

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early legislation. Amongst the various enactments which became law for Victoria on its separation from New South Wales, was a provision in the Imperial Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the inhabitants of every county, to form districts for the purpose of local government, and to establish elective District Councils, with power to frame by-laws for making and maintaining roads, establishing schools, levying local tolls and rates, &c. Many of the provisions of the Act were found to be unworkable and expensive in the details, and the District Councils therefore discontinued their meetings and practical working under the Act. Improved legislation being required, an Act was passed in 1853, establishing a central Road Board for the whole Colony, with an Inspector-General and staff, and also providing for the creation of local Road Districts under the management of Road Boards. This Act made provision chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act. In the meanwhile suburban districts and towns were growing up, and in 1859 an Act was passed for the establishment of municipal institutions in Victoria. This Act also continued in force till 1863, when its chief provisions were merged into the Municipal Corporations Act. Further improvements and extensions have been made from time to time in the Acts dealing with local government, and such government is now practically universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State (except French Island) being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

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

lighting, water supply, and carrying on of noxious trades, and to act as local Boards of Health.

Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires. Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 52 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire; and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

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

Municipal councillors. Each municipality existing at the commencement of the original Act, 29th December, 1854—now incorporated in the Act of 1915—is allowed the number of councillors then assigned to it; but in other cases the number must be some multiple of three, not less than six nor more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is subdivided, the number of councillors is three for each subdivision. If at any time in any municipality there is no council or there are not enough councillors to form a quorum, a commissioner may be appointed by the Governor in Council to exercise the powers of the council. Male persons liable to be rated in respect of property in the municipal district of the rateable annual value of £20 at least, whether consisting of one or more tenements, are qualified to hold the office of councillor. The election of councillors takes place annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor; in the case of shires, the president.

Municipal electors. Every person (male or female) 21 years of age or upwards, liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district, in respect of which all rates, made before 10th

March of the year, have been paid by the 10th June, shall be entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Plurality of votes is allowed upon the following scale:—

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

IN SHIRES.

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

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

All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following:—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics' institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality, local governing body, or commissioners under the Water Acts; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression "land" includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants' rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and other expenses (if any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent: provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz. :—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and shall not exceed in any one year 2s. 6d. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 2s. 6d. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision ; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, " a separate rate " may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or sinking fund for, the loan raised on the security of such rate.

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

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

Amalgamation of Municipalities. Under the provisions of the *Local Government Acts Amendment Act* 1914 the following municipalities were united from the 1st October, 1915:—

BOROUGHS.

Majorca, united with Shire of Tullaroop.
 Carisbrook, united with Shire of Tullaroop.
 Raywood, united with Shire of Marong.
 Buninyong, united with Shire of Buninyong.
 Browns and Scarsdale, united with Shire of Grenville.
 Smythesdale, united with Shire of Grenville.
 Tarnagulla, united with Shire of Bet Bet.
 Malmsbury, united with Shire of Kyneton.
 Talbot, united with Shire of Talbot.

Municipal Statistics.

239

SHIRES.

Epping, united with Whittlesea.
 Mount Alexander, united with Newstead.
 Meredith, united with Bannockburn.
 Mount Franklin, united with Glenlyon.
 Templestowe, united with Doncaster.
 Merriang, united with Broadmeadows.

From the 31st May, 1916, the undermentioned municipalities were united:—

BOROUGH.

Chewton, united with Shire of Metcalfe.

SHIRES.

Lancefield, united with Romsey.
 Springfield, united with Romsey.

From 1st October, 1918, the Shire of Walhalla will be incorporated with the Shire of Narracan.

New Municipality. A portion of the Shire of Moorabbin was excised on 26th February, 1917, and constituted a separate municipality with the title of Borough of Sandringham.

Municipalities: The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1917 was 191. Of these, 18 ranked as cities, 7 as towns, 27 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a summary of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1917-18:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1913-14 TO 1917-18.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1913-14 ..	802,479	203,773	173,646	2,895	£ 137,649,219	£ 7,790,654	£ 1,320,545
1914-15 ..	825,078	209,276	180,410	3,725	147,205,224	8,218,040	1,378,006
1915-16 ..	824,170	208,759	182,445	3,293	149,235,137	8,335,553	1,407,021
1916-17 ..	829,368	213,520	184,417	3,377	154,105,571	8,587,302	1,487,426
1917-18 ..	844,970	219,076	189,459	3,265	158,777,843	8,912,303	..
Shires—							
1913-14 ..	600,431	175,637	152,654	3,748	164,268,467	8,255,505	854,483
1914-15 ..	608,828	181,480	134,349	3,530	167,405,523	8,517,938	827,466
1915-16 ..	617,587	184,374	137,799	3,619	169,724,979	8,606,509	847,206
1916-17 ..	618,896	187,894	138,801	3,196	172,309,539	8,732,116	875,910
1917-18 ..	613,380	186,551	138,366	2,716	172,558,872	8,735,794	..
Total—							
1913-14 ..	1,402,910	379,410	326,300	6,643	301,917,686	16,046,159	2,175,023
1914-15 ..	1,433,906	390,756	314,759	7,255	314,610,747	16,735,978	2,205,472
1915-16 ..	1,441,757	393,133	320,244	6,912	318,960,116	16,942,062	2,254,227
1916-17 ..	1,448,264	401,414	323,213	6,573	326,415,110	17,319,418	2,363,366
1917-18 ..	1,458,350	405,627	327,825	5,981	331,336,715	17,648,097	..

Increases in
value of
rateable
properties and
municipal
revenue.

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1917-18 over 1913-14.		1916-17 over 1913-14.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	21,128,624	1,121,649	166,881
Shires	8,290,405	480,289	21,457
Total Increase	29,419,029	1,601,938	188,338

The number of ratepayers returned for 1917-18 was 405,627, and the total capital value of rateable property £331,336,715, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £17,648,097.

Unimproved
Value of
Rateable
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1917-18 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £79,388,921, and in shires £115,039,248. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand, according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17

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

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1913-14 TO 1917-18.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1913-14	240,077	241,923	482,000
1914-15	247,802	249,434	497,236
1915-16	248,100	255,958	504,058
1916-17	251,050	260,297	511,347
1917-18	258,614	257,528	516,142

The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £1 in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year 1917-18, except as regards the item "revenue," which is for 1916-17 :—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1917-18.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1916-17.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.				<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£
Ballarat	20,240	5,430	2 3	2,600,655	173,377	36,656	..
Bendigo	25,000	6,480	2 2	2,858,842	204,203	37,840	..
Brunswick	39,100	9,600	2 4	5,725,900	286,295	50,053	..
Camberwell	18,910	5,551	2 0	4,582,900	229,145	30,138	..
Caulfield	27,250	10,100	2 3	5,620,482	312,249	45,227	..
Collingwood	35,860	7,834	2 0	4,839,966	290,398	32,747	..
Essendon	32,500	9,070	2 2	5,081,120	254,056	34,480	..
Fitzroy	35,150	7,691	1 8	6,304,19	350,233	33,099	..
Footscray	30,290	6,320	2 4	4,534,660	226,733	45,582	..
Geelong	14,720	4,380	2 4	2,832,220	141,611	29,473	..
Hawthorn	23,100	6,410	2 0	5,949,740	297,487	34,539	..
Malvern	27,500	7,250	2 3	6,374,860	318,743	45,967	..
Melbourne	107,040	29,277	1 2	45,564,740	2,278,237	480,218	..
Northcote	25,900	6,950	2 3	3,572,740	178,637	60,502	..
Prhran	48,730	11,757	1 8	7,508,136	625,678	71,001	..
Richmond	40,730	9,207	2 1	6,095,700	338,650	41,921	..
South Melbourne	48,500	10,348	2 0	9,977,900	498,895	62,459	..
St. Kilda	32,290	7,241	2 0	5,124,528	427,044	49,354	..
TOWNS.							
Ballarat East	15,460	3,799	2 0	1,265,700	84,330	14,823	..
Brighton	19,000	5,090	2 3	3,891,140	194,557	24,574	..
Coburg	14,790	6,350	2 3	1,500,180	100,012	18,485	..
Kew	13,900	3,675	2 1	2,114,835	140,989	17,517	..
Port Melbourne	13,000	2,900	2 3	1,261,725	100,938	21,250	..
Warrnambool	7,400	1,652	2 0	1,195,520	59,776	24,615	..
Williamstown	18,600	6,250	2 3	1,995,135	133,009	18,672	..

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1916-17.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
BOROUGHES.							
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ararat ..	4,500	1,060	2 6	264,580	26,453	11,171	25
Castlemaine ..	5,600	1,390	2 0	454,725	36,378	6,172	25
Cinnes ..	1,600	327	1 6	57,316	8,138	2,681	38
Creswick ..	1,950	540	1 9	75,620	7,562	2,696	37
Daylesford ..	3,800	783	2 3	274,365	18,291	3,857	25
Dunolly ..	1,100	330	1 6	56,250	5,625	1,132	25
Eaglehawk ..	7,350	1,950	2 0	376,092	31,341	7,185	25
Echuca ..	4,000	1,085	2 0	299,275	23,942	6,030	25
Geelong West ..	8,840	2,281	2 2	1,031,240	51,562	8,975	25
Hamilton ..	4,700	1,166	2 3	733,180	36,659	7,255	25
Horsham ..	3,600	795	2 6	450,500	26,500	6,732	50
Inglewood ..	1,300	330	1 6	78,084	6,507	1,723	25
Koroit ..	2,390	413	2 0	324,320	16,216	3,846	25
Maryborough ..	4,900	1,167	1 6	247,920	24,792	4,350	25
Newtown and Chilwell ..	6,900	1,664	2 0	892,340	44,617	5,477	25
Oakleigh ..	5,000	1,960	2 3	804,420	40,221	5,919	50
Portland ..	2,200	661	2 2	378,280	18,914	4,251	25
Port Fairy ..	2,000	479	2 0	284,920	14,246	4,201	25
Queenscliff ..	1,650	561	2 0	250,220	12,511	2,151	50
Rutherglen ..	1,300	350	1 6	119,450	11,945	2,459	40
Sale ..	3,540	953	1 9	395,900	19,795	8,380	25
Sandringham ..	8,170	3,950	0 6	1,075,548	89,629	201	..
Sebastopol ..	2,450	470	2 0	82,980	6,915	1,263	40
Stawell ..	4,410	900	2 3	189,110	18,911	7,158	25
St. Arnaud ..	3,850	973	1 9	368,420	17,921	2,932	25
Wangaratta ..	4,030	903	1 10	583,400	29,170	4,512	25
Wonthaggi ..	3,800	1,020	2 0	265,920	22,160	3,530	..
Total ..	844,970	219,076	..	158,777,843	8,912,303	1,487,426	755

Shires,
1917-18.

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

SHIRES, 1917-18.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1916-17.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,200	1,292	1 3	1,677,500	83,875	7,342	706
Alexandra ..	3,000	756	1 6	996,180	49,809	5,392	393
Arapiles ..	2,710	682	1 4	837,280	41,864	2,618	154
Ararat ..	6,800	1,900	1 3	3,207,800	160,390	13,281	650
Avoca ..	4,000	1,470	1 3	800,000	40,000	3,480	243
Avon ..	2,970	798	1 0	833,140	41,657	3,316	293
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,200	727	1 6	838,980	41,949	4,567	206
Bairnsdale ..	8,300	1,940	1 3	1,994,720	99,736	10,152	715
Ballan ..	3,900	1,016	1 3	720,680	36,034	3,236	237
Ballarat ..	4,470	931	1 0	1,205,300	60,269	4,272	237
Bannockburn ..	3,050	805	1 0	1,066,200	53,310	3,902	204
Barrabool ..	2,010	455	1 4	753,260	37,663	3,322	213
Beechworth ..	6,000	1,400	1 4	350,760	29,230	7,597	273
Belfast ..	2,600	650	1 4	1,076,520	53,826	4,413	325

SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1916-17.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
				s. d.	£		
Bellarine ..	4,850	1,765	1 3	1,037,960	51,898	3,989	243
Benalla ..	8,000	2,800	1 3	2,508,000	125,400	15,544	725
Berwick ..	7,550	2,600	1 6	1,652,660	82,633	7,971	500
Bet Bet ..	4,600	1,015	1 0	664,560	33,228	2,446	213
Birchip ..	1,900	525	1 0	1,035,540	51,777	4,573	200
Borong ..	5,750	1,805	1 0	1,952,640	97,632	8,679	496
Braybrook ..	3,200	2,250	1 3	863,300	43,165	5,662	131
Bright ..	5,000	1,350	1 7	699,800	34,990	4,031	375
Broadford ..	2,100	459	1 6	384,160	19,208	1,957	150
Broadmeadows ..	3,430	1,958	1 3	1,152,660	57,633	5,534	254
Bulla ..	2,600	418	1 3	615,000	30,750	3,155	175
Buln Buln ..	4,800	1,412	1 7	1,152,160	57,608	7,233	625
Bungaree ..	4,500	1,133	1 9	634,160	31,708	3,819	400
Buninyong ..	6,380	2,120	1 6	1,261,600	63,080	5,165	300
Charlton ..	3,300	752	1 0	1,055,040	52,752	4,127	275
Chiltern ..	3,000	830	1 0	472,065	31,471	2,460	196
Colac ..	14,500	3,310	1 3	5,279,540	263,977	24,269	600
Corio ..	3,050	968	1 6	1,371,820	68,591	6,230	259
Cranbourne ..	4,660	1,787	1 6	1,348,920	67,446	5,291	350
Creswick ..	5,000	1,001	1 0	1,103,420	55,171	4,309	387
Dandenong ..	7,000	4,440	2 0	1,499,980	74,999	12,854	263
Deakin ..	3,300	950	1 0	1,290,780	64,539	3,914	223
Dimboola ..	6,100	1,223	1 6	1,702,780	85,139	8,912	309
Donald ..	3,190	790	1 6	938,760	46,933	5,086	309
Doncaster ..	2,450	810	1 6	621,960	31,098	3,353	196
Dundas ..	3,040	1,110	1 0	2,059,840	102,992	6,320	525
Dunmunkle ..	5,000	1,087	1 0	2,332,380	116,610	6,802	622
East Loddon ..	1,700	578	1 3	920,800	46,040	3,643	275
Eiltham ..	3,400	1,405	1 6	781,280	39,064	3,893	210
Buroa ..	5,400	1,136	1 6	1,120,040	56,002	6,879	325
Ferntree Gully ..	5,200	2,850	2 6	1,021,020	51,051	7,110	450
Flinders ..	3,600	2,850	1 6	1,000,000	50,000	4,553	130
Frankston and Hastings ..	3,600	2,218	1 9	764,000	38,200	5,441	212
Gisborne ..	2,240	700	1 3	593,480	29,674	3,224	170
Glenelg ..	6,000	1,534	1 0	2,432,400	121,620	8,381	600
Glenlyon ..	5,380	1,142	1 3	323,950	32,395	2,710	227
Gordon ..	3,800	850	1 3	1,031,980	51,599	4,568	370
Goulburn ..	3,000	562	1 0	670,140	33,507	3,106	175
Grenville ..	6,000	1,670	1 3	844,050	56,270	4,298	302
Hampton ..	9,750	2,300	1 6	5,522,520	276,126	27,798	875
Healesville ..	2,150	862	2 0	463,000	23,150	3,636	240
Heidelberg ..	12,040	5,450	1 6	2,440,220	126,011	32,411	250
Heytesbury ..	4,900	1,207	1 6	1,710,020	85,501	8,218	560
Howqua ..	900	281	1 6	79,900	3,995	763	100
Huntly ..	3,500	973	1 0	910,460	45,523	3,174	200
Kara Kara ..	4,200	1,344	1 6	1,197,880	59,894	5,629	338
Karkaroc ..	5,500	1,326	1 0	2,324,840	116,242	11,926	475
Kellor ..	1,000	620	1 4	473,220	23,661	1,694	50
Kerang ..	9,500	2,229	1 3	2,995,440	149,772	14,787	500
Kilmore ..	1,900	539	1 6	204,300	20,430	2,244	137
Korong ..	6,400	1,396	1 6	1,080,280	54,014	5,417	325
Kowree ..	3,880	1,300	1 0	1,356,352	84,772	5,447	435
Kyneton ..	7,800	2,142	1 6	1,366,980	68,349	9,605	369
Lawliot ..	3,380	626	1 3	548,670	36,578	3,756	196
Leigh ..	1,500	590	1 3	1,025,080	51,254	3,712	275
Lexton ..	1,900	577	1 0	809,420	40,471	2,900	200
Lilydale ..	6,750	2,800	1 9	1,491,900	74,595	9,198	400
Lowan ..	4,100	1,300	2 0	806,500	40,325	4,399	300
Maffra ..	4,500	1,100	1 3	1,453,140	72,657	7,627	500
Maldon ..	3,900	1,230	1 3	704,000	35,200	2,739	187
Mansfield ..	3,500	987	1 6	1,184,900	59,245	5,844	450
Marong ..	6,880	2,184	1 3	1,788,240	89,412	6,040	460
Melton ..	1,700	410	1 3	578,490	38,566	3,116	147
Metcalf ..	3,730	1,033	1 0	743,560	37,178	3,451	164

SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1916-17.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Mildura ..	6,900	1 434	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Minhamite ..	2,000	564	1 0	1,432,660	71,633	14,038	238
Mirboo ..	1,400	351	1 0	1,331,240	66,552	4,910	325
Moorabbin ..	9,670	3,406	1 6	501,660	25,083	3,229	350
Mornington ..	1,900	780	2 6	1,620,200	81,010	26,110	300
Mortlake ..	2,920	684	1 9	449,360	22,468	3,770	115
Morwell ..	3,400	849	1 3	2,221,340	111,092	8,148	350
Mount Rouse ..	2,450	700	1 6	392,660	44,633	4,893	450
Mulgrave ..	2,950	935	1 0	1,372,600	78,630	5,460	200
McIvor ..	4,150	1,135	2 0	594,400	29,723	3,603	225
Narracan ..	5,450	1,326	1 0	759,000	37,950	3,590	225
Newham and Woodend ..	2,500	553	1 6	1,380,000	69,000	7,077	650
Newstead and Mount Alexander ..	4,400	1,011	1 6	425,200	21,260	3,185	150
Numurkah ..	6,500	1,556	1 3	527,220	26,361	2,181	168
Nunawading ..	10,070	3,750	0 0	2,435,900	121,790	10,615	600
Omeo ..	2,980	1,451	2 2	2,005,180	100,259	15,917	475
Orbost ..	3,210	955	1 6	842,180	42,109	5,002	850
Oxley ..	4,600	1,027	2 0	751,640	37,582	4,365	478
Phillip Island and Woolamal ..	3,800	2,310	1 3	1,077,180	53,859	3,489	375
Poowong and Jeetho ..	7,550	1,540	1 6	1,124,260	56,213	5,828	550
Portland ..	5,300	1,970	1 3	1,934,400	96,720	10,194	1,000
Preston ..	7,870	3,521	0 0	1,725,160	86,258	6,598	500
Pyalong ..	1,150	340	2 3	1,250,640	62,532	12,636	325
Ripon ..	4,500	1,190	1 6	422,740	21,137	1,770	115
Rochester ..	5,350	1,596	1 3	1,766,080	88,304	8,053	225
Rodney ..	6,720	1,634	0 0	1,268,960	63,448	5,296	250
Romsey ..	3,750	840	1 0	2,114,960	105,748	8,503	437
Rosedale ..	4,000	1,100	1 3	1,239,180	61,959	4,395	324
Rutherglen ..	4,600	763	1 0	1,546,000	77,300	5,300	544
Seymour ..	4,000	1,105	1 3	796,540	39,827	3,473	225
Shepparton ..	8,300	1,702	1 0	827,560	41,378	4,305	425
South Barwon ..	3,000	1,327	0 0	2,149,120	107,456	10,592	475
South Gippsland ..	4,120	1,025	1 0	577,020	28,851	3,373	138
Stawell ..	3,600	1,230	1 6	1,007,640	50,377	5,457	525
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,750	1,136	1 3	1,456,080	72,804	5,607	312
Swan Hill ..	6,700	2,700	1 3	475,920	23,796	2,106	139
Talbot ..	2,000	633	1 1	2,337,380	116,869	11,370	275
Tambo ..	3,000	1,011	1 3	472,460	23,623	2,319	135
Towong ..	6,300	1,600	1 0	692,120	34,606	3,973	520
Traralgon ..	3,300	863	1 3	1,903,320	95,191	8,374	900
Tullaroop ..	4,430	1,298	1 6	981,360	49,068	7,520	446
Tungamah ..	5,470	1,562	1 0	483,375	32,225	2,687	200
Upper Yarra ..	3,500	1,060	1 0	1,768,300	88,418	7,063	450
Violet Town ..	3,000	694	2 0	527,260	26,363	4,705	225
Walhalla ..	1,580	480	1 3	763,740	38,187	2,066	225
Walpeup ..	3,050	1,458	2 0	53,520	6,690	1,103	285
Wangaratta* ..	2,730	809	1 0	1,400,600	70,030	4,803	..
Wannon ..	2,770	772	1 0	671,700	33,585	2,328	143
Warana ..	4,870	1,832	1 0	1,983,940	99,197	6,290	431
Warragul ..	4,000	1,065	1 6	1,655,860	82,793	6,671	375
Warrnambool ..	8,750	2,012	1 10	1,232,420	61,621	7,363	900
Werribee ..	5,000	3,800	1 0	3,893,000	194,650	14,262	690
Whittlesea ..	3,600	1,000	1 6	1,591,900	79,598	8,407	300
Wimmera ..	4,500	1,074	1 3	1,203,080	60,154	4,894	230
Winchelsea ..	4,350	1,376	1 0	1,645,720	82,286	5,937	365
Woodonga ..	2,120	584	2 0	1,483,520	74,176	6,051	425
Woolayl ..	4,490	1,234	1 3	502,660	25,133	2,617	171
Wycheproof ..	4,200	1,112	1 0	1,341,000	67,050	7,916	1,050
Yackandandah ..	3,950	910	1 6	1,304,960	65,248	6,944	333
Yarrowonga ..	3,310	800	1 0	717,780	35,889	3,821	358
Yea ..	2,560	725	1 6	752,000	37,600	5,111	285
Total ..	618,380	186,551	..	880,700	44,035	4,702	382
				172,558,872	8,735,794	875,940	48,467

* Formerly North Ovens.

Ratings in
municipalities,
1917.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1913-14 TO 1917-18.

Amount levied in the £1.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
s. d.										
0 6	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
1 0	6	6	..	..	..	60	67	58	53	38
1 1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
1 2	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
1 3	1	1	2	..	..	39	39	38	33	38
1 4	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	2	4	5
1 6	11	10	4	5	5	31	25	26	31	35
1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
1 8	2	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
1 9	3	3	4	5	3	8	7	7	8	8
1 10	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	1
2 0	22	22	19	17	16	5	6	7	7	7
2 1	2	1	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 2	..	1	1	1	4	..	1	1	1	1
2 3	8	10	11	11	12	..	..	..	..	1
2 4	2	2	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	..
2 6	3	2	2	2	2	1	..	..	1	2
Total ..	61	61	52	51	52	147	147	141	139	139

These figures give an average rating of 1s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the £1 in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in shires. The rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that only one municipality during the last five years imposed the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., but that several reached the maximum of 2s. 6d. in the £1.

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

Municipal
revenue and
expenditure.

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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1915 TO 1917.

Sources of Revenue.	1915.	1916	1917.
Taxation —	£	£	£
Rates	1,277,063	1,346,439	1,395,723
Licences	104,634	105,772	108,651
Dog Fees	20,158	20,528	20,883
Government Endowment and Grants ...	140,545	74,372	68,364
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ...	52,472	52,045	54,620
Market and Weighbridge Dues	63,646	63,812	67,726
Sanitary Charges	85,971	91,125	96,484
Rents	72,133	59,006	62,953
Other Sources	388,850	441,128	487,962
Total	2,205,472	2,254,227	2,363,366
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	199,872	206,353	210,034
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ...	225,919	236,766	243,774
Lighting	93,381	95,420	97,685
Contributions to Fire Brigades	30,277	32,086	33,939
Public Works—			
Construction	274,593	238,773	200,151
Maintenance	811,608	847,505	897,136
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ...	62,012	68,024	63,499
Redemption of Loans	92,738	101,461	112,020
Interest on Loans	252,912	262,760	274,113
Charities	19,406	18,801	20,350
Other Expenditure	174,945	180,018	186,310
Total	2,237,663	2,287,967	2,339,011

As compared with 1916, the revenue of 1917 increased by £109,139, as follows:—Rates increased by £49,284, sanitary charges by £5,359, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £2,575, rents by £3,947, licences by £2,879, dog fees by £355, market and weighbridge dues by £3,914, and “other sources” by £46,834. The revenue from Government endowment and grants decreased by £6,008. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £51,044. The following items showed increases:—Salaries, £3,681; sanitary work and street cleansing, £7,008; lighting, £2,265; contributions to Fire Brigades, £1,853; public works maintenance, £49,631; charities, £1,549; redemption of loans, £10,559; interest on loans, £11,353; and other expenditure, £6,292. There were decreases under the headings of public works construction, £38,622; and formation of private streets, £4,525.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-nine per cent. of municipal revenue in 1917 was derived from rates, 5 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 3 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 3 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 2 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and 20 per cent. from all "other sources."

Salaries. In 1917 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £210,034, or 9 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £20,350, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1915 TO 1917.

Assets.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	147,886	146,491	138,617
Other Assets	760,685	392,876	442,388
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	839,951	792,445	745,784
Arrears Due	1,326	834	1,732
Unexpended Balances	378,278	209,363	286,206
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	3,863,556	3,750,947	3,848,320
Waterworks	175,267	177,050	252,069
Gasworks	99,107	105,124	109,215
Total Assets	6,266,056	5,575,130	5,824,331
Liabilities.	1915.	1916.	1917.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	71,729	73,005	98,538
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	1,326	834	1,732
Overdue Interest	13,776	14,456	24,425
Bank Overdrafts	213,330	252,130	233,160
Other Liabilities	410,576	221,183	233,189
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	5,739,084	5,869,260	6,030,343
Due on Loan Contracts	237,765	15,888	42,428
Total Liabilities	6,687,586	6,446,756	6,663,815

**Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.**

The total assets of municipalities in 1917 amounted to £5,824,331, and the total liabilities to £6,663,815. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £591,044, against which there were assets amounting to £581,005. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £6,072,771, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £5,039,049. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, waterworks, &c. (£4,209,604), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £829,445.

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

Endowment of municipalities. An annual endowment to municipalities of £310,000 was authorized by the *Local Government Act* 1874, and it ceased to be payable in 1879. A subsidy, however, in lieu of such endowment, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, and this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 it was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-7, and from the 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. Payments were made on the basis of this amount to 30th June, 1915, but for the financial years 1915-16, 1916-17, and 1917-18 it was reduced to £50,000 under the authority of Acts Nos. 2805, 2872, and 2935. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received in the twelve months ended on the last day of September next preceding the financial year 1907-8, according to the following scale:—

To every borough or first-class shire	..	3s. in the £1
„ second-class shire	..	5s. „
„ third-class shire	..	6s. „
„ fourth-class shire	..	8s. „
„ fifth-class shire	..	10s. „
„ sixth-class shire	..	12s. „

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Rating on
unimproved
values.

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. This measure does not come into operation until proclaimed by the Governor in Council, which proclamation may be made when the valuations of land made by assessors in the various parts of the State under the *Land Tax Act 1910* are available for adoption.

Any municipality may adopt the method of rating set forth in the Act, but two months before doing so it must publish in the *Government Gazette* and twice in some newspaper circulating in the district a notice of its intention to take such a course. If one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of valid votes recorded forms at least one-third of the number of persons on the roll. Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll. If a proposal is adopted or rescinded it cannot be again submitted to the ratepayers for three years. Special properties such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the property, are not rateable on unimproved values.

WORKERS' DWELLINGS.

Workers'
dwellings.

An Act to enable municipal councils to provide workers' dwellings was passed by the State Parliament in February, 1914, and has been incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*.

The houses are to be leased to persons who are not owners of dwelling houses in Victoria or elsewhere and who are not in receipt of incomes of more than £200 a year. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted. In fixing rents of dwelling houses account is to be taken of interest, depreciation, rates, repairs, and insurance. Before constructing new houses plans showing the classes of houses to be built are to be submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council. The amount that may be borrowed for the purposes of the Act by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. Power is given to increase the general rate

to recoup advances from the municipal fund, but as far as practicable all advances are to be repaid out of the profits accruing from transactions under the Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet has to be prepared showing receipts and expenditure relating to all operations undertaken during the previous year; also assets and liabilities.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State **Country Roads Board.** an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Board.

Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £800, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £600.

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

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

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power is given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest are a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised is to be placed to the credit of an account to be called "the Country Roads Board Loan Account," which will be debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. A sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is to be paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended

is to be refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works, an annual payment to the Treasurer of 6 per cent. on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, and the cost of maintenance, allocated to each municipality, must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the £1 on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown after the 30th June, 1912, under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*), are to be credited to the Country Roads Board Fund.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council, with which the Board is likely to have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act, has been interviewed and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it.

During the year 1916-17, constructional work to the value of £226,602, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £130,536, were undertaken.

A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has also been evolved, by which it is hoped that those that are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those that are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

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

The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines are as follows:—The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of 5s.; of traction engines, £3 3s.; and of motor cars, £1 1s. to £6 6s., according to the horse-power of the vehicles.

Registration
of motors,
&c.

Ordinary
revenue and
expenditure.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure during 1916-17 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1917.

Revenue.				Expenditure.			
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance 1st July, 1916	..	91,223	0 6	Maintenance Works			
Motor Car Act				General ..	64,682	17 1	
No. 2237—				Woods Point Road	1,201	4 9	
Registration				Omeo - Glen Wills Road	98	6 8	
Fees ..	44,745 16 0			Orbost-Genoa Road	786	18 6	
Licence Fees ..	2,816 0 6			Walhalla Road	295	19 1	
Fines ..	2,380 3 6			Omeo Road	113	10 9	
	49,942 0 0				2,495	19 9	
Less Refunds and Costs of Administration	3,625 0 6	46,316	19 6	Less Half Cost, to be borne by Fund	1,247	19 11	
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—					1,247	19 10	
Licence Fees ..	25,766 15 0					1,247 19 10	65,930 16 11
Less Refunds and Costs of Administration	1,408 19 5	24,357	15 7	Interest accrued on Permanent Works Postponed, written back	4,848	9 9	
Country Roads Act No. 2415—				Contribution, Buln Buln Shire, Neerim Road ..	98	12 6	4,947 2 3
Traction Engine Licences ..	..	910	7 0	Penalties on Contracts refunded ..	10	0 0	
Forfeited Deposits ..	..	190	4 6	Investigation Surveys ..	217	13 5	
Materials, Sale of ..	..	11	11 1	Metal Investigation ..	381	0 8	558 14 1
Plans, Sale of ..	..	57	11 0	Interest on Loans	20,498	17 4	
Plant Earnings	4,166 12 8			Contributions to Sinking Fund ..	6,832	19 1	27,331 16 5
Less Working Costs ..	2,831 4 11	1,335	7 9	Motor Expenses ..	421	3 7	
Permanent Works—Contributions payable by Municipalities ..	..	23,526	15 7	Office Furniture ..	20	13 4	
				Postage and Telegrams	165	4 2	
				Printing and Stationery	835	12 7	
				Salaries ..	7,270	4 7	
				Surveying Instruments	86	4 4	
				Travelling Expenses ..	545	6 0	
				Wages Account ..	273	8 8	
				Plant Purchase ..	674	8 8	
				Plans Account ..	49	3 8	
				Insurance of Employees (Workers' Compensation Act) ..	139	13 8	
				Storeyard ..	27	1 7	
				Office Expenses ..	145	17 3	
				Accident Compensation Account ..	40	0 0	
				Testing Materials ..	71	9 11	
						10,265 12 0	
				Balance ..		78,895 10 10	
		£187,929	12 6			£187,929 12 6	

Loan receipts
and
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works for the year ended 30th June, 1917, is shown below:—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT FOR YEAR
ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1917.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1916 ..	66,907	7 11	By Permanent Works ..	226,602	11 11
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	192,463	17 2	„ Temporary Advance — Country Roads Board Fund refunded ..	44,725	6 8
„ Advance from Country Roads Board Fund ..	17,821	3 8	„ Balance ..	5,869	10 2
Total ..	£277,197	8 9	Total ..	£277,197	8 9

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1917:—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1916-1917.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Proceeds of Redemption of Securities ...	40,000	0 0	Salaries and expenses of Board and office	2,079	12 0
Licences	130,371	13 1	Incidental Expenses	6,362	13 10
Fees	1,979	8 0	Equivalent to municipalities (see succeeding table) ...	71,529	0 0
Fines	4,164	18 10	Compensation ...	78,768	0 0
Sale of confiscated liquor	63	9 3	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0 0
Club certificates ...	2,463	19 6	Balance	3,067	18 5
Permits—Extra Bars	760	0 0			
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court ...	8	7 0			
Compensation assessments ...	3,838	9 4			
Interest	1,081	19 3			
Deposit on taking poll	75	0 0			
Total ..	£184,807	4 3	Total ..	£184,807	4 3

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1916-17 a sum of £71,529 out of the Licensing Fund, under Act No. 2683, Section 313, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under the *Licensing Act* 1915. The particulars of this payment are as follows:—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1916-17.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	30,741	0	0
„ Towns	4,743	0	0
„ Boroughs	8,835	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class	288	0	0
2nd „	12,114	0	0
3rd „	9,973	0	0
4th „	701	0	0
5th „	3,400	0	0
6th „	1,519	0	0
Total	£72,314	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1916-17	785	0	0
Amount paid in 1916-17	£71,529	0	0

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, Section 375 of the *Local Government Act* 1915 provides that, when any municipality incurs a loan and the debentures are payable in different years, the Council shall obtain from the Auditor-General a certificate, in writing, that the amounts proposed to be provided in each year will be sufficient to pay all principal moneys and interest as they fall due. The repayments of principal have to be so provided for, that each year of the currency of the loan shall bear its full share towards liquidation.

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

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

Municipal indebtedness.

The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £6,030,343, which was due to the Government and the public respectively as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1917.

	Due to the Government.		Due to the Public.	
	£		£	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ...	477,744		4,613,976	
Shires	163,489		775,134	
	641,233		5,389,110	
Total	6,030,343			

Municipal loan receipts and expenditure.

The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure:—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1917.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	379,665	23,300	402,965
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	154,230	19,835	174,065
Expenditure during the year	267,918	22,906	290,824
Balance unexpended at the end of 1917 ...	265,977	20,229	286,206

Municipal loan expenditure 1913 to 1917.

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1917 amounted to £290,824, of which £267,918 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £22,906 by shires.

The following return shows the loan receipts and expenditure for five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1913	276,544	407,477
1914	573,291	348,661
1915	460,228	439,973
1916	500,312	549,714
1917	402,965	290,824

Loans raised
by municipal-
ities,
1917.

The loan receipts for the year 1916-17 amounted to £402,965, of which £112,868 was obtained from the Government. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1916-17 was £286,206—£265,977 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £20,229 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1917.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—			
	£	£	£
Ararat	20	..	..
Ballarat	583	..	444
Bendigo .. .. .	..	..	600
Brighton	10,750	..	8,834
Brunswick .. .. .	..	7,500	5,267
Camberwell	20,859	..	12,530
Caulfield	7,508	..	930
Coburg .. .. .	..	5,000	2,482
Collingwood .. .. .	..	..	591
Dunolly .. .. .	..	..	67
Echuca .. .. .	..	..	275
Essendon	307	..	2,452
Fitzroy .. .. .	..	..	876
Geelong	594	..	..
Geelong West .. .. .	..	..	1,078
Hawthorn .. .. .	..	..	9,417
Kew .. .. .	..	1,750	8,522
Malvern .. .. .	..	..	12,593
Maryborough .. .. .	..	..	365
Melbourne	43,000	234,719*	141,411
Newtown and Chilwell	2,396	..	1,445
Northcote .. .. .	..	..	148
Oakleigh	200	3,000	2,220
Portland .. .. .	..	..	236
Port Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	5,478
Prahran .. .. .	..	10,000	17,085
Queenscliff .. .. .	..	..	129
Richmond	500	4,000	361
Sale .. .. .	..	6,000	6,000
South Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	7,325
St. Kilda	13,550	..	13,575
Warrnambool	800	..	12
Williamstown	6,629	..	3,229
Total	107,696	271,969	265,977

*Of this amount £37,719 was transferred from Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan and Capital Accounts.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1917—continued.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
SHIRES—	£	£	£
Alexandra .. .. .	..	4,500	3,990
Avoca	385	..	..
Ballarat .. .. .	..	..	459
Beechworth	1,100	..	58
Benalla .. .. .	..	..	368
Bright .. .. .	..	1,000	1,13
Corio	1,040	..	416
Dandenong .. .. .	..	..	220
Eltham .. .. .	..	1,000	..
Ferntree Gully .. .. .	..	..	136
Healesville .. .. .	..	..	50
Heidelberg .. .. .	..	..	424
Huntly .. .. .	..	..	983
Keilor .. .. .	..	..	15
Kyneton .. .. .	..	..	12
Lexton	202	..	66
Lillydale .. .. .	..	..	371
Maffra .. .. .	..	1,000	1,000
Melfort .. .. .	..	..	20
Mildura .. .. .	..	3,000	1,726
Moorabbin	500	..	..
Mornington .. .. .	..	300	266
Numurkah .. .. .	..	2,000	..
Nunawading	235	2,100	..
Phillip Island and Woolamai .. .. .	..	..	196
Preston	1,000	..	527
Ripon .. .. .	..	..	6
Rodney .. .. .	..	3,228	2,577
Shepparton .. .. .	..	..	86
South Barwon .. .. .	..	..	226
Tungamah .. .. .	..	..	27
Upper Yarra .. .. .	..	..	237
Walpeup .. .. .	..	..	38
Warragul	710	..	..
Werribee .. .. .	..	..	11
Whittlesea .. .. .	..	..	2,668
Yea .. .. .	..	..	1,727
Total	5,172	18,128	20,229

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1917 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1917, about 32 per cent. was derived from rates, 41 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 8 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets, and shops—7 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 27 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 18 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 5 per cent.; for electric supply, 27 per cent.; for lighting, 4 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 6 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 5 per cent.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1917.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	132,289
Lighting	18,900
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	10,936
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees	14,959
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors	1,593
Other Licences	403
Fees under Dog Act	951
City Baths	3,192
Market and Weighbridge Fees	34,686
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c.	198,696
Fines and Costs	1,709
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges	32,408
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	3,916
Other	2,026
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	5,191
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators	5,589
Public Conveniences, &c.	4,526
Fees under Building Act	945
Sundries	7,303
Total	480,218

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1917—
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.)	£ 29,254
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	128
Street Cleansing, &c.	39,894
Lighting—Electric and Gas	21,975
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	8,095
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges	80,423
Markets and Weighbridges	13,731
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	27,515
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets	13,881
Interest on Loan from the Government	3,309
" " Loans from the Public	87,965
Repayment of Public Loans	10,000
" " Government Loan	210
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	15,310
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	134,834
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	493
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	1,715
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	1,400
" " Infectious Diseases Hospital	3,917
" " Heatherton Sanatorium	861
Law Costs	640
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	2,461
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	619
Gas Conference	175
Fees—Dog Act	514
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	2,416
Elections	198
Sundries	3,502
Total	506,935

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

Municipal Officers' Guarantee Fund. An Act was passed in 1907 (No. 2080) incorporating the Municipal Association of Victoria, and authorizing it to institute a "Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund," to which any municipality, any authority constituted under any Water Act or any Weights and Measures Union may contribute such sum as may be fixed by the association for a guarantee against loss by the dishonesty of its officers. The Act provided, however, that the fund could not be established until three-fifths of the municipalities in Victoria had agreed in writing to contribute and that the amount to be contributed for a guarantee must not be less than that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. At any time after the fund has reached £3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit

being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro rata* to its contributions. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed, during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to cooperate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1903. The operation of the fund was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and, since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320 was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1917, amounting to £224,140, were obtained from the Association for £748. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1917 (including amount invested in purchase of inscribed stock and debentures and accrued interest), was £7,780. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1917, amounted to £1,269.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in Commissioners. On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. Instead of seventeen Commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there are substituted five Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Other than the chairman, one member is to be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one identified with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other Commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, the remuneration not to exceed £250

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

in any year. The borrowing power of the Trust is increased from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000. The payment to the Consolidated Revenue was not to be greater than £60,000 per annum for five years from 1st January, 1913. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure during each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1913 TO 1917.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage	£	£	£	£	£
Rates	312,151	317,543	272,279	273,731	267,739
Rents	20,424	22,833	23,834	30,360	27,989
Interest	665	2,284	1,293	170	31
Other Revenue	4,299	11,194	13,092	17,273	23,158
	337,539	353,854	310,498	321,534	318,917
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	60,960	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total	276,579	293,854	250,498	261,534	258,917
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	28,622	34,163	36,067	40,994	38,363
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses .. .. .	..	5,289	5,936	..	1,005
Maintenance—Dredging	32,014	24,758	20,298	20,496	44,231
" Harbor	2,107	1,698	1,754	1,957	1,994
" Wharfs	20,583	13,370	25,469	20,928	15,780
" Approaches	9,207	10,835	7,999	9,994	8,107
Interest on Loans*	59,494	69,981	72,934	78,820	85,206
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	29,188	30,058	30,415	51,364	51,747
Total	181,215	190,152	200,872	224,553	246,433
Surplus on Revenue Account	95,364	103,702	49,626	36,981	12,484
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	46,007	5,534	2,060	1,316	588
Deepening Waterways	49,620	96,198	93,615	82,429	50,871
Wharfs Construction	115,244	87,885	120,627	105,803	62,246
Approaches Construction	16,354	7,029	10,921	8,960	6,201
Other Harbor Improvements	2,713	1,376	4,275	35,946	26,923
Floating Plant	9,744	33,451	3,112	25,190	3,814
General Plant	2,910	3,364	4,107	2,853	1,728
Stock Account	44,572	32,070	25,451	21,784	4,686
Total	287,164	266,907	264,168	284,281	157,057

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

Geelong Harbor Trust—receipts and expenditure.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £550,000 and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure for the last four years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure :—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£
REVENUE.				
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	13,495	10,200	9,171	8,772
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	3,750	3,776	4,113	3,829
Sparrovale Farm ..	7,281	6,710	4,930	5,933
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	12,404	9,543	9,777	10,683
Other Revenue ..	1,064	606	830	3,157
	37,994	30,835	28,821	32,374
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.				
General Management and Expenses ..	6,610	5,950	7,540	5,933
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	2,101	196	755	555
" Harbor ..	831	587	455	435
" Floating Plant ..	326	82	182	383
" Other ..	676	992	988	852
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund ..	19,167	21,870	24,288	23,049
Sparrovale Farm ..	6,221	5,786	6,447	4,317
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	1,934	1,576	710	1,024
Corio Quay Power-house ..	2,548	1,805	3,055	1,947
Miscellaneous ..	894	211	608	883
Total ..	41,308	39,055	45,028	39,378
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.				
Land and Property ..	19,611	2,224	22,992	33,638
Deepening Waterworks ..	11,970	15,882	8,804	52
Wharfs and Approaches Construction ..	7,303	6,617	365	25
Other Harbor Improvements ..	9,480	28,983	9,873	900
Floating and General Plant ..	2,137	1,358	..	209
Stock Account ..	455	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	696	2,030	832	1
Total ..	51,652	57,094	42,866	34,825

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

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

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

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

Functions of the Board. The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including watersheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis.

Area under Board's control, and population. The sewerage area over which the Board exercises control consists of fifteen cities, five towns, one shire, and parts of four other municipalities, or twenty-five municipalities in all, embracing a total area of 90,821 acres. The Board exercises control (under Orders in Council) for water supply purposes over an additional 2,949 acres in four municipalities. The Board further supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, and the outfall sewer area. Various other shires also arrange for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1917, was 729,946.

Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans. The Board is authorized to borrow £10,750,000, exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 contracted by the Government and taken over by the Board.

The liability for Government loans on 30th June, 1917, was £1,559,786, and for loans raised by the Board, £10,775,110, a portion of the latter amount having been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £805,038 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

Water supply assessments and rates. By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and tenements for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the £1 on the annual valuation of

the lands and tenements served. The water rate levied in the year 1916-17 was 6d. in the £1 on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

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

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

Assessed value of property. The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £7,469,230 in 1916-17.

Water rate receipts. In 1916-17 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears) ..	157,257	16	8
Meters " " ..	144,911	3	1
Special rates " " ..	3,755	15	2
Total	305,924	14	11

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system. The total revenue amounted to £319,614, as against £334,181 in the previous year. The cost in 1916-17 of maintenance and management was £54,566, and of interest £137,544, the total charges being £192,110, compared with a cost in 1915-16 of £54,580 for maintenance and management, and of £134,915 for interest, or a total charge of £189,495.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system. The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1917, was as follows:—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	£84,885
Yan Yean system	632,698
Maroondah system	788,825
O'Shanassy system	452,027
Service reservoirs	250,292
Large mains	1,192,093
Reticulation	1,466,787
Total	£4,867,607

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1917-18 is £7,786,986, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1916-17 was 10d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 10d. rate was £6,703,658 in 1916-17.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1916-17 amounted to £281,909.

The sewerage revenue for 1916-17 was £315,098, as against £358,112 in the previous year. The cost in 1916-17 of management, working expenses and repairs was £72,658, and of interest £329,176, the total charges being £401,834, compared with a cost in 1915-16 of £70,783 for management, working expenses, repairs, and renewals, and £321,640 for interest, or a total charge of £392,423.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1917, was £7,424,163, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£555,323
Outfall sewer and rising mains	423,055
Pumping station buildings and engines	244,718
Main and branch sewers	2,130,946
Street reticulation	2,228,032
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,008,113
House connexions branches	405,943
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	428,033
<hr/>	
Cost of sewerage system	£7,424,163
Householders' debts for house connexions	138,274
River improvements	3,977
<hr/>	
Total	£7,566,414

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderrk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

Total catchment area. The total catchment area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 102,000 acres, the whole of which is vested in the Board, and free from settlement or grazing.

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

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

Yan Yeau system. The Yan Yeau watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles northerly from the city, and 602 feet above sea-level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1917 was 25 ft. $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. on 17th December, and the minimum depth 23 ft. $11\frac{3}{4}$ in. on 29th June. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1917, the total intake of the Yan Yeau Reservoir was 5,845,339,000 gallons, and the total output was 5,188,477,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about $41\frac{1}{2}$ miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons), which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

O'Shanassy
and
Upper Yarra
watershed.

The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 33,000 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct, and in tunnels, syphons, and pipe line of an aggregate length of 48½ miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries.

Storage and
service
reservoirs.

There are two storage and thirteen service reservoirs (also four other service reservoirs proposed) as under:—

STORAGE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	Feet above L.W.M.
Yan Yean	6,400,000,000*	602
Toorourrong	60,000,000	747
Total (storage)	6,460,000,000	

* Of this quantity 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption.

SERVICE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	Feet above L.W.M.
Preston No. 1	13,500,000	326·50
„ No. 2	24,500,000	326·50
„ No. 3	26,300,000	326·50
Essendon No. 1	1,000,000	209·25
„ No. 2	4,000,000	209·25
Caulfield	10,000,000	166·00
Kew	3,000,000	281·50
Surrey Hills No. 1	9,000,000	429·50
„ No. 2	15,000,000	429·50
Morang (Pipe Head)	3,000,000	485·00
Heidelberg	1,000,000	325·00
Notting Hill	10,000,000	332·50
Olinda	11,000,000	671·00
Total (service)	131,300,000	..
North Essendon (proposed provision for 10,000,000 gallons)	..	290·00 (approx.)
Mitcham (proposed provision for three reservoirs with a capacity of from 20 to 25 million gallons each)	..	515·00 „

Aqueducts, &c., mains, and reticulation pipes. The following is the mileage return of aqueducts, &c., mains, and reticulation pipes up to the 30th June, 1917:—

	Miles	Chs.	Miles	Chs.
YAN YEAN SYSTEM—				
Aqueducts, &c., between watersheds and Yan Yean Reservoir	23	62		
Aqueduct—Yan Yean Reservoir to Morang	6	33½		
Total			30	15½
MAROONDH SYSTEM—				
Main Maroondah Aqueduct	41	28		
Tributary Aqueducts	6	8		
Scours at Preston Reservoirs	2	52¼		
Total			50	8¼
O'SHANASSY SYSTEM—				
O'Shanassy Aqueduct	22	68½		
O'Shanassy Pipe line	25	69¾		
Scour Channel at Warburton	0	32½		
Scour at Olinda Reservoir	0	31		
Scour at Surrey Hills Reservoir	0	49		
Total			50	10¾
Grand Total Aqueducts, &c.			130	34½
*Large Mains. 54-in. to 12-in. diameter (inclusive)			230	23½
Reticulation under 12-in. diameter			1,321	23½
Grand Total, Aqueducts, &c., Mains, and Reticulation			1,682	1½

The average number of people supplied with water during 1917 was 727,196, and the average daily consumption was 53·08 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month during 1917:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1917.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
		Gallons.
January	1,484,052,000	47,872,645
February	1,395,317,000	49,832,750
March	1,380,298,000	44,525,741
April	1,109,835,000	36,994,500
May	1,000,438,000	32,272,193
June	1,002,544,000	33,418,133
July	1,035,935,000	33,417,258
August	1,061,334,000	34,236,581
September	994,153,000	33,138,433
October	1,072,141,000	34,585,192
November	1,088,381,000	36,279,366
December	1,466,097,000	47,293,451
Total for the year	14,090,525,000	...
Daily average for the year .. .. .	...	38,604,178

* Exclusive of O'Shanassy Pipe line and Maroondah Aqueduct syphons.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1891 TO 1917.

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Tenements Connected with Sewerage System to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1891 ...	482,600	99,364	...	25,747,761	53·35
1892 ...	486,620	106,772	...	23,476,780	48·24
1893 ...	469,390	107,125	...	24,290,041	51·75
1894 ...	449,560	107,764	...	27,071,106	60·22
1895 ...	444,340	107,260	...	26,689,683	60·07
1896 ...	452,210	106,486	...	23,837,695	52·71
1897 ...	458,300	105,710	...	24,665,607	53·82
1898 ...	466,895	104,861	3,899	28,253,294	60·51
1899 ...	480,390	103,981	13,593	27,068,465	56·37
1900 ...	489,600	104,050	28,300	28,230,690	57·66
1901 ...	494,905	104,548	38,696	29,427,589	59·46
1902 ...	501,580	105,051	47,172	29,080,027	57·98
1903 ...	502,840	106,176	55,929	28,858,633	57·39
1904 ...	505,760	107,701	64,487	29,523,153	58·37
1905 ...	511,520	109,393	71,689	32,400,286	63·34
1906 ...	519,925	111,494	79,597	33,479,900	64·39
1907 ...	530,655	114,049	87,853	35,212,222	66·36
1908 ...	543,115	116,781	94,067	31,559,830	58·11
1909 ...	557,350	119,650	99,955	33,047,340	59·29
1910 ...	573,255	123,227	105,993	33,272,490	58·04
1911 ...	588,000	128,036	112,293	36,110,115	61·41
1912 ...	604,275	133,122	118,350	38,569,566	63·83
1913 ...	628,430	140,351	125,103	41,642,926	66·27
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64
1915 ...	674,000	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·25
1916 ...	713,957	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	51·69
1917 ...	727,196	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	53·08

DESCRIPTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

Sewerage system. While the Board took over from the State Government the branch which had the management of the Melbourne

Water Supply, still the chief object of its creation was to carry out the long-called-for and pressing want of an efficient system of sewerage in the Metropolitan area. The plans and estimates of the cost of the Metropolitan sewerage scheme were originally prepared by the late Mr. James Mansergh, an expert civil engineer from England, and were furnished to the Board on its creation. The scheme recommended by the designer and selected by the Board's Engineer-in-Chief (the late Mr. William Thwaites) was estimated to cost £5,030,000, but was modified by Mr. Thwaites, with the concurrence of the Board, so as to reduce the estimated cost to £3,451,000.

The original Act of Parliament contemplated only the construction of sewers in the streets, but this was altered by an Act passed in 1897,

which added the duty of constructing sewers in rights-of-way and the branches from the sewers to the building line of each property, and in consequence has added considerably to the original estimate of cost.

The first tenement was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1917, 152,171 tenements had been gazetted as within sewerage areas, and applications received *re* 179 outside gazetted areas, making a total of 152,350 tenements. Out of this number 151,909 were provided with sanitary fittings which required to be connected with the sewerage system, and 150,207 had been connected, including the 179 outside gazetted areas. Of the remaining 1,702 tenements, 1,003 were in progress of connexion, while on 699 tenements connexions work had not been commenced.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1917:—

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

Municipality.	No. of Tenements connected on 31st December, 1917.
Melbourne City	26,820
South Melbourne City	10,755
Prahran City	11,800
Fitzroy City	7,950
Richmond City	10,221
St. Kilda City	7,401
Collingwood City	8,416
Footscray City	6,598
Hawthorn City	6,240
Brunswick City	8,621
Essendon City	7,130
Malvern City	5,542
Caulfield City	5,055
Northcote City	5,277
Camberwell City	3,280
Brighton Town	3,896
Port Melbourne Town	3,016
Williamstown Town	3,706
Kew Town	2,707
Coburg Town	1,909
Oakleigh Borough (part of)	Nil
Sandringham Borough (part of)	1,224
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	1,326
Preston Shire	1,080
Moorabbin Shire (part of)	Nil
Nunawading Shire (part of)	237
Total	150,207

PROGRESS REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA.

On the 31st December, 1917, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, Prahran, Nunawading, St. Kilda, and Sandringham, which latter was formerly returned as Moorabbin, from which shire the Sandringham portion has been excised. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Essendon, Footscray, Hawthorn, Malvern, and the thickly populated portions of Camberwell, Brunswick, Northcote, Williamstown, and Preston, together with the greater portion of Caulfield, Coburg, and Kew. Considerable progress had also been made with the work in the municipality of Heidelberg.

During the past twelve months the work has progressed principally in Footscray, Heidelberg, Hawthorn, Malvern, Northcote, and Williamstown. Branch and main sewers have been extended in Heidelberg and Northcote. Reticulation contracts have been completed in Footscray, Heidelberg, Hawthorn, Malvern, Northcote, and Williamstown. Reticulation extensions have been carried out in Caulfield, Brunswick, Brighton, Essendon, Malvern, and in a lesser degree in Camberwell, Heidelberg, Kew, Northcote, and St. Kilda.

Work in progress: Gardiner's Creek main sewer is now being extended along the borders of the municipalities of Malvern and Camberwell, and reticulation contracts and day labour extensions are being carried out in Brunswick, Caulfield, Camberwell, Malvern, Heidelberg, and various other portions of the metropolitan area, where new buildings and fresh subdivisions are being provided for.

The whole system was so far advanced that on the date mentioned above the sewage from 152,350 tenements could be collected, including those inside and outside gazetted areas, and 151,909 tenements could be connected. Of these, 150,207 tenements were connected, and work was in progress on 1,003 other premises. The total number of fittings connected with the system was as follows:—63 public conveniences and 84 public urinals, 174,889 water closets, 131,117 baths, 102,673 sinks, 101,291 sets of wash troughs, 50,527 lavatories, 16,407 stables, 9,932 urinals, 8,529 polluted areas and paved yards, 1,993 cellars, 1,109 slop hoppers, 300 latrines, and 351 dairies, there being also 441 tenements with no fittings to connect. The house connexions pipes join the 9-inch reticulation pipes, which are gradually collected into 12-inch,

15-inch, and 18-inch pipes, and then again into brick and concrete branch sewers, which join the sub-mains and mains. In all $1,422\frac{2}{11}$ miles of reticulation and $154\frac{5}{11}$ miles of mains and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of $1,576\frac{7}{11}$ miles.

SEWERS AND PUMPING STATION.

Main Sewers
and Subsidiary
Main.

Particulars of the system are as follows:—

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—

1. The North Yarra main sewer (North Yarra system), which commences with Heidelberg, and thence takes up East Kew, Preston, Coburg, Northcote, Brunswick, the Clifton Hill part of Collingwood, also Fitzroy, and the North Carlton, North Melbourne, and Flemington and Kensington parts of Melbourne, together with Essendon and Footscray.

2. The Hobson's Bay main sewer (South Yarra system), which starts at Sandringham, picking up Brighton, a small part of Oakleigh, Caulfield, Malvern, St. Kilda, Camberwell, and a small part of Nunawading, besides the remaining part of Kew, also Hawthorn, Prahran, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond, and the remaining part of Collingwood, with East Melbourne, and other remaining parts of Melbourne.

The subsidiary main, which takes in Williamstown, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station.

Pumping
station.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 50 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. The solid matter caught in them is transferred to a drier in the building over the wells, where it is subject to steam pressure and consequently to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial value and is destroyed in a furnace. The sewage is raised by the pumps 125 feet through two 6-foot and one 4-foot wrought-iron rising mains—the three lengths running side by side, each $2\cdot794$ miles long (an aggregate length of 8·38 miles)—to the head of the outfall sewer, at Brooklyn, 75 feet above low-water mark, whence it gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

Sewage farm. The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 11,153 acres 30½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average rainfall to 31st December, 1917, of 18·07 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, with a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 75 feet above low-water mark and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37·25 feet above low-water mark.

To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping, and in the meantime most of the high land is being used for dry farming, cereal crops being grown.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an-acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main carriers and drains which run parallel north to south through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south, through the farm.

Of the area under irrigation in the year 1916-17, viz., 7,126 acres, 108 acres were sown with maize for grain, 180 acres were under barley for grain, and 465 acres of lucerne were cut for hay, leaving 6,177 acres of grasses, and small areas under fodder crops of maize and rape (totalling 196 acres). Of the 7,126 acres, 6,564 acres can be depastured with stock.

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 profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The profits from transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1916-17 were—from sheep, £1,154; from cattle, £19,195. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £4,375.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1917 :—

	£
Lucerne (Chaff and Hay)	455
Maize	913
Wheat, Oats, and Barley	1,419
Firewood	129
Total	2,916

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1916-17, or as at 30th June, 1917, are as follows :—

Total area of farm	11,153 acres.
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1916-17 = in gallons	34,022,175
= 125·32-acre-feet per day = 5·72 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 7,996 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1917	£555,323
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses	£21,202
Cost of sewage distribution (after charging working expenses of sewage disposal and £22,180 interest on capital cost), 1916-17	£10,763
<hr/>	
Population served by sewerage system	682,617
Net cost per head of sewage purification, 1916-17	3·78d.
Average net cost per head per annum of sewage purification for the five years, 1912-13 to 1916-17	·85d.
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1917	22·53 inches.
Average rainfall for 25 years to 31st December, 1917	18·07 ..

Fuller details in regard to the farm are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, on pages 290 to 297.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Constitution of Fire Brigades Boards. Connected with the water service of the State generally is the service of water required for fire extinction.

Under the *Fire Brigades Act* 1915 there are constituted a metropolitan fire district, controlled by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and nine country fire districts, controlled by the Country Fire Brigades Board. The supervisors are the chief officers of the respective Boards, who are aided by deputies and other assistants.

The arrangements for fire extinction in the metropolis are closely allied to those for the Melbourne water supply, the service having been provided under the clauses of the *Fire Brigades Act 1915* 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 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is included in this area, but the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board has jurisdiction over portions of the shires of Werribee, Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, within the 10-mile radius, which are not vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and it extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc, that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire 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 insurance companies.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1918, had under its control the following:—Forty-three stations, 243 members of permanent staff, 39 members of special service staff, 7 members of clerical staff, 18 men engaged in the workshops, 110 partially paid firemen, 3 motor-drawn steam fire engines, 6 horse-drawn steam fire engines, 1 gasolene engine, 4 petrol motor fire engines, 3 motor salvage waggons and chemical engines combined, 5 motor combination appliances, 34 motor hose waggons, 2 motor cycles, 1 motor lorry, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 4 horse hose reels, 19 hand hose reels, 4 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 Pompier ladders, 1 exercise and supply cart, 1 inspection car, 1 instruction car, 12 horses, 126,160 feet of hose, 43 hand pumps, 5 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 314 fire alarm circuits having 989 street fire-alarms, of which 967 contained telephones, and the remaining 22 were fire alarms only. There were also 706 auxiliary boxes and 20 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 138 direct telephone lines, 62 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 37 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 72 sprinkler call transmitting instruments.

During 1917-18 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £92,928, 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 '86d. in the £1 over an area wherein the property is valued at £7,834,549,

and that of the insurance companies is equal to £4 19s. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1916 amounted to £567,330, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1917 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £28,218.

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 are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The Board annually elects one of its members as president. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1917 was £14,640, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £4,717; (b) municipalities, £5,019; (c) insurance companies, £4,717; and (d) other sources, £187. The expenditure for the year amounted to £14,817. There are 109 municipal councils and 70 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1916 amounted to £215,298, and the total of their contributions in 1917 for the upkeep of the brigades was £4,717. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1917 was £1,825,863. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large towns a few permanent stationkeepers and watchmen are also employed. There are 131 registered brigades. The number of registered firemen is 2,994, including 729 who have enlisted. The number of enlistments among registered firemen was 838, and of these 109 have been killed in action. In many brigades there is, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members." The Chief Officer of the Board frequently inspects the brigades, and also pays them "surprise visits." He reports monthly to the Board as to the efficiency of the service, and in regard to the equipment necessary to be supplied. In 1917 the chief items of the plant consisted of 5 steam engines, 8 motor tenders, 63 manual engines, 11 horse brakes, 61 apparatus carriages, 3 fire escapes, about 280 hose reels, and approximately 180,000 feet of canvas hose.

Powers of the Board. A section of the Fire Brigades Act provides that 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 person or body having the management of any water supply shall be liable to any penalty or claim by reason of any interruption of the supply of water occasioned by compliance with the provisions of this section."

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

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and shall allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1917, the Board had fixed to its 230 miles $23\frac{1}{2}$ chains of leading mains and 1,321 miles $23\frac{1}{2}$ chains of reticulation mains 3,447 pillar hydrants, 117 Tregear patent hydrants, and 15,037 ball fire plugs, viz., 15,016 Bateman and Moore (of which 1,721 are with spring) and 21 Fowler patent—a grand total of 18,601. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, under the water supply provisions of the *Consolidated Act* of 1915, must, upon the request of any municipal council within its boundaries, fix proper fire plugs in the main and other pipes belonging to the Board, at convenient distances, and at such places as the Board may consider proper and convenient for the supply of water for extinguishing any fire which may break out within its limits. The cost of fixing fire plugs and notice boards, together with the cost of their maintenance, must be defrayed by the municipal council within whose limits the fire plug is fixed. The Board may also fix fire plugs for private owners, provided they pay the cost and maintenance.

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Boards during the five years ended 30th June, 1917, are as follows:—

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

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Government, Municipal, and Insurance	82,540	85,036	93,831	102,215	96,874
Receipts for Services	5,941	8,241	6,634	7,595	5,589
Interest and Sundries	3,725	1,476	9,993	4,202	1,606
Total	92,206	94,753	110,458	114,012	104,069
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	50,426	54,285	56,104	59,162	57,511
Fire Expenses	3,233	3,312	3,261	3,331	3,325
Administrative Charges, &c.	15,584	19,515	24,056	21,476	22,620
Plant—Purchase and Repairs	4,592	4,112	4,224	5,309	7,560
Interest	5,928	7,217	8,838	9,871	10,567
Sinking Fund	2,430	2,215	2,735	3,526	2,604
Firemen's Accident Fund	550	650	604	311	250
Miscellaneous	4,580	4,624	6,467	5,801	3,308
Total	87,323	95,930	106,289	108,787	107,745
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	14,796	19,373	28,808	14,711	5,209