

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Legislation. A statement of the provisions of the laws relating to local government appeared in the *Year Book* for 1928-29 on pages 127 to 131.

Building Permits issued. The information furnished by municipal councils in Greater Melbourne relating to the value of building permits issued by them gives a reliable indication of the effect that the economic depression has had on the building industry in recent years.

The value of permits issued for all classes of buildings, *i.e.*, dwellings, other buildings, and alterations and additions to existing buildings, during the period of twelve months ended on 30th September in each of the five years 1928-1932 was as follows :—

Year ended 30th September.					Value of Permits Issued.	Index to Value = 100 in 1928.
1928	..	..	..	..	£ 8,027,886	100
1929	..	..	..	..	7,516,274	93.63
1930	..	..	..	..	3,972,685	49.49
1931	..	..	..	..	1,130,272	14.08
1932	..	..	..	..	2,145,013	26.72

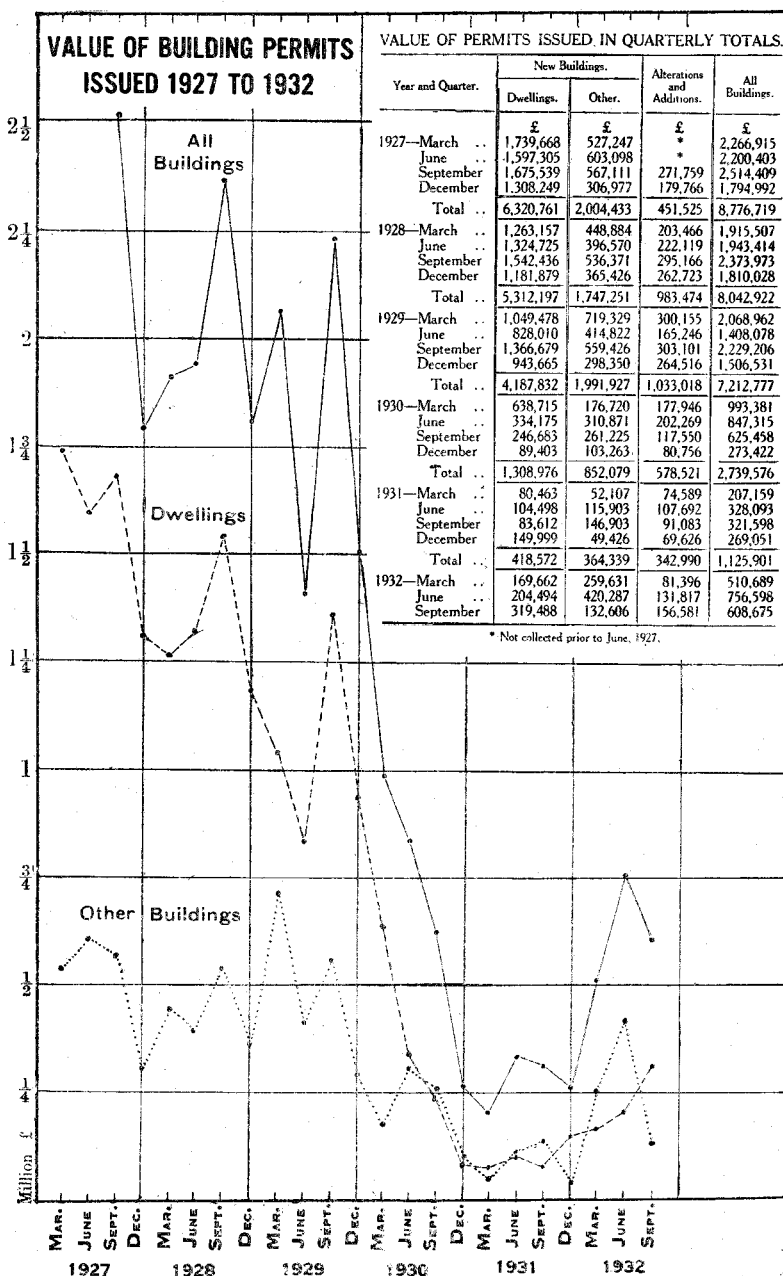
A marked improvement in the condition of the building industry during the period of twelve months ended on the 30th September, 1932, is shown by the increase of £1,014,741 in the value of permits issued in that period compared with the twelve months ended on 30th September, 1931.

In the following statement is shown the value of building permits issued for all buildings by each municipality in Greater Melbourne during each of the five years ended on 30th September in 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932.

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FOR ALL BUILDINGS IN GREATER MELBOURNE DURING THE YEARS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1928 TO 1932.

Name of Municipality.			Year ended 30th September.				
			1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
			£	£	£	£	£
Box Hill	City	..	165,835	167,464	68,712	11,648	17,920
Brighton	"	..	294,821	307,716	134,512	26,378	49,602
Brunswick	"	..	245,450	222,750	178,325	30,042	33,510
Camberwell	"	..	809,568	763,771	399,600	75,866	161,223
Caulfield	"	..	490,753	448,903	206,690	60,850	113,183
Chelsea	"	..	54,824	35,685	35,027	8,727	14,056
Coburg	"	..	478,785	311,425	155,545	28,360	26,997
Collingwood	"	..	122,599	77,206	108,758	24,844	25,641
Essendon	"	..	220,450	171,230	98,485	21,039	29,409
Fitzroy	"	..	89,384	39,239	35,692	27,372	150,350
Footscray	"	..	245,454	238,310	126,583	20,881	43,919
Hawthorn	"	..	200,051	190,865	111,098	29,298	34,632
Kew	"	..	289,716	184,517	132,682	42,551	42,005
Malvern	"	..	311,465	318,553	191,690	50,071	180,886
Melbourne	"	..	1,306,854	1,716,047	771,688	305,839	670,710
Mordialloc	"	..	90,970	80,550	54,095	16,915	20,603
Northcote	"	..	134,736	134,040	67,847	9,903	40,643
Oakleigh	"	..	143,489	111,930	52,034	8,508	7,856
Port Melbourne	"	..	43,810	51,030	40,240	2,015	5,250
Prahran	"	..	258,291	265,341	116,359	109,053	188,188
Preston	"	..	376,969	250,538	130,300	12,824	17,856
Richmond	"	..	73,615	114,135	107,586	18,852	21,320
Sandringham	"	..	189,818	143,972	95,153	23,335	37,082
South Melbourne	"	..	107,469	134,729	57,031	27,124	38,881
St. Kilda	"	..	221,116	224,250	116,157	40,000	107,004
Williamstown	"	..	189,160	108,673	54,150	9,584	6,515
Braybrook Shire (exclusive of Western Riding)	..	..	119,218	92,242	27,798	8,962	11,185
Heidelberg Shire (exclusive of Greensborough Riding)	..	..	268,782	237,131	111,182	64,076	29,333
Moorabbin Shire	..	..	484,434	373,982	187,766	15,355	19,254
Total	..	..	8,027,886	7,516,274	3,972,685	1,130,272	2,145,013
Total number of permits issued	..	..	13,165	11,622	8,467	4,395	4,933

The following graph shows at quarterly rests, from September quarter 1927 to September quarter 1932, the trend of the operations in the building industry. It will be seen that the value of building permits fell quarterly with almost regular rapidity from £2,514,409 in September quarter 1927 to £269,051 in December quarter 1931, and that in March quarter 1932 there was a definite improvement in the volume of business.



Municipalities: The total number of municipalities throughout the State at the end of the year 1931 was 196. Of these, 31 ranked as cities, 4 as towns, 21 as boroughs, and 140 as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated number of ratepayers, the estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), the number of houses built, the total and annual value of rateable property, and the annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years 1926-27 to 1930-31:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1926-27 TO 1930-31.

Year.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Houses built during the year.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
		In- habited.	Unin- habited.		Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—					£	£	£
1926-27 ..	326,412	260,648	2,460	7,180	362,432,238	20,220,172	4,495,764
1927-28 ..	333,364	265,376	3,580	6,063	373,880,729	20,984,591	4,689,716
1928-29 ..	336,756	269,783	6,097	4,961	385,884,089	21,493,990	4,847,572
1929-30 ..	335,892	268,684	8,220	2,536	382,243,226	21,248,548	4,860,697
1930-31 ..	339,842	268,832	8,521	452	351,642,387	19,391,762	4,478,230
Shires—							
1926-27 ..	265,265	153,537	1,852	3,043	274,314,322	13,780,690	2,086,507
1927-28 ..	270,176	156,681	1,777	3,008	288,008,585	14,447,193	2,155,651
1928-29 ..	275,065	158,694	2,207	2,273	294,765,524	14,792,565	2,235,205
1929-30 ..	271,586	159,159	2,691	1,493	294,447,615	14,784,365	2,208,996
1930-31 ..	264,723	158,813	3,139	638	278,253,957	13,971,878	1,984,578
Total—							
1926-27 ..	591,677	414,185	4,312	10,223	636,746,560	34,000,862	6,582,271
1927-28 ..	603,540	422,057	5,357	9,071	661,889,314	35,431,784	6,845,367
1928-29 ..	611,821	428,477	8,304	7,234	680,649,613	36,286,555	7,082,777
1929-30 ..	607,478	427,843	10,971	4,029	676,690,841	36,032,913	7,069,693
1930-31 ..	604,565	427,645	11,660	1,090	629,896,344	33,363,640	6,462,808

The total capital value of rateable property returned for 1930-31 was £629,896,344, which, on the basis of the annual value of £33,363,640, is equivalent to about 18·9 years' purchase.

Properties rated in municipalities. The number of properties upon which the municipalities levied rates increased steadily during the four years 1926-27 to 1929-30, but decreased in 1930-31 by 7,102 compared with 1929-30. The number of rated properties in each of the five years ended in 1931 was as follows:—

**NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES,
1926-27 TO 1930-31.**

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1926-27	384,298	379,812	764,110
1927-28	389,122	388,740	777,862
1928-29	393,622	391,488	785,110
1929-30	395,131	393,196	788,327
1930-31	393,876	387,349	781,225

Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1930-31. The following is a statement of the number of ratepayers, the total and annual value of rateable property, the total revenue, and the amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1930-31.

Name	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			Total.	Annual.	
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
Box Hill	7,918	s. d.	£	£	£
Brighton	7,009	2 8	4,411,040	220,552	88,272
Brunswick	13,842	2 4	10,064,460	503,223	78,670
Camberwell	20,056	0 7*	10,175,670	603,066	197,007
Caulfield	19,862	0 43*	15,975,001	837,111	190,299
Chelsea	5,670	0 4*	17,741,224	911,489	145,992
Coburg	12,450	0 38*	2,041,402	101,446	30,061
Collingwood	7,630	0 5*	8,500,000	396,629	129,829
Essendon	12,597	2 3	8,652,120	432,606	69,273
Fitzroy	7,523	0 5*	10,487,895	615,010	104,507
Footscray	13,100	2 1	6,835,290	455,686	59,606
Hawthorn	8,754	2 6	11,204,620	560,231	191,738
Kew	6,667	2 3	11,021,960	551,098	80,160
Malvern	12,650	2 6	5,611,185	374,079	72,333
Melbourne	31,626	2 5	16,659,960	832,998	134,535
Mordialloc	4,400	2 0	97,661,720	4,883,086	1,324,159
Northcote	11,173	0 4*	2,159,264	137,618	46,270
Oakleigh	4,360	2 7	9,027,040	451,352	145,617
Port Melbourne	3,019	0 5*	2,128,777	129,600	32,712
Prahran	13,478	2 6	1,954,600	156,368	50,653
Preston	18,400	1 9	12,618,396	1,051,533	128,950
Richmond	7,913	2 6	6,544,520	327,226	107,553
Sandringham	9,275	2 7	7,867,335	524,489	90,780
South Melbourne	9,865	0 4*	3,780,285	252,019	55,404
St. Kilda	11,074	2 6	14,682,020	734,101	131,783
Williamstown	6,210	2 0	11,183,520	931,060	112,346
		2 6	5,078,200	253,910	102,959
Total	286,521	..	314,067,504	17,228,486	3,901,968

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1930-31—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue.
			Total.	Annual.	
OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE.					
CITIES.		s. d.	£	£	£
Ballarat	10,087	2 9	5,554,470	370,298	88,560
Bendigo	6,641	2 3	4,177,800	278,520	59,271
Geelong	4,953	2 9	6,076,700	303,835	55,213
Geelong West	3,730	2 9	2,264,540	113,227	25,343
Warrnambool	1,814	2 3	1,795,098	105,594	44,495
TOWNS.					
Hamilton	1,456	2 3	1,385,160	69,258	15,971
Mildura	1,330	2 11	1,442,000	72,100	36,811
Newtown and Chilwell	2,375	0 4 ³ / ₄ *	2,223,108	113,673	17,374
Sale	1,105	2 0	965,620	48,281	10,643
BOROUGHES.					
Ararat	1,040	2 6	785,800	39,290	26,882
Castlemaine	1,387	2 9	904,400	45,220	11,822
Clunes	301	1 9	75,334	10,762	4,343
Creswick	539	1 9	75,410	7,541	2,500
Daylesford	692	3 0	540,040	27,002	7,404
Eaglehawk	1,322	2 6	328,395	21,893	8,700
Echuca	1,040	2 9	922,020	46,101	10,353
Horsham	1,500	2 6	939,930	62,662	21,019
Inglewood	290	2 0	81,240	6,770	3,951
Koroit	380	2 6	406,820	20,341	4,297
Maryborough	1,275	3 0	382,000	38,200	18,530
Port Fairy	518	2 8	439,240	21,962	6,701
Portland	1,124	0 4 ¹ / ₄ *	675,158	38,297	9,514
Queenscliffe	728	2 9	500,000	25,000	5,183
Ringwood	2,032	2 8	1,100,000	55,000	14,033
Sebastopol	498	2 9	207,240	10,362	2,554
Shepparton	900	3 0	1,357,780	67,889	14,685
St. Arnaud	852	2 9	314,280	31,428	10,414
Stawell	1,010	2 9	315,700	31,570	18,650
Wangaratta	1,050	2 9	913,000	45,650	10,613
Wonthaggi	1,352	3 0	426,600	35,550	10,433
Total	53,321	..	37,574,883	2,163,276	576,262

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

SHIRES, 1930-31.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			Total.	Annual.	
		s. d.	£	£	£
Alberton	1,426	2 6	2,383,360	119,168	18,391
Alexandra	858	2 0	1,267,660	63,883	9,181
Arapiles	651	1 6	1,148,580	57,429	4,028
Ararat	1,600	1 6	4,480,000	224,000	21,970
Avoca	1,317	2 3	855,220	42,761	5,967
Avon	859	1 9	1,499,220	74,961	8,318
Bacchus Marsh	858	1 9	1,478,680	73,984	11,841
Bairnsdale	2,440	1 6	3,008,000	150,400	19,580
Ballan	1,050	2 0	1,305,180	65,259	8,087
Ballarat	1,090	1 6	1,514,820	75,741	7,885
Bannockburn	734	2 0	1,167,140	58,357	6,717
Barrabool	810	2 0	1,181,200	58,060	7,034
Bass	2,200	3 0	1,410,940	70,547	12,752
Beechworth	1,403	2 0	607,680	37,980	13,106
Belfast	690	1 10	1,480,000	74,000	9,139
Bellarine	2,051	1 9	1,400,480	70,024	7,444
Benalla	2,609	1 9	3,528,860	176,443	26,614
Berwick	3,725	2 3	3,368,680	168,434	21,744
Bet Bet	1,245	1 6	860,540	43,027	5,762
Birchip	501	1 6	1,326,100	66,305	3,238
Blackburn and Mitcham	3,454	2 10	2,167,600	108,380	22,305
Borung	1,583	1 3	3,323,040	166,152	14,899
Braybrook	9,750	2 0	3,309,360	165,468	32,643
Bright	1,372	2 6	799,740	39,987	7,087
Broadford	475	1 6	532,000	26,600	4,159
Broadmeadows	14,897	1 9	2,884,220	144,211	22,942
Bulla	491	2 0	1,693,520	83,926	5,430
Buln Buln	1,660	2 9	1,691,760	84,588	13,769
Bungaree	450	1 9	680,520	33,026	4,173
Buninyong	1,633	1 6	1,406,740	73,337	8,171
Charlton	820	1 6	1,952,960	97,648	7,790
Chiltern	629	1 6	688,260	34,413	3,475
Cohuna	722	1 9	1,019,860	50,953	6,782
Colac	3,143	1 7	6,022,640	301,132	40,645
Corio	5,610	2 3	2,317,180	115,859	20,548
Cranbourne	2,250	2 6	2,696,420	134,821	18,087
Creswick	847	1 6	1,212,720	60,636	5,169
Dandenong	9,000	0 2½*	2,909,600	145,480	28,577
Deakin	1,194	1 6	1,907,360	95,368	7,557
Dimboola	1,600	1 6	2,748,700	137,435	17,070
Donald	998	1 9	2,371,040	118,552	10,919
Doncaster and Templestowe	1,843	2 0	1,175,120	58,756	15,697
Dundas	1,345	2 0	2,766,680	138,334	17,723
Dunmunkle	1,160	1 3	3,217,240	160,862	17,706
East Loddon	485	1 3	1,569,560	78,478	4,635
Eltham	1,550	2 6	1,333,760	66,688	15,155
Ennua	1,160	1 9	1,756,080	87,804	9,691
Ferntree Gully	6,500	3 0	3,174,000	158,700	28,452
Flinders	5,500	1 9	2,105,220	105,261	19,819
Frankston and Hastings	4,783	3 0	2,365,060	118,263	29,219
Gisborne	901	1 9	846,200	42,310	7,092
Glenelg	1,800	1 9	3,143,140	157,157	17,240
Glenlyon	1,466	1 9	1,026,000	51,300	5,441
Gordon	930	1 3	2,068,800	103,440	6,887
Goulburn	635	1 6	1,137,520	56,876	6,478
Grenville	1,204	1 9	869,100	57,940	9,868
Hampden	2,462	2 3	5,970,520	298,526	49,088

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1930-31—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue.
			Total.	Annual.	
		s. d.	£	£	£
Healesville	1,160	3 0	789,040	39,452	12,843
Heidelberg	13,460	2 6	6,572,960	328,648	154,285
Heytesbury	1,156	2 4	2,200,260	110,013	14,657
Huntly	1,068	1 6	1,260,640	63,032	5,486
Kara Kara	1,034	1 6	2,174,000	108,700	9,634
Karakaroo	1,330	1 6	2,538,620	126,931	14,073
Keilor	6,576	1 9	1,728,040	86,402	12,275
Kerang	2,115	1 3	4,314,940	215,747	27,160
Kilmore	569	1 9	419,700	27,980	5,039
Korong	1,586	1 6	2,053,400	102,670	11,716
Korumburra	2,065	2 0	2,671,060	133,553	24,560
Kowree	1,159	1 6	2,054,840	102,742	9,873
Kyneton	2,245	1 9	1,966,160	98,308	19,039
Lawloit	680	1 8	1,296,300	86,420	10,874
Leigh	500	1 4	1,254,880	62,744	5,041
Lexton	528	1 6	964,840	48,242	4,431
Lillydale	4,060	3 0	2,572,560	128,628	26,029
Lowan	1,320	1 7	2,728,860	136,443	17,338
Maffra	1,500	1 6	2,667,000	133,350	16,901
Maldon	1,058	1 6	766,300	38,315	3,552
Mansfield	1,200	1 10	1,803,780	90,189	10,625
Marong	1,400	1 6	2,247,140	112,357	10,540
Melton	460	1 6	990,820	49,541	5,247
Metcalfe	1,000	1 6	890,600	44,530	4,398
Mildura	3,170	1 9	5,104,260	255,213	25,196
Minhamite	737	2 6	1,598,780	79,939	10,389
Mirboo	400	3 0	665,820	33,291	6,684
Moorabbin	7,516	2 6	4,786,480	239,324	68,705
Mornington	2,742	2 3	1,358,220	67,911	14,378
Mortlake	918	1 9	3,587,260	179,363	19,206
Morwell	1,170	2 9	1,322,440	66,122	11,303
Mount Rouse	750	1 6	2,608,640	130,432	12,219
Mulgrave	4,117	2 6	2,123,680	106,184	13,075
McIvor	902	1 6	1,196,000	59,800	8,206
Narracan	1,496	2 3	2,229,200	111,460	15,648
Newham and Woodend	695	2 0	744,000	37,200	6,608
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	803	1 9	592,940	29,647	3,969
Numurkah	1,147	1 3	2,823,580	141,179	16,260
Omco	780	2 6	989,080	49,454	8,893
Orbost	1,093	2 6	1,286,000	64,300	11,076
Otway	1,100	3 0	943,440	47,172	7,609
Oxley	1,075	2 0	1,471,640	73,582	9,336
Phillip Island	416	2 3	476,180	23,809	4,915
Portland	2,100	1 6	2,360,000	118,000	12,123
Pyalong	267	1 9	441,435	29,429	2,712
Ripon	1,000	1 9	2,503,380	125,169	15,407
Rochester	1,702	1 6	2,987,300	149,305	14,832
Rodney	1,983	2 0	3,970,460	198,523	25,231
Romsey	860	1 9	1,272,360	63,618	7,794
Rosedale	1,251	0 1½*	3,300,000	165,000	10,472
Rutherglen	797	1 10	1,156,600	57,830	7,952
Seymour	1,114	1 6	1,460,760	73,038	13,974
Shepparton	1,301	2 0	2,457,020	122,851	15,856
South Barwon	2,483	2 6	1,323,820	66,191	12,267
South Gippsland	1,207	3 0	1,393,320	69,666	11,432
Stawell	1,102	1 6	2,300,000	115,000	8,178
Strathfieldsaye	949	1 6	647,500	32,375	3,960
Swan Hill	4,125	1 6	5,537,760	276,888	29,113
Talbot	580	1 6	569,900	28,495	3,283
Tambo	1,079	2 9	1,262,600	63,130	9,734
Towong	1,212	2 0	1,973,800	98,690	11,453
Traralgon	750	2 3	1,185,480	59,274	12,337
Tullaroop	651	1 9	903,800	45,190	4,709

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1930-31—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			Total.	Annual.	
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£
Tungamah	1,326	1 6	2,758,380	137,919	12,691
Upper Murray	519	1 9	1,255,360	62,768	6,708
Upper Yarra	1,440	3 0	900,000	45,000	9,240
Violet Town	860	1 9	1,037,620	51,881	6,750
Walpeup	1,750	1 6	2,322,820	116,141	10,884
Wangaratta	902	1 6	960,080	48,004	4,697
Wannon	1,048	1 6	2,530,520	126,526	10,616
Waranga	1,573	2 0	1,885,000	94,250	14,428
Warragul	1,359	3 0	2,088,300	104,415	18,164
Warrnambool	1,991	1 7	5,385,600	266,780	30,113
Werribee	11,000	2 3	2,688,560	134,428	24,348
Whittlesea	1,328	2 0	1,810,580	90,529	10,497
Wimmera	1,060	1 0	3,224,000	161,200	8,994
Winchelsea	1,202	2 0	1,970,440	98,522	15,241
Wodonga	721	1 9	950,640	47,532	6,213
Woorayl	1,800	2 9	2,269,680	113,484	21,602
Wycheproof	1,314	1 3	3,139,000	159,950	12,698
Yackandandah	984	2 0	1,213,940	60,697	6,776
Yarrowonga	650	2 0	1,501,000	75,050	10,087
Yea	708	0 2½*	1,234,182	62,851	10,305
Total	264,723	..	278,253,957	13,971,878	1,984,578

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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,
1928-29 TO 1930-31.

Sources of Revenue.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates	3,925,207	3,914,438	3,578,517
Licences	93,576	94,915	96,147
Dog Fees	30,445	29,966	26,303
Government Endowment and Grants	143,987	149,372	202,630*
Licensing Fund Payments	61,836	61,394	61,272
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	326,457	354,732	304,322
Market and Weighbridge Dues	142,968	144,363	133,138
Sanitary Charges	199,516	188,927	165,727
Rents	149,570	155,187	143,554
Electric Light and Gas Works	1,323,422	1,315,225	1,218,092
Other Sources	685,793	661,174	533,106
Total	7,082,777	7,069,693	6,462,808

* Including grants for unemployment relief, £146,629, but excluding government endowment, as the *Municipal Endowment (Temporary Discontinuance) Act 1930* provides for its non-payment for the year 1930-31.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1928-29 TO 1930-31—*continued*.

Heads of Expenditure.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£
Salaries, &c. 	469,036	474,348	425,228
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ..	498,729	496,793	432,325
Lighting 	179,167	190,395	183,357
Health Administration 	87,858	118,736	115,464
Contributions to Fire Brigades 	73,278	73,880	69,382
Public Works—			
Construction 	426,736	371,776	272,718
Maintenance 	2,148,727	2,107,164	1,828,870
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ..	484,388	473,753	158,916
Electric Light and Gas Works 	947,504	989,328	858,338
Redemption of Loans 	344,784	396,711	469,507
Interest on Loans 	648,105	720,868	772,096
Interest on Bank Overdrafts 	83,429	68,395	73,674
Charities 	43,599	39,773	48,389
Other Expenditure 	778,632	783,025	743,833
Total 	7,213,972	7,304,945	6,452,097

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-five per cent. of municipal revenue in 1931 was derived from rates, 19 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from government grants, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from sanitary charges, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 2 per cent. from rents, and 9 per cent. from all other sources.

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, 1928-29 TO 1930-31.

Assets.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	424,366	592,591	930,396
Streets formed, &c., payments outstanding	841,731	848,215	1,334,953
Rents and Interest outstanding	21,073	20,515	25,805
Cash in hand or in Bank	437,203	409,427	541,461
Other Assets	387,629	379,635	344,215
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	697,793	617,692	547,412
Arrears Due	99	364	264
Due by other Municipalities	80,571	77,976	70,372
Unexpended Balances	750,761	534,595	361,825
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, Tramways, &c.	5,318,200	5,561,540	5,381,110
Waterworks	390,440	422,500	417,710
Gasworks	234,810	208,900	255,740
Electric Light Works	2,549,340	2,501,760	2,596,270
Plant and Machinery	599,960	669,540	667,540
Other Assets	186,290	211,010	200,670
Total Assets	12,920,266	13,056,260	13,675,743
Liabilities.			
Municipal Fund—			
Due on Current Contracts	128,795	74,295	40,943
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	99	364	264
Overdue Interest	6,340	8,545	18,901
Bank Overdrafts	963,850	1,024,753	1,111,189
Other Liabilities	1,026,424	1,091,057	1,040,833
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	13,345,104	13,915,019	13,639,135
Due on Loan Contracts	118,025	97,878	39,995
„ to other Municipalities	80,571	77,976	70,372
Total Liabilities.. ..	15,669,208	16,289,887	15,961,632

ENDOWMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

A statement relating to the payment of endowments and subsidies to municipalities from 1874 to 1928 appeared on page 142 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

The endowments paid to municipalities in the years 1929 and 1930 are shown in the *Year-Books* of 1929-30 and 1930-31.

The *Municipal Endowment (Temporary Discontinuance Act) 1930* provides for the discontinuance of the payment of endowment to municipalities for the year 1931.

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

The provisions of the law relating to Rating on Unimproved Values appeared on pages 143 and 144 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

Since the year 1926-27, the number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the unimproved value has remained unchanged

at 14. 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 1931-32:—

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1931-32.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Payable in 1931 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
CITIES, TOWNS, and BOROUGHs.	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
<i>Greater Melbourne.</i>							
Brunswick City ..	10,175,670	2,825,253	603,066	0 7	2 8½	82,403	27·76
Camberwell City ..	15,975,001	5,426,529	837,111	0 4½	2 5½	101,747	33·97
Caulfield City ..	17,741,224	5,558,064	911,489	0 4	2 0½	92,634	31·33
Chelsea City ..	2,041,402	1,037,559	101,446	0 3½*	3 1	15,671	50·83
Coburg City ..	8,500,000	2,299,714	396,629	0 5	2 5	47,911	27·06
Essendon City ..	10,487,895	3,360,808	615,010	0 5	2 3½	70,017	32·04
Mordialloc City ..	2,159,264	1,238,031	137,618	0 4	3 0	20,634	57·34
Oakleigh City ..	2,128,777	924,583	129,600	0 5	2 11½	19,262	43·43
Sandringham City ..	3,780,285	1,955,652	252,019	0 4	2 7	32,594	51·73
<i>Outside Greater Melbourne.</i>							
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	2,223,108	665,941	113,673	0 4½	2 4½	13,527	29·93
Portland Borough ..	675,158	240,152	38,297	0 4½	2 2½	4,253	35·57
SHIRES.							
Dandenong ..	2,909,600	1,402,700	145,480	0 2½†	2 0	14,611	48·21
Rosedale ..	3,300,000	1,752,600	165,000	0 1½†	1 1½	9,128	53·11
Yea ..	1,234,182	600,773	62,851	0 2½	2 0	6,258	48·68

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

* ½d. in the Centre and North Waris.

† ¾d. in the Centre Riding and 1d. in the South Riding.

‡ 4½d. in the township of Rosedale, ½d. in Rosedale Riding, and 1½d. on Callignee Land,

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 *inter alia* the construction or alteration of streets, roads and bridges, and the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric-light works, and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, workers' dwellings, baths, and pleasure grounds.

The amount of money borrowed at any time for permanent works or undertakings shall, except so far as it is otherwise expressly enacted, not exceed ten times the average income of the municipality for the previous three years from general rates not exceeding 2s. in the £1. But, in addition, loans having a currency of not more than 30 years may be raised for permanent works or undertakings 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.

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1930-31 was £13,639,135, an increase of £611,450 compared with the year 1929-30. In the following table is shown the amount of the loans due to the Government and to the public at the end of 1930-31.

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1930-31.

	Due to the Government.	Due to the Public	Total.
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ...	664,601	10,242,050	10,906,651
Shires	188,933	2,543,551	2,732,484
Total	853,534	12,785,601	13,639,135

Municipal Loan Expenditure, 1926-27 to 1930-31. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1930-31 amounted to £802,375, which was less than half the average yearly loan expenditure of the previous four years. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1926-27 TO 1930-31.

Year.	Loan Receipts from—			Loan Expenditure.	Amount of Loans Unexpended at end of year.
	Government.	Public.	Total.		
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHs—	£	£	£	£	£
1926-27.. ..	21,255	1,323,069	1,344,324	1,243,966	506,217
1927-28.. ..	10,078	1,254,368	1,264,446	1,337,888	433,996
1928-29.. ..	10,000	1,554,904	1,564,904	1,494,844	554,027
1929-30.. ..	..	945,713	945,713	1,088,913	439,043
1930-31.. ..	..	545,329	545,329	684,921	307,847
SHIRES—					
1926-27.. ..	..	447,231	447,231	455,641	129,554
1927-28.. ..	2,026	442,827	444,853	418,594	163,125
1928-29.. ..	321	422,050	422,371	399,014	196,734
1929-30.. ..	953	247,964	248,917	344,679	95,552
1930-31.. ..	10,579	56,453	67,032	117,454	53,978
TOTAL—					
1926-27.. ..	21,255	1,770,300	1,791,555	1,699,607	635,771
1927-28.. ..	12,104	1,697,195	1,709,299	1,756,482	597,121
1928-29.. ..	10,321	1,976,954	1,987,275	1,893,858	750,761
1929-30.. ..	953	1,193,677	1,194,630	1,433,592	534,595
1930-31.. ..	10,579	601,782	612,361	802,375	361,825

Length of
Roads and
Streets.

The following table shows the length of all roads and streets in the State in the year 1931 :—

LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS, 1931.

Roads and Streets.	Cities, Towns and Boroughs—		Shires.	Total.
	In Greater Melbourne.	Outside Greater Melbourne.		
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Wood or Stone Paving ..	90	28	47	165
Bitumen or Concrete ..	324	215	1,302	1,841
Tar-paving, Metal or Gravel ..	1,481	734	19,060	21,275
Formed but not metalled or otherwise prepared ..	35	182	25,207	25,424
Surveyed but not formed ..	476	301	53,498	54,275
Total	2,406	1,460	99,114	102,980

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 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 of the Fund during the year 1931-32 amounted to £61,324, and were made up of contributions by municipalities, £52,947, and realizations of stock, £8,377; the amount expended from the Fund was £61,324, of which £55,121 was used for the redemption of municipal loans and £6,203 in payment of interest on the debit balance of the Fund.

Section 71 of Act No. 2995 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, 1932, was £37,525.

The total receipts of the Fund to the 30th June, 1932, amounted to £1,692,334. The payments out of the Fund were—Redemption of Municipal Loans, £1,011,106; Payment to the Treasury in reduction of Municipal Liabilities, £604,180; Interest, £77,038; and Sundries, £10.

Licensing
Fund.

During the year 1931-32 a sum of £60,868 was paid out of this Fund to municipalities, as provided by Section 311 of the *Licensing Act* 1928. The payments to Cities amounted to £29,905, to Towns, £866, to Boroughs, £6,760, and to Shires, £23,337.

**Municipal
Officers
Fidelity
Guarantee
Fund.**

A statement giving the provisions of the Act under which this fund was incorporated appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 on page 163.

The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1931, was £1,099, for guarantees amounting to £326,850. The claims paid from January, 1908, the date of the inception of the fund, to 30th September, 1931, amounted to £3,986. The amount to the credit of the fund at 30th September, 1931, was £19,193.

**Incorporation
of Melbourne
and Geelong.**

Melbourne and Geelong are incorporated under special statutes and are not subject to the Local Government Acts except in a few unimportant provisions. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was proclaimed a city in 1847. Geelong was incorporated as a town in 1849, and proclaimed a city in 1910.

**Erection of
Dwelling
Houses by
Municipalities.**

Power is given under Part XXVIII. of the *Local Government Act* 1928 to Councils to erect or purchase dwelling-houses for persons of small means at a cost not exceeding £850, including the cost of the land, if the dwelling be of wood, or £950 if it be of brick, stone, or concrete.

A full statement is given on pages 147 and 148 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 of the statutory powers and duties of municipalities in regard to housing.

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.

The Housing and Reclamation Act of 1920 and the amending Acts of 1922 and 1927 were repealed when the Statutes were consolidated in 1928, and the powers given to the Commissioners under these Acts are now embodied in Part III., Division 4, of the *State Savings Bank Act* 1928. Power is given to the Commissioners to provide dwelling-houses for eligible persons upon such terms and subject to such covenants and conditions as are prescribed or are fixed by the Commissioners. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house in Victoria or elsewhere and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year at the time of entering into the contract of sale. The total capital cost to the Commissioners of any

dwelling-house acquired or erected together with the cost of the land on which it is erected shall not exceed £1,000 if the dwelling-house be of wood and £1,300 if it be of brick, stone, or concrete.

The number of houses erected up to 30th June, 1932, under the provisions of the abovementioned Acts was 7,380.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, the State Savings Bank Commissioners had, up to 30th June, 1932, entered into contracts for the erection of 3,748 War Service Homes buildings, all of which have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 427 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 31 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912. The provisions of this Act and of subsequent amending Acts are now embodied in the *Country Roads Act* 1928. The Board consists of three members appointed by the Governor in Council.

Duties. The principal 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.

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.

The total cost of permanent works is, in the first instance, paid by the Treasury, but, subsequently, half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. The amount of the municipal contribution toward the cost of maintenance works is one-third of the amount expended.

Finance.

The funds established under the *Country Roads Act 1928* are the Country Roads Board Fund, the Loan Account, and the Developmental Roads Loan Account.

A statement of the moneys to be credited to the Country Roads Board Fund by Acts of Parliament appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 139.

The receipts and expenditure of that Fund for each of the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 were as follows:—

	1930-31.	1931-32.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£
Payments by Municipalities	311,371	314,070
Fees Motor Car Act	1,059,194	1,058,490
Fees Registration of Traction Engines	1,915	1,673
Fees Motor Omnibus Act	3,791	3,657
Stores and Material	126,882	106,167
Hire of Plant	38,437	22,279
Other Receipts (advance from Public Account advances for unemployment relief and other works, &c.) ..	275,641	41,196
TOTAL	1,817,231	1,547,532
<i>Expenditure.</i>		
Maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways	831,178	647,422
Interest and sinking fund, plant, stores, administration, &c. ..	740,908	700,691
Repayment to Public Account	100,000	..
Transfer to Revenue .. .. .	..	150,000
Road Construction—		
To relieve unemployment	146,421	7,428
Under migrants' grant	56	..
Migration development roads	4,086	..
Extension of Great Ocean Road	497	524
Tourist Vote	343	..
Other Expenditure	16,714	12,318
TOTAL	1,840,203	1,518,383

The balance to the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1931. was £704, and at 30th June, 1932, £29,854.

The money received from the issue of stock or debentures under the authority of section 32 of the *Country Roads Act 1928* is placed to the credit of the Loan Account, and the Account is debited with all payments made towards the cost of permanent road works. Proceeds of loans amounted to £78,281 during the year 1930-31 and to £7,000 for the year 1931-32, and the payments for permanent works were £54,861 in 1930-31 and £16,700 during 1931-32. The credit balance of the Account at 30th June, 1932, was £3,629.

The Developmental Roads Loan Account is credited with money received from the issue of stock and debentures issued under the authority of Section 85 of the *Country Roads Act 1928*, and is debited with expenditure in connexion with the construction of developmental roads. Proceeds of loans amounted to £248,696 during the year 1930-31 and to £68,300 for the year 1931-32, and expenditure on developmental road works was £155,136 for the year 1930-31 and £81,967 during 1931-32. There was a balance of £2,022 to the debit of the Account on 30th June, 1932.

The following is a summary of the total expenditure by the Board on road construction during each of the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 :—

—						1930-31.	1931-32.
						£	£
State Highways—							
Construction						379,862†	265,250†
Maintenance and re-conditioning							
Total State Highways						379,862	235,250
Main Roads—							
Construction						61,640†	31,425†
Maintenance						613,729	422,927†
Total Main Roads						675,369	454,352
Developmental Roads—							
Construction						224,493†	159,605†
Unemployment Relief						171,428	14,683
Roads to develop tourist resorts						343	..
Migration grant—Childers Settlement Road						56	..
Migration—Developmental roads						4,086	..
Great Ocean Road						497	524
Grants to municipalities, Act 3662						38,840	39,535
Federal unemployment relief						143,128	3,296
Federal Trust						16,714	12,318
Experimental roads						1,458	1,892
TOTAL						1,656,274	951,455

† Including amounts contributed by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Federal Aid Roads Act.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Creation and
constitution
of Board.

The Board was established by Act of Parliament on 20th December, 1890, and entered upon its duties on 18th March, 1891.

It consists of 40 members, of whom one is the chairman. The other thirty-nine members, who are called commissioners, are from

time to time elected by the councils of the various municipal districts within the metropolis. They represent 22 municipalities or parts of municipalities.

Functions of the Board. The principal functions of the Board are to control and manage the metropolitan water supply system, and to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage.

Area under Board's control, and population. All land within 13 miles of the Post Office at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth streets, Melbourne, together with the remaining areas of the City of Mordialloc and the Shire of Moorabbin and a further portion of the Shire of Dandenong, but excluding 11 square miles in the Shires of Keilor and Braybrook under the control of the Keilor and St. Albans Waterworks Trust, is included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes. This territory has an area of 434 square miles, and comprises 25 cities, 1 shire, and parts of 12 other shires. The total number of houses connected with the water supply system on 30th June, 1932, was 254,758, an increase of 1,640 for the year; and the estimated population supplied with water was 1,128,578.

Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans. The Board is empowered to borrow £22,750,000, 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.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £24,944,984 on 30th June, 1932. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £194,950 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

Water supply assessments and rates. 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 value of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1931-32 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.

Assessed value of property. The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £18,845,617 in 1930-31, and £18,423,295 in 1931-32.

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

During the year 1931-32 water rates and charges amounted to £721,839, meter rents to £45,462, and the total water supply revenue to £772,271, as against a total of £771,655 in 1930-31. Maintenance and repairs in 1931-32 cost £83,924, management and incidental expenses were £36,538, interest was £545,031, and the total charges were £665,493, as compared with £682,797 in the previous year.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1932, was as follows:—

	£
Original water supply works, tank, pumping station, &c.	84,885
Yan Yean system	658,177
Maroondah system	1,694,108
O'Shannassy system	2,844,811
Service reservoirs	566,437
Large mains.. .. .	2,466,855
Reticulation	2,680,744
Afforestation	26,748
Thompson River Scheme	129
Investigations, future works	3,764
Total	<u>£11,026,658</u>

THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS.

A description of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Waterworks (Yan Yean, Maroondah, and O'Shannassy systems) appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 169 to 171.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1931.

Output of Water.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1931 was as follows:—

	Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	3,345,006,000
„ Maroondah Reservoir	10,181,850,000
„ O'Shannassy River and Silvan No. 1	8,423,385,000
Total Output	<u>21,950,241,000</u>

Storage and service reservoirs.

There are five storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 23,351,305,000 gallons, nineteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), and three elevated tanks, with a total capacity of 249,200,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, one other service reservoir. 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 1931 was 1,121,313, and the average daily consumption was 53.71 gallons per head. Some districts which are outside the Board's area are supplied with water. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1931 :—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1931.

Month.				Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
				Gallons.	Gallons.
January	..	..	..	2,244,249,000	72,395,129
February	..	..	..	2,343,566,000	83,698,786
March	..	..	..	1,733,810,000	55,925,355
April	..	..	..	1,458,959,000	48,631,967
May	..	..	..	1,445,263,000	46,621,387
June	..	..	..	1,317,549,000	43,918,300
July	..	..	..	1,464,532,000	47,242,967
August	..	..	..	1,483,474,000	47,854,000
September	..	..	..	1,536,299,000	51,209,967
October	..	..	..	2,087,672,000	67,344,258
November	..	..	..	2,102,009,000	70,066,966
December	..	..	..	2,767,263,000	89,266,548
Total for the year				21,984,645,000	..
Daily average for the year 1931 ..				..	60,231,904

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1931 occurred on 12th February, and the minimum daily consumption on 28th June of that year. The consumption was 118,414,000 gallons on the former and 38,330,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1927 TO 1931.

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied 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.	
1927 ..	1,028,983	232,276	208,003	57,738,000	56.11
1928 ..	1,060,325	239,351	216,785	55,314,000	52.16
1929 ..	1,084,592	244,829	223,324	56,730,000	52.30
1930 ..	1,108,492	250,224	230,941	61,202,000	55.21
1931 ..	1,121,313	253,118	234,600	60,232,000	53.71

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 2,894 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1931.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts. The Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 on the net annual value of properties in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for the year 1931-32 was 11d. in the £1. The total annual value of property in the Board's area in 1931-32 was £19,319,569, of which £18,247,237 was liable to the sewerage rate, the balance being the value of property in unsewered districts.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1931-32 amounted to £842,201.

The sewerage revenue for 1931-32 was £875,665, as against £906,056 in the previous year. The charges against the Sewerage Revenue Account were cost of management and incidental expenses £27,747, maintenance and repairs £114,612, and interest £681,378, making the total charges £823,737, as compared with £858,323 in 1930-31.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1932, was £12,731,484, divided as follows:—

	£
Farm purchase and preparation	1,141,214
Treatment works	121,891
Outfall Sewer and Rising Mains	472,670
Pumping stations buildings and plant	326,439
Main and branch sewers	2,896,972
Street reticulation	3,677,565
Reticulation of rights-of-way	2,575,957
House connexions branches	779,531
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	677,774
Sanitary depots	61,471
Cost of sewerage system	£12,731,484
Householders' debts for house connexions	387,134
Total	£13,118,618

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 REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 30TH JUNE, 1932.

On the 30th June, 1932, the Sewerage System was completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon and Brunswick.

The Sewerage System was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Caulfield, Malvern, the older parts of Footscray and Box Hill (the latter being formerly known as Nunawading), and the thickly populated portions of Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown, while considerable progress had been made in the municipalities of Heidelberg, Oakleigh, Sandringham and Moorabbin.

During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1932, work has progressed in Camberwell, Moorabbin, Braybrook, Box Hill, Oakleigh, and Preston.

In all 2,168 miles 65 chains of reticulation and 219 miles 77 chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, and, adding the rising mains and outfall sewer (a length of 24 miles 59 chains), this makes a total length of 2,413 miles 41 chains of sewers.

The estimated population served by the sewerage system on the 30th June, 1932, was 1,048,315.

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

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1931.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1931, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 235,174, including 593 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1931, 396 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 1,702 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1931 :—

**NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.**

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1931.
Melbourne City	27,562
South Melbourne City	10,972
Prahran City	12,970
Fitzroy City	8,157
Richmond City	10,562
St. Kilda City	9,762
Collingwood City	8,778
Footscray City	10,503
Hawthorn City	8,333
Brunswick City	13,048
Essendon City	11,998
Malvern City	10,568
Caulfield City	15,906
Northcote City	9,993
Camberwell City	12,438
Brighton City	7,096
Port Melbourne City	3,287
Williamstown City	5,503
Kew City	5,508
Coburg City	7,482
Sandringham City	4,160
Preston City	6,041
Oakleigh City	2,571
Box Hill City	2,780
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	5,188
Moorabbin Shire	2,739
Werribee Shire (part of)	16
Mulgrave Shire (part of)	9
Keilor Shire (part of)	132
Broadmeadows Shire (part of)	208
Braybrook Shire (part of)	4
Total	235,174

PUMPING STATIONS.

The Pumping Stations are described on pages 177 and 178 of the *Year Book* for 1928-29.

The total volume of sewage pumped at the Spotswood Pumping Station during the year 1931-32 was 15,827,650,000 gallons—equal to 43,244,945 gallons per day, as against a total of 15,454,020,000 gallons, with a daily average of 42,339,780 for the previous year.

The unit cost of raising 1,000 gallons 100 feet was ·398d. as compared with ·443d. for the preceding year.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

A description of this farm is given on pages 178 and 179 of the *Year Book* for 1928-29.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable revenue is derived from the grazing operations. The principal sources of income are from breeding of beef cattle and export lambs, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment.

The revenue from grazing for the year 1931-32 totalled £17,655, made up as follows:—

	£
Net profits from cattle	10,691
„ „ „ sheep	3,474
Agistment of horses	3,490
Total ..	<u>17,655</u>

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE AND RIVERS FINANCE.

Under the provisions of Part VIII. of the Act, which relates to Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers, the Board is empowered to levy a Metropolitan Drainage and River Improvement Rate.

Improvement Rate not exceeding 1d. in the £1 in respect of the properties in the metropolis rateable to any municipality. The rate was first levied on 1st July, 1927, and has remained at 1d. in the £1.

The total annual value of property assessed for Drainage and River purposes and liable to the 1d. in the £1 rate was £19,864,751.

For 1931-32 the total revenue was £86,016, as against £89,475 in the previous year. The cost in 1931-32 of maintenance, management, and working expenses was £16,735, and the interest charges were £59,545, the total charges being £76,280. In 1930-31 the cost of maintenance, management, and working expenses amounted to £15,151, interest to £59,097 and the total expenditure to £74,248.

The total cost of Drainage and River Improvement works to 30th June, 1932, was £1,063,068.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Port of Melbourne is under the control of the Trust. Particulars relating to the Trade of the Port are published in part "Interchange." The *Year-Book* for 1929-30 contains on page 145 a statement showing the powers and functions of this Trust, also information relating to the Commissioners and the borrowing power of the Trust. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each year 1927 to 1931. The loan indebtedness as at the end of each of the five years is also shown :—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1927 TO 1931.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	716,193	625,907	671,288	512,721	331,689
Rents	37,521	36,885	29,662	29,787	29,195
Interest	43	2,149	3,901	12,611	5,346
Other Revenue	63,287	62,994	76,588	63,772	53,682
	817,044	727,935	781,439	618,891	419,912
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	148,282	143,648	145,948	135,171	83,005
Total	668,762	584,287	635,491	483,720	336,907
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Management Expenses	58,385	53,765	60,342	66,484	58,792
Loan Flotation Expenses, &c. ..	8	3,500	4,188	3,825	126,708†
Maintenance—Dredging	74,884	49,258	45,315	21,801	3,007
" Harbor	6,357	5,587	6,115	4,766	1,840
" Wharfs	49,852	59,775	53,298	29,783	11,640
" Approaches	17,587	22,884	18,539	16,743	4,518
Interest on Loans*	144,513	167,489	183,638	208,602	240,419
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	213,000	213,000	213,000	120,000	..
Total	564,586	575,258	584,435	472,004	446,924
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	104,176	9,029	51,056	11,716	..
Deficit on Revenue Account ..	..	..	..	..	110,017
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Land and Property	20,144	10,869	9,587	117,652	111,992
Deepening Waterways	204,536	261,634	231,884	168,515	57,203
Wharfs Construction	246,587	161,235	139,203	201,186	36,666
Approaches Construction	35,619	78,249	49,933	12,677	16,718
Other Harbor Improvements ..	15,735	17,253	9,716	8,297	1,723
Floating and General Plant	130,735	3,461	14,729	34,188	106,726
Total	653,356	532,701	455,052	542,515	331,028
Loan Indebtedness	3,255,689	3,726,800	3,904,836	4,220,807	4,410,100

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

† Includes £112,488 exchange on moneys remitted to London for redemption of loan.

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

The Port of Geelong is under the control of the Trust. Particulars relating to the Trade of the Port are published in part "Interchange." A short statement in regard to the constitution and borrowing powers of this Trust appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 147. The following is a summary of the ordinary receipts and expenditure for each year 1927 to 1931. Capital expenditure during, and loan indebtedness at end of, each of the five years is also shown :—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage, Tonnage and Special Berth Rates	38,860	30,721	45,724	42,191	36,343
Rents, Fees, and Licences	10,204	7,159	6,906	13,835	7,345
Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	12,498	8,000	8,000	8,082	8,098
Other Revenue	4,069	11,531	5,685	20,522	2,550
Total	65,631	57,411	66,315	84,630	54,336
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
Management Expenses	7,413	7,595	10,330	8,509	8,517
Maintenance	58,942	14,803	17,957	14,001	11,393
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	24,818	26,026	27,226	28,516	27,768*
Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	4,682	4,405	5,760	5,620	5,404
Miscellaneous	4,093	2,228	2,800	983	2,706
Total	99,948	55,057	64,073	57,629	55,788
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	4,572	2,693	5,636	6,174	5,606
Deepening Waterworks	3,554	9,434	948	123	..
Wharfs and Approaches	17,044	84,694	9,227	6,930	245
Other	3,995	667	2,028	2,562	3,176
Total	29,165	97,488	17,839	15,789	9,027
Loan Indebtedness	599,717	622,806	634,887	621,314	616,161

* The amount of unpaid interest to the State Treasury on loans was, at 30th June, 1932, £250,451.

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, and the Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920.

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 42,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, which have a total storage capacity of 2,215,558,000 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £653,347. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £301,158 as at 31st December, 1931. The revenue for the year 1931 was £34,755.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1931, is £324,593. Fifty-four sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1932, comprising 6,800 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made.

The scheme is being financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £364,090 having been provided up to 31st December, 1931, for constructional works, and £135,000 for house connexions.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act in 1910.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1931, was:—Water supply, £700,797; sewerage, £641,913; and sewerage installation, £253,548. The annual revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1931, was £53,194 on account of waterworks and £42,498 on account of sewerage. Since 1913 the Trust has appropriated and set apart sums out of surplus revenues for the creation of a sinking fund to redeem loans. The amount of these sinking funds on 30th June, 1931, was—For sewerage, £46,666; for water supply, £47,340.

The population supplied is estimated at 45,271. The number of buildings situate within the "Drainage Area" is 11,400; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 11,100; and the number connected with the sewers, 11,071.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and 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 and service basins is 2,738,120,000 gallons.

The Trust has arranged to take a minimum annual quantity of 500 million gallons of water from the river Barwon to supplement the supply from the Moorabool watersheds.

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 9,489 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the city of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted in November, 1916, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Sewerage Authority.

The actual construction of the sewerage works began in January, 1921, and sewer construction was completed on 31st October, 1932. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923. Approximately 5,500 tenements are now connected to the sewers.

Method of Sewage Disposal and Purification.—The method of disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation, and sludge digestion. A description of the scheme appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 on page 184. While the method of treatment remains the same in principle, the capacity of the sewage tanks was increased during the year 1930-31. The increased capacity of the tanks will make provision for a population of 50,000 persons.

Finance.—Loans have been raised by the issue of debentures. The total amount so borrowed to the end of September, 1931, was £402,000, including £60,000 for house connexions. Loans amounting to £45,995, including £11,977 raised for house connexions, have been redeemed. For the purpose of meeting the half-yearly loan repayments, a special rate of 3d. in the £1 is levied, while the rate for properties actually sewered is 1s. 6d. in addition to the special rate of 3d. in the £1.

It is estimated that the scheme will cost £500,000. The capital expenditure to 30th September, 1931, was £330,227.

COLAC SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Colac Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 on the 13th November, 1923, and the Sewerage District which embraces the whole area of the township of Colac was proclaimed.

The Commissioners of the Colac Water Works Trust for the time being are the members of the Sewerage Authority. The first meeting of the Authority was held on 31st January, 1924.

The money required for the scheme was granted by the Governor in Council in accordance with the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act*. The capital expenditure to 30th June, 1932, was £76,221.

The construction of the principal works was completed in October, 1927, when the first sewered area was declared. The population at present served by the system is approximately 5,000. The works have been designed to deal with the sewage from a population of 10,000.

At the beginning of 1928 rates were struck; the sewerage rate for that year was fixed at 1s. 9d. in the £1 on the municipal valuation of sewered properties, with a special rate of 8d. in the £1 on the same properties. The sewerage rate for 1931-32 is 2s. in the £1 on the municipal valuations.

An area of 37 acres of land was acquired for the Treatment works site, 30 acres of this area being let for grazing and other purposes. The sewage gravitates to pumping station and is then pumped into rising main to Treatment Plant, a distance of 5,490 feet. The sewage is treated in "Imhoff" and "Simplex" tanks. The sludge after being allowed to settle in the tanks until thoroughly digested in the sludge digestion chamber is run off, dried, and disposed of. The purified effluent is conveyed by means of open channel and pipes to the lake. Periodical tests made of the effluent and lake waters by Government analysts show that no harmful effect is being made upon the lake waters through the discharge of the effluent into it.

Provision has been made by the installation of a Gas-burning Plant at Treatment works to burn the noxious gases produced by the digestion of the sludge in the "Imhoff" Tank. It is proposed to utilize the gas for power at the works.

To enable the Authority to finance house connexion work on account of householders, arrangements were made with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, with the consent of the Governor in Council, for a Debenture Loan of £50,000. In view of the fact that a greater number of householders paid cash for cost of connecting their tenements than was anticipated, debentures to the value of £5,329 were retired. The balance due to the Commonwealth Bank on 30th June, 1932, was £24,688.

There were 1,270 tenements connected to the sewers on 30th June, 1932.

The ordinary revenue of the Authority during 1931 amounted to £5,656, and the expenditure to £5,956.

SEWERAGE IN OTHER COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

Echuca Sewerage Authority. The date of the constitution of this Authority was 18th October, 1927. Sludge-drying beds have been constructed, and the whole of the works are operating satisfactorily.

Mildura Sewerage Authority. This Authority was constituted on 12th June, 1928. The works have been completed and connexions have been made to practically the whole of the 1,200 tenements in the sewerage district. The sewerage rate is 1s. 10d. in the £1 on the municipal valuations of properties.

Horsham and Swan Hill Sewerage Authorities. Each of these Authorities has prepared final plans and specifications of the proposed sewerage system, and have called for tenders for the construction of works.

Warrnambool Sewerage Authority. Designs and specifications of the sewerage scheme have been completed. A loan of £65,000 was obtained from the Government during the year and construction work has been commenced.

Proposed Sewerage Authorities. Applications for the constitution of sewerage authorities at Ararat, Bairnsdale, Dandenong, Kerang, Kyneton, Lorne, Mornington, Shepparton, and Wangaratta have been examined and the schemes generally approved.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Constitution of Fire Brigades Boards. Under the *Fire Brigades Act* 1928 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.

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. 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.

The municipal districts which comprise the Metropolitan Fire District are described in a statement which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30 on page 158.

The Board on 30th June, 1932, had under its control the following:—
 Forty-one stations, 296 members of permanent staff, 65 members of special service staff, 9 members of clerical staff, 61 men engaged in the workshops, 12 employees engaged in the tailoring department, and 175 partially paid firemen.

During 1931-32 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £156,486, 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 689d. in the pound on the annual value of £18,155,561 of property within the Fire District, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 3s. 9d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1931 amounted to £1,005,001.

**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's revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £27,300, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £8,933; (b) municipalities, £8,945; (c) insurance companies, £8,933; and (d) other sources, £489. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £27,612. There are 120 municipal councils and 105 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1930 amounted to £399,145. The annual value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1931 was £3,696,749. 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 152 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,877. In many brigades there is, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years 1926-27 to 1930-31 are as follows :—

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

Heads of Receipts and Expenditure.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Government, Municipal, and Insurance ...	200,330	210,585	216,453	220,837	219,831
Receipts for Services ...	24,224	25,343	27,043	25,691	24,855
Interest and Sundries ...	21,014	25,934	30,797	32,363	20,936
Total ...	245,568	261,862	274,293	278,891	265,622
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	147,262	154,813	155,486	156,931	156,275
Fire Expenses ...	4,425	4,431	4,461	4,785	4,606
Administrative Charges, &c.	35,859	43,992	44,467	45,620	42,460
Plant—Purchase and Repairs ...	18,983	23,904	24,052	27,059	20,027
Interest ...	10,146	11,250	14,075	13,757	14,352
Repayment of Loans ...	5,133	5,089	6,351	6,590	7,191
Firemen's Accident Fund	500	500	500	500	500
Superannuation Fund ...	8,540	8,600	8,964	8,977	9,102
Miscellaneous ...	9,025	8,760	13,672	10,336	5,212
Total ...	239,873	261,339	272,028	274,555	259,725
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	40,823	5,917	33,365	14,040	18,260
<i>Loan Indebtedness</i> ...	201,949	196,860	240,508	247,917	256,226