the books of the Indian Midland Railway until a settlement is effected after the close of each calendar half-year.

11. The following are the principal irregularities or exceptional items brought to notice by Examiners:—

Railway.	Account.	Amount.	Particulars and Remarks.
		Rs.	
Rajputana-Malwa	Miscellaneous Advances	2,563	Advance made to Messrs. Ward and Vishnoo Ramchandra, Contractors, Godhra-Ratlam Railway, which will be cleared on settlement of suit filed by the Contractors against the Company.
		3,007	Expenditure on works for the Odeypore-Chittore Railway in excess of funds received from the Odeypore Durbar. Of this sum, Rs. 1,837 has already been recovered and the balance is under recovery.
Bengal Central	" "	1,000	Advance to Eastern Bengal State Railway for minor repairs to engines and vehicles in Kanchrapara Workshops outstanding from October 1897.
		2,866	Moiety of handling charges recoverable from the India General Steam Navigation Company for goods handled at Khulna outstanding from December 1897.
		2,651	Value of 12,330 sacks, at Rs. 21-8 per 100, due from Eastern Bengal State Railway, pending acceptance of transfer certificate, outstanding from December 1897.
Oudh and Rohilkhand	" "	300	Due by Mr. Hollis, Locomotive Foreman, who has long overstayed his leave. The matter has been referred to the Government of India.
	Traffic Account	1,045	Undercharges on certain consignments carried to Shahjehanpur for the Powayan Steam Tramway Company in 1894. The matter has been reported to the Director of Traffic, and is still under reference with the Agents of the Tramway Company.
North Western	Miscellaneous Advances	45,845	Due from the Southern Punjab Railway on account of freight, etc. (Rs. 36,373 have since been adjusted).
		2,876	Freight charges recoverable from Contractor, since adjusted.
East Coast	" "	25,888	Share of joint working expenses of the Bezvada station chargeable to the Southern Mahratta and Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways, pending acceptance of the revised agreement.
	Deposits	11,399	This debit balance under "Unpaid Wages" is due to a payment of Rs. 12,215 to a Contractor in March 1898, which had been erroneously credited to earnings in the accounts of that month.
Southern Mahratta	Demands Payable	24,000	Bezvada joint station expenses for 1896-97 will be adjusted on final settlement of the working agreement.
		1,000	Balance of Poona joint station expenses for 1896 still under reference.
	Miscellaneous Advances	3,500	Payment made into a court of law on account of the security deposit of a Contractor. Since adjusted.

12. East Indian Railway.—Under "Miscellaneous Advances" is included (I) Joint Station expenses recoverable from foreign Railways, Rs. 16,628. (II) Advances to contractors on sleeper purchase account, Rs. 17,072. (III) Survey expenses of proposed branch lines, Rs. 2,45,370.

The balance under "Traffic Account" is made up of—

	Rs.
Traffic earnings	11,32,367
Miscellaneous earnings	52,006

There was a difference of Rs. 14,267 between the balance in the General books and that shown in the Traffic book under Traffic earnings which is stated to be under settlement.

The large balance under "Deposits" is due chiefly to the inclusion of the traffic earnings of the Tarkeshwar Railway, Rs. 93,364, and the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, Rs. 5,01,423, pending settlement at the close of the half-year.

13. *Rajputana-Malwa Railway*.—The balance under "Traffic Account" includes an item of Rs. 2,48,419 on account of balance of through traffic transactions with the Jodhpur-Bikaner and Oodeypore-Chittore Railways and Kosi Out-agency, due to the interchanged traffic being abnormally heavy.

There is an increase under "Miscellaneous Advances" owing to the junction expenses at Ujjain Station having been debited to this head, pending settlement of the terms of agreement for the working of the junction for the Nagda-Ujjain and Ujjain-Bhopal Railways, and to an advance made in connection with the purchase of coal.

The balance under "Deposits" includes Rs. 1,70,154 on account of the net earnings of the Gaekwar's Mehsana, Oodeypore-Chittore and Ahmedabad-Parantij Railways, pending settlement at the close of the calendar half-year.

14. *Bengal-Nagpur Railway*.—The balance under "Demands Payable" shews a decrease of Rs. 54,235, which is chiefly due to the shunting charges at Asansol and Nagpur Junctions for the year 1896 having been adjusted during the year under review.

The balance under "Traffic Account" shows an increase of Rs. 52,534 due to freight on coal and timber for January, February and March 1898 not having been recovered before the end of the year; this has since been realized.

15. *Eastern Bengal Railway*.—The deposit balance includes an item of Rs. 1,353 on account of unclaimed interest on share warrants of the late Eastern Bengal Railway Company. There is no prospect of this amount being ever claimed, but it is held in the Deposit Account as a distinct item as ordered in letter No. 296 A.—R., dated the 6th July 1889, of the Government of India, Public Works Department.

16. *Bengal and North-Western and Tirhoot Railways*.—The balance under "Miscellaneous Advances" includes sums of Rs. 17,385 and Rs. 28,899 on account of charges against the Bengal and North-Western and Ganges-Gogra-Doab Railways uncleared at the close of the year.

17. *Indian Midland Railway*.—Under "Deposits" is included (I) Rs. 40,401 earnings of the Bina-Goonna Railway for the period 30th June 1897 to 31st March 1898 due to the Gwalior Durbar; and (II) Rs. 1,80,570 earnings of the Bhopal-Ujjain Railway for the same period due to the Bhopal and Gwalior Durbars.

18. *Lucknow-Bareilly Railway*.—The balance under "Deposits" includes Rs. 46,472, the estimated net earnings of the Rohilkhand-Kumaon Railway from January to March 1898, held in deposit pending adjustment at close of the calendar half-year, and Rs. 51,411, advances, made by the Bengal and North-Western Railway for supply of sleepers.

19. *North Western Railway*.—The balance under "Deposits" includes (a) Rs. 2,26,063, the net earnings of the Rajpura-Bhatinda and Southern Punjab Railways and the Kotri Ferry, held temporarily in this account pending payment to the authorities concerned; (b) Rs. 63,171, security deposits and earnest money of contractors; (c) Deposits for works amounting to Rs. 9,620; (d) Deposits for Rajpura-Bhatinda Railway, Rs. 60,398; (e) Rs. 8,891 unpaid to contractors; (f) Rs. 2,713, amount of unclaimed shareholders' interest, taken over from the late Sind, Punjab and Delhi Railway Company, which, under instructions from the Secretary of State, is to remain in this account; (g) Rs. 13,453 for deposits for coal; (h) Rs. 96,916, deposits by Bezwada-Madras Railway for freight on sleepers, etc.; (i) Rs. 5,772 recovered from contractors pending settlement of a case.

There is an increase in the balance of Traffic account due to large outstandings against the Commissariat Department.

20. *Southern Mahratta Railway*.—Under "Deposits" is included (1) Rs. 25,600 net earnings of the Kolhapur State Railway, the Nanjangud Extension and the Bangalore-Hindupur Railway for the quarter ending 31st March 1898, paid to owners at the close of each half-year, (2) Rs. 44,000 share of

Joint Station expenses and Government Telegraph Department charges recovered from the five railways worked by the Company for the quarter ended 31st March 1898 adjustable at the close of the half year, (3) Rs. 1,25,000 deposits for work to be done for outsiders.

Burma Railways.—Under "Traffic Account" is included (1) Audit debits in course of recovery from the staff, Rs. 1,250, and (2) Bills against private companies and traders, Rs. 1,676. A part of the last item is the subject of a dispute between the Traffic Department and the Refreshment Rooms contractor about freight on stores. The balance under "Deposits" includes (1) Security deposits of contractors, Rs. 37,867, (2) Unpaid wages current items only, Rs. 12,516, and miscellaneous items, Rs. 8,072. There are a few old items which will be enquired into with a view to the possibility of early adjustment.

The small balance remaining at the close of the year under "Provident Institution" has since been paid over to the Company.

37 AND 48.—CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURE.

24. The following statement exhibits in detail by the railways concerned the balances shown under these heads in the General Abstract:—

RAILWAY.	SUPPORTING ACCOUNTS AFFECTING GRANT.										DEBIT HEAD BALANCES.	
	London Invoices.		London Stores.		Purchases.		Sales.		Stores.		Workshop Expenses Account.	
	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.
IMPERIAL.												
East Indian	Rs. 47,433	Rs. 13,72,898	Rs. 4,28,626	Rs. 60,259	Rs. 24,652	Rs. 5,654	Rs. 32	Rs. 2,07,381	Rs. 19,138	Rs. 37,561	Rs. 57,910	Rs. 13,874
Rajputana-Malwa	16,453	3,43,722	77,844	5,46,401	6,259	648	965	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	21
Warora Colliery	...	...	...	68,561	...	...	...	2,07,381	19,138	37,561	50,597	1,697
Umaria Colliery	...	...	...	1,85,459	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Assam-Bengal—Construction	...	...	...	1,02,254	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Assam-Bengal—Land	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Eastern Bengal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Tirhoot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Oudh and Rohilkhand	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
North-Western	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Lyalpur-Khanewal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Frontier Railway Reserve	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Peshawar Railway Reserve	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Mari-Attock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Kotri-Rohri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Indus Bridge Section	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
South Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
East Coast, including Extension.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Rae Bareilly-Benares	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Bezawada-Madras	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Dhond and Mannad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
State Railway Stores Branch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Secretary of State	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Hajipur-Kathar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Godavari Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
Southern Mahratta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,30,609	2,07,381	27,02,820	29,209	...
TOTAL IMPERIAL	1,42,707	67,411	16,25,008	4,28,626	5,30,560	2,43,175	...	4,30,64,147	8,79,701	73,502	14,96,028	4,30,831
PROVINCIAL												
Jorhat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL PROVINCIAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL	1,42,707	67,411	16,25,008	4,28,626	5,30,560	2,43,175	...	4,30,64,147	8,79,701	73,502	14,96,028	4,30,831

* Depreciation on stores, old Government account.

25. The following are the principal irregularities or exceptional items brought to notice by Examiners:—

Railway.	Account.	Amount.	Particulars and Remarks.
		Rs.	
East Indian	Purchases	4,28,626	This account closes with a <i>debit</i> instead of a <i>credit</i> balance which is made up of— Rs. Payments made for sleepers purchased but not brought into stores 5,41,911 Bills payable for articles received 1,13,285 Under Public Works Department Code, Volume II, Chapter III, para. 95 (11) (b) the items under the first head should have been carried to "Miscellaneous Advances."
	Sales	10,237	This is the total of several <i>credit</i> items which represent deposits received in advance from Contractors for stores and coal sold to them.
	Deposits	1,772	Total of two items which have been outstanding over two years, pending, it is said, the decision of certain law-suits brought by the parties concerned against the Railway Company.
Oudh and Rohilkhand	Purchases	4,844	Stores purchased from Narpal Rai and Davi Das, under correspondence.
Kotri-Rohri	Miscellaneous Advances	835	Overpayment to Contractor for which a decree has been passed by the Court.
		3,894	Due from Messrs. Tahir Mull & Co. under reference to the Legal Remembrancer to the Punjab Government.
South Indian	Purchases	12,137	Due to Messrs. Baliah Chetty & Co., Naga-patam. Payment deferred pending decision as to heirship by the Court.
	Deposits	1,250	Ditto ditto.
		5,149	Amount recovered in advance for sale of stores. The stores have not yet been taken over by the Contractor.
Rae Bareilly-Benares	Purchases	17,391	Value of bricks purchased in excess of requirements from Messrs. Ford and Macdonald.
Bezawada-Madras	Manufacture	1,65,949	Advance for erection of carriage and wagon stock and signals by the Madras Railway Company. Final accounts have not yet been received from the Madras Railway, but early adjustment is expected.
	Miscellaneous Advances	2,11,501	Rs. 2,48,000 and 2,234 were advanced in March 1898 to Contractors Messrs. Dear & Co. and Mr. A. Penchala Chetty, respectively, for sleepers which could not be despatched owing to difficulty in obtaining ships to carry them. Only Rs. 38,734 could be adjusted.
	"	4,21,101	Payment made in advance to the North Western Railway for sleepers.
	Deposits	10,000	Earnest money deposited by the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation forfeited owing to failure of contract. Will be credited to works.

Railway.	Account.	Amount.	Particulars and Remarks.
		Rs.	
State Railway Stores Branch.	Miscellaneous Advances	10,739	Value of Rule Books and Regulations transferred from General Stores to Miscellaneous Advances, vide Public Works Department letter No. 167 R. S., dated 4th May 1896.
	Deposits	{ 1,45,440 5,56,180 }	Amounts deposited by the Guna-Bara Railway and the Jodhpur Durbar (Shadipalli-Balotra Railway) respectively, to meet the cost of stores indented for from England.

26. The following are the points of interest connected with the suspense balances under review, which call for notice.

27. *East Indian Railway*.—The balance under "Miscellaneous Advances" includes Rs. 54,499, expenditure in respect of new works on the Delhi-Umballa Kalka Railway, met by the working agency on behalf of the Secretary of State, and Rs. 1,049, the cost of a temporary siding constructed for Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co.

28. *Rajputana-Malwa Railway*.—The credit balance of Rs. 16,453 under "London Invoices" is due to the invoiced value of stores being in excess of payments advised by the Board.

29. *Assam Bengal Railway—Construction Account*.—The suspense balances of this line are entered partly in this Section "48—Construction Expenditure" and partly in the Section "Capital Account of Indian Railway Companies." The remarks reviewing the balances as a whole will be found further on under the latter section.

30. *North-Western Railway*.—The balance at debit of the account "Manufactures" includes the following items on account of collieries:—

	Rs.
Dandot Colliery	2,18,932
Khost "	73,766
Sharigh "	1,257
Bhaganwala "	7,28,946

The credit balance of Rs. 1,02,254 under "London Stores" is the difference on account of exchange, etc., advised too late for adjustment in 1897-98.

31. *Kotri-Rohri Railway*.—The amount at credit of "London Stores," Rs. 2,189, is for exchange, etc., on English stores advised too late for adjustment.

The debit balance of Rs. 5,002 under "Stores" is the difference between book value and the value assigned by the Stores Committee on transfer of stores to the North-Western Railway, and is under adjustment.

32. *Indus Bridge Section*.—The small balance under "London Stores" at the end of the year has since been transferred to the Godavari Bridge.

The balance of Rs. 5,895 under "Miscellaneous Advances" is expenditure on block-houses for the defence of the Kotri Bridge, and has been adjusted in 1898-99 by debit to Military Works Department.

33. *South Indian Railway*.—Under "Workshop Suspense Account" in the list of outstanding work orders are included 102 work orders relating to periods prior to the year 1897; steps have been taken to clear them.

34. *Stock Verification*.—Stock Verification has been carried out either partially or completely on most of the lines, and adjustments, arising out of this operation, have received attention. The Railways on which verification does not appear to have been undertaken are:—

Bae Bareilly-Benares Railway.	Dhond and Manmad Railway.
Indus Bridge Section (Kotri-Rohri Railway).	Frontier Railway Reserve.
Hajipur-Katihar Extension.	Peshawar Railway Reserve.

East Indian Railway.—A continuous stock-taking was, as usual, carried on during the year, and necessary adjustments made. The stock of surplus and unserviceable stores was last verified on the 31st December 1897, when it amounted to Rs. 8,58,749.

Rajputana-Malwa Railway.—The work of continuous verification of stores was carried on throughout the year. The articles connected with 172 offices and imprests and 7,582 items of different store depôts on the line were verified.

Warora and Umaria Collieries.—The stores of the Warora Colliery were partially verified during the year by the Mining Engineer, the verification of the remaining articles has since been completed by the Manager. There was a small excess which was adjusted. The stores of the Umaria Colliery were partly verified during the year by the Manager himself.

Eastern Bengal Railway.—Stock was verified during the year at the following depôts:—

1. Saidpur Locomotive Stores Depôt	In progress during the year.
2. Saidpur General Stores Depôt	Ditto ditto.
3. Rajbari ditto ditto	Ditto ditto.

Tirhoot Railway.—A system of continuous stock-taking exists and verification is in progress.

Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.—The verification of the general stores, which was in hand at close of the previous year, was completed during the current year, and the results showed an excess. The verification of permanent-way stores was also taken in hand and completed in March 1898. The sale of unserviceable stores realized Rs. 17,432.

North-Western Railway.—The verification of stores in 15 depôts was commenced and completed during the year, and the necessary adjustments have been or will be effected in the accounts of the current year. In addition to this the stock of tools and plant in 46 depôts was also verified during the year.

The sale of 3,722 tons of scrap iron realized Rs. 60,897 more than its book value.

Lists of surplus stores have been printed and circulated to other railways. The detailed ledgers were compared with the General books up to the 31st December 1897; the results showed a small excess which is being investigated.

Priced ledgers were reconciled with depôt quantity ledgers at the time of stock verification.

Mari-Attock Railway.—The stock at Jand and Daudkhel is reported to have been verified in August and September 1897, and the slight differences found adjusted under orders of the Engineer-in-Chief. An independent depôt was re-started at Campbellpore in November 1897.

Indus Bridge Section.—The stores were not verified during the year, but it is reported that this will be done shortly.

South Indian Railway.—During the year stock was verified at the General Stores, Negapatam, Engineering Stores, Trichinopoly, and at 19 depôts; there was a net excess of Rs. 33,629.

East Coast Railway.—Towards the end of the year 1896-97 and during the year 1897-98 the stock in the Seetanagaram Depôt and Station plant and furniture were verified; a small excess was found, which was adjusted under orders of the Manager. The verification of stock in the Locomotive Stores Depôt was commenced in February 1898, and was in progress at the close of the year under review. The result of the verification of stock in the Locomotive Stores Depôt in 1896-97 was that a deficiency of Rs. 36,747 was brought out which was finally charged off during the year under the orders of the Manager. No verification of stores in the Waltair Stores Depôt was made during the year.

Rae Bareilly-Benares Railway.—There was no formal stock verification during the year. The stock, consisting entirely of English materials and sleepers, was issued almost as received.

Bezwada-Madras Railway.—The balances of stores at the end of December 1897 were verified by the Stores Department. The amount shown was less than the actuals. The matter is receiving attention.

Jorhat Railway.—The stores are certified to have been counted and verified by the Storekeeper between the 21st March and 1st April 1898 inclusive.

35. The principal increases and reductions in stores balances during the year were as follows:—

East Indian Railway.—There was an increase of nearly 12½ lakhs in the stores balance, due chiefly to the accumulation of a large quantity of pig-iron for manufacturing purposes, and to a large supply of rails and other permanent-way materials in stock, in consequence of deferred renewals.

Rajputana-Malwa Railway.—The decrease in the stores balance of nearly four lakhs is mainly due to smaller purchases of coal.

Eastern Bengal Railway.—There was an increase of over six lakhs in the stores balance, due to a larger quantity of stores having been received from England during the year than was anticipated and to large purchases of sleepers for extensions, etc.

Tirhoot Railway.—There was a decrease of nearly two lakhs in the stores balance due to heavy issues of permanent-way materials and locomotive stores.

Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.—There was a decrease of nearly three lakhs in the stores balance during 1897-98, due chiefly to sales of general stores and permanent-way material to the Rae Bareilly-Benares and Hurdwar-Dehra Railways.

North-Western Railway.—The stores balance was reduced by nearly 29½ lakhs, due chiefly to sales of bridge and permanent-way materials to the Mari-Attock, Eastern Bengal, and Lyallpur-Khanewal Railways; to materials for the construction of rolling-stock in connection with the working of the Southern Punjab Railway having been issued to the works, and to large issues to Revenue.

Mari-Attock Railway.—There was an increase of over 1½ lakhs in the stores balance, principally due to station material, etc., received from England not charged to works during the year.

Indus Bridge Section.—There was an increase of three lakhs in the stores balance during the year due to the late receipt of stores from England.

South Indian Railway.—There was a decrease in the stores balance of over 2½ lakhs, due to sale of old stores and the non-receipt of English stores owing to the Engineers' strike at Home.

41.—MISCELLANEOUS RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

36. The distribution by surveys, etc., of the balances under this head is given below:—

NAME OF SURVEY.	TITLES OF ACCOUNTS.				
	Stores.	Sales.	Purchases.	Miscellaneous Advances.	Deposits.
IMPERIAL.	Dr. Rs.	Dr. Rs.	Cr. Rs.	Dr. Rs.	Cr. Rs.
Bombay-Sind Connection Railway Survey	...	...	...	202	353
Vizianagram-Raipur Railway Survey	...	...	...	1,177	33
Abt Material and Engine Suspense Account	3,18,846	...	...	...	...
North Behar Railway Survey	...	598	...	2,707	14
Ranaghat-Bhagwangola Railway Survey	...	...	...	3	...
Kaunia-Dhubri Railway Survey	...	...	...	1,182	...
Singia-Madaripur-Chandpur Railway Survey	...	...	...	17	...
Sakri-Jainagar Railway	...	...	...	...	19
Midnapur-Jherria and Ranchi Plateau Surveys	...	...	...	221	12
Satpura Railway Survey	...	...	...	1,812	...
PROVINCIAL.					
Howrah-Ampta-Sheakhala Tramway	...	...	...	...	1,583
Tarkeswar-Magra Steam Tramway	...	...	...	...	8,993
TOTAL	3,18,846	598	...	7,321	11,013

37. The amount standing at debit of "Stores" in the "Abt Material and Engine Suspense Account" represents the expenditure in connection with the Abt permanent-way materials and locomotives. Steps are being taken to clear this account as far as possible.

38. *Howrah-Ampta-Sheakhala and Tarkeswar-Magra Steam Tramways.*—The amounts standing at credit of "Deposits" represent the unexpended balances of the amounts deposited with Government for the acquisition of land.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

39. The balances appearing under this head in the General Abstract are detailed by Railways in the following table:—

RAILWAYS.	London Invoices.		London Stores.		Purchases.	Sales.	Stores.	Workshop Suspense Account.		Manufactures.	Miscellaneous Advances.	Deposits.
	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.				Dr.	Cr.			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam-Bengal	...	2,713	1,01,152	36,340	2,735	27,68,582	24,870	...	...	1,39,925	50,318	...
Bengal Central	2,108	...	56,075	10,903	...	2,53,477	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal-Nagpur	...	2,06,452	11,64,761	47,985	2,773	78,24,262	...	14,470	...	5,541	17,225	...
Indian Midland	...	...	9,370	10,231	3,145	26,62,584	...	3,580	16,001	24,371	2,31,128	...
Lucknow-Bareilly	...	...	38,456	4,267	128	2,89,906	...	1,553	10,790	2,420	50	...
Southern Mahratta	...	1,40,064	2,21,167	82,198	260	21,42,480	...	6,550	...	...	...	...
South Behar	...	1,75,339	4,09,092	...	...	54,928	...	...	21,428	2,547	2,394	...
Ahmedabad-Parantij	...	...	...	...	...	23,067	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tapti Valley	...	...	...	4,04,232	2,109	7,93,304	...	...	...	8,896	91,334	...
Brahmaputra-Sultanpur	56,917	...	4,03,923	4,094	...	4,402	...	...	...	1,62,055	...	...
Mymensingh-Jamalpur	13,088	...	99,130	8,505	...	25,491	...	...	...	395	...	...
Burma	...	1,22,979	2,08,166	49,999	49	38,06,858	...	35,108	...	25,326	21,481	...
Hardwar-Dehra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169	6,116	...
TOTAL	72,113	6,47,547	27,11,297	1,40,710	11,199	2,06,49,341	24,870	61,261	1,88,144	2,82,038	3,69,778	...

40. The following are the principal points in connection with these balances which call for notice.

41. *Assam-Bengal Railway.*—Under "Workshop Suspense" it is reported that there are certain items which should have been adjusted during the year, and that necessary action has been taken regarding them. The balance under "Stores" includes Rs. 11,178 loss on the rations at Kharikhana Depot, sanction to the write-off of which has been applied for. The following items are included in the balance under "Miscellaneous Advances":—

- (1) Rupees 1,224, freight charges and value of stores and tools recoverable from contractors.
- (2) Cost of a steam hoist issued for work on the jetty at the double moorings, Chittagong, Rs. 7,167, under correspondence.
- (3) Ration account Rs. 29,157—this includes loss in rations Rs. 21,010, sanction to the write-off of which has been applied for.
- (4) Imprest with Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co. Rs. 25,000.
- (5) Rupees 5,322, debit by Civil Department, Assam, on account of Police guards supplied to divisions in the North Cachar Hills during March 1895 to March 1896. This is under reference with Executive Engineers of divisions concerned.
- (6) Rupees 3,562, cost of rations issued to Police guards by Executive Engineers in the North Cachar Hills.

42. *Bengal Central Railway.*—The credit balance under "Purchases" includes a disputed claim of Messrs. Simpson & Co. for Rs. 4,210 for handling goods, which has been outstanding for a long time.

Jorhat Railway.—The stores are certified to have been counted and verified by the Storekeeper between the 21st March and 1st April 1898 inclusive.

35. The principal increases and reductions in stores balances during the year were as follows :—

East Indian Railway.—There was an increase of nearly 12½ lakhs in the stores balance, due chiefly to the accumulation of a large quantity of pig-iron for manufacturing purposes, and to a large supply of rails and other permanent-way materials in stock, in consequence of deferred renewals.

Rajputana-Malwa Railway.—The decrease in the stores balance of nearly four lakhs is mainly due to smaller purchases of coal.

Eastern Bengal Railway.—There was an increase of over six lakhs in the stores balance, due to a larger quantity of stores having been received from England during the year than was anticipated and to large purchases of sleepers for extensions, etc.

Tirhoot Railway.—There was a decrease of nearly two lakhs in the stores balance due to heavy issues of permanent-way materials and locomotive stores.

Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.—There was a decrease of nearly three lakhs in the stores balance during 1897-98, due chiefly to sales of general stores and permanent-way material to the Rae Bareilly-Benares and Hurdwar-Dehra Railways.

North-Western Railway.—The stores balance was reduced by nearly 29½ lakhs, due chiefly to sales of bridge and permanent-way materials to the Mari-Attock, Eastern Bengal, and Lyallpur-Khanewal Railways; to materials for the construction of rolling-stock in connection with the working of the Southern Punjab Railway having been issued to the works, and to large issues to Revenue.

Mari-Attock Railway.—There was an increase of over 1½ lakhs in the stores balance, principally due to station material, etc., received from England not charged to works during the year.

Indus Bridge Section.—There was an increase of three lakhs in the stores balance during the year due to the late receipt of stores from England.

South Indian Railway.—There was a decrease in the stores balance of over 2½ lakhs, due to sale of old stores and the non-receipt of English stores owing to the Engineers' strike at Home.

41.—MISCELLANEOUS RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

36. The distribution by surveys, etc., of the balances under this head is given below :—

NAME OF SURVEY.	TITLES OF ACCOUNTS.				
	Stores.	Sales.	Purchases.	Miscellaneous Advances.	Deposits.
	Dr. Rs.	Dr. Rs.	Cr. Rs.	Dr. Rs.	Cr. Rs.
IMPERIAL.					
Bombay-Sind Connection Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	202	353
Vizianagram-Raipur Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	1,177	33
Abt Material and Engine Suspense Account . . .	3,18,846	...	...	...	...
North Behar Railway Survey . . .	...	598	...	2,707	14
Ranaghat-Bhagwangola Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	3	...
Kaunia-Dhubri Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	1,182	...
Singra-Madaripur-Chandpur Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	17	...
Sakri-Jainagar Railway . . .	...	...	...	...	19
Midnapur-Jherria and Rauchi Plateau Surveys . . .	...	...	...	221	12
Satpura Railway Survey . . .	...	...	...	1,812	...
PROVINCIAL.					
Howrah-Ampta-Sheakhala Tramway . . .	...	...	...	...	1,583
Tarkeswar-Magra Steam Tramway . . .	...	...	...	...	8,999
TOTAL	3,18,846	598	...	7,321	11,013

37. The amount standing at debit of "Stores" in the "Abt Material and Engine Suspense Account" represents the expenditure in connection with the Abt permanent-way materials and locomotives. Steps are being taken to clear this account as far as possible.

38. *Howrah-Ampta-Sheakhala and Tarkeswar-Magra Steam Tramways.*—The amounts standing at credit of "Deposits" represent the unexpended balances of the amounts deposited with Government for the acquisition of land.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

39. The balances appearing under this head in the General Abstract are detailed by Railways in the following table :—

RAILWAYS.	London Invoices.		London Stores.		Purchases.	Sales.	Stores.	Workshop Suspense Account.		Manufactures.	Miscellaneous Advances.	Deposits.
	Dr.	Cr.	Dr.	Cr.				Dr.	Cr.			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam-Bengal . . .	...	2,713	1,01,152	36,340	2,735	27,68,582	24,870	...	1,39,925	50,318	...	...
Bengal Central . . .	2,108	...	56,075	10,903	...	2,53,477	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal-Nagpur . . .	...	2,06,452	11,64,761	47,985	2,773	78,24,262	...	14,470	...	5,541	17,225	...
Indian Midland . . .	...	...	9,370	19,281	3,145	26,62,584	...	3,580	16,001	24,371	2,31,128	...
Lucknow-Bareilly . . .	...	...	38,456	4,267	128	2,89,906	...	1,553	10,790	2,420	50	...
Southern Mahratta . . .	...	1,40,064	2,21,167	82,198	260	21,42,480	...	6,550	...	...	...	...
South Behar . . .	...	1,75,339	4,09,092	...	...	54,923	...	...	21,423	2,547	2,394	...
Ahmedabad-Parantij . . .	...	...	...	...	...	23,067	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tapti Valley . . .	...	...	...	4,04,232	2,109	7,93,304	...	...	...	8,896	91,384	...
Brahmaputra-Sultanpur . . .	56,917	...	4,03,923	4,094	...	4,402	...	...	...	1,62,055	...	...
Mymensingh-Jamalpur . . .	13,088	...	99,130	8,505	...	25,491	...	...	...	395	...	...
Burma . . .	...	1,22,979	2,08,166	49,999	49	38,06,858	...	35,103	...	25,326	21,481	...
Hardwar-Dehra . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169	6,116	...
TOTAL	72,113	6,47,547	27,11,297	1,40,710	11,199	2,06,49,341	24,870	61,261	1,38,144	2,32,033	3,69,778	...

40. The following are the principal points in connection with these balances which call for notice.

41. *Assam-Bengal Railway.*—Under "Workshop Suspense" it is reported that there are certain items which should have been adjusted during the year, and that necessary action has been taken regarding them. The balance under "Stores" includes Rs. 11,178 loss on the rations at Kharikhana Depot, sanction to the write-off of which has been applied for. The following items are included in the balance under "Miscellaneous Advances :—"

- (1) Rupees 1,224, freight charges and value of stores and tools recoverable from contractors.
- (2) Cost of a steam hoist issued for work on the jetty at the double moorings, Chittagong, Rs. 7,167, under correspondence.
- (3) Ration account Rs. 29,157—this includes loss in rations Rs. 21,010, sanction to the write-off of which has been applied for.
- (4) Imprest with Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co. Rs. 25,000.
- (5) Rupees 5,322, debit by Civil Department, Assam, on account of Police guards supplied to divisions in the North Cachar Hills during March 1895 to March 1896. This is under reference with Executive Engineers of divisions concerned.
- (6) Rupees 3,562, cost of rations issued to Police guards by Executive Engineers in the North Cachar Hills.

42. *Bengal Central Railway.*—The credit balance under "Purchases" includes a disputed claim of Messrs. Simpson & Co. for Rs. 4,210 for handling goods, which has been outstanding for a long time.

The Stores balance is made up chiefly of carriage and wagon materials received during the latter part of the year and of sal sleepers not yet charged off to works. There is a large decrease, compared with the opening balance, due chiefly to issues of large quantities of rolling stock materials that were in hand at the beginning of the official year.

43. *Bengal-Nagpur Railway*.—There was an increase of nearly 42½ lakhs in the stores balance during the year, due principally to the receipt of permanent-way materials and vacuum automatic brake gear and stores for the construction of the extensions to Calcutta and Cuttack, as well as sal sleepers for re-sleeping the open line. The Stores balance includes also an item of Rs. 4,53,172 under "Stores in Transit" for debits accepted by District Engineers which could not be charged to specific works.

44. *Indian Midland Railway*.—Under "Miscellaneous Advances" is included Rs. 18,371 advanced to the East Indian Railway Company for construction of an overbridge at Katni, and Rs. 6,000 advanced to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to meet payments for balance of freight on English consignments. The balance under "Deposits" is principally made up of the following :—

- (1) Rupees 1,51,709, balance of advance received from the Gwalior Durbar for completion of works on the Bina-Goonna and Bhopal-Ujjain Railways, and
- (2) Rupees 54,483, balance of advance received from the Bhopal Durbar for completion of works on the Bhopal-Ujjain Railway and staff quarters at Bhopal.

The decrease of 27½ lakhs in the stores balance is due to the value of ten goods engines being charged off during the year, to the issue of permanent-way materials for renewals on the Scindia Section and for construction of the Saugor-Katni Extension. There was also a decrease in the stock of coal owing to difficulty being experienced in obtaining supplies from the Collieries.

45. *Lucknow-Bareilly Railway*.—The balance at debit of "Manufacture Account" includes a sum of Rs. 10,788, expenditure incurred on sleepers manufactured for Rohilkhand-Kumaon Railway joint stores.

46. *Southern Mahratta Railway*.—There was a reduction of nearly 1½ lakhs in the Stores balance during the year due to heavy issues of engine and carriage materials.

47. *South Behar Railway*.—The balance under "London Stores" relates to English stores in transit, and also English stores received in India but not issued to works.

Under "Miscellaneous Advances" a personal account with the Superintending Engineer was kept up which was debited with items of a private nature recoverable from him. The use of public funds for private purposes is objectionable and has since been discontinued.

The balance under "Stores" consisted of stores received from the East Indian Railway by transfer which had not been charged off to works.

48. *Ahmedabad-Parantij Railway*.—The balance of Rs. 23,067 under "Stores" is the cost of English stores obtained for construction which were unused on the completion of the line.

49. *Tapti Valley Railway*.—The debit balance of Rs. 4,04,282 under "Purchases" is the amount remitted to England for English stores. The Rs. 7,93,304 which appears under "Stores" is the cost of English stores received and of those purchased locally or from other railways. The balance of Rs. 8,896 under "Miscellaneous Advances" is chiefly for carriage of materials recoverable from contractors. Under "Deposits" Rs. 91,384 consists chiefly of securities from contractors.

50. *Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Railway*.—The balance under "Miscellaneous Advances" is made up of payments on account to the contractor manufacturing bricks, to the amount of Rs. 59,540, which are being cleared by outturn in 1898-99; (2) Rs. 85,000 for payment of sea-freight and forwarding

charges on stores from England to Messrs. Macneil & Co., which will be adjusted on arrival of stores at destination; and (3) Rs. 17,473 for Railway freight charges under adjustment.

51. *Burma Railways*.—The balance under "Miscellaneous Advances" includes Rs. 21,817, the balance of charges for timber and stores paid for by the Mu Valley Line and the value of the Kadu Saw Mill plant; and Rs. 1,267 unallocated expenditure incurred on the Meiktila-Myingyan Extension.

Under "Deposits" is shown Rs. 11,277, amount of cash received from the Postal Department in exchange for cheques remaining uncashed at the end of the year.

52. STOCK VERIFICATION.—

Assam-Bengal Railway.—The Gauhati Depot stores were verified during the year, orders had not been passed on the results shown.

Bengal Central Railway.—There was no stock verification during the year; the last time the stores balances were verified was in December 1892.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—The verification of stores in the Nagpur Depot was completed during the year, a credit balance of Rs. 9,042 was arrived at.

The stock of tools and plant with Departmental officers at Headquarters and of the Engineering Department on the line, also the Reserve Stock of the Locomotive Department were verified during the year, and any deficiencies duly adjusted and recorded in the Minutes of Meetings.

Indian Midland Railway.—Verification of stock does not appear to have been undertaken during the year.

Lucknow-Bareilly Railway.—Stock was taken during the year and the result of the verification was a small credit to stores, which will be adjusted under proper sanction. Nothing has been written off the Stores books on account of depreciation or obsolete articles.

Southern Mahratta Railway.—Stock was verified during the year and a net credit of Rs. 12,966, which was adjusted by credit to Revenue, was brought out.

South Behar Railway.—Two members of the East Indian Railway Stock-verifying staff were deputed to verify the materials at site of works as well as stores in hand of the Divisional Storekeeper.

Ahmedabad-Parantij and Tapti Valley Railways.—No verification of stores appears to have been made during the year.

Burma Railways.—The General stores were last verified between August 1897 and March 1898. The verification of the Locomotive stores was in progress at the end of the year. There was a difference between the General books and the total of the Ledger balance of Rs. 7,380 on the 31st December 1897, and also a difference of Rs. 5,451 under Locomotive stores. These differences are being enquired into.

Guaranteed Railways.

53. The outlay in suspense on the three Guaranteed railways is not classified in the same way as similar outlay on State railways, but is shown, to a large extent, under a set of personal accounts, which necessarily vary with the nature of the transactions recorded under them. This outlay is, however, subjected to detailed audit in the same manner as is prescribed for the suspense balances of State railways, and the Examiners of Guaranteed Railway Accounts at Madras and Bombay have certified that the balances in the accompanying table have been thus audited and that all irregular items have been brought to notice.

54. The suspense balances in the accounts of the Guaranteed Railway Companies on the 31st March 1898 were as detailed below :—

MADRAS RAILWAY.			BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.			GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.		
CAPITAL.	Dr.	Cr.	CAPITAL.	Dr.	Cr.	CAPITAL.	Dr.	Cr.
Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
Stores—			Stores Suspense Account.	33,81,954	...	Stores Suspense Account .	44,28,169	...
General Store Account .	3,23,614	...	Capital Advance Account .	...	...	Ditto sold .	...	12,726
Locomotive Stores and Workshop Accounts .	13,08,513	...	Suspense Account .	31,468	...	Sundry persons for stores purchased .	...	1,30,989
Engineering ditto .	5,97,650	...	Outstanding Account .	...	6,568	Dhond and Mamnad State Railway .	...	63
Traffic Store Account .	-70	...	Loss by Exchange .	...	15,778	Outstanding Account .	...	338
Material lost ditto .	48	...	Cheques payable .	...	20,130	Amalner-Jalgaon Railway .	...	6,204
Stores in transit .	2,53,820	...	Capital liabilities .	...	9,545			
Telegraph Store and Workshop Account .	93,334	...	Southern Punjab Railway Suspense Account .	...	2,575			
Total .	25,76,909	...	Store Department General Expenditure Account .	433	...			
			Personal Account .	...	69,027			
Capital Advance Account .	1,31,570	...	Outstanding Account, unpaid wages, etc. (cashier's balance) .	1,011	...			
						REVENUE.		
Capital Suspense Accounts—			REVENUE.			Gratuities in Suspense .	49,280	...
Cashier .	13,673	...	Traffic Account .	2,83,586	...	Outstanding Account .	509	...
Advance Account .	6,755	...	Ditto Foreign Railways .	83,175	...	Floating Cash, etc. .	19,136	...
Refunds to Government .	...	79,455	Printing Press Account .	1,439	...	Works done for others .	1,599	...
Cheques payable, Capital .	...	4,236	Cash Balances .	73,021	...	Deposit Account (Fine Fund) .	892	...
Sales Account .	2,542	...	Suspense Account .	3,727	...	Hospital Charges .	473	...
Purchase Account .	77,832	...	Deposits, Foreign Railways .	...	69,883	Municipal Town duties .	52,169	...
Institute at Bangalore City .	6,663	...	Traffic Suspense Account .	...	15,022	General Average .	299	...
Calicut-Cannanore Extension .	334	...	Revenue liabilities .	...	2,60,357	Balance of Traffic uncollected .	5,81,590	...
Final location, Shoranur-Cochin Survey .	...	14	Revenue Accounts .	...	2,07,383	Government .	41,469	...
			Cheques payable .	...	23,919	Cash .	45,520	...
			Deposits on tenders, Contractors' Account .	...	1,000	Engineers' Instrument allowance .	1,337	...
			Special Funds .	...	618	Suspense Account .	957	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	32,109			
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Joint Station expenses—		
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Khandwa .	12,474	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Itarsi .	9,245	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Nagpur .	10,667	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Holgi .	3,986	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Wadi .	4,590	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Poona .	13,677	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Barsi .	3,819	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Budhar Peit Joint Booking Office .	235	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Southern Mahratta Railway .	...	11,465
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Sundry Personal Accounts .	1,147	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Expenditure and receipts appertaining to non-surplus half-years .	7,309	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Demands payable .	8,88,279	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Unbooked expenditure .	4,60,065	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Grants to Railway dispensaries .	...	408
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Berar Railway Police .	...	6,237
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Civil Department Exchange .	...	557
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Cheques payable .	...	20,248
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Indian Midland Railway .	...	6,427
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Postal Department .	...	3,148
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	East Indian Railway .	...	18,073
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway .	...	51
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway .	54,909	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Ondh and Rohilkhand Railway .	...	16
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Loss on obsolete stores .	58,627	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Sundry credits to Revenue expenditure .	...	83
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Nerbuda Coal and Iron Company .	...	3,774
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Madrass Railway .	...	17,366
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Rajputana-Malwa Railway .	...	811
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	South Indian Railway .	...	11
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Bengal and North-Western Railway .	4	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Barsi Light Railway .	...	17,494
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Collector of Income Tax, Bombay .	...	14,783
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	North-Western Railway .	292	...
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...			
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Special Funds—		
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Fire Insurance Fund .	...	1,03,883
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Contractors' Security, etc. .	...	28,420
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Periodical Tickets deposits .	...	12,447
			Gaekwar's Railway Revenue Account .	...	...	Extraordinary casualty to works fund .	...	1,45,729

55. The following are the principal exceptional or irregular items calling for notice :—

Railway.	Account.	Amount.	Particulars and Remarks.
		Rs.	
Madras	General Stores	...	The detailed lists of stores at the end of 1897 amount to Rs. 12,334 in excess of the balance in the general books.
	Locomotive Stores and Workshop Account .	...	The workshop balance includes items of outlay on uncompleted works for outsiders from whom deposits have not been received.
	Revenue Suspense Account .	...	The expenditure of Rs. 24,674 shown in the workshop return as having been incurred on iron vacuum brake fittings for carriages should have been charged off to the open Capital estimates for fitting this gear to vehicles.
			The balances under this head are all current and efficient with the exceptions noted below :—
			Rs.
			Mount Road—August 1897 1
			Salt Cotaurs—November 1896 14
			Raichur—July 1897 65
			Bangalore Cantonment—July 1897 76
Bombay, Baroda and Central India.	Traffic Account	2,83,586	These items are current with the exception of Rs. 8,161-8, appertaining to the period prior to 2nd-half of 1897.
	Traffic Foreign Railways .	83,175	
	Deposit Foreign Railway .	69,883	
	Traffic Suspense Account .	15,022	Ditto ditto.
Great Indian Peninsula.	Balance of traffic uncollected .	5,81,590	Current with the exception of the following :—
			Rs.
			(1) Her Majesty's Government (freight on Commissariat Consignments, April to December 1897) 3,923
			(2) Barsi Light Railway, part of Barsi joint station expenses 42
			(3) Southern Mahratta Railway carriage of goods 9
			(4) Station Balances—
			Half-year ending 31st December 1896 3
			Half-year ending 30th June 1897 412
			Half-year ending 31st December 1897 1,568
	Government	41,469	Current, except Rs. 7,519 for police, plague, etc., charges for April 1897.
	Loss on obsolete stores .	58,627	Balance awaiting adjustment per Bombay Government Resolutions Nos. 266 and 2599 of 1897 and No. 1305 of 1898.
	Sundry persons for demands payable .	8,88,279	Current, except Rs. 3,150 paid by Barsi Light Railway from March to November 1897 for auditing its accounts; Rs. 1,256 for share of police expenses in Nizam's dominion in 2nd-half of 1897; Rs. 392 for portion of rent for land under the Railway Infirmary awaiting bill from Government, and Rs. 9,653 due to Bombay Municipality for water, etc., in dispute for 1897.
	Southern Mahratta Railway .	11,465	Current, except Rs. 7,250 for joint station expenses for 1896; Rs. 550 for cost of fixing crossing signals at Poona in half-year ending 31st December 1897, and Rs. 169 for cost of lamps supplied in May 1897.
	Barsi Light Railway .	17,494	Current, except a debit of Rs. 2,662 for Barsi joint station expenses for the half-year ending 31st December 1897.

OBJECTIONABLE OUTLAY.

56. The entire outlay to 31st March 1898 on sections Nos. 2 and 3 of the Assam-Bengal Railway was held as objectionable for want of the Secretary of State's sanction to the estimates. The Secretary of State's approval had, however, been accorded to work being commenced in anticipation of the receipt of estimates for sanction. The estimates for section No. 2 are under the consideration of the Government of India and those for section No. 3 are still awaited from the Agent.

The whole of the expenditure incurred on the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway during 1897-98 was held as objectionable on 31st March 1898 for want of the Secretary of State's sanction, but this sanction has since been received.

57. The following table gives an abstract of the items of expenditure reported as irregular at the close of the year:—

HEAD OF ACCOUNT.	NAME OF RAILWAY.	AMOUNT OBJECTIONABLE AND REASON FOR OBJECTION.									
		ABSENCE OF ESTIMATE.		EXCESS OVER ESTIMATE.		NO APPROPRIATION.		EXCESS OVER APPROPRIATION.		MISCELLANEOUS IRREGULARITIES.	
		Number of works.	Amount.	Number of works.	Amount.	Number of works.	Amount.	Number of works.	Amount.		
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
38.—State Railways—Working Expenses.	Rajputana-Malwa	...	...	4	668	...	...	...	...	5	
	Burma	1	4,395	1	900	...	...	...	...	...	
	Lucknow-Bareilly	18	1,273	...	...	...	...	24	18,589	2	
	North-Western	3	10,800	14	7,29,652	...	...	...	...	19	
	Bengal-Nagpur	...	...	2	6,282	...	...	...	...	...	
	East Coast	2	8,649	39	1,35,077	...	...	...	...	...	
	Bhopal State	...	...	1	676	...	...	1	676	...	
	Bengal and North-Western and Tirhoot	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	99,568	...	
	Eastern Bengal	3	5,286	16	41,775	...	...	...	...	2	
37 and 48.—State Railways—Construction.	Rajputana-Malwa	...	...	4	17,542	...	...	...	...	...	
	Godhra-Rutlam	3	6,848	2	528	...	...	5	4,807	...	
	Oudh and Rohilkhand	...	...	5	4,632	...	...	...	...	...	
	Cawnpore-Lucknow-Gogra	...	...	2	19,333	...	...	...	...	...	
	North-Western	11	11,91,483	15	1,13,236	2	6,426	15	1,67,161	4	
	Kotri-Rohri	1	1,20,86,698	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Mari-Attock	8	5,847	31	11,69,558	...	...	11	4,17,095	7	
	South Indian	6	3,323	2	761	...	...	...	...	19	
	East Coast	44	10,51,502	28	1,43,872	...	...	...	...	19	
	Rae Bareilly-Benares	5	74,395	62	1,50,867	...	...	6	1,59,259	5	
	Dezwada-Madras	438	1,28,22,576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Eastern Bengal	12	34,102	52	2,82,263	27	83,494	24	3,06,940	1	
	Tirhoot	3	47,973	25	21,051	15	48,315	6	18,765	1	
	East Indian	4	6,33,724	11	68,387	7	12,35,707	8	67,359	...	
	Agra-Delhi Chord	1	4,470	2	2,807	...	...	1	470	...	
	Madras-Ennur	1	4	1	2	...	...	1	2	...	
	Lyallpur-Khanewal	18	1,57,317	6	726	2	10,447	1	154	...	
	Jullundur-Hoshiarpur	1	15,512	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Hajipur-Katihar Extension	48	14,29,489	8	3,446	...	...	...	...	...	
	Godavari Bridge	14	64,531	5	1,13,668	...	...	...	...	...	
	Indus Bridge	1	46,895	4	8,472	2	7,838	2	3,292	...	
	Shahdipalli-Balotra	8	26,757	...	...	4	1,048	...	...	...	
	Bengal and North-Western Railway—Land	5	6,36,678	3	34,723	...	...	4	1,73,525	...	
				1	799	...	...	1	6,524	...	
	Ludhiana-Dhuri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	Sukkur-Shikarpur	...	...	1	3,268	...	...	...	...	...	
	Eastern Bengal Extension	...	...	1	3,451	...	...	1	31	...	
	Singia-Madaripur-Chandpur	...	...	...	...	1	470	...	...	...	
	Shikarpur-Munshigunj	1	470	...	...	...	...	1	13,042	...	
	State Railway Stores Branch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Sakri-Jainagar	1	20,370	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Capital Account of Indian Railway Companies.	Bengal Central	5	22,673	4	79,016	...	...	2	4,110	...	
	Assam-Bengal	230	1,75,42,697	115	78,92,271	...	...	...	...	...	
	Bengal-Nagpur	4	40,476	2	3,515	2	3,746	2	15,757	...	
	Indian Midland	36	1,57,458	36	4,46,420	5	5,130	12	11,83,890	...	
	Lucknow-Bareilly	13	37,643	5	5,601	34	2,65,193	2	1,678	...	
	Southern Mahratta	3	37,517	1	604	4	6,262	7	12,137	...	
	Mymensingh-Jamalpur-Jaganath	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	Brahmaputra-Sultanpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	South Behar	17	4,61,381	14	1,16,291	...	...	...	...	1	
	Mysore	1	15,925	1	345	1	3,889	1	820	...	
	Ahmedabad-Parantij	4	12,468	18	1,01,358	...	...	...	...	...	
	Tapti Valley	22	17,23,937	...	...	12	43,120	25	2,41,030	2	
	Burma	333	41,82,681	49	3,06,502	...	...	1	250	2	
	Hardwar-Dehra	20	2,97,371	2	6,073	...	...	...	...	...	

58. The following notes give particulars of the principal items included in the above statement:—

(i) 38.—STATE RAILWAYS—WORKING EXPENSES.

Rajputana-Malwa Railway.—The items included under "Miscellaneous Irregularities" are (1) outlay on works for the Oodeypore-Chittore Railway without deposit of estimated cost, part adjusted in April 1898 and the balance under recovery; (2) advance to Messrs. Ward and Vishnu Ram Chandra, Contractors, Godhra-Rutlam Railway, which will be cleared on settlement of the suit filed by the contractors against the Company; (3) overpayments to Kara Rutna, Contractor, Rutlam-Nagda Railway, under recovery.

North-Western Railway.—The expenditure on works without estimate relating to Revenue was principally incurred on additions and alterations to sidings at Umballa Cantonment for the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, and quarry siding at Paikhal. Under "Excess over Estimate" the principal works concerned are:—

	Rs.
1. Temporary bridge at Haroo	33,488
2. Repairing breaches and restoring through traffic between Shershab and Mahmudkot	29,869
3. Additional water-ways required for spill from Jhelum River between Victoria Bridge and Chalisa	13,023
4. Additional water-ways between Chalisa and Pind	4,510
5. " " " miles 857 and 859	4,658
6. Doubling the line Kiamari to Pipri, project A.	10,123
7. Rebuilding viaduct No. 1, Beas Valley	5,631
8. Strengthening girders of East Bayne Bridge	5,878

The excess on the first five works will be regularized by sanction of the Government of India and items 6 to 8 by Completion Reports.

(ii)—STATE RAILWAYS—CONSTRUCTION.

Godhra-Rutlam-Nagda Railway.—Of the amount noticed under "No Estimate," Rs. 6,714 represents expenditure incurred in the defence of a suit filed by Messrs. Ward and Vishnu, Contractors, sanction to which will be obtained when final expenditure is known.

Cawnpore-Lucknow-Gogra Railway.—The excess expenditure of Rs. 19,333 over estimates occurred on two works, interlocking signals and points at Cawnpore. The revised estimates are under preparation by Engineer-in-Chief and will shortly be submitted for sanction.

North-Western Railway.—The principal works shown without estimate are:—

	Rs.
1. Works at Bhatinda necessitated by junction with Southern Punjab Railway	37,458
2. Quarry siding at Paikhal	82,289
3. First equipment of running shed on the Southern Punjab Railway	12,292
4. Land, building, and machinery for patent fuel at Haranpur	47,610

Under "Excess over Estimate" the following are the chief items:—

	Rs.
Alterations and additions to Rawalpindi Station yard	27,018
Alterations and improvements to Saharanpur yard	11,173
Junction station at mile 896½ and additional water-ways, etc.	14,404
Doubling the line from Kiamari to Pipri, Project A.	11,248
Additions and alterations to sidings at Umballa Cantonment for Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway	39,809

In the first four cases through Completion Reports will be submitted and the last a Revised Estimate.

The items under Miscellaneous Irregularities relate to excesses over the provision made in the estimate for projects B and C of doubling the line from Pipri to Kotri under heads Bridges and Ballasting, but the total outlay is within the total of the sanctioned estimate.

Kotri-Rohri Railway.—The expenditure under "Absence of Estimate" will be regularized on submission of Completion Reports.

Mari-Attock Railway.—The expenditure on works without estimates was principally incurred on (1) Fencing Mari section, Rs. 1,467, (2) Station Machinery, Mari and Langur Divisions, Rs. 2,639, and (3) Furniture and instruments, Medical and Sanitation, Rs. 1,740. It is said that the estimate for (1) is under consideration and (2) and (3) under preparation.

The excesses over estimates occurred chiefly on the following works:—

	Rs.
1. Preliminary expenses	68,284
2. Kohad Bridge	4,509
3. Resi Bridge	2,03,093
4. Uchri vaueduct	48,028
5. Engineering, salary and allowances	1,04,787
6. Earthwork	11,871
7. Tunnels Nos. 1 to 6	4,53,482
8. Haro Bridge No. 11	17,168
9. Sakandra Bridge No. 20	28,329
10. Minor Bridges	49,312

A revised project estimate is under consideration, and this will regularize most of these items.

The items under Miscellaneous Irregularities include a sum of Rs. 13,30,000 provided for stations and buildings, and general charges in the project estimate in a lump sum the distribution of which requires the confirmation of the Government of India. The necessary provision is entered in the Revised Estimate submitted to the Government of India for sanction. The other items relate to payments to contractors for work done in absence of contractors' agreements and to payments for works not provided for in their agreements. These are under consideration of the Engineer-in-Chief.

South Indian Railway.—Estimates for the works under "Absence of Estimate" are under preparation and sanction.

The items under "Miscellaneous Irregularities" represent works for which completion reports are required: these are under preparation or revision.

East Coast Railway and Godavari Bridge.—Completion reports have been submitted or are under preparation for most of the works, the outlay on which is shown as objectionable for want of or in excess of estimate. The remaining items of importance represent outlay, the detailed estimates for which require the sanction of the Government of India.

Rae Bareli-Benares Railway.—The whole of the outlay held objectionable will be regularized on submission of completion report by the Engineer-in-Chief.

Bezwada-Madras Railway.—The very large number of items under objection are due to the want of detailed estimates for works in progress: the matter has been specially brought to the notice of the Engineer-in-Chief.

Eastern Bengal Railway.—The principal item of excess over estimates is—doubling the line from Ranaghat to Poradaha, Permanent-way—Rs. 1,58,564.

Tirhoot Railway.—The "Excesses over estimates" will be regularized on submission of completion reports. The item under "Miscellaneous" held as objectionable, relates to expenditure that was incurred prior to March 1894, the completion report of which is under reference.

East Indian Railway.—The amount under "Absence of estimate" represents principally expenditure on "Plant—Construction," Moghalsarai-Gya Extension, the regularisation of which is under reference.

Lyallpur-Khanewal Railway.—The expenditure shown on works without estimate was principally incurred on (1) Ravi Bridge, Rs. 48,003, and (2) Permanent-way, Rs. 91,420, and it is said that the estimates for these will be put in hand later on.

Jullundur-Hoshiarpur Railway.—The expenditure under "Absence of estimate" is held objectionable pending sanction of the Government of India to the completion report.

Indus Bridge.—The expenditure without estimate and the excesses over estimate will be remedied partly by inclusion in the revised project estimate and partly by sales of plant.

Shadipalli-Balotra Railway, British Section.—The objectionable outlay under "No estimate" will be regularised by preparation of working estimates when the detailed project estimate is ready. The total expenditure incurred on the railway up to 31st March 1898, Rs. 26,757, which includes the survey outlay of Rs. 18,770, is held objectionable, pending sanction to the detailed project estimate which is under preparation by the Engineer-in-Chief.

(iii)—SUBSIDISED COMPANIES—LAND.

Bengal and North-Western Railway—Land.—One item under "Absence of estimate" and two items under "Excess over estimate" have since been remedied, and it is stated that the Consulting Engineer has taken steps to regularise the other items of objectionable expenditure under these heads.

(iv)—CAPITAL ACCOUNT OF INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

Bengal Central Railway.—The objectionable expenditure for want of estimate is chiefly on plant, estimates for which have since been prepared and submitted for sanction. The only excess over sanctioned estimate calling for special notice is one of Rs. 71,485 for additional rolling stock. No revised estimate had been submitted, and expenditure was being passed provisionally on Consulting Engineer's authority.

Assam-Bengal Railway.—The outlay under "Absence of estimate" and "Excess over estimate" is held objectionable pending receipt of sanction to the revised project estimates for sections 2 and 3; the former has already been submitted for sanction and the latter is in hand.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—The expenditure under "Absence of estimate" has since been regularised by provisional sanction of Government to the estimates for the Raipur-Dhamtari Feeder line.

Indian Midland Railway.—Expenditure without estimate relates to works on the Saugor-Katni Extension for which detailed estimates had not been submitted but were under preparation. Revised estimates are under preparation for the excess expenditure on the Saugor-Katni Extension.

Southern Mahratta Railway.—For two of the works under "Absence of estimate" revised estimates are being submitted, and for the third, Government sanction is awaited to the estimate submitted.

Mysore State Railway.—Amount under "Absence of estimate" represents expenditure passed provisionally under orders of the Bombay Government on the New Mallur Bridge, the estimate for which has been submitted for the sanction of Government. The item under "Miscellaneous irregularities" is for payment made to the Mysore Durbar for land, Rs. 34,025 held objectionable for want of formal sanction of Government.

Ahmedabad-Parantij Railway.—The excesses will be provided for in the completion schedule under preparation.

Tapti Valley Railway.—The whole of the expenditure has been treated as objectionable for want of detailed estimates, which have been prepared and submitted for sanction.

Burma Railways.—Under "Absence of estimate" is included Rs. 1,12,939 on account of expenditure on the Mu Valley Railway; Rs. 39,87,758 on the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway; and Rs. 18,738 on the Meiktila-Myingyan Extension.

The principal works under "Excess over estimate," Mandalay-Kunlon Railway, are—

	Rs.
Land No. 3 Division	11,431
Erection of Fairlie engines	23,897
" of Bogie wagons	8,360
Direction, Salaries and quarters	21,425
Engineering quarters and office accommodation	73,849
Medical quarters and instruments	25,151

Hardwar-Dehra Railway.—The whole of the outlay, Rs. 2,97,371, under "Absence of estimate" is objectionable for want of sanction to the project estimate and to detailed estimates. The excesses over estimates will be regularised on sanction being accorded to the revised project estimates.

South Behar Railway.—The sum under "Absence of estimate" includes an item of Rs. 3,46,639 on account of construction plant, for which no separate estimate has been prepared.

FLOATING CHEQUES.

59. The following table exhibits the amounts of uncashed cheques at the close of 1897-98 in comparison with 1896-97 :—

RAILWAYS.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay-Sind Connection Railway Survey	...	991
Bengal Central	450	4,950
Bengal-Nagpur	1,82,916	1,83,935
Bengal and North-Western and Tirhoot	1,20,991	91,306
Burma	4,67,916	1,37,285
East India	2,63,426	1,23,070
East Coast	2,55,345	2,34,565
Lucknow-Bareilly	6,975	9,924
North-Western	4,07,414	5,54,522
Southern Mahratta	1,07,422	1,18,965
South Indian	99,992	93,367
State Railway Stores Branch	3,681	5,967
Bezawada-Madras	1,84,999	98,888
Assam-Bengal	4,27,181	6,50,848
Mari-Attock	71,005	99,127
Oudh and Rohilkhand	1,91,860	2,03,145
Rae Bareli-Benares	1,71,486	42,646
Rajputana-Malwa	3,19,837	61,097
Eastern Bengal	2,60,320	2,11,141
Indian Midland	80,848	1,02,733
Jorhat	628	...
Cherra-Companyganj	...	1,630
Warora Coolery	1,569	2,555
Tarkeswar-Magra	1,445	1,245
Kotri-Rohri	40,784	...
South Behar	8,050	75,931
South Behar (Land)	...	7,239
Lyalpur-Khanewal	1,600	...
Tapti Valley Railway	9,690	30,549
Hajipur-Katihar Extension	5,242	3,622
Agra-Delhi Railway Survey	1,427	...
Hardwar-Dehra Railway Survey	1,095	46,146
Mymensingh-Jamalpur Branch Railway	127	7,999
Brahmaputra-Sultaipur Branch Railway	600	7,165
Indus Bridge	...	12,638
TOTAL	36,96,321	32,25,191

60. There was a decrease of Rs. 4,71,130 in the total amount outstanding at the end of the year as compared with 1896-97, the principal decreases being on the Bengal and North-Western, Burma, East Indian, Bezawada-Madras, Rae Bareli-Benares, Rajputana-Malwa, and Eastern Bengal Railways.

RESOLUTION.—The attention of the Local Governments, Administrations and Officers concerned is invited to paras. 11, 25, 34, 41, 42, 47, 52 and 55 to 60 of the Accountant General's note. The necessary steps should be taken to remedy the irregularities referred to at an early date.

The Governments of Madras, Bombay (Railway), Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Burma.
The Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces and Assam.
The Agent to the Governor General, Baluchistan.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Railways, Calcutta, Lucknow, and Assam.
The Managers, North-Western, Oudh and Rohilkhand, East Coast, and Eastern Bengal State Railways.
The Engineers-in-Chief, Mari-Attock, Kotri-Rohri, Rae Bareli-Benares, and Bezawada-Madras Railways.
The Engineer-in-Chief, Godavery Bridge Works.
The Engineer-in-Chief, Hardwar-Dehra Railway Survey.

ORDER.—Ordered, that the foregoing be communicated to the Local Governments, Administrations and Officers noted in the margin for information and guidance.

M. J. P. S.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Documents accompanying.
Nil.

To
The Secretary to the Govt. of Madras
P. W. D. Railway Branch

*with 50 copies of the same
for the railway branch*