

## MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

The total number of municipalities administering local government throughout the State at the end of the year 1906 was 206. Of these 11 ranked as cities, 12 as towns, 37 as boroughs, and the remainder (146) as shires. The whole of Victoria is now brought under control of municipalities, with the exception of about 600 square miles in the mountainous part of Wonnangatta, and 64 square miles in French Island.

The following is a summary of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of four years ended 1906-7:—

## MUNICIPALITIES: RETURN FOR FOUR YEARS.

Year.	Estimated Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1903-4 ..	652,658	158,691	137,394	4,958	£ 93,376,880	£ 5,366,477	£ 789,596
1904-5 ..	657,815	159,953	133,670	4,997	94,583,732	5,498,471	824,392
1905-6 ..	684,358	169,536	144,996	4,698	99,354,665	5,664,425	847,104
1906-7 ..	695,192	171,909	147,055	4,778	100,801,295	5,779,231	..
Shires—							
1903-4 ..	556,350	152,204	117,760	3,883	115,766,850	6,071,353	520,794
1904-5 ..	552,414	153,908	117,998	3,337	116,336,442	6,244,799	520,829
1905-6 ..	541,242	147,960	115,270	3,069	117,260,959	6,130,718	541,188
1906-7 ..	565,739	151,869	117,286	2,828	121,797,646	6,395,094	..
Total—							
1903-4 ..	1,209,008	310,895	255,154	8,841	209,143,730	11,437,830	1,310,390
1904-5 ..	1,210,229	313,861	256,663	8,334	210,920,174	11,743,270	1,345,221
1905-6 ..	1,225,600	317,496	260,266	7,767	216,615,624	11,795,143	1,388,292
1906-7 ..	1,260,931	323,778	264,341	7,606	222,598,941	12,174,325	..

Increase in  
value of  
rateable  
properties  
and muni-  
cipal  
revenue.

It will be observed from the following figures that there has been a very substantial increase in the estimated value of rateable property and in the revenue of municipalities during the period covered by the foregoing table:—

# INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1906-7 over 1903-4.		1905-6 over 1903-4.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ... ..	£ 7,424,415	£ 412,754	£ 57,508
Shires ... ..	6,030,796	323,741	20,394
Total ... ..	13,455,211	736,495	77,902

The number of ratepayers returned for 1906-7 was 323,778, and the total capital value of rateable property £222,598,941, which is equivalent to about 18 years' purchase on the annual value, £12,174,325.

Ratings in  
municipali-  
ties, 1906.

Of the 60 cities, towns, and boroughs, 9 levied rates of 1s. in the £1, 3 of 1s. 3d., 1 of 1s. 4d., 13 of 1s. 6d., 14 from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 10d., 12 of 2s., 1 of 2s. 2d., 3 of 2s. 3d., 2 of 2s. 4d., 1 of 2s. 6d., and 1 (Melbourne, with which are incorporated the former municipalities of Flemington and Kensington and North Melbourne) of 1s., 1s. 5d., and 1s. 8d. Of the 146 shires, 1 levied a rate of 9d. in the £1, 87 rates of 1s., 25 of 1s. 3d., 3 of 1s. 4d., 21 of 1s. 6d., 1 of 1s. 7d., 2 of 1s. 9d., 5 of 2s., and 1 of 2s. 6d. in the £1. These figures give an average rating of 1s. 8d. in the £1 in cities, towns, and boroughs, and 1s. 2d. in shires. The rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 6d. in the £1 more than in the rural districts.

The number of properties rated and the annual assessment thereon in cities, towns, and boroughs, and shires, in 1905-6, were as follow :—

Classification of properties rated, 1905-6.

## NUMBER AND ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES RATED, 1905-6.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties Rated.			Assessment of Properties.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
Under £25 ...	148,373	125,806	274,179	£	£	£
£25 to £50 ...	36,677	40,172	76,849	} 3,028,065	2,486,591	5,514,656
£50 " £75 ...	8,428	12,151	20,579			
£75 " £100 ...	3,585	6,745	10,330	} 766,858	1,231,471	1,998,329
£100 " £200 ...	4,078	7,028	11,106			
£200 " £300 ...	1,086	1,424	2,510	} 1,329,593	922,449	1,462,358
£300 " £400 ...	470	510	980			
£400 " £500 ...	242	288	530			
£500 & upwards	679	718	1,397			
Total ...	203,618	194,842	398,460	5,664,425	6,130,718	11,795,143

A similar return to the above was prepared for the year 1901-2, and is now reprinted for comparison with the figures for 1905-6.

Classification of properties rated, 1901-2.

## NUMBER AND ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES RATED, 1901-2.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties Rated.			Assessment of Properties.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
Under £25 ...	138,191	119,146	257,337	£	£	£
£25 to £50 ...	34,848	44,225	79,073	} 2,713,023	2,426,477	5,139,500
£50 " £75 ...	8,002	10,681	18,683			
£75 " £100 ...	3,094	6,612	9,706	} 693,482	1,096,013	1,789,495
£100 " £200 ...	3,823	5,813	9,636			
£200 " £300 ...	1,013	1,112	2,125	} 517,663	762,504	1,280,167
£300 " £400 ...	435	406	841			
£400 " £500 ...	257	226	483			
£500 & upwards	627	707	1,334			
Total ...	190,290	188,928	379,218	5,223,282	5,661,805	10,885,087

Proportion  
of proper-  
ties at  
different  
values,  
1901-2 and  
1905-6.

The following return shows the proportion of properties at the different rateable values in the two years:—

PROPORTION OF PROPERTIES AT DIFFERENT RATEABLE VALUES,  
1901-2 AND 1905-6.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties in every 100 Rated.					
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.		In Shires.		In Victoria.	
	1901-2.	1905-6.	1901-2.	1905-6.	1901-2.	1905-6.
Under £25 ...	72·6	72·9	63·1	64·6	67·8	68·8
£25 to £50 ...	18·3	18·0	23·4	20·6	20·9	19·3
£50 " £75 ...	4·2	4·2	5·6	6·2	4·9	5·2
£75 " £100 ...	1·7	1·8	3·5	3·5	2·6	2·6
£100 " £200 ...	2·0	2·0	3·1	3·6	2·5	2·8
£200 " £300 ...	·6	·5	·6	·7	·6	·6
£300 " £400 ...	·2	·2	·2	·3	·2	·2
£400 " £500 ...	·1	·1	·1	·1	·1	·1
£500 and upwards ...	·3	·3	·4	·4	·4	·4

Municipal  
revenue  
and ex-  
penditure

The ordinary revenue and expenditure for the last three financial years were as follow:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1904 TO 1906.

Sources of Revenue.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Taxation —	£	£	£
Rates ...	808,082	802,253	836,024
Licences ...	105,123	112,475	106,621
Dog Fees ...	15,435	16,022	16,257
Market and Weighbridge Dues ...	52,772	55,259	56,939
Government Endowment and Grants ...	80,681	90,572	95,090
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ...	20,485	22,755	18,597
Sanitary Charges ...	50,097	55,731	56,052
Rents ...	59,956	60,344	63,242
Other Sources ...	117,759	129,810	139,470
Total ...	1,310,390	1,345,221	1,388,292
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c. ...	138,884	136,066	141,438
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ...	126,219	131,378	135,466
Lighting ...	69,877	69,915	72,571
Fire Brigades' Contributions ...	16,668	16,061	17,431
Public Works—			
Construction ...	167,919	198,275	217,346
Maintenance ...	360,831	378,859	403,791
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ...	19,504	23,676	19,627
Redemption of Loans ...	43,959	55,866	49,483
Interest on Loans ...	191,310	186,439	188,111
Charities ...	13,117	13,185	13,637
Other Expenditure ...	142,460	134,023	118,748
Total ...	1,290,748	1,343,743	1,377,649

As compared with 1905, the revenue of 1906 has increased by £43,071. The items showing advances are:—Rates, £33,771; Government endowment and grants, £4,518; rents, £2,898; market and weighbridge dues, £1,680; sanitary charges, £321; dog fees, £235; and "other sources" of revenue, £9,660. Licences have been reduced £5,854; and contributions for streets, £4,158. The expenditure shows an increase of £33,906. The items increased are—Salaries, £5,372; sanitary work and street cleaning, £4,088; lighting, £2,656; fire brigades' contributions, £1,370; public works, construction, £19,071; maintenance, £24,932; interest on loans, £1,672; and charities, £452. The reductions in expenditure are—Formation of private streets, &c., £4,049; redemption of loans, £6,383; and "other expenditure," £15,275.

Sixty per cent. of municipal revenue was derived from rates, 8 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 4 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 7 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 1 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 5 per cent. from rents, and 10 per cent. from all other sources.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources.

In 1906, the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £141,438, or about 10 per cent. of the entire revenue.

A sum of £13,637, equivalent to about 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to local charities—the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

Local charities.

The assets of the municipalities are shown under three heads—(1) Municipal Fund, (2) Loan Fund, (3) Property; the liabilities under two heads—(1) Municipal Fund, (2) Loan Fund.

Assets and liabilities of municipalities.

## MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1904 TO 1906.

Assets.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates ... ..	119,013	119,028	124,174
Other Assets ... ..	168,107	168,737	184,380
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ... ..	680,989	701,503	740,382
Arrears Due ... ..	4,352	4,459	1,341
Unexpended Balances ... ..	160,321	112,643	302,400
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	2,495,101	2,530,858	2,573,017
Waterworks ... ..	226,084	234,461	221,548
Gasworks ... ..	68,744	65,760	60,510
Total Assets ... ..	3,922,711	3,937,449	4,207,752

## MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1904 TO 1906—continued.

Liabilities.		1904.	1905.	1906.
Municipal Fund—				
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ...	...	£ 4,352	£ 4,459	£ 1,341
Overdue Interest ...	...	17,875	16,637	16,951
Bank Overdrafts ...	...	89,825	90,660	89,370
Temporary Government Advances ...	...	8,098	4,018	694
Other Liabilities ...	...	132,098	139,717	175,964
Loan Funds—				
Loans Outstanding ...	...	4,205,886	4,186,602	4,375,116
Due on Loan Contracts ...	...	29,947	27,438	2,256
Total Liabilities ...	...	4,488,081	4,469,531	4,661,692

Municipal  
assets and  
liabilities  
compared.

The total assets of municipalities in 1906 amounted to £4,207,752, and the liabilities to £4,661,692. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £284,320, against which there were assets amounting to £308,554. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £4,377,372, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £3,333,249. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties (£2,855,075) in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, waterworks, &c., the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £478,174.

Endowment  
of muni-  
cipalities.

Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This was the first statutory provision made since 1879, when an endowment of £310,000, authorized under the *Local Government Act* 1874, ceased to be payable. A subsidy, however, in lieu thereof, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, but this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from the 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 it was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-7. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September in each year. The following table shows the method of distribution for the year 1905-6:—

## ENDOWMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1905-6.

Municipality.		Endowment.	
		£	s. d.
Boroughs ...	...	840	5 3
Shires—			
2nd Class ...	...	16,846	5 5
3rd „ ...	...	18,437	10 10
4th „ ...	...	1,670	12 11
5th „ ...	...	7,861	15 5
6th „ ...	...	2,983	10 2
Transferred to Trust Fund for Salaries, &c., of Inspectors of Municipal Accounts		1,360	0 0
Total ...	...	50,000	0 0

The amount of endowment paid is calculated on the amount of rates received during 1904, the following being the rates in the £1 received in 1905-6:—

				s.	d.
Boroughs	...	...	...	1	7.62
Shires—					
2nd Class	...	...	...	2	7.40
3rd „	...	...	...	3	0.63
4th „	...	...	...	4	4.33
5th „	...	...	...	5	2.14
6th „	...	...	...	5	11.96

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government a sum of £92,278 8s. 1d., under Act No. IIII, Section 201, the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; (3) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under *The Licensing Act 1876*. The particulars of this payment are as follow:—

## EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1905-6.

			£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	...	...	39,350	18	10
„ Towns	...	...	9,493	10	0
„ Boroughs	...	...	14,761	11	4
„ Shires—					
1st Class	...	...	250	0	0
2nd „	...	...	15,466	15	10
3rd „	...	...	9,508	18	9
4th „	...	...	831	15	0
5th „	...	...	1,839	18	10
6th „	...	...	741	19	6
Total amount due	...	...	92,245	8	1
Add payments on account of 1905	£96	0	0		
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1906	63	0	0		
			33	0	0
Amount paid in 1905-6	...		92,278	8	1

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Act Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1906:—

## LICENSING ACT FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1905-6.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year	683	5 5	Expenses of Officers carrying out the Licensing Act	7,167	13 7
Licences	100,674	3 5	Cost of taking poll of electors	119	15 3
Fines	2,459	9 0	Equivalent to municipalities (see previous table)	92,278	8 1
Sale of confiscated liquor	35	8 9	Balance 30th June, 1906	4,286	9 8
	£103,852	6 7		£103,852	6 7

## MUNICIPAL LOANS.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, Section 375 of the *Local Government Act 1903* provides that before any municipality incurs a loan and the debentures are payable in different years, the council shall obtain from the Auditor-General a certificate, in writing, that the amounts proposed to be provided in each year will be sufficient to pay all principal moneys and interest as they fall due. The repayments of principal have to be so provided for that each year of the currency of the loan shall bear its full share towards liquidation.

Municipal  
indebted-  
ness.

The total indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £4,375,116; £235,699 due to the Government, and £4,139,417 due to the public. The total indebtedness of the shires was £562,224; £98,630 due to the Government, and £463,594 other loans. The total indebtedness of the cities was £3,812,892, of which £137,069 was due to the Government and £3,675,823 to the public.

## MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1906.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year ... ..	251,600	18,679	270,279
Balance unexpended from previous year ... ..	97,374	18,853	116,227
Expenditure during the year ... ..	62,305	21,776	84,081
Balance unexpended at the end of 1906 ... ..	286,669	15,756	302,425

Municipal  
loan expen-  
diture, 1902  
to 1906.

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1906 amounted to £84,081, of which £62,305 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £21,776 by shires. This is about the same as the preceding year but considerably less than in the years 1902 and 1903.

## MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902 ... ..	29,628	135,251
1903 . . . . .	81,585	132,044
1904 ... ..	22,118	84,339
1905 ... ..	33,313	84,845
1906 ... ..	270,279	84,081

Loans raised  
by muni-  
cipalities,  
1906.

The total loan receipts for the year amounted to £270,279, and consisted of loans raised from the public by the following districts. The loans—with the exception of that of the municipality of Queens-cliff, which was raised locally, and Fern Tree Gully, which was raised in Dandenong—were floated in Melbourne:—



## LOANS RECEIPTS BY MUNICIPALITIES, 1906.

Loans from the Public—			Amount.
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—			£
Melbourne	...	...	250,000
Oakleigh	...	...	400
Queenscliff	...	...	1,200
Total	...	...	251,600
Shires—			
Benalla	...	...	2,700
Fern Tree Gully	...	...	1,973
Heidelberg	...	...	5,905
Lillydale	...	...	450
Moorabbin	...	...	1,212
Mornington	...	...	495
Narracan	...	...	1,416
Waranga	...	...	2,000
Yarrawonga	...	...	2,528
Total	...	...	18,679
Grand Total	...	...	270,279

At the end of the year 1905-6 the total amount of loan money in hand was £302,425—£286,669 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £15,756 to the credit of shires. The following return shows the municipalities having such credits, and the amounts thereof:—

## LOANS UNEXPENDED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1906.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—			SHIRES—		
		£			£
Ararat	...	239	Berwick	...	25
Ballarat	...	3,058	Dimboola	...	290
Ballarat East	...	31	Fern Tree Gully	...	870
Bendigo	...	2,416	Heidelberg	...	1,964
Brunswick	...	3,576	Kerang	...	1,746
Camberwell	...	241	Moorabbin	...	984
Caulfield	...	600	Mornington	...	395
Coburg	...	889	Mulgrave	...	74
Collingwood	...	530	Numurkah	...	1,276
Essendon	...	1,073	Nunawading	...	2,712
Fitzroy	...	88	Omeo	...	1,240
Footscray	...	15,413	Phillip Island and Wool-		
Geelong	...	81	mai	...	1,541
Hawthorn	...	1,077	Preston	...	106
Inglewood	...	900	Seymour	...	4
Kew	...	2,101	Springfield	...	21
Malvern	...	582	Swan Hill	...	852
Maryborough	...	414	Waranga	...	1,476
Melbourne	...	228,006	Yarrawonga	...	180
Northcote	...	1,370			
Port Melbourne	...	4,953	Total Shires	...	15,756
Prahran	...	5,603			
Queenscliff	...	132			
South Melbourne	...	4,654			
St. Kilda	...	7,692			
Wangaratta	...	792			
Williamstown	...	1,058			
Total Cities	...	286,669	Grand Total	...	302,425

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITIES OF MELBOURNE,  
BALLARAT, AND BENDIGO.

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1906 of the City of Melbourne and of the principal cities in the country—Ballarat and Bendigo—are given in the following statements:—

City of  
Melbourne  
revenue  
and expen-  
diture  
under  
various  
heads.

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1906, about 38 per cent. was derived from rates, more than 19 per cent. from the sale of electric light, about 16 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—12 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 9 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. On public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 33 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; interest on loans and expenses, 24 per cent.; repayment of loans and payments to sinking funds, 14 per cent.; the electric light service, 9 per cent.; street cleansing, 8 per cent.; salaries, allowances, and commissions, 7 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 5 per cent.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1906.

Heads of Revenue.							Amount.
Rates—							£
General	...	...	...	...	...	...	82,435
Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,784
Licences—							
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,911
Abattoirs—Slaughtering fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,759
Drays, Hackney Carriages, and Trams	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,822
Other Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
Fees under Dog Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,179
„ City Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,977
Market and Weighbridge Fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,281
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Meters, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	56,274
Fines and Costs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,324
Rents—							
Abattoirs	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,080
Markets and Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,703
Boat Sites and Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,945
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,808
Miscellaneous—							
Desiccators and Meat Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,290
Public Conveniences, Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Manure, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,621
Tree Planting	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Other Receipts—							
Fees under Building Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	806
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,169
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	288,016

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1906—  
*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.) ...	£ 16,431
Allowance to Mayor ... ..	1,500
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Works ... ..	645
Street Cleansing, &c. ... ..	22,261
Lighting—Electric—Maintenance ... ..	25,466
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution ... ..	4,437
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges ... ..	45,539
Markets and Weighbridges ... ..	20,441
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) ...	16,534
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets ... ..	7,081
Repayment of Loan ... ..	10,000
Interest on Loans from the Government ... ..	240
"    "    Public ... ..	63,465
Payment towards Redemption of Government Loan ...	210
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public ... ..	10,718
Electric Supply—Sinking, Depreciation, and Renewals	
Fund ... ..	17,760
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans ... ..	425
Interest on Bank Overdrafts ... ..	523
Contributions to Charitable Institutions ... ..	1,250
Law Costs ... ..	430
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery ... ..	1,190
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction ... ..	342
Compensation, Officers ... ..	675
Gas Conferences ... ..	241
Fees—Dog Act ... ..	524
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums ... ..	1,687
Elections ... ..	139
Analyst's salary ... ..	206
Sundries ... ..	2,568
Total ... ..	272,928

City of  
Ballarat  
revenue  
and expen-  
diture,  
1906.

Of each £100 of revenue received by the City of Ballarat in 1906, general rates amounted to £54; licences to £13; sanitary rates to £12; market and weighbridge dues to £9; rents to £4; and other receipts to £8. £26 per £100 of expenditure was on street cleaning, &c.; £28 on public works; £7 on interest on and redemption of loans; £11 on sanitary expenses; £7 on lighting; £7 on salaries and allowances; and £14 on all other items.

CITY OF BALLARAT: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1906.

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants—From Government ... ..	703	Salaries ... ..	1,716
General Rates ... ..	16,623	Allowance to Mayor ... ..	400
Licences—From Licensing Act Fund ... ..	3,626	Sanitary Expenses ... ..	3,435
„ Other ... ..	258	Street Cleaning, &c. ... ..	8,300
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	2,876	Lighting ... ..	2,369
Dog Fees ... ..	272	Fire Brigades Board—Con-tribution ... ..	456
Pound Fees ... ..	85	Public Works—{ Construction ... ..	1,467
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees ... ..	3,702	„ { Maintenance ... ..	7,705
Rents ... ..	1,150	Repayment of Loan—To the Government ... ..	318
Interest ... ..	209	Payment to Sinking Funds on Loans from the Public Interest—Government Loan ... ..	640
Botanic Gardens ... ..	253	„ Loans from the Public ... ..	1,127
Other Sources ... ..	789	Contributions to Charitable Institutions ... ..	715
		Printing, Advertising, and Stationery ... ..	449
		Filling Quarries ... ..	846
		Other Expenditure ... ..	1,991
Total ... ..	30,546	Total ... ..	32,162

Revenue  
and expen-  
diture of  
City of  
Bendigo,  
1906.

In the City of Bendigo, in 1906, the following were the proportions of total revenue obtained under the different headings:—General rates, 45 per cent.; licences, 16 per cent.; sanitary rates and fees, 16 per cent.; market and weighbridge dues, 9 per cent.; rents, 8 per cent.; and other sources, 6 per cent. The proportions of the total expenditure on various services were:—Public works construction and maintenance, 42 per cent.; sanitary expenses, 14 per cent.; interest on loans and payments to sinking funds, 7 per cent.; salaries and allowances, 8 per cent.; lighting, 8 per cent.; street cleansing, 6 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 15 per cent.

CITY OF BENDIGO: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1906.

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants—From Government ... ..	115	Salaries ... ..	2,380
General Rates ... ..	15,036	Allowance to Mayor ... ..	410
Licences—From Licensing Act Fund ... ..	5,052	Sanitary Expenses ... ..	4,503
„ Other ... ..	237	Street Cleansing ... ..	1,967
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	2,947	Lighting ... ..	2,710
Dog Fees ... ..	331	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution ... ..	515
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees ... ..	5,421	Public Works—{ Construction ... ..	3,977
Rents ... ..	2,530	„ { Maintenance ... ..	10,071
Interest ... ..	309	Payments to Sinking Fund on Loans from the Public ... ..	1,100
Other Sources ... ..	1,221	Interest on Loans from the Public ... ..	1,113
		„ Bank Overdraft ... ..	156
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions ... ..	438
		Libraries ... ..	539
		Law Costs ... ..	531
		Other Expenditure ... ..	2,843
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total ... ..	33,199	Total ... ..	33,253
<hr/>		<hr/>	

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in seventeen Commissioners, two of whom are elected by the Melbourne City Council, one each by the ratepayers of the municipalities of South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Williamstown, and Footscray, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five are appointed by the Governor in

Melbourne Harbor Trust—receipts and expenditure.

Council. The following are particulars of the receipts and expenditure during each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—ORDINARY RECEIPTS AND  
EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Receipts from—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage Rates ...	140,258	164,611	162,105	167,727	188,337
Rents and Licence Fees ...	11,861	9,773	10,647	12,361	12,857
Other Receipts ...	3,394	2,849	4,146	9,895	7,261
Total ...	155,513	177,233	176,898	189,983	208,455
Expenditure on—					
Harbor Improvements and Maintenance ...	32,062	27,714	30,504	27,213	27,828
Wharfs, &c.—Construction and Maintenance ...	32,871	24,303	16,003	19,443	19,839
General Management, &c. ...	10,196	10,679	11,548	12,700	13,056
Interest on Loans and Expenses ...	87,474	87,478	86,842	86,630	86,530
Total ...	162,603	150,174	144,897	145,986	147,253

During the 29½ years the Trust has been in existence, the net receipts have amounted to £4,204,079, and the expenditure to £6,026,278, or £1,822,199 in excess of the receipts, to meet which loans amounting to £2,000,000 have been raised. Of this expenditure of over 6 millions, £1,936,093 has been expended on harbor improvements and maintenance, including dredging, landing, and depositing silt. £1,463,280 on wharfs and approaches, construction and maintenance; and £533,349 on plant.

THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Area under  
control and  
value of  
property.

The district over which the Board exercises control consists of 20 cities, towns, and boroughs, and 4 shires, embracing a total area of 84,347 acres, and containing an estimated population on the 31st December, 1906, of 513,000. The annual value of rateable property in the district in 1906 was £4,726,016, which, at 1s. 1d. in the £1 for sewerage rate, would yield a revenue of £255,992 (exclusive of water rates), but as the whole of the district has not yet been sewered, the amount receivable is only £203,255. From 1st July, 1906, the Board is empowered to levy a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1.

Liability on  
loans.

To carry out its work, the Board is authorized to borrow £7,750,000, exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934, which were originally contracted by the Government, but taken over by the Board. The liability on Government loans on 30th June, 1906, was £1,848,663, and for loans raised by the Board £7,791,000. The Board is still empowered to borrow £500,271 before the limit of its borrowing powers is reached.

The waterworks for the service of Melbourne and suburbs were originally constructed by the General Government. The cost to 30th June, 1906, was £3,768,270. At the present time, these works consist of nine storage reservoirs, as under:—

Situation.	Storage Capacity in gallons.	Situation.	Storage Capacity in gallons.
Yan Yean ...	6,400,000,000	Caulfield ...	10,000,000
Toorourrong ...	60,000,000	Kew ...	3,000,000
Preston ...	16,000,000	Surrey Hills ...	9,000,000
Essendon, No. 1 ...	1,000,000	Morang (Pipe Head) ...	3,000,000
„ No. 2 ...	6,000,000		
		Total	6,508,000,000

The transfer of these works to the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board was made in 1891. The Board consists of 40 members, one of whom is a Chairman elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. Nine of the members are elected by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne, three by the Prahran, two each by the Fitzroy, Richmond, St. Kilda, and Collingwood, and one each by the other suburban municipal councils. In 1891, the rateable property within the area to be served was valued at £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 was for vacant land. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A partial recovery in values has taken place, and the total assessments, inclusive of vacant land, now reach £4,726,016. The main source of supply is the Yan Yean Reservoir, in which are stored the waters of the eastern branch of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek, from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, and those of Wallaby and Silver Creeks, brought over the range in an aqueduct from the northern slopes. These streams are collected in the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence in a pitched channel to the Yan Yean Reservoir. A second supply is brought to Melbourne by means of the Maroondah Aqueduct, which conveys water from the Maroondah River, the Graceburn, and Donnelly's Creek, but without, at present, any provision for storing the surplus winter waters thereof, except the small service reservoirs in the suburbs at Preston, Essendon, Caulfield, and Kew. By means of these systems, Melbourne is provided with an ample supply of pure water at a high pressure. The total catchment areas for both systems aggregate 62,000 acres, the whole of which is under the control of the Board, and free from settlement or grazing. The Yan Yean is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city, 602 feet above sea level. It covers an area of 1,300 acres, or rather more than two square miles, and receives water from a catchment area of 35,000 acres. Up to 31st December, 1906, there were laid mains (12-in. to 48-in.) 187 miles, reticulation mains (below 12-in.), 992 miles, in addition to which there are 75 miles of aqueducts and syphons, or a total length of aqueducts, &c., mains, and pipes of 1,254 miles. The storage capacity of the main reservoir is 6,400 million gallons, and of the eight subsidiary reservoirs 108 million gallons. The population supplied with water is about 515,000, and the average daily consumption 65 gallons per head in 1906.

DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND  
SUBURBS, 1906.

Month.	Gallons.
January ... ..	41,511,742
February ... ..	42,613,964
March ... ..	34,354,387
April ... ..	30,372,133
May ... ..	29,898,387
June ... ..	29,118,233
July ... ..	30,370,372
August ... ..	30,395,839
September ... ..	29,845,366
October ... ..	32,235,097
November ... ..	33,173,000
December ... ..	38,386,129
Mean for the year ...	33,479,870

Revenue  
and expen-  
diture of  
Melbourne  
Water-  
works.

The total expenditure to the 30th June, 1906, on the construction of the Melbourne Waterworks, was £3,768,270. The gross revenue since the opening of the works at the end of 1857 up to the 30th June, 1906, amounted to £5,708,159; whilst the expenses of maintenance and management amounted to only £964,731, and interest to £2,557,577. During 1905-6 the revenue amounted to £182,926, as against £184,529 in the previous year; and the expenditure on maintenance and management to £28,016, and interest £102,548, as against £31,761 and £102,465 in the previous year. The net revenue in 1905-6 was thus £52,362, being equivalent to 1.38 per cent. of the mean capital cost, as compared with £50,303, or 1.34 per cent. in 1904-5. The loans outstanding (£2,635,663) for the construction of the waterworks now bear an average nominal rate of only 3.83 per cent. The aggregate net profit up to the end of 1905-6, after paying all interest and expenses, has amounted to £2,185,851.

Sewerage  
system.

Connected with the water service of Melbourne and suburbs, the Board also controls the sewage system of the metropolis. The particulars of the system are as follow:—The whole of the sewage of the metropolis is being gradually collected by means of two principal main sewers leading to the Pumping Station at Spotswood. On the 31st December, 1906, the sewerage system, including mains, branches, and reticulation, had been laid in the following districts, viz.:—Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Melbourne, Richmond, and nearly the whole of Footscray, Prahran, St. Kilda, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, and Collingwood. A considerable portion of Essendon, Caulfield, Malvern, Kew, and Camberwell has been dealt with. Work has also been done in Brunswick, Williamstown, and Brighton,



and is now proceeding in these municipalities, and in Collingwood, Essendon, Caulfield, Kew, and Camberwell. In all, 840½ miles of reticulation, and 87 miles of main and branch sewers, have been completed, the system being so advanced that the sewage from 90,684 houses could be collected. On the 27th December, 1906, 83,885 houses had been connected, together with 14 public conveniences and 39 public urinals, 93,479 water-closets, 63,911 baths, 47,020 sinks, 38,584 sets of wash troughs, 18,927 lavatories, 8,611 stables, 6,096 urinals, 2,008 polluted areas and paved yards, 1,515 cellars, 804 slop hoppers, 180 latrines, and 139 dairies. There are also 1,175½ miles of house connexions laid (1,169½ miles of vitrified stoneware and 6 miles of cast-iron pipes), or a total of 2,103 miles of mains, sewers, and drains connected with the Pumping Station. When collected at Spotswood the sewage is raised about 125 feet, to the head of the outfall sewer, through 2¾ miles of 6-foot and 4-foot wrought-iron rising mains, from whence it gravitates to the farm in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 11 feet diameter, at a grade of 2 feet to the mile. It is spread over properly-prepared blocks of land by a series of main and lateral carriers. The effluent, after filtering through the land, is discharged into Port Phillip Bay in a clear and transparent condition. The prepared blocks on the farm are laid down with prairie grass and lucerne, on 2,399 acres of which, during the financial year ended 30th June, 1906, 40,848 sheep have been fattened and sold, and on 126 acres 126 bullocks have been fattened and sold, while on 575 acres cattle and horses have been grazed for agistment. The profit on sheep for the same period amounted to £9,895, and on cattle £344. Of the whole farm area of 8,847 acres, there remain 1,801 acres, comprising land in course of preparation, plantations, roads, drains, &c., and 3,946 acres not used in connexion with sewage distribution, but let on lease to farmers at an average rental of 15s. 5¾d. per acre.

The actual expenditure on sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1906, was £5,224,785, divided as follow:—

EXPENDITURE ON SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION UP TO 30TH JUNE, 1906.			Sewerage works, receipts and expen- diture.
Farm purchase and preparation	...	£415,450	
Outfall sewer and rising main	...	368,849	
Pumping Station buildings and engines	...	176,928	
Main and branch sewers...	...	1,629,930	
Street reticulation	...	1,283,797	
Reticulation of rights-of-way	...	637,500	
House connexions branches	...	220,000	
Cost of house connexions	...	247,881	
Expenditure on sewerage system	...	£4,980,335	
Yarra River improvements	...	2,745	
Householders' debts for house connexions	...	241,705	
Total	...	£5,224,785	

The sewerage receipts for 1905-6 amounted to £258,381, of which £185,803 was collected in rates, £42,078 proceeds of sale of live stock, and £23,785 interest. The purchase of live stock amounted to £29,050, the expenditure on interest £257,059, and on maintenance of works £28,765.

Houses  
connected  
with the  
Sewerage  
System.

On the 31st December, 1906, 84,964 tenements had been connected, or were in progress of connexion, with the sewerage system, leaving 29,260 houses which had not been started. The maximum cost of the sewerage of a single building in work carried out by the Board was the Women's Hospital, which cost £1,208, and the minimum, £7 11s. 5d., for a house in South Melbourne. The average cost per tenement was £23 16s. 9d. The following statement shows the progress of house connexion to the 31st December, 1906:—

PROGRESS OF HOUSE CONNEXION WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN  
MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Municipality.	No. of Tenements on 31st December, 1906.		
	Connected and in Progress.	Not Started.	Total.
Melbourne City ... ..	23,929	599	24,528
Fitzroy City ... ..	6,606	511	7,117
Collingwood City ... ..	5,477	1,956	7,433
Richmond City ... ..	8,862	8	8,870
Brunswick Town ... ..	573	5,172	5,745
Northcote Town ... ..	Nil.	2,390	2,390
Prahran City ... ..	9,595	235	9,830
South Melbourne City ... ..	9,509	112	9,621
Port Melbourne Town ... ..	2,661	67	2,728
St. Kilda City ... ..	4,372	201	4,573
Brighton Town ... ..	4	2,201	2,205
Essendon Town ... ..	1,218	2,822	4,040
Hawthorn City ... ..	4,746	280	5,026
Kew Borough ... ..	1,130	608	1,738
Footscray City ... ..	3,448	667	4,115
Williamstown Town ... ..	23	3,166	3,189
Caulfield Town ... ..	749	1,513	2,262
Malvern Town ... ..	1,322	1,345	2,667
Camberwell Town ... ..	740	1,365	2,105
Preston Shire ... ..	Nil.	876	876
Coburg Borough ... ..	"	1,450	1,450
Moorabbin Shire ... ..	"	833	833
Nunawading Shire ... ..	"	193	193
Heidelberg Shire ... ..	"	690	690
Total ... ..	84,964	29,260	114,224

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure during the five years 1901-2 to 1905-6, exclusive of refunds, deposits, &c., included in the figures quoted in preceding paragraphs:—

Total  
Receipts  
and Expen-  
diture.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS REVENUE AND  
EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

----	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Water Supply ... ..	170,488	178,290	165,761	180,632	184,821
Sewerage ... ..	144,566	184,160	189,889	209,809	234,028
Total ..	315,054	362,450	355,650	390,441	418,849
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Management ... ..	50,253	59,542	55,796	55,012	60,085
Maintenance—					
Water Supply ... ..	20,808	21,480	20,767	18,846	18,742
Sewerage ... ..	24,336	26,555	26,557	26,680	28,625
Interest on Loans ... ..	278,174	291,302	305,919	315,872	336,288
Total ... ..	373,571	398,879	409,039	416,410	443,740
<i>Loan Receipts</i> ... ..	404,459	704,783	946,686	185,735	342,920
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Water Supply ... ..	16,042	10,771	8,653	7,479	14,249
Sewerage ... ..	325,111	324,190	309,480	377,801	331,453
Redemption of Loans ... ..	3,004	3,580	521,480	..	62,630
Loss on Sale of Deposit					
Receipts ... ..	..	..	193,948	..	..
Other ... ..	2,727	19,846	19,965	1,231	-3,425
Total ..	346,884	358,387	1,053,526	386,511	404,907

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Connected with the water service of the State generally, is the service of water required for fire extinction.

Under the *Fire Brigades Act* 1890, there are constituted a metropolitan fire district, controlled by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and nine country fire districts, controlled by the Country Fire Brigades Board. The supervisors are the chief officers of the respective boards, who are aided by deputies and other assistants.

The arrangements for fire extinction in the metropolis are closely allied to those for the Melbourne water supply, the service having been provided under the clauses of the *Fire Brigades Act* 1890, and its amendments.

Constitution  
of Fire  
Brigades  
Boards.

The metropolitan fire district embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of ten miles from the General Post Office. The area vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works is included in this area, but the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board has jurisdiction over portions of the shires of Wyndham, Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Templestowe, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin within the ten-mile radius, not vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Metropolitan Fire District has been extended, and now includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as and includes the township of Mordialloc.

The Metropolitan Fire Board is controlled by three members appointed by the Governor in Council, three by the municipal councils, and three by the insurance companies.

Powers of  
the Boards

For the purpose of extinguishing any fire, the chief officers of the fire brigades may in the areas under their respective control "cause water to be shut off from any main or pipe in order to obtain a greater pressure and supply of water for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, and no persons or body having the management of any water supply shall be liable to any penalty or claim by reason of any interruption of the supply of water occasioned by compliance with the provisions of this section."

Another section provides that "each board, its officers, and servants, any local committee, its officers and servants, and any brigade registered under this Act shall have the use of any water mains, water plugs, valves, pipes, vested in or belonging to the Board of Land and Works, or any public or municipal corporation, or local body whatsoever, and of all water therein, or in any well or tank, free of charge, for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, or for the purpose of drills, competitions, and practice, conducted under the authority of either board or any local committee."

Local councils have the right, in the interests of fire prevention, with the approval of the Governor in Council, of making, altering, or repealing by-laws for the purpose of regulating the height of all buildings erected in their own municipality, or in any part of it, and also for providing means of escape from such buildings during a fire.

The general duties of the Fire Brigades Boards are defined to be those "of taking, superintending, and enforcing all necessary steps for the extinguishment of fires, and for the protection of life and property in case of fire, and the general control of all stations and of all fire brigades shall be vested in the boards for the metropolis and country districts respectively. The boards may purchase or lease property for fire brigade stations, and control the formation of permanent and volunteer fire brigades, and schools of instruction, the maintenance of fire alarms, and the establishment of communication, telephonic and other."

The Metropolitan Board of Works under the *Water Act* 1890 must, upon the request of any municipal council within its boundaries, fix proper fire plugs, in the main and other pipes belonging to

the board at convenient distances, and at such places as the board may consider proper and convenient for the supply of water for extinguishing any fire which may break out within its limits. The cost of fixing fire plugs and notice boards, together with their maintenance, must be defrayed by the municipal council within whose limits the fire plug is fixed. The board may also fix fire plugs for private owners, provided they pay the cost and maintenance.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and shall allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 31st December, 1906, it had fixed 681 pillar hydrants, 13,440 ball fire plugs, 165 "Tregear" hydrants, to its 187 miles of leading mains, and 992 miles of reticulation mains, and except in case of accident, repairs, or cleansing, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on the same date had under its control the following:—49 stations, 174 permanent men, 7 men engaged at theatres, 160 auxiliary firemen, 10 steam fire engines, 2 gasoline engines, 1 chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 1 petrol motor fire engine, 1 motor chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 2 manual engines, 36 horse hose reels, 52 hand hose reels, 7 extension ladders and fire escapes, 6 Pompier ladders, 12 exercise and supply carts, 2 salvage vans, 1 brake, 68 horses, 95,128 feet of hose, 46 hand pumps, 2 smoke helmets and 2 smoke jackets, 125 telephones in stations, 114 fire alarm circuits, having 139 fire alarm points and 413 fire alarm and telephone points. The total length of wire in use outside stations for fire alarms and telephones is about 290 miles.

Outfit of the  
Metro-  
politan  
Fire  
Brigade.

During 1906 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade amounted to £45,466, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution is equal to .67d. in the £1, over an area wherein the property is valued at £4,784,392, and the insurance companies equal to £4 9s. 8d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property.

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts where there are brigades registered under the Board, two are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The Board annually elects one of its members as president. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1906 was £11,064, and this amount was contributed in equal portions by the Government, the municipal councils, and the insurance companies above mentioned. The expenditure for the year amounted to £11,359. There are 87 municipal councils and 52 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but

Country  
Fire  
Brigades  
Board.

in the large towns permanent stationkeepers and watchmen are employed. There are 97 registered brigades, and two more are about to be registered. The number of registered firemen is 1,995, but in many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members." The chief officer of the Board frequently inspects the brigades, and also pays them "surprise visits." He reports monthly to the Board as to the efficiency of the service, and upon the equipment necessary to be supplied. In 1906 the chief items of the plant consisted of 5 steam engines, 60 manual engines, 10 horse brakes, 61 apparatus carriages, 3 fire escapes, about 250 hose reels, and approximately 140,000 feet of canvas hose.

Receipts  
and ex-  
penditure.

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both boards during the five years ended 30th June, 1906, are as follow:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS :  
RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ...	49,280	49,002	48,874	49,083	50,937
Receipts for Services ...	2,062	727	692	754	551
Interest and Sundries ...	1,954	4,626	2,814	3,442	3,080
Total ...	53,296	54,355	52,380	53,279	54,568
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	22,865	23,112	23,103	24,793	25,316
Fire Expenses ...	3,027	2,873	2,936	2,990	3,041
Horses, Quarters, &c. ...	13,009	12,002	9,207	10,930	9,596
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ...	2,866	4,862	4,305	4,589	6,560
Interest ...	6,080	6,073	6,057	6,103	5,752
Sinking Fund ...	1,971	2,028	2,250	2,250	2,250
Miscellaneous ...	1,087	2,221	4,332	2,108	4,310
Total ...	50,905	53,171	52,190	53,763	56,825
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Sewerage Connexions ...	..	..	..	405	3,250