

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

The total number of municipalities administering local government throughout the State at the end of the year 1908 was 206. Of these 12 ranked as cities, 11 as towns, 37 as boroughs, and the remainder (146) as shires. The whole of Victoria, with the exception of about 650 square miles—nearly 600 in the mountainous part of Wonnangatta, and the whole of French Island—or $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the area of the State, is now brought under control of municipalities.

The following is a summary of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs and shires in each of the five years ended 1908-9:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1904-5 to 1908-9.

Year.	Estimated Population.	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—							
1904-5 ..	657,815	159,953	138,670	4,997	£ 94,533,732	£ 5,498,471	£ 824,392
1905-6 ..	684,358	169,536	144,996	4,698	99,354,665	5,664,425	847,104
1906-7 ..	695,192	171,909	147,055	4,778	100,801,295	5,779,231	903,120
1907-8 ..	708,762	176,420	149,706	3,923	103,666,178	5,944,691	961,530
1908-9 ..	719,293	178,928	152,475	2,802	106,149,960	6,080,447	..
Shires—							
1904-5 ..	552,414	153,908	117,998	3,337	116,336,442	6,244,799	520,829
1905-6 ..	541,242	149,350	115,270	3,069	117,260,959	6,130,718	541,188
1906-7 ..	565,739	151,869	117,286	2,828	121,797,646	6,395,094	601,311
1907-8 ..	573,715	152,973	118,575	2,890	129,059,488	6,694,209	663,739
1908-9 ..	581,866	155,492	121,187	2,272	136,538,811	7,043,511	..
Total—							
1904-5 ..	1,210,229	313,861	256,668	8,334	210,920,174	11,743,270	1,345,221
1905-6 ..	1,225,600	318,886	260,266	7,767	216,615,624	11,795,143	1,388,292
1906-7 ..	1,260,931	323,778	264,341	7,606	222,598,941	12,174,325	1,504,431
1907-8 ..	1,282,477	329,393	268,281	6,813	232,725,666	12,638,900	1,625,269
1908-9 ..	1,301,159	334,420	273,662	5,074	242,638,771	13,123,958	..

Increase in value of rateable properties and municipal revenue.

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1908-9 over 1904-5.		1907-8 over 1904-5.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	£ 11,566,228	£ 581,976	£ 137,138
Shires	20,202,369	798,712	142,910
Total Increase	31,768,597	1,380,688	280,048

The number of ratepayers returned for 1908-9 was 334,420, and the total capital value of rateable property £242,688,771, which is equivalent to about 18 years' purchase on the annual value, £13,123,958.

Properties rated in municipalities.

The properties upon which the municipalities have levied rates during the past four years have steadily increased, as shown in the following statement:—

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1905-6 TO 1908-9.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1905-6	203,618	194,842	398,460
1906-7	206,698	198,493	405,191
1907-8	209,581	202,234	411,815
1908-9	211,945	205,618	417,563

Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1908-9.

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, 1908-9, except as regards the item "revenue," which is for 1907-8:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1908-9.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1907-8.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2129, 1908-9.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ballarat ..	24,900	5,230	2 0	2,550,825	170,055	30,065	..
Bendigo ..	31,850	7,612	1 6	2,452,908	204,409	33,260	..
Brunswick ..	28,293	7,029	2 4	3,148,020	157,401	26,880	..
Collingwood ..	35,450	7,800	1 9	3,943,930	200,639	22,341	..
Fitzroy ..	33,500	7,379	1 8	5,291,540	264,577	26,871	..
Footscray ..	19,940	4,715	2 6	2,368,390	118,418	16,826	..
Hawthorn ..	24,850	5,511	1 9	4,333,920	216,696	21,372	..
Melbourne ..	101,230	27,021	1 5 1 8	33,768,160	1,665,408	348,326	..
Prahran ..	43,000	9,692	1 8	5,271,480	439,290	45,308	..
Richmond ..	39,700	8,780	1 9	2,919,413	224,570	26,079	..
South Melbourne ..	42,700	8,900	2 0	7,112,700	355,635	50,091	..
St. Kilda ..	22,920	5,248	2 0	2,684,940	223,745	26,780	..
TOWNS.							
Ballarat East ..	17,841	4,316	2 6	1,251,960	83,464	13,470	..
Brighton ..	11,830	2,359	2 0	1,982,560	99,123	13,768	..
Camberwell ..	11,250	4,500	2 0	2,395,540	119,777	17,567	..
Caulfield ..	12,600	4,249	2 0	2,641,860	132,093	16,825	..
Essendon* ..	20,240	7,629	2 0	3,115,040	155,752	20,820	..
Geelong ..	14,634	4,143	2 0	2,028,980	101,449	16,917	..
Malvern ..	13,550	3,223	1 7	3,397,080	165,354	17,281	..
Northcote ..	13,960	4,083	2 3	1,766,140	88,307	19,321	..
Port Melbourne ..	12,870	2,816	1 9	958,368	79,864	9,474	..
Warrnambool ..	6,700	1,401	1 10	866,140	43,307	12,937	..
Williamstown ..	13,900	5,000	2 3	955,152	79,596	12,408	..
BOROUGHS.							
Ararat ..	4,100	880	2 0	195,500	19,530	6,270	50
Browns and Scarsdale ..	1,050	218	1 0	29,000	2,835	311	25
Buninyong ..	1,275	347	1 3	100,782	5,759	899	50
Carisbrook ..	1,260	300	1 0	39,460	4,973	666	50
Castlemaine ..	6,200	1,630	1 6	412,337	33,067	5,160	50
Chewtown ..	1,320	302	1 6	46,040	5,755	500	50
Clunes ..	2,493	660	1 4	69,314	9,902	2,377	75
Coburg ..	8,300	3,880	2 3	766,125	51,075	8,517	50
Creswick ..	2,889	643	1 6	96,930	9,693	3,050	75
Daylesford ..	3,780	750	2 0	158,810	15,881	2,993	50
Dunolly ..	1,395	403	1 6	69,600	6,960	1,321	50
Eaglehawk ..	9,100	2,028	1 6	450,684	37,557	5,995	50
Echuca ..	4,060	1,080	1 6	247,380	23,560	6,148	50
Geelong West ..	6,535	1,487	2 0	418,810	29,915	3,575	50
Hamilton ..	4,500	999	1 9	630,460	31,523	5,133	50
Horsham ..	3,630	574	2 6	274,725	18,315	3,271	100
Inglewood ..	1,450	370	1 6	127,000	6,350	1,761	50
Kew ..	10,640	2,188	1 9	1,496,910	99,794	10,220	50
Koroit ..	1,879	435	2 0	308,780	15,439	2,439	50
Majorca ..	700	189	1 0	24,856	3,167	373	30
Malmsbury ..	1,050	265	1 6	36,954	4,106	749	50
Maryborough ..	5,930	1,370	1 6	279,500	27,950	4,741	50
Newtown and Chillewell ..	5,513	1,415	1 9	619,100	30,955	3,361	50

* Essendon was constituted a city on 8th April, 1909.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1907-8.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2129, 1908-9.
				Total.	Annual.		
				£	£		
Oakleigh ..	1,750	830	s. d. 2 0	313,880	15,694	1,863	100
Portland ..	2,200	541	2 0	186,450	12,430	3,155	50
Port Fairy ..	2,000	482	2 0	248,100	12,405	3,319	100
Queenscliff ..	1,567	509	1 9	225,290	11,264	2,782	50
Raywood ..	476	116	1 0	43,120	2,695	313	20
Rutherglen ..	2,300	413	1 0	148,700	14,870	1,747	20
Sale ..	3,575	847	1 9	355,880	17,794	6,741	50
Sebastopol ..	2,700	620	1 6	133,470	8,898	1,201	80
Smythesdale ..	440	156	1 0	19,620	1,962	241	20
Stawell ..	5,500	910	1 6	204,500	20,450	6,167	50
St. Arnaud ..	4,024	770	1 6	210,220	21,022	3,060	50
Talbot ..	1,165	347	1 0	53,230	5,323	1,445	50
Tarnagulla ..	980	200	1 0	40,160	5,020	576	50
Wangaratta ..	4,005	850	1 6	553,300	27,665	3,892	50
Total ..	719,293	178,928	..	106,149,960	6,080,447	961,530	2,005

Shires,
1908-9.

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

SHIRES, 1908-9.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1907-8.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2129, 1908-9.
				Total.	Annual.		
				£	£		
Alberton ..	4,300	1,150	s. d. 1 3	1,347,300	67,385	6,526	1,500
Alexandra ..	2,241	995	1 0	691,200	34,560	3,739	750
Arapiles ..	2,810	692	1 2	496,780	24,839	2,345	304
Ararat ..	7,000	1,800	1 0	2,786,900	139,345	9,488	1,300
Avoca ..	4,059	1,400	1 0	640,000	32,000	2,704	485
Avon ..	2,700	650	1 0	772,400	38,620	3,979	575
Bacchus Marsh ..	2,920	570	1 0	431,743	31,981	3,006	385
Bairnsdale ..	8,300	1,885	1 0	1,682,360	84,118	10,070	1,440
Ballan ..	5,660	1,370	1 0	743,000	37,150	2,904	575
Ballarat ..	4,700	970	1 0	1,193,140	59,657	4,829	575
Bannockburn ..	1,950	375	1 3	312,624	19,539	1,896	265
Barrabool ..	2,100	500	1 3	632,300	31,615	2,971	425
Beechworth ..	7,500	1,400	1 0	378,540	31,545	5,767	545
Belfast ..	2,650	753	1 4	980,900	49,045	4,362	650
Bellarine ..	4,960	1,170	1 3	890,900	44,545	3,878	485
Benalla ..	9,000	2,700	1 3	1,820,040	91,002	9,578	1,450
Berwick ..	7,000	2,000	1 3	1,236,120	61,806	6,569	1,000
Bet Bet ..	3,750	856	1 0	495,180	24,759	2,330	375
Birchip ..	2,025	638	1 0	595,200	29,760	2,447	400
Borong ..	7,600	1,275	1 0	1,841,860	92,093	6,784	1,080
Braybrook ..	1,670	1,449	1 0	594,380	29,719	2,190	320
Bright ..	4,700	1,305	1 3	650,000	32,500	3,930	750
Broadford ..	1,850	504	1 3	303,980	15,199	1,575	300
Broadmeadows ..	1,950	560	1 0	531,060	26,553	1,852	365
Bulla ..	2,575	377	1 3	469,860	23,493	2,490	350
Bulu Bulu ..	4,700	1,401	1 3	915,200	45,760	5,933	1,250

SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £l.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1907-8.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2129, 1908-9.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Bungaree ..	4,572	860	1 9	653,160	32,658	4,485	800
Buninyong ..	6,400	1,486	1 6	997,800	49,890	3,670	550
Charlton ..	3,000	804	1 0	738,000	36,900	2,992	550
Chiltern ..	2,980	700	1 0	135,930	13,593	2,275	230
Colac ..	11,750	2,760	4 0	4,750,320	237,516	17,598	1,200
Corio ..	2,172	719	1 3	820,940	41,047	3,327	500
Cranbourne ..	3,900	1,129	1 3	1,061,030	53,053	4,623	700
Creswick ..	7,400	1,418	1 0	1,196,100	59,805	5,288	775
Dandenong ..	3,630	2,040	1 6	680,000	34,000	4,863	525
Deakin ..	2,600	863	0 9	1,053,800	52,765	2,541	446
Dimboola ..	5,000	1,134	1 6	1,265,450	63,274	4,584	618
Donald ..	3,000	837	1 0	834,000	41,700	3,645	575
Doncaster ..	1,097	280	1 3	271,440	13,572	1,250	216
Dundas ..	2,966	923	1 0	1,932,000	96,600	6,986	1,050
Dunmunkie ..	5,750	1,065	1 0	1,619,740	80,987	5,104	1,200
East Loddon ..	1,530	416	1 0	709,820	35,491	2,834	500
Echuca ..	4,498	1,042	1 0	1,210,820	60,541	4,750	500
Etham ..	3,350	1,212	1 3	568,780	28,439	3,593	450
Epping ..	1,420	490	1 0	389,600	19,480	1,358	225
Euroa ..	5,500	1,337	1 0	1,330,320	66,516	5,299	750
Fern Tree Gully ..	4,500	1,185	1 6	618,260	30,913	4,482	900
Flinders and Kangeroong ..	2,600	992	1 0	602,390	50,119	2,478	260
Frankston and Hastings ..	2,500	1,050	1 6	440,660	22,033	2,568	425
Gisborne ..	2,500	820	1 0	468,520	23,426	1,833	340
Glenelg ..	5,292	1,486	1 0	1,628,280	108,552	8,126	1,200
Glenlyon ..	2,700	613	1 0	1,68,780	16,878	1,656	250
Gordon ..	3,700	865	1 0	956,640	47,832	3,833	740
Goulburn ..	3,145	658	1 0	495,540	24,777	1,832	350
Grenville ..	7,100	1,410	1 0	870,940	43,547	4,280	590
Hampden ..	7,800	2,209	1 3	4,705,380	235,269	18,613	750
Healesville ..	1,440	426	2 0	230,380	11,519	3,219	450
Heidelberg ..	7,180	2,605	1 7	1,152,940	57,647	11,907	500
Heytesbury ..	3,925	962	1 3	1,495,180	74,759	6,893	1,100
Howqua ..	1,750	280	1 6	95,140	4,757	2,713	200
Huntly ..	4,050	950	1 0	867,400	43,370	2,952	400
Kara Kara ..	4,425	1,374	1 0	1,151,140	57,557	3,989	676
Karkaroc ..	3,500	1,188	1 6	1,331,500	66,575	5,932	950
Keilor ..	750	260	1 0	312,240	15,612	1,337	100
Kerang ..	8,400	2,070	1 0	2,091,200	104,560	10,896	1,000
Kilmore ..	2,120	569	1 3	180,050	18,008	2,007	275
Korong ..	6,000	1,366	1 0	755,835	50,389	4,111	650
Kowree ..	3,750	1,300	1 0	1,173,624	73,664	5,230	870
Kyneton ..	8,700	1,810	1 0	1,311,900	65,595	8,900	685
Lancefield ..	1,202	291	1 0	256,700	12,835	1,216	151
Lawloit ..	2,270	563	1 0	512,070	34,138	2,483	396
Leigh ..	1,793	531	1 0	895,040	44,752	3,401	500
Lexton ..	2,250	588	1 0	770,260	38,513	2,950	400
Lillydale ..	5,850	1,895	1 3	1,041,440	52,072	5,793	800
Lowan ..	4,153	1,300	1 3	756,800	37,840	3,585	600
Maffra ..	3,950	1,100	1 0	1,283,800	64,445	5,994	1,000
Maldon ..	5,700	1,510	1 0	780,000	39,000	4,052	375
Mansfield ..	3,790	917	1 0	976,440	48,822	5,282	900
Marong ..	7,750	2,139	1 0	1,410,700	70,535	5,168	900
Melton ..	1,300	294	1 0	214,000	21,400	1,613	236
Meredith ..	1,750	462	1 0	313,620	15,681	1,124	190
Merriang ..	1,050	264	1 0	319,740	15,987	1,493	176
Metcalfe ..	2,870	830	1 0	374,685	24,979	2,100	278
Mildura ..	4,560	940	1 6	581,340	29,067	4,133	476
Minhamite ..	1,920	607	1 0	1,231,140	61,557	5,309	650
Mirboo ..	1,410	377	1 6	377,340	18,867	2,944	700
Moorabbin ..	10,179	3,400	2 0	1,672,820	83,641	14,165	600

SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1907-8.	Annual Endowment Payable by the Government under Act No. 2123, 1908-9.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Mornington ..	1,500	383	1 6	290,740	14,537	2,231	230
Mortlake ..	3,023	647	1 0	2,140,660	107,033	6,630	700
Morwell ..	3,130	840	1 3	626,400	31,320	3,939	900
Mount Alexander ..	2,150	592	1 0	132,250	10,580	1,338	126
Mount Franklin ..	2,594	803	1 0	148,000	14,800	1,235	204
Mount Rouse ..	2,460	600	1 0	1,479,520	73,976	5,019	400
Mulgrave ..	3,070	728	2 0	408,880	20,444	2,932	450
McIvor ..	4,340	1,107	1 3	707,160	35,358	3,550	450
Narracan ..	5,450	1,425	1 6	980,000	49,000	6,737	1,400
Newham and Wood- end ..	2,412	530	1 3	246,810	16,454	2,234	300
Newstead ..	2,300	595	1 0	328,400	16,420	1,726	210
North Ovens ..	2,627	789	1 0	668,240	33,412	2,831	296
Numurkah ..	8,000	1,601	1 0	1,912,300	95,615	7,493	1,200
Nunawading ..	6,327	2,400	2 0	1,025,140	51,257	6,815	950
Omeco ..	5,000	1,270	1 6	440,000	44,000	7,267	1,700
Orbost ..	3,650	1,308	1 6	685,040	34,252	4,055	1,100
Oxley ..	4,560	1,142	1 0	1,018,380	50,919	4,391	750
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	2,850	820	1 3	866,840	43,342	5,186	1,100
Poowong and Jeetho ..	8,400	1,960	1 3	1,865,280	93,264	9,934	2,000
Portland ..	5,750	1,882	1 0	1,708,880	85,444	6,734	1,000
Preston ..	4,523	1,056	1 11	741,860	37,093	5,091	650
Pyalong ..	1,200	345	1 0	335,720	16,786	1,223	229
Ripon ..	5,556	1,145	1 0	1,354,600	67,730	5,810	450
Rodney ..	6,450	1,331	1 0	1,970,620	98,531	6,741	875
Romsey ..	1,975	410	1 3	470,660	23,533	2,328	274
Rosedale ..	3,620	1,020	1 0	1,438,000	71,900	6,489	1,000
Rutherford ..	5,854	1,312	1 0	464,176	29,011	2,996	450
Seymour ..	4,250	1,018	1 0	819,840	40,992	4,623	850
Shepparton ..	6,600	1,400	1 0	1,192,340	59,617	6,728	850
South Barwon ..	2,408	975	1 6	429,580	21,479	2,290	277
South Gippsland ..	3,550	1,038	1 6	969,400	48,470	3,719	1,050
Springfield ..	706	159	1 3	253,360	12,668	1,293	189
Stawell ..	2,700	1,131	1 0	1,178,380	62,020	4,552	624
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,720	1,021	1 3	394,840	19,742	1,908	278
Swan Hill ..	5,100	1,419	1 0	810,330	54,622	4,195	550
Talbot ..	1,250	442	1 0	381,080	19,054	1,515	221
Tambo ..	2,250	710	1 6	503,300	25,165	3,423	895
Templestowe ..	950	330	1 3	236,220	11,811	1,400	177
Towong ..	6,900	1,900	1 0	1,759,180	87,909	8,033	1,800
Traralgon ..	3,100	830	1 3	672,600	33,630	4,607	893
Tullaroop ..	3,087	940	1 0	308,556	25,713	2,135	337
Tungamah ..	6,250	1,475	1 0	1,465,860	73,293	5,594	900
Upper Yarra ..	2,182	500	1 3	320,440	16,022	1,916	450
Violet Town ..	3,000	500	1 0	602,760	30,138	2,568	450
Walhalla ..	2,486	739	2 6	70,308	8,786	2,226	570
Wannon ..	3,000	658	1 0	1,810,800	90,540	5,350	862
Warranga ..	4,460	1,720	1 0	1,638,380	81,919	8,425	750
Warragul ..	4,900	1,020	1 6	1,125,060	56,253	8,055	1,800
Warrnambool ..	9,700	1,963	1 0	2,673,800	133,690	11,545	1,380
Whittlesea ..	2,245	486	1 0	374,140	18,707	2,052	235
Wimmera ..	4,680	1,013	1 0	1,414,640	70,732	4,695	733
Winchelsea ..	3,640	869	1 4	1,090,560	54,528	5,803	850
Wodonga ..	1,822	560	1 0	201,280	20,128	2,336	288
Woorayl ..	4,400	1,210	1 9	1,228,660	61,433	8,707	2,000
Wychebrook ..	4,650	1,137	1 0	1,454,860	72,740	4,573	665
Wyndham ..	2,875	2,990	1 0	1,506,700	75,335	4,983	600
Yackandandah ..	5,295	1,126	1 0	982,180	49,109	5,310	933
Yarrowonga ..	3,280	790	1 0	750,080	37,504	3,591	570
Yea ..	2,628	746	1 0	929,340	46,467	3,605	800
Total ..	581,866	155,492	..	136,538,311	7,043,511	663,739	96,539

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

Ratings in municipalities, 1908.

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1904-5 TO 1908-9.

Amount levied in the £1.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.	1908-9.
<i>s. d.</i>										
0 9	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	1
1 0	11	9	9	9	8	96	95	87	87	86
1 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1 3	5	3	3	1	1	18	23	25	31	30
1 4	2	2	1	1	1	5	4	3	4	2
1 6	12	14	13	14	14	18	14	21	15	17
1 7	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1 8	3	2	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
1 9	8	7	8	9	9	2	1	2	3	2
1 10	2	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
1 11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
2 0	11	12	12	15	15	4	5	5	4	4
2 2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 3	2	3	3	2	3	1	..	..	..	..
2 4	1	2	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6	2	1	1	1	3	..	1	1	1	1
1 0 }*	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 }*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 }*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 0 }*	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
1 5 }*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 8 }*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	60	60	60	60	60	148	146	146	146	146

These figures give an average rating of 1s. 7½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and 1s. 2d. in shires. The rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 5½d. in the £1 more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality during the last five years imposed the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., but that several reached the maximum of 2s. 6d. in the £.

* These amounts refer to Melbourne City where, for the North Melbourne and Flemington and Kensington portions of Hopetoun Ward, the rating is different from that of the rest of the city.

Classification of properties rated, 1905-6.

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

NUMBER AND ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES, 1905-6.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties Rated.			Assessment of Properties.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
				£	£	£
Under £25 ...	148,373	125,806	274,179	3,028,065	2,486,591	5,514,656
£25 to £50 ...	36,677	40,172	76,849			
£50 " £75 ...	8,428	12,151	20,579	766,858	1,231,471	1,998,329
£75 " £100 ...	3,585	6,745	10,330			
£100 " £200 ...	4,078	7,028	11,106	539,909	922,449	1,462,358
£200 " £300 ...	1,086	1,424	2,510	1,329,593	1,490,207	2,819,800
£300 " £400 ...	470	510	980			
£400 " £500 ...	242	288	530			
£500 & upwards	679	718	1,397			
Total ...	203,618	194,842	398,460	5,664,425	6,130,718	11,795,143

It is estimated that of the properties valued at under £25, about 43,000 in cities, towns, and boroughs, assessed at £160,000 annual value, and 63,000 in shires, assessed at £227,000 annual value, had a rateable value of less than £10 each.

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

NUMBER AND ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES RATED, 1901-2.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties Rated.			Assessment of Properties.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
				£	£	£
Under £25 ...	138,191	119,146	257,337	2,713,023	2,426,477	5,139,500
£25 to £50 ...	34,848	44,225	79,073			
£50 " £75 ...	8,002	10,681	18,683	693,482	1,096,013	1,789,495
£75 " £100 ...	3,094	6,612	9,706			
£100 " £200 ...	3,823	5,813	9,636	517,663	762,504	1,280,167
£200 " £300 ...	1,013	1,112	2,125	1,299,114	1,376,811	2,675,925
£300 " £400 ...	435	406	841			
£400 " £500 ...	257	226	483			
£500 & upwards	627	707	1,334			
Total ...	190,290	188,928	379,218	5,223,282	5,661,805	10,885,087

Classification of properties rated, 1901-2.

The following return shows the proportion of properties at the different rateable values at the two dates. It will be seen that there was very little alteration in the four years:—

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

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

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

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

Municipal revenue and expenditure.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1906 TO 1908.

Sources of Revenue.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates ...	836,024	887,580	902,741
Licences ...	106,621	106,742	106,758
Dog Fees ...	16,257	17,455	17,628
Market and Weighbridge Dues ...	56,939	57,190	57,386
Government Endowment and Grants ...	95,090	117,304	172,648
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ...	18,597	30,816	34,246
Sanitary Charges ...	56,052	56,918	58,072
Rents ...	63,242	66,601	67,387
Other Sources ...	139,470	163,825	208,403
Total ...	1,383,292	1,504,431	1,625,269
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c. ...	141,438	147,933	152,302
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ...	135,466	134,632	142,769
Lighting ...	72,571	76,217	79,832
Fire Brigades' Contributions ...	17,431	17,144	20,724
Public Works—			
Construction ...	217,346	266,658	313,607
Maintenance ...	403,791	441,335	474,188
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ...	19,627	28,296	32,718
Redemption of Loans ...	49,483	54,998	60,568
Interest on Loans ...	188,111	196,965	198,632
Charities ...	13,637	13,401	14,666
Other Expenditure ...	118,748	156,894	187,830
Total ...	1,377,649	1,534,473	1,677,836

As compared with 1907 the revenue of 1908 increased by £120,838, all the headings sharing in the improvement, as follows:—Rates, £15,161; Government endowment and grants, £55,344; rents, £786; market and weighbridge dues, £196; sanitary charges, £1,154; dog fees, £173; licences, £16; contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., £3,430; and “other sources” of revenue, £44,578. The expenditure shows an increase of £143,363, distributed under the several headings as follows:—Salaries, £4,369; sanitary work and street cleaning, £8,137; lighting, £3,615; fire brigades’ contributions, £3,580; public works construction, £46,949; maintenance, £32,853; formation of private streets, &c., £4,422; redemption of loans, £5,570; interest on loans, £1,667; charities, £1,265; and “other expenditure,” £30,936.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources.

Fifty-six per cent. of municipal revenue was derived from rates, 7 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 3 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 11 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 2 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from sanitary charges, 4 per cent. from rents, and 13 per cent. from all “other sources.”

Salaries.

In 1908, the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £152,302, or nearly 9½ per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities.

A sum of £14,666 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 under three heads—(1) Municipal Fund, (2) Loan Fund, (3) Property; the liabilities under two heads—(1) Municipal Fund, (2) Loan Fund.

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1906 TO 1908.

Assets.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	124,174	112,435	116,223
Other Assets	184,380	196,048	182,750
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	740,382	772,662	796,272
Arrears Due	1,341	3,616	2,806
Unexpended Balances	302,400	325,901	220,674
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	2,573,017	2,697,701	2,826,394
Waterworks	221,548	223,687	220,669
Gasworks	60,510	66,269	66,638
Total Assets	4,207,752	4,398,319	4,432,466

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1906 TO 1908—*continued.*

Liabilities.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Municipal Fund—			
Due on Current Contracts	£ 57,269	£ 68,654	£ 77,503
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	1,341	3,616	2,806
Overdue Interest	16,951	17,060	18,535
Bank Overdrafts	89,370	94,825	122,453
Temporary Government Advances	694	..	..
Other Liabilities	118,695	110,688	116,780
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	4,375,116	4,442,713	4,437,673
Due on Loan Contracts	2,256	39,726	88,086
Total Liabilities	4,661,692	4,777,282	4,863,836

The total assets of municipalities in 1908 amounted to £4,432,466, and the liabilities to £4,863,836. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £338,977, against which there were assets amounting to £299,013. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £4,525,759, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £3,506,007. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties (£3,113,701) in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, waterworks, &c., the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £392,306.

Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.

Under the *Local Government Act 1891*, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This was the first statutory provision made since 1879, when an endowment of £310,000, authorized under the *Local Government Act 1874*, ceased to be payable. A subsidy, however, in lieu thereof, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, but this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from the 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 it was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-7, and from the 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year. No city or town is entitled to receive any part of the endowment. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received in the twelve months ending on the last day of September next preceding such financial year, according to the following scale:—

Endowment
of muni-
cipalities.

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. „ „ „

But for the three financial years commencing 1st July, 1907, the amounts are definitely fixed by Act No. 2129 at the sums payable for the current financial year, as set out in the table on pages 235 to 238 of this part.

Licence fees. In addition to the endowment of £100,000 the municipalities received from the Government a sum of £90,556 out of the Licensing Act Fund, under Act No. 1111, Section 201, the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; (3) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under *The Licensing Act* 1876. The particulars of this payment are as follows:—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1907-8.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	35,205	0	0
„ Towns	7,865	0	0
„ Boroughs	12,996	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class	288	0	0
2nd „	14,773	0	0
3rd „	11,833	0	0
4th „	945	0	0
5th „	3,708	0	0
6th „	1,655	0	0
Total amount due	89,268	0	0
Add payments on account of 1907	£1,527	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1908	239	0	0
	1,288	0	0
Amount paid in 1907-8	90,556	0	0

Licensing Act Fund. The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Act Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1908:—

LICENSING ACT FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1907-8.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year	7,372	11 0	Expenses of Officers carrying out the Licensing Act ...	6,559	15 0
Licences	98,596	4 2	Cost of taking poll of electors ...	25	3 9
Fees	2,984	12 6	Equivalent to municipalities (see previous table) ...	90,556	0 0
Fines	3,650	3 0	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 108 of Act No. 2068	19,732	1 2
Sale of confiscated liquor	3	0 6			
Club certificates and percentage fees ...	996	8 9			
Permits	3,270	0 0			
	£116,872	19 11		£116,872	19 11

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, Section 375 of the *Local Government Act* 1903 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.

The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £4,437,673, due to the Government and the public respectively as follows:—

Municipal indebtedness.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1908.

	Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ...	129,082	3,742,462
Shires ...	99,411	466,768
	228,443	4,209,230
Total ...	4,437,673	

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1908.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year ...	43,270	4,330	47,600
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	309,678	20,651	330,329
Expenditure during the year ...	142,430	14,825	157,255
Balance unexpended at the end of 1908 ...	210,518	10,156	220,674

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1908 amounted to £157,255, of which £142,430 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £14,825 by shires. This is more than in the preceding year and nearly double the amount spent in each of the years 1904 to 1906.

Municipal loan expenditure, 1904 to 1908.

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1904 ...	22,118	84,339
1905 ...	33,313	84,845
1906 ...	270,279	84,081
1907 ...	123,446	141,587
1908 ...	47,600	157,255

The total loan receipts for the year, £47,600, consisted of £46,670 raised from the public, and £930 borrowed from the Government. The municipalities of Sale, Warrnambool, Mildura, and Morwell floated the loans locally, but the remaining districts were accommodated in Melbourne.

Loans raised by municipalities 1908.

LOANS RECEIPTS BY MUNICIPALITIES, 1908.

Loans from the Public—		Amount.
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—		
Camberwell	...	£ 12,337
Fitzroy	...	9,047
Hamilton	...	12,500
Northcote	...	4,977
Sale	...	2,600
Warrnambool	...	1,809
Total	...	43,270
Shires—		
Beechworth	...	749
Mildura	...	2,000
Morwell	...	400
Narracan	...	1,000
Waranga	...	181
Total	...	4,330
Grand Total	...	47,600

Loan
moneys to
the credit
of municipa-
lities,
1908.

At the end of the year 1907-8 the total amount of loan money in hand was £220,674—£210,518 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £10,156 to the credit of shires. The following return shows the municipalities having such credits, and the amounts thereof:—

LOANS UNEXPENDED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1908.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—		SHIRES—	
£		£	
Ballarat	... 2,176	Berwick	... 23
Ballarat East	... 720	Dimboola	... 290
Bendigo	... 2,050	Fern Tree Gully	... 188
Brunswick	... 3,573	Heidelberg	... 692
Camberwell	... 6,000	Kerang	... 763
Caulfield	... 55	Lillydale	... 7
Coburg	... 292	Mildura	... 1,410
Collingwood	... 529	Minhamite	... 664
Creswick	... 285	Moorabbin	... 499
Essendon	... 1,073	Morwell	... 88
Fitzroy	... 2,464	Mulgrave	... 73
Footscray	... 15,413	Narracan	... 351
Hamilton	... 11,817	Numurkah	... 1,279
Hawthorn	... 312	Nunawading	... 988
Inglewood	... 230	Omeo	... 1,240
Kew	... 785	Phillip Island and	
Malvern	... 3,930	Woolamai	... 1,541
Maryborough	... 365	Springfield	... 8
Melbourne	... 102,866	Waranga	... 52
Northcote	... 3,635	Total Shires	... £10,156
Port Melbourne	... 4,035		
Prahran	... 33,466		
Queenscliff	... 133		
Sale	... 927		
South Melbourne	... 3,461		
St. Kilda	... 7,145		
Wangaratta	... 267		
Warrnambool	... 1,562		
Williamstown	... 952		
Total Cities, &c.	... £210,518	Grand Total	... £220,674

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

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1908 of the City of Melbourne and of the principal cities in the country—Ballarat and Bendigo—are given in the following statements:—

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1908, about 34 per cent. was derived from rates, 30 per cent. from the sale of electric light, about 13 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—10 per cent. from market and weigh-bridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 7 per cent. from other sources. On public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 25 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; interest on loans and expenses, 20 per cent.; repayment of loans and payments to sinking funds, 30 per cent.; the electric light service, 8 per cent.; street cleansing, 7 per cent.; salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 5 per cent.

City of Melbourne revenue and expenditure under various heads.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1908.

Heads of Revenue	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	89,285
Lighting	27,949
Licences—	
Publicans—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act ..	14,736
Abattoirs—Slaughtering fees	2,174
Drays, Hackney Carriages, and Trams	2,093
Other Licences	326
Fees under Dog Act	1,132
City Baths	3,075
Market and Weighbridge Fees	34,950
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c. ...	104,108
Fines and Costs	1,068
Rents—	
Abattoirs	7,213
Markets and Shops	34,175
Boat Sites and Shops	261
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	5,271
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	7,171
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators	5,513
Public Conveniences, Cleansing Streets, Sale of Manure, &c.	3,069
Tree Planting	696
Fees under Building Act	733
Sundries	3,328
Total	348,326

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1908—
continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.) ...	£ 17,457
Allowance to Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Works	618
Street Cleansing, &c.	25,565
Lighting—Electric—Maintenance	27,088
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	5,608
American Fleet Reception	3,498
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges	42,642
Markets and Weighbridges	21,529
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) ...	16,916
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets	9,207
Repayment of Loan	15,000
Interest on Loans from the Government	240
" " Public	70,990
Payment towards Redemption of Government Loan ...	210
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	11,484
Electric Supply—Sinking, Depreciation, and Renewals Fund	79,484
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	691
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	373
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	1,250
" " Infectious Diseases Hospital	1,235
Law Costs	1,050
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	1,175
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	361
Gas Conferences	200
Fees—Dog Act	520
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	1,343
Elections	178
Analyst's salary	188
Sundries	2,448
Total	360,048

Of the total revenue received by the City of Ballarat in 1908, about 56 per cent. was obtained from rates, 11 per cent. from licences, 12 per cent. from sanitary rates, 10 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 5 per cent. from rents, and 6 per cent. from all other receipts. The expenditure was incurred on the following services:— 51 per cent. on public works, 9 per cent. on interest and redemption of loans, 11 per cent. on sanitary work, 8 per cent. on lighting, 7 per cent. on salaries and allowances, 4 per cent. on street cleaning, &c., and 10 per cent. on all other items.

CITY OF BALLARAT: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants—From Government	250	Salaries	1,701
General Rates	16,895	Allowance to Mayor	400
Licences—From Licensing Act Fund	3,000	Sanitary Expenses	3,667
„ Other	203	Street Cleaning, &c.	1,200
Market and Weighbridge Dues	2,995	Lighting	2,532
Contributions for Formation of Private Streets, Roads, Lanes, &c.	362	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	531
Dog Fees	211	Public Works— { Construction	3,266
Pound Fees	116	„ { Maintenance	12,557
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees	3,698	Formation of Private Streets, Roads, Lanes, &c.	423
Rents	1,458	Repayment of Loan—To the Government	339
Interest	173	Payment to Sinking Funds on Loans from the Public	1,144
Botanic Gardens	252	Interest—Government Loan „ Loans from the Public	208
Other Sources	452	Contributions to Charitable Institutions	1,159
		Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	345
		Libraries, Museums, &c....	479
		Other Expenditure	413
			1,354
Total	£30,065	Total	£31,718

In the City of Bendigo, in 1908, the following were the proportions of total revenue obtained under the different headings:— General rates, 47 per cent.; licences, 12 per cent.; sanitary rates and fees, 18 per cent.; market and weighbridge dues, 9 per cent.; rents, 8 per cent.; and other sources, 6 per cent. The proportions of the total expenditure on various services were:—Public works, construction, and maintenance, 43 per cent.; sanitary expenses, 17 per cent.; interest on loans and payments to sinking funds, 7 per

City of Ballarat revenue and expenditure, 1908.

Revenue and expenditure of City of Bendigo 1908.

cent. ; salaries and allowances, 8 per cent. ; lighting, 8 per cent. ; street cleansing, 6 per cent. ; and miscellaneous expenditure, 11 per cent.

CITY OF BENDIGO: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants—From Government	137	Salaries	2,500
General Rates	15,605	Allowance to Mayor	400
Licences—From Licensing Act Fund	3,900	Sanitary Expenses	5,652
" Other	232	Street Cleansing	2,192
Market and Weighbridge Dues	3,110	Lighting	2,828
Dog Fees	311	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	608
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees	5,896	Public Works—	
Rents	2,500	Construction	2,909
Interest	234	Maintenance	11,632
Sports Ground	663	Payments to Sinking Fund on Loans from the Public	1,080
Other Sources	672	Interest on Loans from the Public	1,022
		" Bank Overdraft	242
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions	386
		Libraries	189
		Law Costs	1,073
		Other Expenditure	1,403
Total	£33,260	Total	£34,116

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

Municipal
Officers'
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," which, however, could not be established until three-fifths of the municipalities in Victoria had agreed in writing to contribute to the fund. The amount to be contributed by any municipality is not to be less than that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. When the fund reaches £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 liabilities and expenses, every municipality must, *pro rata* to its contributions, make up the difference. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed by each municipal district 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. The published financial statement for the period ended 30th September, 1908, showed that 188 policies for guarantees, amounting to £130,810, had been issued. The premiums received amounted to £1,100. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1908 (including amount invested in purchase of debentures, £875, and accrued interest thereon), was £977.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

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

Melbourne Harbor Trust—
receipts and expenditure.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—ORDINARY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1904 TO 1908.

Receipts from—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage Rates ...	162,103	167,727	188,337	191,762	203,466
Rents and Licence Fees ...	10,647	12,361	12,857	12,544	12,763
Other Receipts ...	4,146	9,895	7,261	9,955	6,094
Total ...	176,898	189,983	208,455	214,261	222,323
Expenditure on—					
Plant ...	..	..	..	11,310	13,753
Harbor Improvements and Maintenance ...	30,504	27,213	27,828	35,084	45,944
Wharfs, &c.—Construction and Maintenance ...	16,003	19,443	19,839	30,019	28,810
General Management, &c. ...	11,548	12,700	13,056	14,145	14,096
Interest on Loans and Expenses ...	86,842	86,630	86,530	86,375	82,015
Total ...	144,897	145,986	147,253	176,933	184,618

During the 31½ years the Trust has been in existence, the net receipts have amounted to £4,640,663, and the expenditure to £6,387,829, or £1,747,166, in excess of the receipts, to meet which loans amounting to £2,000,000 have been raised. Of this expenditure of over 6 millions, £2,017,121 has been expended on harbor improvements and maintenance, including dredging, landing, and depositing silt, £1,522,109 on wharfs and approaches, construction and maintenance; and £558,412 on plant.

Geelong
Harbor
Trust—re-
ceipts and
expendi-
ture.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on the 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, and one-fifth of the total revenue received by the Trust is to be paid to the Government. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £200,000 and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure since the constitution of the Trust; the latter includes loan moneys, £100,000 of which had been raised to the end of 1908:—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST: RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Receipts (excluding loans) from—	1906.	1907.	1908.
	£	£	£
Wharfage Rates*	9,097	8,182	8,854
Sales	97	877	2,767
Leasing and Licensing of Lands	941	1,199	1,282
Interest ... ..	...	1,464	226
Miscellaneous	732	1,553	1,464
Total	10,867	13,275	14,593
Expenditure (including loan expenditure) on—			
Plant	33,679	8,865	6,071
Harbor Improvements	2,093	18,011	8,407
General Management & Maintenance	4,361	6,972	8,153
Land and Property	12,612	15,362	21,897
Interest and Sinking Fund	909	4,567	5,000
Miscellaneous	2,797	680	1,928
Total	56,451	54,457	51,456

* These figures represent four-fifths of the total wharfage and quayage rates.

THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Area under
control and
value of
property.

The district over which the Board exercises control consists of ten cities, eight towns, two boroughs, one shire, and parts of three other shires—or 24 municipalities in all, embracing a total area of 90,821 acres, and containing an estimated population on 31st December, 1908, of 536,400. The annual value of rateable property in the district in 1908 was £5,004,083, which, at 1s. 1d. in the £1 for sewerage rate, the rate levied by the Board would yield a revenue of £271,054 (exclusive of water rates), but as the whole of the district has not yet been sewered, the amount receivable is only £227,525. From 1st July, 1906, the board is empowered to levy a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1.

To carry out its work, the Board is authorized to borrow £7,750,000, exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934, which were originally contracted by the Government, but taken over by the Board. The liability for Government loans on 30th June, 1908, was £1,688,663, and for loans raised by the Board £8,251,000. The Board is still empowered to borrow £200,271 before the limit of its borrowing powers is reached.

The waterworks for the service of Melbourne and suburbs were originally constructed by the General Government. The cost to 30th June, 1908, was £3,826,447. At the present time, these works consist of two storage and seven service reservoirs, as under:—

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

NOTE.—A second service reservoir at Preston, having a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons, has recently been completed at a cost of £29,000.

The transfer of these works to the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board was made in 1891. The Board consists of 40 members, one of whom is a Chairman elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. The members are elected every three years as follows:—Nine by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne, three by the Prahran, two each by the Fitzroy, Richmond, Collingwood, and St. Kilda, and one each by the other fifteen suburban municipal councils. In 1891, the rateable property within the area to be served was valued at £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 was for vacant land. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A partial recovery in values has taken place, and the total assessments, inclusive of vacant land, now reach £5,004,083. The main source of supply is the Yan Yean system. It commences by collecting the waters of the eastern branch of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek, from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, and those of Wallaby and Silver Creeks, brought over the range in an aqueduct from the northern slopes. These streams are collected in the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence in a pitched channel to the Yan Yean Reservoir. The Yan Yean is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city, 602 feet above sea-level. It covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in this reservoir in 1908 was 19 ft. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on 28th November, the minimum depth 12 ft. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on 6th May. The mean evaporation from the surface of the reservoir is equal to a total depth of 3 feet during the year. From the Reservoir to Morang an open aqueduct delivers 33,000,000 gallons per day. A second

supply is brought to Melbourne by means of the Maroondah Aqueduct, which conveys water from the Maroondah River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's Creek, and Coranderrk Creek, and is known as the Maroondah system. The aqueduct, owing to recent improvements, is now capable of delivering 32,000,000 gallons daily. A new scour main from the Preston Reservoir has also been completed, at a cost of £5,000. By means of these systems, Melbourne is provided with an ample supply of pure water at a high pressure. The total catchment areas for both systems aggregate 69,000 acres, the whole of which is under the control of the Board, and free from settlement or grazing. The Water Supply Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works has recommended the augmentation of the catchment area by permanently reserving two areas amounting in all to 140 square miles—the one comprising the Upper Yarra watershed 81 square miles in area; the other comprising the O'Shanassy River district, 59 square miles in extent. Besides the Yan Yean and Maroondah systems the high levels of the eastern suburbs of Melbourne are provided for by a direct main from the Yan Yean Reservoir, known as the high-level system. The discharge is about 9,000,000 gallons per day. The total maximum present supply that can be sent into Melbourne and suburbs is 74,000,000 gallons daily. Up to 31st December, 1908, there were laid mains (12-in. to 48-in.) 190 miles, reticulation mains (below 12-in.), 1,035 miles, in addition to which there are 80 miles of aqueducts and syphons, or a total length of aqueducts, &c., mains and pipes of 1,305 miles.

The population supplied with water during 1908 was about 543,530, and the average daily consumption was 58 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the board's area. The average consumption per day is shown hereunder for each month during 1908:—

DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1908.

Month.	Gallons.
January	43,056,419
February	38,535,551
March	32,286,096
April	31,823,066
May	26,459,935
June	24,348,766
July	23,594,000
August	23,959,000
September	26,224,000
October	29,690,000
November	36,092,700
December	42,848,452
Mean for the year	31,559,830

In the year 1908 the intake of the Yan Yean was 3,877,833,000 gallons, being lower by 7 per cent. than that of 1898, the previous lowest year. The total output from the reservoir was 3,249,005,000 gallons, exclusive of loss by evaporation.

The following table shows for each year since the establishment of the Board in 1891, the daily average consumption of water, and the daily average per head:—

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1891 TO 1908.

Year.	Population supplied with water to 30th June.	Tenements Connected with Sewerage System to 31st December.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
			Gallons.	
1891	482,600	...	25,747,761	53·35
1892	480,620	...	23,476,780	48·85
1893	456,390	...	24,290,041	53·22
1894	440,560	...	27,071,106	61·45
1895	444,340	...	26,689,683	60·07
1896	450,750	...	23,837,695	52·90
1897	456,800	764	24,665,607	54·00
1898	465,350	7,584	28,253,294	60·71
1899	478,800	21,327	27,068,465	56·53
1900	487,950	33,795	28,230,690	57·86
1901	492,300	43,353	29,427,589	59·80
1902	501,580	51,241	29,080,027	57·98
1903	501,610	60,305	28,858,633	57·53
1904	501,460	68,361	29,523,153	58·87
1905	508,450	75,328	32,400,286	63·72
1906	515,350	83,930	33,479,900	64·96
1907	526,400	91,272	35,212,222	66·89
1908	538,000	96,930	31,559,830	58·66

The total cost to 30th June, 1908, of the construction of the Melbourne Waterworks, was £3,826,447. The gross revenue since the opening of the works at the end of 1857 up to 30th June, 1908, amounted to £6,155,057; whilst the expenses of maintenance and management amounted to only £1,038,139, and interest to £2,760,696. During 1907-8 the revenue amounted to £233,549; as against £211,059 in the previous year; and the expenditure on maintenance and management to £41,656, and interest £100,915, as against £30,573 and £102,075 in the previous year. The net profit in 1907-8 was thus £90,978, being equivalent to 2·37 per cent. of the mean capital cost, as compared with £78,411 or 2·06

Revenue and expenditure of Melbourne Waterworks.

per cent. in 1906-7. The loans outstanding (£2,635,663) for the construction of the waterworks now bear an average nominal rate of only 3.83 per cent. The aggregate net profit up to the end of 1907-8, after paying all interest and expenses, has amounted to £2,355,240.

Sewerage
system.

Connected with the water service of Melbourne and suburbs, the Board also controls the sewerage system of the metropolis. The particulars of the system are as follows:—The whole of the sewage of the metropolis is being gradually collected by means of two principal main sewers leading to the Pumping Station at Spotswood. On 31st December, 1908, the sewerage system, including mains, branches, and reticulation, had been laid in the following districts, viz.:—Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Melbourne, Richmond, Prahran, and Fitzroy, and nearly the whole of Footscray, St. Kilda, and Collingwood. A considerable portion of Essendon, Caulfield, Malvern, Kew, Camberwell, Hawthorn, Brunswick, Williamstown, and Brighton has also been dealt with. Work is now proceeding rapidly in Caulfield, Malvern, and Northcote. A large portion still remains to be done in Williamstown, Essendon, Northcote, Brunswick, Camberwell, Kew, Hawthorn, Malvern, Caulfield, and Brighton. A small portion has also to be done in Collingwood and Fitzroy. In all, 1,001 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of reticulation, and 103 miles of main and branch sewers, have been completed, the system being so advanced that the sewerage from 102,343 tenements could be collected. On 31st December, 1908, 96,930 tenements had been connected, together with 18 public conveniences and 40 public urinals, 109,279 water-closets, 76,461 baths, 56,775 sinks, 49,364 sets of wash troughs, 24,186 lavatories, 10,683 stables, 6,806 urinals, 3,450 polluted areas and paved yards, 1,633 cellars, 885 slop hoppers, 263 latrines, and 215 dairies. There are also 1,437 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of house connexions laid (1,430 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of vitrified stoneware and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of cast-iron pipes), or a total of 2,541 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of mains, sewers, and drains connected with the Pumping Station. When collected at Spotswood the sewage is raised about 125 feet, to the head of the outfall sewer, then carried through 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of 6-foot and 4-foot wrought-iron rising mains, whence it gravitates to the farm in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ miles long, 11 feet in diameter, at a grade of 2 feet to the mile. It is spread over properly-prepared blocks of land by a series of main and lateral carriers. The effluent, after filtering through the land, is discharged into Port Phillip Bay in a clear and transparent condition. The prepared blocks on the farm are laid down with prairie grass and lucerne, on 4,000 acres of which during the financial year ended 30th June, 1908, 60,054 sheep have

been fattened and sold, while on 76 acres cattle and horses have been agisted. The loss on sheep for the same period amounted to £6,247—the fees received for grazing amounting to £730. Of the whole farm area of 8,847 acres, there remain 1,674 acres, comprising land in course of preparation, plantations, roads, drains, &c., and 3,097 acres not used in connexion with sewage distribution, but let on lease to farmers at an average rental of 15s. 1½d. per acre.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1908, was £5,723,399, divided as follow:—

Sewerage
works
receipts
and expen-
diture.

EXPENDITURE ON SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION UP TO 30TH JUNE, 1908.

Farm purchase and preparation	£437,443
Outfall sewer and rising main	368,858
Pumping Station buildings and engines	176,371
Main and branch sewers	1,776,087
Street reticulation	1,524,882
Reticulation of rights-of-way	697,799
House connexions branches	248,003
Cost of house connexions to capital	290,860
	<hr/>
Expenditure on sewerage system	£5,520,303
River improvements	2,780
Householders' debts for house connexions	200,316
	<hr/>
Total	£5,723,399

The sewerage receipts for 1907-8 amounted to £282,303, of which £216,588 was collected in rates, £39,132 represented proceeds of sale of live stock, and £16,562 interest. The purchase of live stock amounted to £41,536, the expenditure on interest to £270,130, and on maintenance of works to £35,588.

On 31st December, 1908, out of 102,343 tenements that could be connected with the sewerage system, 96,930 had been connected, and 1,156 were in progress of connexion, leaving 5,413 houses which had not been completely connected, and 4,257 which had not been started. The maximum cost of the sewerage of a single building in work carried out by the Board was the Women's Hospital, which cost £1,208, and the minimum was £7 11s. 5d., for a house in

Houses
connected
with the
Sewerage
System.

South Melbourne. The average cost per tenement was £23 18s. 4d. The following statement shows the progress of house connexion to the 31st December, 1908:—

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

Municipality.	No. of Tenements on 31st December, 1908, in gazetted areas.		
	Connected.	Not Connected.	Total.
Melbourne City	24,350	300	24,650
Fitzroy City	7,091	113	7,204
Collingwood City	7,461	191	7,652
Richmond City	8,958	103	9,061
Brunswick City	2,590	1,570	4,160
Northcote Town	85	715	800
Prahran City	10,037	135	10,172
South Melbourne City	9,833	160	9,993
Port Melbourne Town	2,730	32	2,762
St. Kilda City	4,708	121	4,829
Brighton Town	1,212	580	1,792
Essendon Town*	2,578	170	2,748
Hawthorn City	5,054	71	5,125
Kew Borough	1,258	55	1,313
Footscray City	3,905	248	4,153
Williamstown Town	590	387	977
Caulfield Town	1,587	128	1,715
Malvern Town	1,443	42	1,485
Camberwell Town	1,311	292	1,603
Preston Shire ... ..	...	...	...
Coburg Borough ... ..	...	...	...
Moorabbin Shire (part of) ... ..	...	...	...
Nunawading Shire ,, ... ..	...	...	...
Heidelberg Shire ,, ... ..	...	...	...
Total in Gazetted Areas	96,781	5,413	102,194
Total outside Gazetted Areas	149	...	149
Total	96,930	5,413	102,343

* Essendon was constituted a city on 8th April, 1909.

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure during the five years 1903-4 to 1907-8, exclusive of refunds, deposits, &c., included in the figures quoted in preceding paragraphs:—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: 1903-4 to 1907-8.

	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Water Supply	165,761	180,632	184,821	213,500	228,169
Sewerage	189,889	209,809	234,028	263,449	265,607
Total	355,650	390,441	418,849	476,949	493,767

Total Receipts and Expenditure.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE 1903-4 TO 1907-8—continued.

	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Management ...	55,796	55,012	60,085	78,360	74,804
Maintenance—					
Water Supply ...	20,767	18,846	18,742	20,196	23,503
Sewerage ...	26,557	26,680	28,625	33,083	35,454
Interest on Loans ...	305,919	315,872	336,288	345,315	354,483
Total ...	409,039	416,410	443,740	476,954	488,244
<i>Loan Receipts</i> ...	946,686	185,735	342,920	394,672	311,446
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Water Supply ...	8,653	7,479	14,249	23,535	36,391
Sewerage ...	309,480	377,801	331,453	258,058	237,812
Redemption of Loans ...	521,480	..	62,630	159,400	..
Loss on Sale of Deposit Receipts ...	193,948	..	..	..	..
Other ...	19,965	1,231	-3,425*	-3,663*	3,804
Total ..	1,053,526	386,511	404,907	437,330	278,007

* Loan expenditure exceeded by receipts by these amounts.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

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

The metropolitan fire district embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of ten miles from the General Post Office. The area vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works is included in this area, but the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board has jurisdiction over portions of the shires of Wyndham, Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Templestowe, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin within the ten-mile radius, not vested in the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Metropolitan Fire District

Constitution
of Fire
Brigades
Boards.

has been extended, and now includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as and includes the township of Mordialloc.

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

Powers of
the Boards.

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

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

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

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

The Metropolitan Board of Works under the *Water Act 1890* must, upon the request of any municipal council within its boundaries, fix proper fire plugs, in the main and other pipes belonging to the board at convenient distances, and at such places as the board may consider proper and convenient for the supply of water for extinguishing any fire which may break out within its limits. The cost of fixing fire plugs and notice boards, together with their maintenance, must be defrayed by the municipal council within whose limits the fire plug is fixed. The board may also fix fire plugs for private owners, provided they pay the cost and maintenance.

The Metropolitan 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 shall allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 31st December, 1908, it had fixed 1,040 pillar hydrants, 13,360 ball fire plugs, 144 "Tregear" hydrants, to its 190 miles of leading mains, and 1,035 miles of reticulation mains, and except in case of accident, repairs, or cleansing, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 31st December, 1908, had under its control the following:—50 stations, 194 permanent men, 9 men engaged at theatres, 160 auxiliary firemen, 10 steam fire engines, 4 gasolene engines, 1 chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 2 petrol motor fire engines, 1 motor chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 1 motor salvage waggon and chemical engine combined, 2 manual engines, 37 horse hose reels, 52 hand hose reels, 9 extension ladders and fire escapes, 6 Pompier ladders, 12 exercise and supply carts, 2 salvage vans, 1 brake, 71 horses, 95,128 feet of hose, 46 hand pumps, 3 smoke helmets, and 2 smoke jackets, 132 telephones in stations, 132 fire alarm circuits, having 138 fire alarm points and 419 fire alarm and telephone points. The total length of wire in use outside stations for fire alarms and telephones is about 320 miles.

Outfit of the
Metropolitan
Fire
Brigade.

During 1908 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade amounted to £56,649, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution is equal to .81d. in the £1, over an area wherein the property is valued at £5,089,616; that of the insurance companies is equal to £5 4s. 8d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property.

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts where there are brigades registered under the Board, two are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The Board annually elects one of its members as president. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1908 was £14,996, and this amount was contributed in equal portions by the Government, the municipal councils, and the insurance companies above mentioned. The expenditure for the year amounted to £13,522. There are 89 municipal councils and 57 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large towns permanent stationkeepers and watchmen are employed. There are 100 registered brigades, and one more is about to be registered. The number of registered firemen is 2,032, but in

Country
Fire
Brigades
Board.

many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members." The chief officer of the Board frequently inspects the brigades, and also pays them "surprise visits." He reports monthly to the Board as to the efficiency of the service, and upon the equipment necessary to be supplied. In 1908 the chief items of the plant consisted of 5 steam engines, 62 manual engines, 10 horse brakes, 61 apparatus carriages, 3 fire escapes, about 250 hose reels, and approximately 145,000 feet of canvas hose.

Receipts
and ex-
penditure.

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both boards during the five years ended 30th June, 1908, are as follows:—

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

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance	48,874	49,083	50,937	51,934	65,591
Receipts for Services	692	754	551	1,236	2,833
Interest and Sundries	2,814	3,442	3,080	3,116	2,562
Total	52,380	53,279	54,568	56,286	70,986
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	23,103	24,793	25,961	27,411	30,062
Fire Expenses	2,936	2,990	3,041	3,201	3,080
Horses, Quarters, &c.	9,207	10,930	8,994	9,986	13,153
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs	4,305	4,589	6,517	5,783	10,317
Interest	6,057	6,103	5,752	5,803	5,822
Sinking Fund	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,895	2,895
Miscellaneous	4,332	2,108	4,310	2,884	4,842
Total	52,190	53,763	56,825	57,963	70,171
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c. ... ..	..	405	3,250	2,623	..