

JAMAICAN
RAILWAYS.

Government Operation of Jamaican Railways Reported Against.

A Kingston, Jamaica, press dispatch of Nov. 6, stated that Lt.-Col. D. F. Hammond, Royal Engineers, who was commissioned to make recommendations to the Colonial Government as to the development of transport facilities throughout the island, on an economic basis, by railway, water, or otherwise, has reported to the Duke of Devonshire, Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing his disbelief in state ownership, or control, of enterprises which are expected to show a profit, and stating that a government cannot run even light railways as economically as private individuals and companies.

The Jamaican Government Ry. has about 200 miles of 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge, and operates 44 locomotives, 34 passenger cars, and 600 freight cars. The line from Kingston to Spanish Town was built in 1884, by a private company, and afterwards taken over by the Government. An extension to Porus was built in 1885 with a branch line from Spanish Town to Ewarton. A United States syndicate bought the then existing railways in 1889, and built extensions from Porus to Montego Bay, and from Bog Walk to Port Antonio, but the Government took possession in 1900. A branch to Chapeltown was completed in 1913, and a branch to new works in 1921.