

1917.

VICTORIA.

INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

WORKING AS A BUSINESS UNDERTAKING

OF THE

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

ALBERT J. MULLETT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 8.—[6d.]—6778.

R E P O R T.

To His Excellency SIR ARTHUR LYULPH STANLEY, *Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St. George, Governor of the State of Victoria and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia, &c., &c.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY :

In accordance with the Commission dated 17th April, 1917, constituting me Your Excellency's Commissioner to inquire into the working as a business undertaking of the Victorian Railways, I have the honour to submit the following Interim Report, viz. :—

Your Commissioner has made considerable progress in the inquiry with regard to prospective revenue and working expenses, and it is in evidence that the estimated deficit for the year 1917-18 will approach, if not exceed, £750,000.

Your Commissioner is making careful inquiry into the possibility of effecting economies in the present methods of working, but sees no prospect of materially reducing such estimated deficit by such means.

Under these circumstances, your Commissioner has come to the conclusion that it is necessary to increase the fares and freights at present in operation upon the Victorian Railways, so as to provide at least £500,000 of additional revenue for the year 1917-18.

Your Commissioner begs to suggest that such increased charges should take effect from the commencement of the next financial year, 1st July, 1917.

These recommendations I have the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration.

Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of May, 1917.

(L.S.)

T. R. JOHNSON.

T. G. JONES, Secretary.