

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

The total number of municipalities administering local government throughout the State at the end of the year 1905 was 206. Of these 11 ranked as cities, 11 as towns, 38 as boroughs, and the remainder (146) as shires. The whole of Victoria is now brought under control of municipalities, with the exception of about 600 square miles in the mountainous part of Wonnangatta, and 64 square miles in French Island.

The following is a summary of the population, number of rate-payers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of four years ended 1905-6:—

MUNICIPALITIES: RETURN FOR FOUR YEARS.

Year.	Estimated Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1902-3	652,607	155,262	136,907	3,341	£ 92,099,451	£ 5,308,546	£ 779,950
1903-4	652,658	158,691	137,394	4,958	93,376,830	5,366,477	789,596
1904-5	657,815	159,953	138,670	4,997	94,583,732	5,498,471	824,393
1905-6	*	169,536	144,996	4,698	99,354,665	5,664,425	..
Shires—							
1902-3	557,285	150,724	115,429	3,567	111,803,468	5,880,386	499,112
1903-4	556,350	152,204	117,760	3,883	115,766,850	6,071,353	520,794
1904-5	552,414	153,908	117,998	3,337	116,336,442	6,244,799	520,829
1905-6	*	147,960	115,270	3,069	117,260,959	6,130,718	..
Total—							
1902-3	1,209,892	305,986	252,336	6,908	203,902,919	11,188,932	1,279,062
1903-4	1,209,008	310,895	255,154	8,841	209,143,730	11,437,830	1,310,390
1904-5	1,210,229	313,861	256,668	8,334	210,920,174	11,743,270	1,345,221
1905-6	*	317,496	260,266	7,767	216,615,624	11,795,143	..

* Not yet available, but the total population of the State on 31st March, 1906, was 1,220,078.

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

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1905-6 over 1902-3.		1904-5 over 1902-3.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	£ 7,255,214	£ 355,879	£ 44,442
Shires	5,457,491	250,332	21,717
Total	12,712,705	606,211	66,159

The number of ratepayers returned for 1905-6 is 317,496, and the total capital value of rateable property £216,615,624, which is equivalent to about 18 years' purchase on the annual value, £11,795,143.

Ratings in
municipali-
ties, 1905.

Of the 60 cities, towns, and boroughs, 9 levied rates of 1s. in the £1, 3 of 1s. 3d., 2 of 1s. 4d., 14 of 1s. 6d., 13 from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 10d., 12 of 2s., 3 of 2s. 3d., 2 of 2s. 4d., 1 of 2s. 6d., and 1 (Melbourne, with which are incorporated the former municipalities of Flemington and Kensington and North Melbourne) of 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. Of the 146 shires, 2 levied rates of 9d. in the £1, 95 of 1s., 23 of 1s. 3d., 4 of 1s. 4d., 14 of 1s. 6d., 1 of 1s. 7d., 1 of 1s. 9d., 5 of 2s., and 1 of 2s. 6d. in the £1. These figures give an average rating of 1s. 8d. in the £1 in cities, towns, and boroughs, and 1s. 2d. in shires. The rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 6d. in the £1 more than in the rural districts.

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

Municipal
revenue
and ex-
penditure.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1903 TO 1905.

Sources of Revenue.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates	765,910	807,982	802,253
Licences	106,948	105,123	112,475
Market and Weighbridge Dues	52,522	52,772	55,259
Government Endowment and Grants	98,609	80,781	90,572
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	21,577	20,485	22,755
Sanitary Charges	44,718	50,097	55,731
Rents	58,081	59,956	60,344
Other Sources	130,697	133,194	145,832
Total	1,279,062	1,310,390	1,345,221
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	135,730	138,884	136,066
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	125,535	126,219	131,378
Lighting	68,665	69,877	69,915
Fire Brigades' Contributions	16,530	16,668	17,742
Public Works—			
Construction	131,508	167,919	198,275
Maintenance	330,897	360,831	378,859
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	19,307	19,504	23,676
Redemption of Loans	50,146	43,959	55,866
Interest on Loans	193,638	191,310	186,439
Charities	12,431	13,117	13,185
Other Expenditure	113,842	142,460	132,342
Total	1,198,229	1,290,748	1,343,743

As compared with 1904, the revenue of 1905 has increased by £34,831. The items showing advances are:—Licences, £7,352; market and weighbridge dues, £2,487; Government endowment and grants, £9,791; contributions for streets, £2,270; sanitary charges, £5,634; rents, £388; and "other sources" of revenue, £12,636. Rates have been reduced £5,729. The expenditure shows an increase of £52,995. The items increased are—Sanitary work and street cleaning, £5,159; lighting, £38; fire brigades' contributions, £1,074; public works, construction, £30,356; maintenance, £18,028; formation of private streets, &c., £4,172; redemption of loans, £11,907; and charities, £68. The reductions in expenditure are—Salaries, £2,818; interest on loans, £4,871; and "other expenditure," £10,118.

Proportion
of municipal
revenue
raised from
different
sources.

Sixty per cent. of municipal revenue was derived from rates, 8 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 4 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 7 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 2 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 4 per cent. from rents, and 11 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries.

In 1905, the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £136,066, or about 10 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local
charities.

A sum of £13,185, equivalent to about 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to local charities—the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

Assets and
liabilities
of municipa-
lities.

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, 1903 TO 1905.

Assets.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£
Municipal Fund—			
Uncollected Rates	130,203	119,013	119,028
Other Assets	166,753	168,107	168,737
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	654,281	680,989	701,503
Arrears Due	2,033	4,352	4,459
Unexpended Balances	223,624	160,321	112,643
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	2,449,762	2,495,101	2,530,858
Waterworks	226,220	226,084	234,461
Gasworks	60,820	68,744	65,760
Total Assets	3,913,696	3,922,711	3,937,449
Liabilities.			
Municipal Fund—			
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ...	2,033	4,352	4,459
Overdue Interest	17,616	17,875	16,637
Bank Overdrafts	107,090	89,825	90,660
Temporary Government Advances ...	13,310	8,098	4,018
Other Liabilities	126,671	132,098	39,717
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	4,212,051	4,205,886	4,186,602
Due on Loan Contracts	30,092	29,947	27,438
Total Liabilities	4,508,863	4,488,081	4,469,531

Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.

The total assets of municipalities in 1905 amounted to £3,937,449, and the liabilities to £4,469,531, showing a deficiency of £532,082. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £255,491, against which there were assets

amounting to £287,765. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £4,214,040, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £3,395,435. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties (£2,831,079) in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, waterworks, &c., the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £564,356. As compared with 1904, the assets increased by £14,738; and the liabilities were reduced by £18,550.

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. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September in each year. The following table shows the method of distribution for the year 1904-5:—

ENDOWMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1904-5.

Municipality.				Endowment.		
				£	s.	d.
Boroughs	...	...	...	887	0	9
Shires—						
2nd Class	...	...	...	18,485	10	6
3rd	..	...	...	16,351	15	9
4th	..	...	...	1,830	3	2
5th	..	...	...	8,133	3	5
6th	..	...	...	2,952	6	5
Transferred to Trust Fund for Salaries, &c., of Inspectors of Municipal Accounts				1,360	0	0
Total				50,000	0	0

The amount of endowment paid is calculated on the amount of rates received during 1903, the following being the rates in the £1 received in 1904-5:—

				s.	d.
Boroughs	...	...	...	1	9.10
Shires—					
2nd Class	...	...	...	2	9.76
3rd	..	...	...	3	3.38
4th	..	...	...	4	8.26
5th	..	...	...	5	6.81
6th	..	...	...	6	5.36

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government a sum of £92,218 8s. 1d., 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, Licence fees.

penalties, and forfeitures incurred under *The Licensing Act 1876*. The particulars of this payment are in the following return:—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1904-5.

		£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	...	36,894	5	5
" Towns	...	11,668	6	9
" Boroughs	...	15,043	8	0
" Shires—				
1st Class	...	250	0	0
2nd "	...	15,496	15	10
3rd "	...	9,478	18	9
4th "	...	831	15	0
5th "	...	1,839	18	10
6th "	...	741	19	6
Total amount due	...	92,245	8	1
Deduct unpaid accounts	... £96 0 0			
Add payments on account of 1904	69 0 0			
			27	0 0
Amount paid in 1904-5	...	92,218	8	1

Licensing
Act Fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Act Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1905:—

LICENSING ACT FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1904-5.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year	17,218	17 5	Expenses of Officers carrying out the Licensing Act	8,652	7 7
Licences	101,510	9 2	Cost of taking poll of electors	71	8 0
Fines	2,916	5 6	Compensation for houses closed (Sec. 202)	40,030	9 7
Sale of confiscated liquor	10	6 7	Equivalent to municipalities (see previous table)	92,218	8 1
Refund of amount taken from the fund in 1898 for charitable purposes under Act No. 1553	20,000	0 0	Balance 30th June, 1905	683	5 5
	£141,655	18 8		£141,655	18 8

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

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

The total indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £4,186,602; £286,775 due to the Government, and £3,899,827 due to the public. The total indebtedness of the shires was £580,673; £132,619 due to the Government, and £448,054 other loans. The total indebtedness of the cities was £3,605,929, of which £154,156 was due to the Government, and £3,451,773 to the public.

Municipal
indebted-
ness.

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1905.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	23,325	9,988	33,313
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	147,234	16,941	164,175
Expenditure during the year	75,211	9,634	84,845
Balance unexpended at the end of 1905 ...	95,348	17,295	112,643

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1905 amounted to £84,845, of which £75,211 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £9,634 by shires. This is about the same as the preceding year, but considerably less than in the three years ended 1903.

Municipal
loan expend-
iture, 1901
to 1905.

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	375,683	254,098
1902	29,628	135,251
1903	81,585	132,044
1904	22,118	84,339
1905	33,313	84,845

Of the total loan receipts for the year (£33,313), £5,227 was received from the Government—of which £5,000 was lent to the Wangaratta Borough, and £227 to the Shire of Swan Hill; the balance (£28,086) was raised from the public by the following districts. The loans—with the exception of those of the two municipalities of Portland and Poowong and Jeetho, which were negotiated locally—were floated in Melbourne:—

Loans raised
by muni-
cipalities,
1905.

LOANS RECEIPTS BY MUNICIPALITIES, 1905.

Loans from the Public—	Amount.
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—	£
Ararat	4,000
Hawthorn	7,300
Kew	4,009
Portland	816
Warrnambool	2,200
Total	18,325

LOAN RECEIPTS BY MUNICIPALITIES, 1905—*continued*.

Loans from the Public—				Amount.
Shires—				£
Alberton	...	...	...	1,000
Berwick	...	...	...	1,000
Nunawading	...	...	...	6,204
Poowong and Jeetho	...	...	...	300
Preston	...	...	...	853
Springfield	...	...	...	404
Total	...	...	...	9,761
Government Loans—				
Wangaratta Borough	...	...	...	5,000
Swan Hill Shire	...	...	...	227
Grand Total	...	...	...	33,313

Loan
moneys to
the credit
of municipi-
palities,
1905.

At the end of the year 1904-5, the total amount of loan money in hand was £112,643—£95,348 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £17,295 to the credit of shires. The following return shows the municipalities having such credits, and the amounts thereof:—

LOANS UNEXPENDED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1905.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—				SHIRES—			
£				£			
Ararat	...	...	2,229	Alberton	...	...	986
Ballarat	...	...	2,349	Berwick	...	...	105
Ballarat East	...	...	200	Dandenong	...	...	60
Bendigo	...	...	2,416	Dimboola	...	...	290
Brunswick	...	...	3,577	Kerang	...	...	1,812
Camberwell and Boroon-	...	...		Lillydale	...	...	150
dara	...	...	241	Moorabbin	...	...	957
Caulfield	...	...	600	Mulgrave	...	...	74
Coburg	...	...	889	Numurkah	...	...	1,311
Collingwood	...	...	530	Nunawading	...	...	6,513
Essendon	...	...	1,073	Omeo	...	...	1,240
Fitzroy	...	...	987	Phillip Island and	...	...
Footscray	...	...	15,433	Woolamai	...	...	1,544
Geelong	...	...	82	Preston	...	...	580
Hamilton	...	...	6	Seymour	...	...	62
Hawthorn	...	...	1,165	Springfield	...	...	51
Inglewood	...	...	900	Swan Hill	...	...	1,560
Kew	...	...	2,438				
Malvern	...	...	1,659				
Maryborough	...	...	631				
Melbourne	...	...	30,246				
Northcote	...	...	1,370				
Port Melbourne	...	...	4,053				
Prahran	...	...	5,604				
Queenscliff	...	...	132				
South Melbourne	...	...	6,887				
St. Kilda	...	...	7,723				
Wangaratta	...	...	870				
Williamstown	...	...	1,058				
Total Cities	...	...	95,348	Total shires	...	...	17,295
				Grand Total	...	...	112,643

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

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1905 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 1905, about 36 per cent. was derived from rates, more than 18 per cent. from the sale of electric light, about 16 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—12 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 10 per cent. from licences, and 8 per cent. from other sources. On public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 28 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; interest on loans and expenses, 23 per cent.; repayment of loans and payments to sinking funds, 21 per cent.; the electric light service, 9 per cent.; street cleansing, 7 per cent.; salaries, allowances, and commissions, 6 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

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

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1905.

Heads of Revenue.						Amount.
Rates—						£
General	...	...	...	...	...	71,992
Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	23,272
Licences—						
Publicans'—Equivalent for—	From Licensing Act	...	...	...	...	14,455
Abattoirs—Slaughtering fees	...	...	...	...	...	1,380
Drays, Hackney Carriages, and Trams	...	...	...	...	...	7,042
Other Licences	...	...	...	...	...	362
Fees under Dog Act	...	...	...	...	...	800
„ City Baths	...	...	...	...	...	2,608
Market and Weighbridge Fees	...	...	...	...	...	34,436
Contributions for Flagging, Asphaltting Footpaths	...	...	...	...	...	57
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of	...	...	...	...	...
Meters, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	49,086
Fines and Costs	...	...	...	...	...	976
Rents—						
Abattoirs	...	...	...	...	...	5,868
Markets and Shops	...	...	...	...	...	33,264
Boat Sites and Shops	...	...	...	...	...	76
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	4,061
Interest on Fixed Deposits	...	...	...	...	...	5,241
Miscellaneous—						
Desiccators and Meat Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	4,800
Public Conveniences, Cleansing Streets, Sale of	...	...	...	...	...
Manure, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	2,407
Tree Planting	...	...	...	...	...	596
Other Receipts—						
Fees under Building Act	...	...	...	...	...	474
Sundries						
	...	...	...	...	...	3,254
Total						266,507

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1905—
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.) ...	£ 14,832
Allowance to Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Works	553
Street Cleansing, &c.	19,321
Lighting—Electric—Maintenance	23,454
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	3,899
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges	33,940
Markets and Weighbridges	21,556
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) ...	12,144
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets	6,003
Public Conveniences	1,719
Repayment of Loan	10,000
Interest on Loans from the Government	240
Public	59,579
Payment towards Redemption of Government Loan ...	210
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	19,979
Electric Supply—Sinking, Depreciation, and Renewals Fund	26,220
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	534
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	2,053
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	2,004
Law Costs	323
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	1,090
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	353
Fawcner Cemetery	463
Gas Conferences	181
Fees—Dog Act	406
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	1,383
Elections	194
Analyst and Sundries	320
Sundries	3,824
Total	268,268

City of
Ballarat
revenue
and expen-
diture,
1905.

Of each £100 of revenue received by the City of Ballarat in 1905, general rates amounted to £56; licences to £13; sanitary rates to £13; market and weighbridge dues to £9; rents to £4; and other receipts to £5. £31 per £100 of expenditure was on street cleaning, &c., £27 on public works; £8 on interest on and redemption of loans; £11 on sanitary expenses; £8 on lighting; £7 on salaries and allowances; and £8 on all other items.

**CITY OF BALLARAT: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1905.**

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants — From Government	178	Salaries	1,642
General Rates	16,580	Allowance to Mayor	395
Licences — From Licensing Act Fund	3,626	Sanitary Expenses	3,391
„ Other	354	Street Cleaning, &c.	9,270
Market and Weighbridge Dues	2,759	Lighting	2,257
Contribution for Formation of Private Streets, Roads, Lanes, &c.	126	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	459
Dog Fees	273	Public Works—{ Construction	2,116
Pound Fees	46	Repayment of Loan—{ Maintenance	6,034
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees	3,761	To the Government	308
Rents	1,207	Payment to Sinking Funds on Loans from the Public	640
Other Sources	963	Interest—Government Loan	238
		„ Loans from the Public	1,159
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions	335
		Other Expenditure... ..	1,627
Total	29,873	Total	29,871

In the City of Bendigo, in 1905, the following were the proportions of total revenue obtained under the different headings:—General rates, 45 per cent.; licences, 16 per cent.; sanitary rates and fees, 17 per cent.; market and weighbridge dues, 8 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, 41 per cent.; sanitary expenses, 15 per cent.; interest on loans and payments to sinking funds, 7 per cent.; salaries and allowances, 7 per cent.; lighting, 9 per cent.; street cleansing, 6 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 15 per cent.

Revenue and expenditure of City of Bendigo, 1905.

**CITY OF BENDIGO: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1905.**

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants — From Government	116	Salaries	2,048
General Rates	14,503	Allowance to Mayor	300
Licences — From Licensing Act Fund	5,052	Sanitary Expenses... ..	4,643
„ Other	178	Street Cleansing	1,918
Market and Weighbridge Dues	2,725	Lighting	2,791
Dog Fees	333	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	554
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees	5,354	Public Works { Construction	2,910
Rents	2,585	Maintenance	10,154
Other Sources	1,618	Payments to Sinking Fund on Loans from the Public	1,000
		Interest on Loans from the Public	1,213
		„ Bank Overdraft	148
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions	540
		Other Expenditure... ..	3,376
Total	32,464	Total	31,595

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Melbourne
Harbor
Trust—
receipts
and expen-
diture.

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

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

Receipts from—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage Rates ...	136,178	140,258	164,611	162,105	167,727
Rents and Licence Fees	10,907	11,861	9,773	10,647	12,361
Other Receipts ...	4,298	3,394	2,849	4,146	9,895
Total ..	151,383	155,513	177,233	176,898	189,983
Expenditure on—					
Harbor Improvements and Maintenance ...	28,006	32,062	27,714	30,504	27,213
Wharfs, &c.—Construction and Maintenance	32,414	32,871	24,303	16,003	19,443
General Management, &c.	10,107	10,196	10,679	11,548	12,700
Interest on Loans and Expenses ...	87,480	87,474	87,478	86,842	86,630
Total ...	158,007	162,603	150,174	144,897	145,986

During the 28½ years the Trust has been in existence, the net receipts have amounted to £3,995,624, and the expenditure to £5,879,025, or £1,883,401 in excess of the receipts to meet which loans amounting to £2,000,000 have been raised. Of this expenditure of nearly 6 millions, £1,908,265 has been expended on harbor improvements and maintenance, including dredging, landing, and depositing silt; £1,443,441 on wharfs and approaches, construction and maintenance; and £533,349 on plant.

THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Area under
control and
value of
property.

The district over which the Board exercises control consists of 20 cities, towns, and boroughs, and 4 shires, embracing a total area of 84,347 acres, and containing an estimated population on the 31st December, 1905, of 500,000. The annual value of rateable property in the district in 1905 was £4,641,769, which, at 1s. in the £1 for sewerage rate, would yield a revenue of £232,088, which is exclusive of water rates. 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 on Government loans on 30th June, 1905, was £1,848,663, and for loans raised by the Board £7,281,376. The Board is still empowered to borrow £750,271 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, 1905, was £3,751,708. At the present time, these works consist of nine storage reservoirs, as under:—

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

The transfer of these works to the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board was made in 1891. The Board consists of 40 members, one of whom is a Chairman elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. Nine of the members are elected by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne, three by the Prahran, two each by the Fitzroy, Richmond, St. Kilda, and Collingwood, and one each by the other suburban municipal councils. In 1891, the rateable property within the area to be served was valued at about £6,600,000, of which about £1,000,000 was for vacant land. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A partial recovery in values has taken place, and the total assessments, inclusive of vacant land, now reach £4,641,769. The main source of supply is the Yan Yean Reservoir, in which are stored the waters of the eastern branch of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek, from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, and those of Wallaby and Silver Creeks, brought over the range in an aqueduct from the northern slopes. These streams are collected in the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence in a pitched channel to the Yan Yean Reservoir. A second supply is brought to Melbourne by means of the Maroondah Aqueduct, which conveys water from the Maroondah River, the Graceburn, and Donnelly's Creek, but without, at present, any provision for storing the surplus winter waters thereof, except the small service reservoirs in the suburbs at Preston, Essendon, Caulfield, and Kew. By means of these systems, Melbourne is provided with an ample supply of pure water at a high pressure. The total catchment areas for both systems aggregate 62,000 acres, the whole of which is under the control of the Board, and free from settlement or grazing. The Yan Yean is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city, 602 feet above sea level. It covers an area of 1,300

acres, or rather more than two square miles, and receives water from a catchment area of 35,000 acres. The length of aqueduct and mains laid up to 31st December, 1905, was 262 miles, and of reticulation pipes (under 12-in. diameter), 974 miles, or a total length of aqueduct, mains, and pipes of 1,236 miles. The storage capacity of the main reservoir is 6,400 million gallons, and of the eight subsidiary reservoirs 108 million gallons. The population supplied with water is about 508,000, and the average daily consumption 64 gallons per head in 1905.

DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND
SUBURBS, 1905.

Month.	Gallons.
January	40,811,774
February	42,200,857
March	39,975,451
April	33,836,066
May	31,714,870
June	29,645,866
July	27,146,548
August	24,678,935
September	24,637,066
October	27,347,064
November	32,702,766
December	37,127,225
Mean for the year ...	32,652,040

Revenue and expenditure of Melbourne Waterworks.

The total expenditure to the 30th June, 1905, on the construction of the Melbourne Waterworks, was £3,751,708. The gross revenue since the opening of the works at the end of 1857 up to the 30th June, 1905, amounted to £5,525,233; whilst the expenses of maintenance and management amounted to only £936,715, and interest to £2,455,029. During 1904-5 the revenue amounted to £184,529, as against £165,457 in the previous year; and the expenditure on maintenance and management to £31,761, and interest £102,465, as against £37,374 and £104,496 in the previous year. The net revenue in 1904-5 was thus £50,303, being equivalent to 1.34 per cent. of the mean capital cost, as compared with £23,587, or .63 per cent. in 1903-4. 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 1904-5, after paying all interest and expenses, has amounted to £2,133,489.

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 follow:—The whole of the sewage of the metropolis is being gradually collected by means of two principal main sewers leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. On the 31st December, 1905, the sewerage system, including mains, branches, and reticulation, had been laid over the following districts, viz.:—Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Melbourne proper, Richmond, the greater part of Prahran, St. Kilda, Hawthorn, Collingwood, and Fitzroy, the populated portions of Malvern, Caulfield, and Kew, together with nearly the whole of Footscray, Flemington, Kensington, and North Melbourne, while work is now proceeding rapidly in Essendon and Brunswick. In all, 727 miles of reticulation, and 80 miles of main and branch sewers, have been completed, the system being so advanced that the sewage from 83,918 houses could be collected. Of these, 75,400 have been actually connected, embracing altogether 13 public conveniences, 37 public urinals, 83,667 water closets, 140 latrines, 5,731 urinals, 780 slop-hoppers, 56,027 baths, 16,200 lavatories, 41,390 sinks, 32,655 sets of wash-troughs, 7,281 stables, 101 dairies, 1,477 polluted areas, and 1,408 cellars. There are also 1,052 miles of house connexions laid—(of these lengths 1,701 miles are of vitrified stoneware, 108 miles of Portland cement, and 17 miles of cast iron)—or 1,859 miles in all of mains, branches, reticulation sewers, and house connexions drains laid up to 31st December, 1905. The whole of the sewage when collected at Spotswood is raised about 125 feet, to the head of the outfall sewer, through 2½ miles of wrought-iron rising main, whence it gravitates to the farm in a partly open and partly closed channel 11 feet in diameter, at a grade of 2 feet to the mile. It is then spread over properly prepared areas of land by a series of main and lateral carriers. The effluent, after filtering through the prepared areas, is discharged into Port Phillip Bay in a perfectly clear and transparent condition. The prepared blocks are laid down with prairie grass and lucerne, on 1,790 acres of which, during the financial year ended 30th June, 1905, 28,886 sheep have been fattened and sold. During the same year the Board were grazing 464 bullocks on 345 acres, while on 510 acres cattle and horses have been placed for agistment. The profit on sheep for the same period amounted to £8,512, and on cattle £849. Of the whole farm area of 8,847 acres, there remain 2,256 acres, comprising land in the course of preparation, plantations, roads, and drains, &c., and 3,946 acres, not used in connexion with sewage distribution, but let on lease to farmers at an average rental of 15s. 5½d. per acre.

The actual cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1905, was £4,899,773, divided as follows:—For farm purchase and preparation, £404,050; for main outfall sewer and

Sewerage
system.

Sewerage
works,
receipts
and expen-
diture.

rising mains, £365,193; for pumping station building and engines, £177,622; for main and branch sewers, £1,537,374; for reticulation sewers, £1,934,401; river improvements, £2,718; and for house connexions, £478,415. Of this last-named sum £257,106 has still to be repaid to the Board. The sewerage receipts for 1904-5 amounted to £236,995, of which £165,500 was collected in rates, £38,559 proceeds of sale of live stock, and £26,988 interest. The purchase of live stock amounted to £23,985; the expenditure on interest £239,929; and on maintenance of works, £26,833.

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure during the five years 1900-1 to 1904-5, exclusive of refunds, deposits, &c., included in the figures quoted in preceding paragraphs:—

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

—	1900-1.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Water Supply ...	164,271	170,488	178,290	165,761	180,632
Sewerage ...	128,522	144,566	184,160	189,889	209,809
Total ..	292,793	315,054	362,450	355,650	390,441
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Management ...	46,171	50,253	59,542	55,796	55,012
Maintenance—					
Water Supply ...	19,410	20,808	21,480	20,767	18,846
Sewerage ...	24,582	24,336	26,555	26,557	26,680
Interest on Loans ...	268,196	278,174	291,302	305,919	315,872
Total ...	358,359	373,571	398,879	409,039	416,410
<i>Loan Receipts</i> ...	646,328	404,459	704,783	946,686	185,735
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Water Supply ...	14,294	16,042	10,771	8,653	7,479
Sewerage ...	322,030	325,111	324,190	309,480	377,801
Redemption of Loans ...	276,820	3,004	3,580	521,480	..
Loss on Sale of Deposit					
Receipts ...	..	..	..	193,948	..
Other ..	3,532	2,727	19,846	19,965	1,231
Total ..	616,676	346,884	358,387	1,053,526	386,511

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

Constitution
of Fire
Brigades
Boards.

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 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.

The Country Board, like that of the metropolis, consists of nine members—three of whom are appointed by the Governor in Council, two by the municipal councils, two by the insurance companies, and two by the fire brigades in the country districts. Under the supervision of this Board, local committees supervise the working of the Act. These consist of three members—a chairman, elected by the municipal councils, and one member each, elected by the fire brigades and the insurance companies; if there are no fire brigades in the municipal districts, the Governor in Council appoints the member.

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."

Powers of
the Boards

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, 1905, it had fixed 548 pillar hydrants, 13,314 ball fire plugs, 178 "Tregear" hydrants, to its 974 miles of reticulation mains, and except in case of accident, repairs, or cleansing, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on the same date had under its control the following:—48 stations, 159 permanent men, 7 men engaged at theatres, 146 auxiliary firemen, 10 steam fire engines, 1 gasolene engine, 1 chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 1 motor chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 2 manual engines, 36 horse hose reels, 52 hand hose reels, 7 extension ladders and fire escapes, 6 Pompiers ladders, 12 exercise and supply carts, 2 salvage vans, 1 brake, 65 horses, 95,128 feet of hose, 36 hand pumps, 2 smoke helmets, and 2 smoke jackets, 125 telephones in stations, 110 fire alarm circuits, having 137 fire alarm points and 389 fire alarm and telephone points. The total length of wire in use outside stations for fire alarms and telephones is about 283 miles.

Outfit of the
Metro-
politan
Fire
Brigade.

During 1905 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade amounted to £38,037, 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 .650d. in the £1, over an area wherein the property is valued at £4,701,008, and the insurance companies equal to £4 9s. 1d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property.

The Country Fire Brigades Board exercises control over 97 brigades, and had at the end of 1905 a roll of 1,985 members. There were 503 fires and alarms during the year. Most of the country towns are now provided with brigades, but in a great many the poor supply of water for fire extinction purposes during the summer months is a source of trouble and anxiety to the firemen. These brigades have now been provided with up-to-date fire stations and equipment. There were 41 fire insurance companies included within the operation of the Act, and 87 municipal councils, who contribute two-thirds of the revenue of the Board, and the Government the other third. The total revenue was £11,173, the expenditure £11,294.

Country
Fire
Brigades
Board.

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both boards during the five years ended 30th June, 1905, are as follow:—

Receipts
and ex-
penditure.

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

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ...	48,494	49,280	49,002	48,874	49,083
Receipts for Services ...	1,344	2,062	727	692	754
Interest and Sundries ...	2,324	1,954	4,626	2,814	3,442
Total ...	52,162	53,296	54,355	52,380	53,279

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

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	22,000	22,865	23,112	23,103	24,793
Fire Expenses ...	2,917	3,027	2,873	2,936	2,990
Horses, Quarters, &c. ...	13,654	13,009	12,002	9,207	10,930
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ...	4,403	2,866	4,862	4,305	4,589
Interest ...	6,087	6,080	6,073	6,057	6,103
Sinking Fund ...	2,000	1,971	2,028	2,250	2,250
Miscellaneous ...	1,001	1,087	2,221	4,332	2,108
Total ...	52,062	50,905	53,171	52,190	53,763
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Sewerage Connexions ...	..	..	..	..	405