RAILWAYS IN JAPAN.

The annual report of the Japanese Imperial Railway bureau for the year ending March 31, 1899, recently published, shows that 472 miles of new road was opened for traffic during the year, which is an increase of 30 miles over the record for the preceding year. The total length of state and private lines in operation on the date named was 3,421 miles. The number of railway companies incorporated under formal charters was 58, with a total capital of 238,775,000 yen (the yen is equivalent to 50 cents American money), with 2,652 miles of road in operation. During the year 26 companies were formed under provisional charters, with a total capital of 43,535,000 yen and a length of 809 miles.

Of the companies under formal charters 42 are actually doing business, the remainder being engaged in the work of construction. Out of the 42 companies only five have more than 100 miles of line in operation, these companies being the Nippon, with 857 miles; the Kyushu, with 315 miles; the San-Yo, with 276 miles; the Hokkaido Tanko, with 207 miles, and the Kansai, with 147 miles. The average cost of construction per mile on state lines during the year was 70,029 yen, and on private lines 57,226 yen. The increase of cost of construction per mile for state lines during the year was 9,172 yen, and for private lines 7,252 yen, which is very probably the result of the general rise in price of commodities of labor.

The total rolling stock on the state and private lines at the date above named comprised 1,103 locomotives, 3,811 passenger cars and 14,088 freight cars, which was an increase of 209 locomotives, 911 passenger cars and 2,663 freight cars over the record of the year previous.

The total locomotive mileage during the year was 24,917,429, the train mileage 22,977,400, and the car mileage 310,667,984, showing an increase of 21, 22 and 20 per cent., respectively, for the three items named as compared with the previous year. The quantity of fuel consumed was 430,701 tons of coal and 14,339 tons of liquid fuel.

The total number of passengers carried on the state and private lines during the year was 90,061,809, and the freight tonnage 9,916,126, exclusive of baggage, which amounted to 36,705 tons. The total receipts amounted to 30,832,084 yen, of which 19,651,789 yen was passenger receipts; 10,309,820 yen freight receipts; 558,042 yen baggage receipts; 276,508 yen receipts from postal business; and 5,925 yen was miscellaneous business. Compared with the preceding year there was an increase of 16 per cent. in passenger receipts, 14 per cent. in freight receipts and 18 per cent. in baggage receipts, but on a mileage basis there was a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the passenger receipts and 3.6 per cent. in freight receipts. From all sources the total income of state and private lines for the year was 31,700,676 yen. The total working expenses amounted to 17,765,544 yen, which was an increase of 5,401,448 yen over the record for the preceding year.—Railway and Engineering Review.

IT has been found by the Inland Revenue Department in the course of analysing Scotch whiskeys, that fourteen out of twenty-eight samples dealt with were adulterated. Some of the stuff was not properly whiskey, but a compound of cheap spirits and chemicals. It has often been hinted that much of the Scotch whiskey sold in Canada was impure. Here is proof of the assertion.

LIVERPOOL PRICES

Liverpool, Nov. 30, 12.30 p.m

	s.	d.
Wheat, Spring	5	11
Red Winter	5	8½
No. 1 Cal	3	4
Corn	3	5¾
Peas	5	1
Lard	26	9
Pork	57	6
Bacon, heavy	33	0
Bacon, light	33	0
Tallow	25	3
Cheese, new w e	56	6
Cheese new c. red	56	0