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ment. The total capital outlay on railways up to the end of the year 1906 was £246,614,334, and the cost of the open lines averaged about £18,475 per mile. The gross earnings of all lines for 1906 were £29,238,800, or £1,451,533 more than in the previous year; working expenses came to nearly 48½ per cent. of the gross earnings; and the net revenue yielded 6 per cent., as in the previous year, on the capital expenditure on the open lines. Prefixed to the book, which is published by Messrs. Harrison and Sons, 45, Pall-mall, is a map of the Indian Empire.

**THE LADO WHITE RHINOCEROS.**—For many years it was generally believed that the northern range of the white or square-mouthed rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) was bounded by the Zambesi river, but about the middle of the 19th century the late Sir Samuel Baker met with a horn, "three feet long and immensely thick" at Khartum which not improbably belonged to this species. In 1900 Mr. Oldfield Thomas identified the skull of a rhinoceros shot by Major Gibbons at Lado as belonging to the square-mouthed form. In 1903 horns from the Sudan were exhibited at two scientific meetings of the Zoological Society, and on the second occasion it was stated that Mr. Rowland Ward had known of these horns coming through from the Sudan for some years before the specimen secured by Major Gibbons settled the question of the extension of the northward range. Specimens were also obtained by Major Powell-Cotton during his recent travels in Africa, and from the examination of a skull presented by him to the British Museum (Natural History), Mr. Lydekker came to the conclusion that the northern white rhinoceros was of a distinct geographical race, which he named, in honour of the donor of the skull, *Rhinoceros simus cottoni*. The record horn of this northern race belongs to Captain Poole, and measures 40in. along the outside curve.

**THE EXPLOSION OF COAL DUST AT DINAS MAIN COLLIERY.**—The Home Office have just issued as a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 4,019] the report of Mr. W. N. Atkinson and Mr. J. Dyer Lewis, his Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the circumstances attending an explosion of coal dust which occurred at Dinas Main Colliery, in the Swansea inspection district, on December 14, 1907, whereby seven miners were killed. The inspectors state that, in their opinion, the true cause of the explosion was the firing of a shot of compressed gunpowder, probably stemmed with coal dust, and the

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