

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early
legislation.

Amongst the various enactments which became law for Victoria on its separation from New South Wales was a provision in the Imperial Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the inhabitants of every county, to form districts for the purpose of local government, and to establish elective District Councils with power to frame by-laws for making and maintaining roads, establishing schools, levying local tolls and rates, &c. Many of the provisions of the Act were found to be unworkable and expensive in the details, and the District Councils therefore discontinued their meetings and practical working under the Act. Improved legislation being required, an Act was passed in 1853, establishing a central Road Board for the whole Colony, with an Inspector-General and staff, and also providing for the creation of local Road Districts under the management of Road Boards. This Act made provision chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act. In the meanwhile suburban districts and towns were growing up, and in 1854 an Act was passed for the establishment of municipal institutions in Victoria. This Act also continued in force till 1863, when its chief provisions were merged into the Municipal Corporations Act. Further improvements and extensions have been made from time to time in the Acts dealing with local government, and such government is now practically universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State (except French Island) being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

The laws relating to local government were amended and consolidated by the *Local Government Act* 1915. The councils of municipalities have power to levy rates, which, together with licence-fees, subsidies received from the State, market dues, rents, and sanitary charges, form their chief sources of income. Their principal functions are to make, maintain, and control streets, roads, bridges, ferries, culverts, sewers, drains, water-courses, and jetties within their respective boundaries; and, under proper by-laws, to control the traffic and regulate the markets, pounds, abattoirs, baths, and places of recreation; also to make arrangements for sewerage, lighting, water supply, and carrying on of noxious trades, and to act as local Boards of Health.

**Cities, towns,
boroughs, and
shires.**

Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 53 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

Townships.

On petition by twenty-five ratepayers resident in any portion, not exceeding three square miles in extent, of any shire, and distant more than ten miles from the City of Melbourne, the Governor in Council may proclaim such portion a township.

**Municipal
councillors.**

Each municipality existing at the commencement of the original Act, 29th December, 1854—now incorporated in the Act of 1915—is allowed the number of councillors then assigned to it; but in other cases the number must be some multiple of three, not less than six nor more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is subdivided, the number of councillors is three for each subdivision. If at any time in any municipality there is no council or there are not enough councillors to form a quorum, a commissioner may be appointed by the Governor in Council to exercise the powers of the council. Every person of either sex liable to be rated in respect of property in the municipal district of the rateable annual value of £20 at least, whether consisting of one or more tenements, is qualified to hold the office of councillor, with the exception of (a) undischarged bankrupts or insolvents; (b) persons attainted of treason or convicted of felony or perjury or any infamous crime; (c) persons of unsound mind; and (d) persons holding an office of profit under the council or participating directly or indirectly in a contract with the council. The election of councillors takes place annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor; in the case of shires, the president.

Municipal electors. Every person (male or female) 21 years of age or upwards, liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district in respect of which all rates, made before 10th March of the year, have been paid by the 10th June, is entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Plurality of votes is allowed upon the following scale :—

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

Properties rated at an annual value of	under £50	..	..	One vote.			
"	"	"	"	£50 to £100	..	..	Two votes
"	"	"	"	£100 and upwards	..	..	Three votes.

IN SHIRES.

Properties rated at an annual value of	under £25	..	..	One vote.			
"	"	"	"	£25 to £75	..	..	Two votes.
"	"	"	"	£75 and upwards	..	..	Three votes.

No person may be enrolled in respect of property rated under £5 a year, unless there is a house on the property, and he resides there. The occupier and the owner are not to be both enrolled in respect of the same property, the former having the prior right to enrolment. Corporations liable to be rated may nominate not more than three persons to be enrolled in their stead, and joint occupiers and owners, not exceeding three, are each entitled to be enrolled. If there be more than three, then the three standing first on the last rate valuation or return are so entitled. No "immigrant" within the meaning of the *Chinese Act* 1915 is entitled to be enrolled unless he is a naturalized or natural-born subject. The *Voting by Post Act* 1915 may be made applicable to the elections for any municipality on the petition of the councillors.

Rateable property. All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following :—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes; lands dedicated by the trustees of agricultural colleges as sites for agricultural colleges or experimental farms; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics' institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, technical schools subsidized by Government, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality or council thereof, or any authority under the *Water Act* 1915; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression "land" includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants' rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and expenses (if

any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

**Rates—
general,
separate, &c.**

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz. :—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and must not exceed in any one year 3s. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 3s. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, a "separate rate" may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The separate rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or a sinking fund for a loan raised on the security of such rate.

Several municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 23th November, 1922.

**Recovery of
rates.**

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Rates Recovery Act 1916* power is given to any municipality to sell vacant land charged with rates unpaid for not less than 10 years and which has been unoccupied for more than 5 years. Prior to the sale the owner of the land must be informed by registered letter, and notices must be posted on the land and at the municipal offices for not less than one month.

Improvement charge. Where under any Act a council is empowered to execute any work at the cost of the owners, or to require such owners to do so, a special improvement charge may be made on the properties affected, on the security of which money may be borrowed for the carrying out of such work.

Incorporation of Melbourne and Geelong. Melbourne and Geelong—the latter of which for many years ranked next in importance to the metropolis—having been incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of municipal government on a large scale throughout the State, are not subject to the Local Government Acts except in a few comparatively unimportant particulars. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was ordained a city in 1847. Geelong was incorporated as a town in 1849, and proclaimed a city in 1910.

New Municipalities. A portion of the Shire of Lillydale was excised on 22nd October, 1924, and created a separate municipality with the title of Borough of Ringwood. A portion of the Shire of Nunawading was excised on 23th May, 1925, and a new shire entitled Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted.

Municipalities: 1920-21 to 1924-25. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1924 was 192. Of these, 25 ranked as cities, 7 as towns, 21 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement 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 the five years ended 1924-25:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	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—							
1920-21	886,030	237,037	202,581	865	193,947,624	10,864,184	2,314,017
1921-22	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		210,501,055	11,869,636	2,648,855
1922-23	963,180	270,058	217,518*	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,992,159
1923-24	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	3,354,343
1924-25	1,031,670	291,910	233,400	1,689	288,230,793	16,388,842	..
Shires—							
1920-21	628,970	198,801	142,684	1,586	205,555,121	10,350,524	1,279,099
1921-22	610,987*	201,956	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,646,410
1924-25	635,340	221,345	148,717	1,887	251,480,405	12,588,177	..
Total—							
1920-21	1,515,000	435,838	345,265	2,451	399,502,745	21,214,708	3,533,116
1921-22	1,525,358*	447,545	345,986*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	5,000,753
1924-25	1,667,010	513,255	382,117	3,576	539,711,198	28,977,019	..

* Census figures.

Increases in
value of
rateable
properties and
municipal
revenue.

It will be observed from the figures given below 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.		
	1924-25 over 1920-21.		1923-24 over 1920-21.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	94,283,169	5,524,658	1,040,326
Shires	45,925,284	2,237,653	367,311
Total Increase	140,208,453	7,762,311	1,407,637

The number of ratepayers returned for 1924-25 was 513,255, and the total capital value of rateable property £539,711,198, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £28,977,019.

Unimproved
Value of
Rateable
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1924-25 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £144,115,396, and in shires £167,653,603. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

Properties rated in municipalities. The number of properties upon which the municipalities have levied rates during the past five years has steadily increased, as is shown in the appended statement:—

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1920-21	278,357	279,731	558,088
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962
1924-25	343,462	310,250	653,712

Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1924-25. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1924-25, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1923-24:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1924-25.

Name.	Esti- mated Popu- lation.	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endow- ment pay- able by the Govern- ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
Ballarat ..	36,600	8,971	s. d. 2 9	£ 5,067,090	£ 337,806	£ 76,540	£ ..
Bendigo ..	26,150	6,400	2 6	3,494,596	249,614	54,323	..
Brighton ..	25,400	8,092	2 6	7,069,078	399,189	58,576	..
Brunswick ..	48,480	10,278	* 0 6½	8,422,491	549,094	139,938	..
Camberwell ..	33,090	10,100	* 0 4	11,795,093	662,022	88,443	..
Caulfield ..	56,150	17,650	* 0 4½	15,175,526	854,593	135,912	..
Coburg ..	28,190	9,750	* 0 4	3,989,480	295,053	69,117	..
Collingwood ..	34,000	7,590	2 3	8,897,220	444,861	54,281	..
Essendon ..	39,500	11,750	* 0 5	8,872,354	505,694	88,351	..
Fitzroy ..	34,600	7,664	2 2	7,502,130	500,142	57,008	..
Footscray ..	42,000	12,250	2 6	10,162,880	508,144	120,286	..
Geelong ..	15,400	4,700	2 7	4,225,940	211,297	44,295	..
Hawthorn ..	31,580	8,601	2 7	10,384,000	519,200	72,694	..
Kew ..	21,900	5,845	2 7	4,657,575	310,505	51,946	..
Malvern ..	42,000	10,900	2 6	14,646,240	732,312	115,562	..
Melbourne ..	103,700	32,074	2 0	74,144,420	3,707,221	1,096,190	..
Northcote ..	36,130	9,750	2 6	7,597,920	379,896	93,614	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,150	2,889	2 3	1,806,287	144,503	37,119	..
Prahran ..	51,280	13,215	1 11	12,144,000	1,012,000	104,883	..
Richmond ..	43,700	9,130	2 3	9,504,414	528,023	67,469	..
Sandringham ..	16,000	7,865	2 6	3,377,610	225,174	40,519	..
South Melbourne ..	47,200	10,500	2 6	14,984,200	749,210	113,749	..
St. Kilda ..	41,100	9,983	2 0	10,846,812	903,901	97,161	..
Warrnambool ..	8,000	1,689	2 9	1,545,045	90,885	44,246	..
Williamstown ..	22,500	5,000	2 6	2,850,000	199,040	70,734	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Govern-ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	10,140	2,405	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Mildura ..	5,750	1,450	2 8	1,710,780	85,539	17,184	..
Mordialloc ..	7,180	2,582	2 9	1,330,540	66,527	25,314	..
Newtown and Chiltwell ..	7,600	2,035	2 6	2,458,720	122,936	36,083	..
Oakleigh ..	7,380	3,300	*0 5½	1,765,441	90,598	14,736	25
Preston ..	16,500	14,500	*0 3½	1,876,411	121,002	26,363	..
Salé ..	3,900	1,050	2 6	4,529,560	226,478	57,095	..
			2 3	668,940	33,447	12,023	25
BOROUGHES							
Ararat ..	5,000	982	2 3	643,260	32,163	17,271	25
Carrum ..	6,200	4,295	*0 3	1,628,364	80,560	20,541	50
Castlemaine ..	5,450	1,400	3 0	578,925	46,314	9,901	25
Clunes ..	1,200	480	1 9	54,817	7,831	2,008	37
Creswick ..	1,750	542	1 9	77,050	*7,705	2,505	37
Daylesford ..	3,420	800	2 6	537,100	26,855	5,430	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,720	1,362	2 6	276,420	23,035	8,485	25
Echuca ..	3,930	856	2 9	738,482	40,541	10,127	25
Hamilton ..	5,120	1,353	2 6	1,038,640	51,932	10,893	25
Horsham ..	4,100	1,357	2 9	876,980	43,849	11,590	50
Inglewood ..	1,100	297	2 0	79,200	6,600	2,675	25
Koroit ..	1,860	407	2 6	444,200	22,210	5,895	25
Maryborough ..	4,830	1,152	2 6	323,250	32,335	9,231	25
Port Fairy ..	2,030	502	2 8	396,560	19,828	6,700	25
Portland ..	2,700	1,061	*0 4½	524,562	27,033	7,365	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,600	634	2 9	345,780	17,289	3,541	50
Sebastopol ..	1,880	472	2 6	186,800	9,340	2,216	40
St. Arnaud ..	3,100	845	2 3	480,420	24,021	4,415	25
Stawell ..	4,650	935	2 7	299,750	29,975	13,241	25
Wangaratta ..	3,800	970	3 0	788,000	39,400	12,349	25
Wonthaggi ..	6,000	1,250	3 0	409,440	34,120	6,210	46
Total ..	1,031,670	291,910	..	288,230,793	16,388,842	3,354,343	710

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Shires,
1924-25.

The next table contains a list of the shires, and similar particulars to those shown for the cities, towns, and boroughs :—

SHIRES, 1924-25.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Alberton ..	5,700	1,313	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alexandra ..	3,530	882	2 0	2,100,740	105,037	13,928	697
Arapiles ..	2,450	640	2 0	1,010,460	50,523	9,486	389
Ararat ..	6,030	1,690	1 6	1,272,300	63,615	4,781	153
Avoca ..	3,370	1,362	1 6	4,314,400	215,720	14,507	641
Avon ..	2,520	827	2 0	923,580	46,179	6,534	238
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,400	860	1 6	1,353,320	67,666	6,982	300
Bairnsdale ..	8,070	1,840	2 0	1,046,600	52,300	8,717	203
Ballan ..	3,180	1,220	1 6	2,661,880	133,094	16,053	704
Ballarat ..	4,020	940	1 6	1,115,700	55,785	4,968	284
Bannockburn ..	2,690	727	1 6	2,218,800	60,940	5,815	284
			2 0	1,059,020	52,951	6,075	201

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SHIRES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Barrarbool ..	1,860	470	2 0	894,180	44,709	5,737	210
Beechworth ..	4,660	1,421	1 9	537,600	33,600	10,213	269
Belfast ..	2,610	670	2 0	1,588,780	79,439	8,783	321
Bellarine ..	4,130	1,130	1 9	1,284,120	64,206	6,945	238
Benalla ..	8,000	3,100	1 9	3,082,020	154,101	26,578	714
Berwick ..	9,450	3,625	2 0	2,624,960	131,248	17,163	494
Bet Bet ..	3,580	1,240	1 6	844,000	42,200	5,509	235
Birchip ..	1,960	576	1 6	1,034,160	51,708	5,276	198
Borong ..	5,020	1,467	1 0	2,614,620	130,731	11,193	491
Braybrook ..	5,300	2,570	1 9	1,701,040	85,052	16,359	129
Bright ..	4,120	1,400	2 0	736,840	36,842	6,187	370
Broadford ..	1,450	380	1 9	505,280	25,264	2,139	148
Broadmeadows ..	3,740	3,600	1 9	2,016,700	100,835	10,249	251
Bulla ..	2,650	523	1 6	866,780	43,339	6,072	172
Buln Buln ..	6,010	1,600	2 6	1,453,500	72,675	9,362	616
Bungaree ..	3,200	760	2 0	698,060	34,903	4,598	395
Buninyong ..	5,090	1,641	1 9	1,294,920	64,746	6,693	296
Charlton ..	2,540	835	1 6	1,513,860	75,693	7,488	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	729	1 6	618,140	30,907	3,308	216
Cohuna ..	3,140	708	1 6	1,149,560	57,478	6,563	114
Colac ..	12,600	2,935	1 7	6,627,620	331,381	37,169	138
Corio ..	4,070	1,912	2 6	1,855,580	92,779	13,242	255
Cranbourne ..	5,970	1,910	2 0	2,396,400	119,820	14,027	342
Creswick ..	3,060	918	1 4*	1,136,060	56,803	4,815	383
Dandenong ..	8,000	5,200	* 0 2½	3,308,900	115,445	26,701	209
Deakin ..	4,120	1,192	1 6	1,982,780	99,139	7,999	219
Dimboola ..	6,460	1,343	1 6	3,367,320	168,366	17,276	305
Donald ..	3,600	1,050	1 6	2,203,940	110,197	14,324	323
Doncaster ..	2,950	920	1 9	1,021,160	51,058	6,428	194
Dundas ..	3,640	1,183	1 9	2,879,100	143,955	11,643	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,780	1,200	1 6	2,690,740	134,537	18,032	612
East Loddon ..	1,840	347	2 0	1,552,400	77,620	6,292	271
Eltham ..	4,320	1,690	2 6	921,500	46,075	9,184	208
Euroa ..	4,020	1,136	2 0	1,413,180	70,659	9,042	321
Ferntree Gully ..	8,500	6,700	2 6	2,618,440	130,922	20,848	444
Flinders ..	4,900	5,350	1 9	1,459,980	72,999	12,449	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	5,000	3,928	3 0	1,853,440	92,672	28,128	213
Gisborne ..	2,450	1,070	1 9	801,140	40,057	5,540	168
Glenelg ..	5,580	1,642	1 9	3,115,260	155,763	14,433	591
Glenlyon ..	3,550	1,103	1 9	832,120	41,606	4,523	223
Gordon ..	3,280	880	1 6	1,889,700	94,485	9,230	365
Goulburn ..	2,250	625	1 0	769,680	38,484	4,443	172
Grenville ..	3,290	1,200	1 9	811,305	54,087	5,910	299
Hampden ..	11,070	2,409	2 6	6,319,540	315,977	48,114	370
Healesville ..	3,650	1,256	3 0	704,040	35,202	9,307	236
Heidelberg ..	20,600	14,000	2 0	5,988,520	299,426	84,716	245
Heytesbury ..	4,550	1,064	2 0	2,130,960	106,548	12,562	530
Huntly ..	3,180	960	1 6	1,296,000	64,800	6,807	198
Kara Kara ..	3,160	1,275	1 6	2,176,940	108,847	10,137	316
Karkaroc ..	5,690	1,460	1 6	3,121,240	156,062	16,068	469
Keilor ..	1,350	800	1 9	684,040	34,202	3,266	49
Kerang ..	8,500	2,050	1 3	3,747,320	187,366	31,624	380
Kilmore ..	1,810	540	2 0	274,170	27,417	4,142	136
Korong ..	5,020	1,560	1 6	2,025,640	101,282	9,012	321
Korumburra ..	7,450	1,980	2 0	2,652,460	132,623	20,202	982
Kowree ..	3,470	1,216	1 9	1,953,600	97,680	9,947	430
Kyneton ..	8,060	2,156	2 0	1,762,740	88,137	18,491	365
Lawloit ..	2,280	650	1 9	1,271,295	84,753	6,082	196
Leigh ..	1,570	525	1 6	1,042,720	52,136	4,630	272
Lexton ..	1,680	630	1 6	993,800	49,690	5,275	198
Lillydale ..	10,300	4,050	2 6	2,787,280	139,364	29,559	395
Lowan ..	3,770	1,300	2 3	2,028,520	101,426	15,435	296
Maffra ..	6,000	1,220	1 6	2,894,380	144,719	15,332	483
Maldon ..	3,170	1,105	1 6	709,200	35,460	3,793	185
Mansfield ..	4,090	1,340	2 0	1,708,760	85,438	14,008	542
Marong ..	5,920	1,428	2 0	2,022,440	101,122	10,072	454
Melton ..	1,460	408	1 9	1,073,960	53,698	5,289	145

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1924-25—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1923-24.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Metcalfe ..	2,760	1,000	1 6	797,160	39,858	3,622	162
Mildura ..	8,500	2,200	2 0	2,400,000	120,000	16,515	184
Minhamite ..	1,970	690	2 0	1,848,560	92,428	9,566	321
Mirboo ..	1,620	380	3 0	709,980	35,499	5,034	355
Moorabbin ..	9,190	7,800	2 6	3,100,780	155,039	25,912	296
Mornington ..	2,500	1,395	2 0	1,133,420	56,671	10,397	114
Mortlake ..	3,040	802	1 6	3,587,820	179,391	18,454	346
Morwell ..	3,950	880	2 3	1,299,460	64,973	10,456	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,800	730	1 6	2,113,620	105,681	10,060	198
Mulgrave ..	3,700	2,136	2 6	1,424,680	71,234	7,500	221
Melvior ..	3,500	1,102	1 6	1,165,880	58,294	6,490	221
Narracan ..	7,080	1,368	2 0	2,150,040	107,502	13,944	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,240	660	2 0	620,000	31,000	5,643	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,700	885	1 6	523,340	26,167	3,062	166
Numurkah ..	5,910	1,296	1 6	3,146,120	157,306	15,222	591
Nunawading ..	15,030	7,850	2 6	5,382,360	269,118	60,914	460
Omeo ..	2,510	814	2 3	892,380	44,619	8,041	836
Orbost ..	3,960	1,005	2 6	1,289,960	64,498	8,572	472
Oxley ..	4,330	922	3 0	916,600	45,830	8,780	471
Oxley ..	4,010	1,005	1 9	1,438,180	71,909	8,738	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	5,430	1,465	2 6	1,584,400	79,220	10,360	545
Portland ..	5,440	2,020	1 6	2,286,820	114,341	8,410	494
Pyalong ..	750	332	1 6	424,340	21,217	1,814	113
Ripon ..	3,600	1,100	2 6	1,833,660	91,683	12,558	221
Rochester ..	6,440	1,669	1 6	2,589,180	129,459	12,968	246
Rodney ..	8,000	1,900	1 9	3,238,800	161,940	16,472	432
Romsey ..	3,290	850	2 0	1,248,680	62,434	7,326	320
Rosedale ..	4,600	1,220	*0 1	3,000,000	149,000	8,740	537
Rutherglen ..	4,090	970	1 6	1,021,000	51,050	6,768	257
Seymour ..	3,910	1,067	1 6	1,027,060	51,353	9,741	420
Shepparton ..	8,000	1,815	1 6	2,685,300	134,265	18,104	469
South Barwon ..	3,380	2,255	2 9	1,010,680	50,534	7,716	137
South Gippsland ..	4,780	1,174	2 3	1,395,600	69,780	7,976	517
Stawell ..	3,460	1,257	1 6	2,021,860	101,090	8,641	308
Strathfieldsay ..	3,460	1,005	1 9	529,040	26,452	3,389	137
Swan Hill ..	12,250	3,887	1 6	5,597,380	279,869	26,638	272
Talbot ..	1,460	568	1 4	580,060	29,003	3,581	134
Tambo ..	4,320	1,040	2 0	1,100,000	55,000	7,770	513
Towong ..	4,460	1,200	2 0	1,807,400	90,370	12,656	578
Traralgon ..	3,470	720	2 3	1,357,440	67,872	10,996	441
Tullaroop ..	2,950	954	1 6	601,095	40,073	6,457	206
Tungamah ..	4,670	1,596	1 0	2,566,860	128,343	9,011	444
Upper Murray ..	2,330	530	1 9	1,052,720	52,636	7,821	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,720	1,365	2 6	761,600	38,080	7,067	221
Violet Town ..	1,940	720	1 6	760,240	38,012	3,049	221
Walpeup ..	5,740	1,600	1 6	1,544,120	77,206	9,094	300
Wangaratta ..	2,500	902	1 6	940,000	47,000	3,742	146
Wannon ..	3,120	1,017	1 6	2,386,700	119,335	11,500	426
Waranga ..	5,600	1,910	2 0	2,141,040	107,052	11,464	370
Warragul ..	5,120	1,253	2 4	1,854,260	92,713	14,896	885
Warrnambool ..	8,460	1,967	1 6	4,407,620	220,381	28,682	678
Werribee ..	5,340	3,860	2 3	1,969,640	98,482	16,094	296
Whittlesea ..	3,590	1,018	2 0	1,512,000	75,600	8,965	226
Wimmera ..	4,330	1,075	1 0	2,619,300	130,965	9,037	360
Winchelsea ..	4,460	1,615	2 0	1,831,280	91,564	13,917	413
Wodonga ..	2,860	602	1 9	737,140	36,857	5,080	169
Woorayl ..	6,150	1,570	2 3	2,145,040	107,252	15,725	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,310	1,254	1 6	2,078,620	103,931	14,364	328
Yackandandah ..	3,020	903	1 9	830,680	41,534	4,777	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,720	838	1 6	1,219,460	60,973	8,982	281
Yea ..	2,820	820	*0 2	1,229,380	61,469	7,331	377
Total ..	635,340	221,345	..	251,480,405	12,588,177	1,646,410	47,743

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

The following is the number of cities, towns, and boroughs, Ratings in municipalities. and the number of shires in which rates were struck in each of the last five years at the amounts set forth in the first column :—

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1920-21 TO 1924-25.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
s. d.										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14	12	9	5	4
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	16	9	9	3	1
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	2	2
1 6 ..	3	..	..	..	..	60	55	53	58	47
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1
1 8 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	4	3	3	3	2	15	20	19	18	24
1 10 ..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
1 11 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 ..	7	6	7	4	3	19	19	26	27	31
2 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
2 2 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
2 3 ..	9	7	6	8	6	1	6	7	6	7
2 4 ..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
2 5 ..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	20	23	21	18	15	6	12	9	11	13
2 7 ..	..	1	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	..	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	..	..	2	5	7	..	..	..	..	1
3 0 ..	..	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	1	4
Total ..	47	46	44	44	44	136	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1924-25 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 4d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 8½d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7½d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only seven municipalities.

A table showing the proportionate number of properties at different rateable values in the years 1901-2, 1905-6, and 1909-10 appears on page 261 of the *Year-Book* for 1916-17.

**Municipal
revenue and
expenditure.**

The ordinary revenue and expenditure of municipalities for each of the last three financial years were as follows:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1922 TO 1924.

Sources of Revenue.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates	2,303,664	2,559,847	2,847,282
Licences	137,036	152,437	155,009
Dog Fees	24,316	24,832	26,211
Government Endowment and Grants	75,627	60,607	87,783
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	111,983	141,484	180,502
Market and Weighbridge Dues	99,485	99,337	97,794
Sanitary Charges	146,559	162,129	175,520
Rents	102,784	108,502	125,544
Electric Light and Gas Works	722,088	794,544	913,471
Other Sources	308,235	385,204	391,637
Total	4,031,777	4,488,923	5,000,753
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	319,430	340,319	359,493
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	363,706	396,524	433,220
Lighting	130,722	131,342	134,025
Contributions to Fire Brigades	48,526	49,225	55,412
Public Works—			
Construction	271,007	294,711	404,661
Maintenance	1,324,845	1,366,202	1,845,278
Electric Light and Gas Works	540,704	582,380	680,568
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	147,612	163,660	343,978
Redemption of Loans	136,090	165,675	180,987
Interest on Loans	305,289	343,164	386,946
Charities	26,436	26,288	28,550
Other Expenditure	332,067	356,199	393,545
Total	3,946,434	4,215,689	5,246,663

As compared with 1923, the revenue of 1924 increased by £511,830, as follows:—Rates increased by £287,435, licences by £2,572, sanitary charges by £13,391, rents by £17,042, dog fees by £1,379, electric light and gas works by £118,927, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £39,018, Government endowment and grants by £27,176, and “other sources” by £6,433. The revenue from market and weighbridge dues decreased by £1,543. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £1,030,974. All the items showed increases as under:—Salaries, £19,174; sanitary work and street cleansing, £36,696; lighting, £2,683; contributions to fire brigades boards, £6,187; public works construction, £109,950; public works maintenance, £479,076; electric light and gas works, £98,188; formation of private streets, &c., £180,318; redemption of loans, £15,312; interest on loans, £43,782; charities, £2,262; and other expenditure, £37,346.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1924 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from dog fees, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government endowments and grants, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and 8 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1924 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £359,493, or about 7 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £28,550, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1922 TO 1924.

Assets.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Municipal Fund—			
Uncollected Rates	176,830	202,251	231,623
Other Assets	636,509	730,603	1,098,843
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	430,689	455,766	500,214
Arrears Due	511	670	127
Unexpended Balances	442,360	526,622	501,858
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c.	3,254,042	3,470,951	3,956,760
Waterworks	253,520	255,737	264,630
Gasworks	129,020	145,874	174,660
Electric Light Works... ..	1,549,966	1,699,120	1,816,760
Total Assets	6,873,447	7,487,594	8,545,475
Liabilities.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Municipal Fund—			
Due on Current Contracts	88,936	155,233	161,031
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	511	670	127
Overdue Interest	6,026	8,054	7,445
Bank Overdrafts	858,733	665,866	892,893
Other Liabilities	389,340	440,031	767,691
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	5,714,570	6,601,731	7,574,523
Due on Loan Contracts	177,755	380,839	237,695
Total Liabilities	7,235,871	8,252,424	9,641,405

**Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.**

The total of the assets of municipalities in 1924 was £8,515,475, and of the liabilities £9,641,405. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,829,187, against which there were assets amounting to £1,330,466. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £7,812,218, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £6,810,019. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£6,212,810), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £597,209.

The valuation of municipal properties is probably an under-estimate, as the particulars furnished under this heading were not in every instance complete.

**Endowment of
municipalities.** An annual endowment to municipalities of £310,000 was authorized by the *Local Government Act* 1874, and it ceased to be payable in 1879. A subsidy, however, in lieu of such endowment, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, and this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from 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 the endowment was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-07, and from 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. Payments were made on the basis of this amount to 30th June, 1915, but the sum payable was reduced to £50,000 for the year ended 30th June, 1916, and was maintained at that amount in the nine succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received during the twelve months ended on the preceding 30th September, according to the following scale :—

To every borough or first-class shire	..	3s. in the £
„ second-class shire	.. ..	5s. „
„ third-class shire	.. ..	6s. „
„ fourth-class shire	.. ..	8s. „
„ fifth-class shire	.. ..	10s. „
„ sixth-class shire	.. ..	12s. „

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Rating on Unimproved Values.

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. It did not come into operation until 1st October, 1915. Amendments were made by Act No. 3045, passed on 6th January, 1920, and Act No. 3060, passed on 14th September, 1920. The law on the subject has been consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199), which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

The Act may be adopted in any municipality by determination of the council or by a proposal for the adoption thereof being carried at a poll of the ratepayers. If the council, by special order, passes a resolution that it proposes to adopt this method of rating, a provisional valuation of all rateable properties within the municipal district (except "special rateable properties") computed at the unimproved capital value, the improved capital value and the net annual value thereof must be made. To the valuation must be added a statement setting forth the amount in the pound of the general rate last made on the basis of the net annual value of rateable properties, and the amount in the pound of a rate on the basis of the unimproved capital value of rateable properties which in its total revenue producing capacity corresponds with the amount in the pound of the said general rate. With respect to each rateable property a statement must be prepared showing the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the net annual value thereof under a general rate of the same amount in the pound as the general rate last made, and the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the property. Notice must be given to each occupier or owner or in a newspaper circulating in the district that such valuation has been made, and a statement containing particulars must be prepared, and must be open for inspection at the municipal offices during office hours by any ratepayer free of charge. After this has been done the municipality must publish in the *Government Gazette*, and in a newspaper generally circulating in the district, a notice that the council proposes to adopt the Act. If, within one month after the date of the last publication of the notice, one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll, the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of such votes forms at least one-third of the number of votes for which voters are inscribed on the roll.

Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act, one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll.

If a proposal is adopted or rescinded, it cannot again be submitted to the ratepayers for three years.

Special rateable properties, such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the rateable property, and other land, works or other rateable properties declared to be "special rateable properties" pursuant to the Act are not rateable on unimproved values.

New valuations showing the unimproved capital value, capital improved value, and net annual value are to be made at least once in every five years.

"Unimproved capital value" of land is defined as the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might in ordinary circumstances be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might be expected to require and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made.

"Capital improved value" of land means the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require.

"Improvements" in land means all work actually done or material used thereon by the expenditure of capital or labour on or for the benefit of the land, but in so far only as the effect of such work done or material used is to increase the value of the land, and the benefit thereof is unexhausted at the time of the valuation; it does not include work done or material used on or for the benefit of land by the Crown, or by any statutory public body, unless such work has been paid for by the contribution of the owner or occupier for that purpose.

"Net annual value" of rateable property means the net annual value thereof computed as provided in the Local Government Acts, and (in the case of the city of Melbourne and the city of Geelong) includes the annual value thereof computed as provided in any Act or enactment relating to the city of Melbourne or the city of Geelong.

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22, and 12 for each of the years 1922-23, 1923-24 and 1924-25. The following table gives for

these municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1924-25:—

Municipal Statistics.

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1924-25.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Collectible in 1925 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	8,422,491	2,532,426	549,094	0 6½	2 6	68,586	30·07
Camberwell City ..	11,795,093	4,817,477	662,022	0 4*	2 5	80,291	40·84
Carrum Borough ..	1,628,364	930,159	80,560	0 3†	2 10½	11,627	57·01
Caulfield City ..	15,175,526	5,247,568	854,593	0 4½	2 3½	98,392	34·58
Coburg City ..	3,989,480	1,994,740	295,053	0 4	2 3	33,246	50·00
Essendon City ..	8,872,354	2,888,415	505,694	0 5	2 4½	60,175	32·56
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	1,765,441	506,149	90,598	0 5½	2 6½	11,599	28·67
Oakleigh Town ..	1,876,411	879,743	121,002	0 3½	2 1½	12,830	46·88
Portland Borough ..	524,562	222,255	27,033	0 4½	2 11	3,935	42·37
Dandenong Shire ..	3,308,900	1,127,379	115,445	0 2½†	2 0½	11,744	34·07
Rosedale Shire ..	3,000,000	1,506,000	149,000	0 1	0 10	6,275	50·20
Yea Shire ..	1,229,380	603,299	61,469	0 2§	1 7½	5,027	49·07

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—

* 2s. 6d. on the net annual value of special rateable property.

† ½d. in the Centre Ward, and of ¼d. in the North Ward.

‡ 2d. in the Centre Riding, and of ½d. in the South Riding.

§ 2d. in the township of Yea, and of ¼d. in the West Riding.

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.**ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.**

An Act (No. 3088) to provide dwellings for eligible persons, and for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or overcrowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3317) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 22nd December, 1923, respectively. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year. Power is given to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to acquire land and to erect dwelling-houses thereon, the capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house, together with the land on which it is erected, not to exceed £850 for houses of wood, or £950 for brick, stone or concrete dwellings.

A person who purchases a dwelling-house from the Commissioners is permitted to occupy it as a weekly tenant, and is required to pay a rental at such rate per cent. per annum on the capital cost, or (where the Commissioners have required the payment of a deposit) on the difference between the capital cost and the amount of deposit paid, as may be determined by the Commissioners, also to pay all rates and taxes, and the cost of insurance, repairs and maintenance. An appropriation is made from the rent to cover interest on the amount of the capital cost outstanding, and the remainder of the rent is allotted towards payment of such capital cost.

When the purchaser has paid 20 per cent. of the purchase money and the amount due by him up to that time by way of instalments he may, if he so desires, execute a mortgage of the property in favour of the Commissioners. Payments in respect of purchase money are to be made in equal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments in accordance with the contract of sale or mortgage entered into, but the period of repayment is not to exceed 28 years.

The number of contracts entered into for the erection of dwellings has been—

For year ended 30th June, 1923	..	..	813
do. do 1924	..	..	806
do. do 1925	..	..	549

The position at 30th June, 1925, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	2,587
In course of erection	..	..	..	216
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	170

Total number of applications approved 2,973

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Part XXVI. of the *Local Government Act* 1915 dealing with the erection of "workers' dwellings" by municipalities is repealed, but power is given to a municipality to purchase or take compulsorily any land in the municipal district regarded as suitable for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon for persons of small means. Power is also given to erect or purchase dwelling-houses at a cost not exceeding £800 including the cost of the land. These may be sold by the municipality to eligible persons under conditions similar to those existing in the case of the sales by the Savings Bank Commissioners referred to above. They may also be let upon such terms as the council of the municipality thinks fit. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted.

For the purposes of any housing scheme the municipal council may, out of the municipal fund, advance any money required, if necessary increase the amount of the general rate to an extent not exceeding 6d. in the pound notwithstanding any statutory limit for such rate, and may borrow £100,000 over and above the amount authorized under the *Local Government Act* or any other Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet and statement of accounts must be prepared, setting out full particulars of the operations of the scheme.

Power is given to municipalities to borrow money for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or over-crowded areas. The amount that may be borrowed for this purpose by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. The cities of Melbourne and Geelong are separately dealt with as regards borrowing powers. The amounts that may be borrowed by them are as follows:—For housing schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £100,000: for reclamation schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £50,000.

When the council of any municipality desires to carry out any housing scheme or reclamation scheme it must prepare a general plan or description of the scheme, showing the character and extent of the works proposed, the mode in which it is proposed to obtain funds for the scheme, an estimate of the cost, the area affected, and a description of the betterment area (if any), *i.e.*, the area within which it is proposed to impose a betterment charge. Power is given to a council to impose a betterment charge amounting to one-half of the amount of the enhanced market value derived by lands from reclamation after making all fair and proper deductions for rates, taxes, assessments and impositions on or in respect of such lands according to such enhanced value.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, dated 8th July, 1922, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are

building dwellings for returned soldiers and other eligible persons under the War Service Homes Acts, the funds being provided by the Commonwealth Government. The dwellings erected or being erected under this agreement are based on the same plans as are used in accordance with the Housing Act, and, as nearly as possible, they are built under the same conditions.

Up to 30th June, 1925, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 2,160 War Service Homes buildings, of which 1,892 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 87 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 18 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Country Roads Board. With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,250, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £900 (Act No. 3255).

Duties. The duties of the board are to ascertain by survey and investigation what roads are main roads; the nature and extent of the resources of Victoria in metals, minerals, and materials suitable for the purposes of road-making and maintenance, and the most effective and economical methods of dealing with the same, and of supplying and utilizing the material in any part of Victoria; the most effective methods of road construction and maintenance; what deviations (if any) in existing roads or what new roads should be made so as to facilitate communication and improve the conditions of traffic; and to record, publish, and make available for general information the results of all such surveys and investigations. The duty of furnishing information that may be required is imposed on the municipal authorities.

The construction of permanent works and the maintenance of main roads are to be carried out by the municipalities to the satisfaction of the board, but power is reserved to the Governor in Council to direct that permanent works and maintenance shall be carried out by the board.

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost

of permanent works. Additional sums were made available as follows :—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; and (by Act No. 3334) £1,000,000 over a period of three years from 1st July 1923. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is one-third of the amount expended; the contribution is due on the first day of January following the financial year in which the expenditure is incurred and it must be paid before the succeeding first day of July. Power is given by Act No. 2986 to reduce contributions in respect of maintenance where the Board is satisfied that the cost of maintenance is excessive and that such cost is due to motor traffic not of local origin, or to timber traffic.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to

have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed, and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1923-24 constructional work to the value of £201,615, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £343,233 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1924, for permanent works was £2,933,770, and for developmental roads £2,516,649.

As soon as practicable after the termination of each year the Board must present a report to the Minister setting forth its proceedings, the permanent works constructed, the mileage of the roads maintained, and an account of all moneys received and expended under the provisions of the Act.

Registration of motors, &c. The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines are as follows:—The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of £1; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s.; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight; of motor cars, 3s. to 5s. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

Developmental roads. Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000 and £1,000,000 by Acts Nos. 3255 and 3334 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £42,037 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £425,241 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1924.

State Highways. The *Highways and Vehicles Act* 1924, No. 3379, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1925, provides for the declaration of State Highways, the full cost of maintenance of which is charged against the moneys to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Motor Car Act No. 2702—				By Balance		26,299 11 10
Registration Fees ..	217,361	19	6	„ Maintenance	346,731	10 0
Licence Fees	9,783	15	0	<i>Less Refunds</i>	3,498	3 7
Fines	6,196	19	2			343,233 6 5
	233,342	13	8	„ Miscellaneous		144,645 17 7
<i>Less Refunds and Costs</i>				„ Advances under Special Loan, Act No. 3161, repaid ..		50,000 0 0
of Administration ..	11,091	18	4	„ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent		
			222,250 15 4	Works Expenditure		204,563 5 4
„ Unused Roads and Water				„ Advances under provision of Federal		
Frontages Act No. 1894—				State Grant No. 1	7,407	7 7
Licence Fees	21,987	5	2	„ Advances under provision of Federal		
<i>Less Refunds and Costs</i>				State Grant No. 2	4,887	4 9
of Administration ..	1,876	17	10			12,294 12 4
			20,110 7 4	„ Advances under Act No. 3235—		
„ Country Roads Act No. 2635—				Tourist Vote	13,291	14 9
Registration of Traction				<i>Less Refunds</i>	19	11 7
Engines	948	3	0			13,272 3 2
Width of Tyres Administration, Fines				„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..		21,919 14 7
and Costs	92	14	10			
			1,040 17 10			
„ Municipalities Repayments—						
Permanent Works ..	76,354	14	8			
Maintenance Works ..	134,349	9	9			
			210,704 4 5			
„ Appropriation for Maintenance of Main Roads, Act No. 2986			50,000 0 0			
„ Advance under Special Loan Act No. 3161			50,000 0 0			
„ Hire of Plant	9,494	11	8			
„ Stores and Materials ..	16,477	14	4			
„ Sundries	5,663	0	3			
			31,635 6 3			
„ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure refunded			585,741 11 2			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 1 refunded			205,098 12 11			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 2 refunded			7,602 13 7			
			4,901 3 5			
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Act No. 3235, Tourist Vote refunded			12,503 17 0			
			12,884 10 2			
			£816,228 11 3			
						£816,228 11 3

Ordinary receipts and payments.
The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1923-24 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act :—

Loan receipts
and
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1924, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1923 ..	2,804	18	1	By Permanent Works	204,563	5	4
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	200,597	10	3	Deduct Refunds	2,947	18	7
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	204,563	5	4				
„ Advance from Public Account ..	44,448	10	3	„ Temporary Advances from Country Roads Board Fund refunded ..	201,615	6	9
				„ Public Account—Advance Account ..	205,098	12	11
				„ Suspense Account ..	44,616	18	9
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..	19	0	0
					1,064	5	6
	£452,414	3	11		£452,414	3	11

Developmental
Roads Loan
Account.

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1924, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985 and 3255 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT—

(ACTS Nos. 2944, 2985 AND 3255).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1923 ..	18,056	17	6	By Expenditure	473,633	9	7
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	326,508	1	2	Less Refunds	6,301	6	5
„ Public Account—Advance Account ..	122,976	10	10				
„ Adjustment Account ..	26	5	0	„ Public Account—Advances Account ..	467,329	3	2
„ Balance, 30th June, 1924 ..	39,571	3	3		39,809	14	7
	£507,138	17	9		£507,138	17	9

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1923-1924.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance, 30th June, 1923	33,714	10	0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.	5,750	6	10	
Fees	3,486	16	0	Incidental Expenses	10,127	9	1	
Fines	6,964	0	5	Annual payment to municipalities	65,264	0	0	
Sale of confiscated liquor	45	13	6	Compensation	40,290	0	0	
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	33,394	8	0	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0	0
	Victuallers	260,954	10	1	Purchase of Securities	53,000	0	0
	Temporary	4,122	0	7	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	178,372	10	7
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,123	17	0	Balance £341,714	10	0	
	Packet	151	11	0	Deduct			
	Australian Wine	4,947	15	0	Investments			
	Billiard-table	5,344	0	0	in Stock	341,000	0	0
	Brewers	162	9	0				
	Vignerons	85	0	0				
	Club certificates	6,922	10	0				
Permits—Extra Bars	1,096	0	0					
„ Extended Hours	1,027	0	0					
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	21	0	0					
Interest	11,904	15	11					
Cost of taking Poll	50	0	0					
Sale of Rolls	1	0	0					
Total	£376,518	16	6	Total	£376,518	16	6	

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1923-24 a sum of £65,264 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

and forfeitures incurred under the *Licensing Act* 1915. The particulars of this payment are as follows :—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1923-24.

	£
Paid to Cities	31,316
„ Towns	516
„ Boroughs	7,480
„ Shires—	
1st Class	228
2nd „	10,572
3rd „	9,292
4th „	743
5th „	3,132
6th „	1,161
Total	64,440
Add payments on account of 1922-23	1,140
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1923-24	316
Amount paid in 1923-24	<u>£65,264</u>

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

Moneys may be borrowed by municipalities for permanent works or undertakings or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Permanent works include the construction or alteration of streets, roads, bridges, culverts, levees, ferries, jetties, sewers, and drains; the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric light works and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, sheep dips, market places and houses, weighbridges, workers' dwellings, baths, pleasure grounds, libraries, museums, and places of public resort and recreation; the construction and establishment of hospitals, asylums, and other buildings for charitable purposes;

the construction and laying down of any track, way, or pavement of iron, steel, wood, or stone; the erection of machinery for the treatment of refuse or night-soil, or for quarrying or crushing stone; the works and undertakings connected with the reclamation and improvement of low-lying or over-crowded areas; and the purchase of land or any easement, term, or privilege in, over, or affecting land compulsorily taken for any of the foregoing purposes.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, section 375 of the *Local Government Act 1915* provides that, when 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.

Councils may borrow for not more than 40 years upon the credit of the municipality for permanent works or undertakings, or to liquidate moneys owing on account of any previous loan.

The amount of money borrowed by any municipality is not to exceed ten times the average income of the municipality for the previous three years from general rates not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the £1. But, in addition, loans having a currency of not more than 30 years may be raised upon the security of certain income and not upon the credit of the municipality, by the issue of debentures or by mortgage. These loans are not to exceed five times the average amount of such income.

Power is given to any twenty persons whose names are inscribed on the municipal roll to demand the submission of any loan proposal to a poll of the ratepayers.

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1923-24 was £7,574,523, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1924.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			999,168	5,165,535
Shires	...	...	...	165,118	1,244,702
Total	...	...	...	1,164,286	6,410,237

**Municipal loan
receipts and
expenditure.**

The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1924.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	1,030,956	258,085	1,289,041
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	394,506	99,734	494,240
Expenditure during the year	1,044,208	237,215	1,281,423
Balance unexpended at the end of 1924 ...	381,254	120,604	501,858

**Municipal loan
expenditure,
1920 to
1924.**

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1924 amounted to £1,281,423, of which £1,044,208 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £237,215 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1920	275,708	259,498
1921	572,851	504,016
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,858	885,303
1924	1,289,041	1,281,423

**Loans raised
by municipi-
palities,
1924.**

The loan receipts for the year 1923-24 amounted to £1,289,041, and the loan expenditure to £1,281,423. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1923-24 was £501,858—£381,254 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £120,604 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars :—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1924.

	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
			1923.	1924.
CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGHS—	£	£	£	£
Ballarat .. ..	..	15,198	32,361	17,163
Brighton	60,000	32,916	1,350	28,434
Brunswick	5,000	24,338	42,586	23,248
Camberwell	20,000	31,881	28,279	16,398
Carrum	3,000	1,171	775	2,604
Castlemaine	7,500	4,482	..	3,018
Caulfield	60,152	47,417	8,708	21,443
Coburg	4,000	7,044	5,572	2,528
Collingwood .. ..	..	..	817	817
Eaglehawk	1,600	1,600	..	..
Essendon	6,000	5,772	1,337	1,565
Fitzroy .. ..	..	1	877	876
Footscray	40,000	42,041	68,849	66,808
Geelong West .. ..	..	10,273	13,212	2,939
Hawthorn	44,000	14,742	7,322	36,580
Horsham	4,800	2,541	..	2,259
Kew	30,000	13,416	5,529	22,113
Malvern	10,000	15,129	9,223	4,094
Maryborough	6,000	6,892	1,257	365
Melbourne	571,481	543,694	..	27,787
Mildura	10,000	9,819	789	970
Mordialloc	6,500	13,131	14,494	7,863
Northcote	23,123	25,150	3,425	1,398
Oakleigh	7,100	6,874	1,954	2,180
Portland .. ..	..	162	224	62
Port Melbourne .. ..	..	..	1,211	1,211
Prahran .. ..	..	17,619	40,561	22,942
Preston .. ..	..	21,195	22,037	842
Queenscliff .. ..	..	..	125	125
Richmond	25,000	31,289	13,279	6,990
Sale .. ..	..	134	539	405
Sandringham	11,200	11,973	773	..
South Melbourne	25,000	17,669	2,099	9,430
St Arnaud	3,000	1,756	1,096	2,340
St Kilda	10,000	30,721	48,755	28,034
Stawell	9,500	9,776	2,576	2,300
Wangaratta .. ..	..	821	1,428	607
Warrnambool .. ..	..	5,599	6,458	859
Williamstown	27,000	19,458	1,371	8,913
Wonthaggi .. ..	..	514	3,258	2,744
Total	1,030,956	1,044,208	394,506	381,254
SHIRES—	£	£	£	£
Alberton	11,200	2,256	..	8,944
Barrabool .. ..	..	19	19	..
Belfast .. ..	..	12	12	..
Berwick	3,000	4,593	3,578	1,985

* Of this amount £82,284 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £18,197 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1924—continued.

	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
			1923.	1924.
SHIRES—continued.	£	£	£	£
Bet Bet .. ..	..	..	66	66
Borong	3,000	3,063	203	140
Braybrook .. ..	..	809	858	49
Bright	6,200	7,123	1,051	128
Charlton	3,900	3,000	..	..
Chiltern	2,500	2,500	..	..
Cohuna	8,600	4,680	..	3,920
Colac .. ..	..	273	489	216
Corio	8,250	6,016	307	2,541
Dandenong	6,954	14,170	13,007	5,791
Dimboola	6,000	4,170	..	1,830
Donald .. ..	..	44	63	19
Doncaster	1,500	1,500	..	..
Dunmunkle	6,000	4,900	..	1,100
Eltham .. ..	..	3,591	3,600	9
Euroa	4,700	1,200	..	3,500
Ferntree Gully	10,300	15,320	6,048	1,028
Frankston and Hastings	8,500	3,591	9,728	14,637
Gleneig	15,000	5,833	..	9,167
Healesville	4,000	5,798	1,798	..
Heidelberg	35,381	40,280	17,241	12,342
Heytesbury .. ..	..	..	93	93
Huntly .. ..	..	..	930	930
Kara Kara	5,000	1,728	..	3,272
Kyneton .. ..	..	1,400	1,400	..
Lillydale .. ..	..	1,499	1,716	217
Mansfield	600	627	27	..
Melton .. ..	..	..	200	200
Mildura .. ..	..	2,651	4,344	1,693
Moorabbin .. ..	..	5,407	5,885	478
Mornington	1,200	3,172	3,250	1,278
Mulgrave .. ..	..	747	747	..
Numurkah	3,500	2,000	..	1,500
Nunawading	62,000	46,165	377	16,212
Rochester .. ..	..	749	1,553	804
Rodney	8,100	6,331	..	1,769
Shepparton	7,000	6,655	2,169	2,514
South Barwon .. ..	..	2,443	2,791	348
Swan Hill .. ..	..	4,677	4,677	..
Tambo	2,000	1,420	..	580
Traralgon	1,000	332	332	1,000
Tungamah .. ..	..	..	28	28
Upper Yarra	2,400	1,427	..	973
Walpeup .. ..	..	5,650	7,883	2,233
Wangaratta .. ..	..	..	87	87
Warragul .. ..	..	252	252	..
Werribee	19,500	5,012	1,862	16,350
Whittlesea .. ..	..	367	606	239
Winchelsea	1,700	1,763	457	394
Total	258,085	237,215	99,734	120,604

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918*, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act 1915*, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898*, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans, the amounts of which were expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1924, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1923-24.	To 30th June, 1924.		1923-24.	To 30th June, 1924.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1923 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,138
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured	55,388	452,524
Contributions by municipalities	52,933	317,814	Redeemable in instalments .. ..	..	61,443
Stock realized	2,455	86,648	Ordinary loans .. ..	..	95,310
Other receipts .. ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 .. ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund .. ..	..	4,372
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1924 .. ..	..	..
Total	55,388	1,231,762	Total	55,388	1,231,762

* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1924, was £190,190.

CITY OF MELBOURNE : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1924—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>						Amount.
						£
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	6,704
" " Heatherton Sanatorium	..	..	..	..	..	1,547
Law Costs	..	..	..	..	..	1,290
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	..	..	..	..	..	4,404
Miscellaneous—						
Rat Destruction	..	..	..	..	..	1,270
Gas Conference	..	..	..	..	..	218
Fees—Dog Act	..	..	..	..	..	696
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	..	..	..	..	..	3,942
Libraries	..	..	..	..	..	475
Elections	..	..	..	..	..	269
Town Planning Commission	..	..	..	..	..	599
Band Performances	..	..	..	..	..	1,480
Milk Supply	..	..	..	..	..	1,087
Baby Health Centre	..	..	..	..	..	550
Ceremonials	..	..	..	..	..	1,362
Ambulance Service	..	..	..	..	..	500
Soldiers' Memorial	..	..	..	..	..	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution	..	..	..	..	..	8,330
Retiring Allowance to Employees	..	..	..	..	..	1,752
Visit of British Fleet	..	..	..	..	..	2,613
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	6,532
Total	..	..	..	..	..	1,092,629

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1924, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 41 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 7 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—5 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 12 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 34 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

An Act was passed in 1907 (No. 2080) incorporating the Municipal Association of Victoria, and authorizing it to institute a "Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund," to which any municipality, any authority constituted under any Water Act or any Weights and Measures Union may contribute such sum as may be fixed by the association for a guarantee against loss by the dishonesty of its officers. The Act provided, however, that the fund could not be established until three-fifths of the municipalities in Victoria had agreed in writing to contribute and that the amount to be contributed for a guarantee must not be less than

that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. At any time after the fund has reached £3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro ratâ* to its contribution. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1924, amounting to £254,885, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £858. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1924, was £12,447. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1924, amounted to £2,545.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, which was established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent thereto, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in Commissioners. On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. For seventeen commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there were substituted five commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Of the commissioners other than the chairman, one must be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, and one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one must be identified

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1924, was £2,670,861. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1920 TO 1924.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	310,805	415,737	510,240	600,161	630,992
Rents	35,238	37,445	37,449	39,725	36,391
Interest	45	43	80	328	669
Other Revenue	41,885	45,148	50,836	46,194	56,391
	387,973	498,373	598,605	686,408	724,443
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	75,554	96,224	114,986	135,520	140,382
Total	312,419	402,149	483,619	550,888	584,061
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	31,802	36,882	40,502	35,175	42,484
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	300	30,140	35	750	5
Maintenance—Dredging ..	71,017	78,689	90,129	39,774	74,564
„ Harbor	3,721	3,814	3,183	4,613	4,478
„ Wharfs	19,018	23,383	21,475	25,725	32,978
„ Approaches	11,391	14,526	11,264	15,345	18,214
Interest on Loans*	96,961	104,342	131,516	112,659	119,526
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	52,500	65,000	100,000	213,000	213,000
Total	286,710	356,776	398,104	447,041	505,249
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	25,709	45,373	85,515	103,847	78,812
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	3,221	2,461	11,906	33,407	560
Deepening Waterways	80,720	81,699	98,331	150,885	137,488
Wharfs Construction	50,084	79,206	45,613	67,360	194,318
Approaches Construction ..	2,364	1,565	9,084	7,519	25,483
Other Harbor Improvements ..	2,936	14,099	25,311	8,204	23,826
Floating Plant	834	2,957	1,708	632	3,192
General Plant	883	1,131	925	2,025	3,429
Total	141,042	183,118	192,878	270,032	388,296

* Exclusive of interest on cost of plant debited to works carried out by day labour.

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

Geelong Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £591,000 (the whole of which has been raised), and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure for the last five years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure:—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	12,772	17,415	21,737	26,387	30,571
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	4,237	4,189	4,363	4,563	5,487
Sparrovale Farm ..	9,375	8,789	7,852	8,952	6,799
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	19,548	15,042	16,752	15,754	15,475
Other Revenue	4,088	4,200	3,530	3,024	3,024
Total	50,020	49,635	54,234	58,680	61,356
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	7,765	7,909	7,856	8,362	6,368
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	3,393	2,733	2,325	4,311	3,282
" Harbor ..	493	874	505	669	530
" Floating Plant ..	278	467	710	405	987
" Other	1,972	1,213	925	1,421	1,649
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	25,540	25,501	25,087	27,849	27,755
Sparrovale Farm	6,511	6,507	5,768	6,601	5,324
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	3,383	3,451	3,240	3,361	4,599
Corio Quay Power-house ..	10,109	3,755	4,377	2,332	888
Miscellaneous	1,181	1,194	1,274	754	933
Total	60,625	53,604	52,067	56,065	52,315
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	16,896	5,707	8,541	7,915	10,356
Deepening Waterworks ..	..	..	..	341	14,991
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	113	135	115	10	95
Other Harbor Improvements ..	..	..	..	..	746
Floating and General Plant ..	260	..	..	14	11
Total	17,269	5,842	8,656	8,280	25,899

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.**Creation and
constitution
of Board.**

The Board was established by Act of Parliament No. 1197, which came into force on 20th December, 1890, and it entered upon its duties on 18th March, 1891.

It consists of 40 members, of whom one is the Chairman, who is elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. The other members must also be members of the respective councils which they represent, and are each elected for three years in the following order of numbers, viz.:—Nine by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne Council, three by the Prahran Council, two each by the Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, and St. Kilda Councils, and one each by the other fifteen suburban municipal councils returning a representative, viz., Footscray, Hawthorn, Brunswick, Essendon, Malvern, Brighton, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Williamstown, Caulfield, Camberwell, Kew, Coburg, Heidelberg, and Preston.

Thirteen of the members retire annually on the last day of the month of February, but are eligible for re-election if they remain members of their respective councils.

**Functions of
the Board.**

The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including watersheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage; to provide for the commerce and recreation of the inhabitants of the metropolis in so far as the vesting powers of the Board's principal Act, together with the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923*, relate to the bed, soil and banks of the River Yarra; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and certain other rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and for other purposes. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called-for and pressing want.

**Area under
Board's
control, and
population.**

Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1924, comprised 21 cities, 2 towns, and part of another, also parts of 13 shires, or 37 municipalities in all. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also

arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1924, was 936,522.

**Board's
borrowing
powers and
liability on
loans.**

The Board is authorized to borrow £14,250,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891. Under The Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act, No. 3284, it is empowered to borrow £500,000 for works carried out in accordance with that Act, which is included in the sum of £14,250,000 above mentioned.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £14,502,036 on 30th June, 1924. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £2,137,898 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

**Water supply
assessments
and rates.**

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1923-24 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

Water meters.

Water meters may be hired from the Board at the following annual rentals, payable quarterly in advance:—
For a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. meter, 5s.; $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., 6s.; 1-in., 8s.; $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in., 10s. 6d.; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in., 14s.

Garden rate.

Areas not exceeding 100 square yards (including paths) are supplied with water without meters on payment of a special rate of 10s. per annum each.

**Assessed
value of
property.**

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £12,189,013 in 1923-24, and £14,176,872 in 1924-25.

**Water rate
receipts.**

In 1923-24 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears)	..	314,432	4	5
Meters	..	179,855	13	0
Special rates	..	4,027	16	11
Total	..	£498,315	14	4

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £524,165, as against £507,475 in the previous year. The cost in 1923-24 of maintenance and management was £36,853, and the amount of interest was £247,883, the total charge being £334,736, as compared with a payment in 1922-23 of £85,407 for maintenance and management, and of £217,723 for interest, or a total charge of £303,130.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1924, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	£
Yan Yean system	84,885
Maroondah system	636,475
O'Shanassy system	1,125,020
Service reservoirs	604,886
Large mains	346,231
Reticulation	1,325,794
	1,867,502
Total	<u>£5,990,793</u>

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderrk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

Total area.

The total area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 103,840 acres, the whole of which is vested in the Board, and free from settlement or grazing.

Total daily supply.

The total daily quantity of water which can be sent into Melbourne at present from the three systems is 90,000,000 gallons.

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

Yan Yeau
system.

The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{8}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1924 was 26ft. 3in. (Reservoir overflowing) on 7th November, and the minimum depth, 23ft. 8in. on 25th January. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1924, the total intake of the Reservoir was 6,393,020,000 gallons, and the total output was 6,062,260,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

From this reservoir the water is forwarded to Morang Pipe Head Reservoir through an open aqueduct capable of delivering 33,000,000 gallons a day when full, and thence to Preston Reservoir, or to Melbourne direct, by a series of pipes.

There is also a direct main, called the high-level system, from Yan Yeau to Surrey Hills Reservoir, for supplying the high levels of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne in conjunction with the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra System. It is capable of delivering 9,000,000 gallons a day.

High-level
system.

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about $41\frac{1}{4}$ miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons) which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

O'Shanassy
and
Upper Yarra
watershed.

The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line, of an aggregate length of $48\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir, near Mount Dandenong, is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1924.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1924 was as follows:—

Output of Water.		Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	.. ..	6,062,260,000
„ Maroondah Streams	.. ..	8,050,126,000
„ O'Shanassy River ..	.. ..	4,305,263,000
Total Output	.. ..	18,417,649,000

There are two storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 6,460,000,000 gallons and fifteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), with a total capacity of 176,900,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, two other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the then capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

The average number of people supplied with water during 1924 was 918,485, and the average daily consumption was 54.64 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1924:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1924.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	1,942,132,000	62,649,419
February	1,580,358,000	54,495,103
March	1,711,137,000	55,197,968
April	1,332,998,000	44,433,267
May	1,328,102,000	42,842,000
June	1,251,428,000	41,714,267
July	1,355,675,000	43,731,452
August	1,408,449,000	45,433,839
September	1,481,820,000	49,394,000
October	1,563,709,000	50,442,226
November	1,549,792,000	51,659,733
December	1,863,028,000	60,097,677
Total for the year ...	18,368,628,000	...
Daily average for the year ... ..	...	50,187,508

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1924 occurred on 15th January and the minimum daily consumption on 20th April of that year. The consumption was 84,454,000 gallons on the former and 31,128,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

The following table shows for each of the last ten years the daily average consumption of water, and the daily average per head :—

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN
MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses sup- plied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1915 ...	668,155	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·73
1916 ...	687,571	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	700,321	158,036	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	716,521	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	731,154	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	755,536	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45
1924 ...	918,485	207,333	182,987	50,187,508	54·64

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 11,570 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1924.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts. In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1924-25 was £14,164,816, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1923-24 was 9d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 9d. rate was £11,316,333 in 1923-24.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1923-24 amounted to £444,123.

The sewerage revenue for 1923-24 was £180,748, as against £552,643 in the previous year. The outlay in 1923-24 for management, working expenses and repairs was £119,571, and for interest £451,163, the total charges being £570,739, compared with an outlay in 1922-23 of £116,804 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £438,577 for interest, or a total expenditure of £555,381.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1924, was £8,923,580, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£676,591
Rising Mains and outfall sewer	449,135
Pumping station buildings and engines	233,645
Main and branch sewers	2,296,518
Street reticulation	2,828,974
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,318,930
House connexions branches	544,426
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	525,302
Night soil sites	59
Cost of sewerage system	£8,923,580
Householders' debts for house connexions	179,460
River improvements	3,977
Total	£9,107,017

Main Sewers and Subsidiary Main.

The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (Northern system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (Southern system). The subsidiary main, which takes in Williamstown, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station. Further information regarding these is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 222.

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

On 31st December, 1924, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Brunswick, Caulfield, Malvern, the older portions of Footscray and Nunawading, and the thickly populated portions of Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston, and Williamstown; while considerable progress has been made in the municipalities of Heidelberg, Oakleigh and Sandringham.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1924, the work has progressed in Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Northcote, Oakleigh, and Preston, and in a lesser degree in Brighton, Malvern, Nunawading, Sandringham, and Williamstown.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Five Mile Creek Branch Section 2 has been constructed in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 405, Essendon, while the North Road Intercepting Sewer Sections 2 and 3, Caulfield, the Moreland Road Branch Section 3, Coburg, and the Bower Street Branch Section 3, Northcote, have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas in the respective municipalities.

Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, Nunawading, Oakleigh, Preston, Sandringham, and Williamstown, while in Coburg a reticulation area has been constructed by day labour. Contract and day labour reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Brighton, Camberwell, Caulfield, Malvern, and Preston, and in a lesser degree in Brunswick, Footscray, Hawthorn, Northcote, and St. Kilda.

Work in progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Gardiner's Creek Main Section 3, Malvern, Camberwell South Branch Section 2 and Golf Links Branch Section 2 (in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 421), Camberwell, Elster Creek Branch Section 2, Brighton and Moorabbin, Kilby Road Branch Intercepting Sewer, Kew, Williamstown Main Section 6, Williamstown, and Essendon West Branch, Essendon, are now in course of construction. *Reticulation contracts* are being carried out in Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Northcote, and Preston; while contract and day labour reticulation extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Footscray, Kew, Malvern, Preston, and other municipalities.

In all $1,690\frac{13}{16}$ miles of reticulation and $176\frac{15}{16}$ miles of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of $1,867\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

PROVISION FOR HOUSE CONNEXIONS WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1924.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1924, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 187,151, including 365 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1923-24, 10,409 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 7,608 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1924 :—

**NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1924.**

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1924.
Melbourne City ...	27,279
South Melbourne City ...	10,879
Prahran City ...	12,564
Fitzroy City ...	8,065
Richmond City ...	10,426
St. Kilda City ...	9,176
Collingwood City ...	8,646
Footscray City ...	7,703
Hawthorn City ...	7,628
Brunswick City ...	11,268
Essendon City ...	8,358
Malvern City ...	8,796
Caulfield City ...	12,366
Northcote City ...	8,698
Camberwell City ...	5,401
Brighton City ...	5,941
Port Melbourne City ...	3,070
Williamstown City ...	4,352
Kew City ...	4,073
Coburg City ...	3,594
Sandringham City (part of) ...	1,957
Oakleigh Town ...	683
Preston Town ...	2,664
Heidelberg Shire (part of) ...	2,619
Nunawading Shire (part of) ...	345
Total ...	187,151

In addition to the above, the total area comprises part of a town and parts of eleven shires, in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

The house connexions pipes join the reticulation pipes, and these are gradually collected into branch sewers, which connect with the sub-mains and mains.

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid débris and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes.

**Pumping
station.**

There are seven steam driven reciprocating pumping engines installed of about 300 horse-power each, with a daily capacity of about 8,000,000 gallons. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 134,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low water mark at the pumping station to 67 feet above low water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be from 120 feet to 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. rising mains (one of mild steel and one of wrought iron) and one 4-ft. rising main with $3\frac{3}{8}$ chains of concrete at the top end. The three mains run side by side, each about 2 miles $63\frac{1}{2}$ chains long. Only two of them are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. There are also two 6-ft. exterior by-pass rising mains laid north and south of the pumping station and having a total length of 14 chains 3 feet. These are provided so that the flow can be by-passed and cleaning and repairs effected to the mains and valves in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station. The total length of all the rising mains is 8 miles $44\frac{1}{2}$ chains. From Brooklyn the sewage gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The present maximum capacity of the outfall sewer (which is only half of the full amount) is 12,500 cubic feet a minute, or $112\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of sewage per day.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

Sewage farm. The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 13,602 acres 2 roods and $38\frac{1}{2}$ perches ($21\frac{1}{4}$ square miles) of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall for the past 31 years to 31st December, 1924, of 18.14 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about 6 miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road, the land gradually sloping from the north, and the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37.25 feet above low-water mark. To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main

The area under irrigation in the year 1923-24 included 303 acres of maize harvested for grain, which were estimated to yield about 60 bushels per acre, 230 acres of lucerne which were cut for hay, and yielded approximately 513 tons or about $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons to the acre, and 7,284 acres of irrigated pasture mainly used for grazing. The total area available for grazing live stock including unirrigated land, &c., was 9,604 acres.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—Lucerne (chaff and hay), £894; maize, £3,539. Total, £4,433.

Total area of farm 13,603 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to
farm for year 1923-24 = in gallons . . . 35,749,645
= 131.69 acre-feet per day = 5.316 feet per
annum over the total area available for sewage
disposal, viz., 9,067 acres.

Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1924 ..	£673,591
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..	£19,968
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,851 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £31,995, interest on capital cost) ..	£29,878
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	4·29d.
Population served by sewerage system	810,632
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1924 ..	24·37 inches
" " " 31st December, 1924 ..	23·41 "
Average rainfall for 31 years to 31st December, 1924	18·14 "

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, by Act 44 Vict. No. 656 (Consolidated Act No. 2747). The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commission shall be the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

Finance.—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £314,120 as at 31st December, 1924. The annual revenue is £32,000.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. in the £ on the net annual value of properties, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, and progress has been made with branch and reticulation sewers and with the treatment or disposal works. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The outfall sewer is 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the main sewer is about 2 1-10th miles long. The method of sewage disposal proposed is by sedimentation and digestion tanks and oxidising beds. One mile of branch sewers and 5 miles of reticulating sewers have been laid.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from the Commonwealth Bank, £130,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1924.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923-24, 3d. in the £; 1924-25, 6d. in the £ on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted under the *Geelong Municipal Water Act* 1907, and gazetted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act* No. 2230 (Consolidated Act No. 2661).

The Commissioners number five. Two of these represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio, and South Barwon.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £610,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1924, was :—Water supply, £487,228 ; sewerage, £452,074 ; and sewerage installation, £159,338. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £42,294 on account of waterworks and £35,824 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 37,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 9,873 ; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 8,800 ; and the number connected with the sewers, 8,006.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,355,280 gallons.

Sewerage.—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 8,081 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.
- (b) An additional rate of 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

In addition to the general and additional rates, the Trust, to prevent or minimize the pollution of the River Barwon, has power to strike a differential or special rate on properties which drain into that river.

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. E. M. Vains, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Owing to an extension of the sewered area, and an increase in the cost of labour and materials, it was found necessary during the year 1924 to borrow an additional amount of £50,000 from the Commonwealth Bank at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 11th January, 1924, and 31st January, 1925, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial years ending 30th September, 1924 and 1925, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 11th January, 1924, and 31st January, 1925.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, has been completed to the end of the sewerage area. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 20 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 2,050 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1925, 1270 houses had been connected, while 118 others were in course of being sewered.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent

being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 quarterly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., and a further advance of £35,000 at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. were arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £300,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Constitution of 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* 1915 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, provision for the service being made by the *Fire Brigades Act* 1915.

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of 10 miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, as well as certain districts outside of that area. The districts referred to are portions of the shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, beyond the 10-mile radius. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc (16 miles from Melbourne), that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is composed of nine members, of whom three are appointed by the Governor in Council, three by the municipal councils, and three by the fire insurance companies.

Outfit of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June 1925, had under its control the following:—Forty stations, 281 members of permanent staff, 69 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 45 men engaged in the workshops, 20 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 155 partially paid firemen, 1 steam motor fire engine, 1 steam fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 3 motor salvage waggons, 18 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 25 motor hose waggons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompier ladders, 10 inspection cars, 102,174 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 419 fire alarm circuits having 1,287 street fire alarms, of which 1,270 were with telephones and 17 were fire alarms only. There were also 1130 auxiliary boxes and 29 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 129 direct telephone lines, 62 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, 98 watchmen's clock systems, and 100 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 173 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1924-25 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £181,252, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to 0036d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £13,862,427, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 7s. 6d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1923 amounted to £937,280, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1924-25 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £50,406.

Country Fire Brigades Board. 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 in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue for the six months ended 30th June, 1924, was £16,907, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £5,827; (b) municipalities, £5,182; (c) insurance companies, £5,828; and (d) other sources, £70. The expenditure for the same half year amounted to £16,432. There are 114 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in

country districts during the year 1923 amounted to £316,205. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1924 was £2,580,078. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 142 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,740. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

Powers of the Boards.

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, control the formation of permanent and volunteer fire brigades and schools of instruction, maintain fire alarms, and establish communication, telephonic and other.

Water Supply. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works 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 must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1924, the Board had fixed to its 250 miles 14½ chains of leading mains and 1,630 miles 62½ chains of reticulation mains, 5,334 pillar hydrants, 35 Tregear patent hydrants, and 16,465 ball fire plugs (viz., 16,444 Bateman and Moore, of which 3,022 are with spring, and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 21,834. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, under the water supply provisions of its Act of 1915, 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 the cost of 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 of installation and maintenance.

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1924, are as follows :—

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

—	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.*
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ...	112,976	137,626	148,139	144,587	148,576
Receipts for Services ...	9,651	10,808	12,300	14,028	16,486
Interest and Sundries ...	4,658	12,059	13,751	9,778	9,881
Total ...	127,285	160,493	174,190	168,393	174,943
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	74,038	101,392	106,046	103,416	105,749
Fire Expenses ...	3,349	3,834	4,022	4,205	2,196
Administrative Charges, &c.	17,942	28,844	25,403	29,699	28,433
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ...	9,443	9,653	8,255	9,394	17,383
Interest ...	9,156	9,595	9,213	7,468	7,746
Repayment of Loans ...	3,814	4,666	12,052	2,959	3,115
Firemen's Accident Fund	...	250	250	...	...
Superannuation Fund ...	...	...	...	4,684	3,900
Miscellaneous ...	7,808	3,732	11,143	7,737	3,095
Total ...	125,550	161,966	176,384	169,562	171,617
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443	1,201

* The figures relating to the Country Fire Brigades Board are for a period of six months to 30th June, 1924.