

CHAPTER IV.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries are generally part of the functions of local authorities, but in New South Wales and South Australia, more especially in the large unincorporated areas, these duties are undertaken directly by the Government. In some States, moreover, a certain proportion of the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Government, which, in addition, advances money for main roads to be expended by municipalities under the supervision of special Boards. Although roads, bridges and ferries constructed and maintained directly by Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience.

2. **Municipalities, Shires, etc.**—A description of the various systems of municipal government in the different States, and their development from the earliest date, was published in 1919 by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in a separate work entitled "Local Government in Australia." Limits of space preclude the incorporation of the information contained therein in the Official Year Book.

3. **Water Supply and Sewerage.**—In the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, the control of water supply and sewerage is in the hands of special Boards, while in Adelaide and Perth, these services are under the direct supervision of Government Departments. In most of the other cities and towns, the municipal councils, or, in some cases, water trusts, are the controlling bodies, which either construct the works out of their own resources or take them over after they have been constructed by the Government.

4. **Harbours.**—The majority of the harbours in Australia are managed by Boards, the members of which are either elected by persons interested or appointed by the Government. In a few instances, however, they are directly controlled by the Government. Only those which are controlled by Boards are dealt with in the following pages.

5. **Fire Brigades.**—In all the States, the management of fire brigades is undertaken by Boards. The members of these Boards are usually elected by the councils of municipalities and insurance companies within the districts placed under their jurisdiction, together with one or more appointed by the Government. Occasionally volunteer or country fire brigades are represented.

§ 2. Government Roads, Bridges, Etc.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* The control of all roads, bridges and ferries, with the exception of those proclaimed as "National" and of those in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, which still remain under its jurisdiction, was transferred, in 1920, from the Public Works Department to local authorities. The Government has also adopted the policy of assisting municipal and shire councils to recondition certain main roads by doing the work in the first instance, and recovering in instalments from the councils concerned one-half of the cost.

(ii) *Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* At the end of 1923, the "National" works consisted of 58 miles of roads, 283 bridges with a total length of 108,631 feet, and 23 ferries, while in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division there were 6,053 miles of roads (of which 213 miles were metalled or ballasted, 163 formed only, and 3,437 cleared only), 99 bridges of a total length of 13,602 feet, 340 culverts, and 6 ferries under the control of the Public Works Department.

(iii) *Expenditure on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* The total Government expenditure on roads, bridges and ferries from 1857 to 1923-24 was £25,884,339. The following table shows the expenditure for each year from 1918-19 to 1923-24 :—

**ROADS, ETC.—EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS,
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1919 TO 1924.**

Year ending 30th June.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure	88,591	116,034	163,121	542,205	443,541	458,415

2. *Victoria.*—(a) *General.* A small sum is expended annually by the State Government on roads and bridges, and a considerable amount of loan money is advanced in each year to the Country Roads Board for the purpose of constructing and maintaining main and developmental roads, the amount so expended during the year ending 30th June, 1924, being £566,596. An annual payment of £50,000 is also made out of Consolidated Revenue to the Board for maintenance works.

(b) *Direct Expenditure by Government.* The following table shows the amounts of money expended directly by the Government on roads and bridges during the years 1918-19 to 1923-24 :—

**ROADS AND BRIDGES—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, VICTORIA,
1918-19 TO 1923-24.**

Year.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure ..	20,591	7,832	10,842	23,622	65,459	46,761

(c) *Country Roads Board.* The duties of this Board were given in some detail in Year Book No. 15, p. 526.

The borrowing of a sum of £3,000,000 has been authorized for the purposes of making permanent works under the Country Roads Acts. One half of the amount expended on permanent works and maintenance must be refunded by the municipalities affected, six per cent. of the amount due in respect of permanent works being payable annually, and the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid before the first of July in each year. A special rate, not exceeding six pence in the pound may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality for the purpose of such repayment.

All registration fees, licence fees and fines under the Motor Car Act, all licence fees for unused roads and water frontages, and all registration fees and fines for traction-engines are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund. The total loan expenditure for permanent works to the 30th June, 1923, was £2,732,155. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure on permanent and maintenance works for the five years 1918-19 to 1922-23:—

**COUNTRY ROADS BOARD, VICTORIA—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1918-19 TO 1922-23.**

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.					Expenditure.	
	Motor Regis- tration and Licence Fees.	Unused Roads etc., Licence Fees.	Contributions by Municipalities.		Total.	Permanent Works.	Main- tenance.
			Permanent Works.	Main- tenance.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919	67,666	22,374	29,841	82,453	261,655	284,734	179,133
1920	85,303	22,072	37,573	89,730	294,498	335,755	192,320
1921	98,135	21,441	50,036	90,335	342,865	271,869	221,395
1922	118,672	21,487	61,024	104,026	429,308	288,937	267,969
1923	153,249	19,933	68,608	123,819	514,469	266,046	288,129

(d) *Developmental Roads.* For the purpose of constructing and maintaining subsidiary or developmental roads, the Government may borrow the sum of £5,000,000. The work is carried out under the supervision of the Country Roads Board, and the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability; the municipalities, however, are required to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan and to maintain the roads when constructed. The amount expended during the year ended 30th June, 1923 was £364,112, and the total expenditure to that date was £2,049,320.

3. *Queensland.*—Under the Main Roads Act of 1920, a Main Roads Board was constituted, consisting of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. The duties of this Board are to make the necessary surveys and investigations in order to determine what roads should be main roads, and, under certain circumstances, to undertake the construction and maintenance of such roads. Before any road can be proclaimed a main road, the shire councils through whose areas such road passes have the right to lodge objections thereto, and the Board must consider such objections and may vary its decision. The whole of the money necessary for the construction and maintenance of main roads is provided from the Main Roads Fund at the Treasury, and the councils concerned must repay one-half the cost thereof over a period of 30 years, with interest. This fund is formed from (a) moneys appropriated by Parliament therefor, (b) taxes and fees on motor vehicles, traction engines and wheels of vehicles, (c) fees and rents for unused roads, (d) moneys received for the sale of timber, sand, etc., on any main road, and (e) all other moneys received or recovered by the Board. Wherever possible, the Board arranges with local authorities to undertake the survey and construction of works, but in most cases, owing to the dearth of trained engineers in the employ of councils, the Board has had to undertake most of the survey work and preparation of plans and a considerable portion of the construction. During the year ended 30th June, 1924, the receipts of the Board amounted to £695,469, including £496,000 from the Treasury Loan Fund and £103,398 from motor fees, and the disbursements to £519,878, including £311,957 expenditure on permanent works and £20,200 on maintenance of main roads. At that date, 2,881 miles of roads had been gazetted as main roads, 283 miles had been surveyed during the year, and the estimated cost of works for which plans were in hand or completed, including bridges, was £463,698.

The money made available to the State under the Commonwealth "Main Roads Development Act" is allocated and expended under the direction of the Main Roads Board.

The developmental roads sections of "The Main Roads Acts 1920 to 1923" provide that on such roads the Board will be responsible for the total cost of construction, but that the Local Authorities concerned shall repay half the interest over a period of twenty years, and that the Local Authorities shall be responsible for maintenance.

4. **South Australia.**—Under the Main Roads Act of 1922, the Government is authorized to borrow up to £300,000 for the purpose of reconstructing main roads and for acquiring quarries and working the same. In the sparsely settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department, which expended thereon during the year ended 30th June, 1924, the sum of £25,941. During the same year, the Government expended £164,323 from loan funds on roads. In addition, a large amount of money is allocated annually to the municipal corporations and district councils solely for the construction and maintenance of main roads within their boundaries.

The Roads Improvement Act 1921 provides for the constitution of a Roads Advisory Board, consisting of three members of the Public Service appointed by the Governor. Main roads may be proclaimed. The duties of the Board are to advise the Minister as to the moneys which should be expended by each council on the construction, maintenance and keeping in repair of the main roads within its district, and the amount of money voted for main roads which should be allocated to each council. The Minister determines (a) the total amount of money to be expended by each council for such purposes during each financial year, (b) the amount to be allocated to each council, and (c) the amount to be spent by each council out of revenue, for which a council may declare a special rate not exceeding fourpence in the pound, but the amount under (c) must not exceed one-half the amount under (b). Should a council make default in carrying out the work prescribed, the Engineer for Roads and Bridges may undertake it, and half the amount of the cost thereof becomes a debt due by such council to the Minister.

5. **Western Australia.**—In Western Australia the construction, maintenance, and management of roads and bridges throughout the State are under the control of municipalities and district road boards which are subsidized by the Government.

6. **Tasmania.**—(i) *Construction.* In Tasmania the cost of construction of roads and bridges is borne almost entirely by the central Government.

Up to the 30th June, 1924, the loan expenditure on these works was £3,903,835. In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has formed a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £670,565 has been expended. This fund has in recent years more than met the demands on it, and expenditure therefrom since 1918 has been limited to £10,000 annually, the balance being used for redemption of debt. The following table gives particulars of the amount and cost of construction for the last five years:—

ROADS AND BRIDGES, TASMANIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION TO 30th JUNE, 1924.

Period.				Expenditure.		New-road Mileage.		New Bridges.
				Loans.	Crown Lands Fund.	Cleared.	Metalled.	
				£	£	Miles.	Miles.	No.
1919-20	..	..	..	81,940	6,563	67	68	17
1920-21	..	..	..	100,621	4,744	62	80	8
1921-22	..	..	..	99,760	8,198	69	73	27
1922-23	..	..	..	71,017	6,412	47	57	13
1923-24	..	..	..	56,752	5,537	53	48	15

(ii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads and bridges is undertaken by the municipalities with some assistance from the central Government, chiefly by way of subsidy. Under the Aid to Road Rates Act, a sum of £11,000 is distributed annually among the municipalities, in proportion as the cost of maintenance falls on their resources. Under the Main Roads Maintenance Act 1918 a further sum of £5,000 was provided out of Consolidated Revenue, which, with the addition of the motor tax, less 5 per cent., and a contribution from municipalities, is expended on the upkeep of main roads. In 1923-24 the amount available for 1,100 miles of main road was £36,400. The work is carried out in most cases by municipalities, under the general direction of an Advisory Board, on which the Government, the municipalities, and the motorists are all represented. Further, the Repairs to Roads Act 1920 provides for loans for 15 years to municipalities for the purpose of re-making roads—half the loan is repaid in instalments by the local body and the remainder by the State Government. The Government also provides for the repair of the more important bridges, and for emergency work.

The above provision for maintenance has, however, in recent years been found insufficient to cope with the heavier motor traffic and the demand for a better road surface, and further legislation is in contemplation.

7. *Summary of Loan Expenditure on Roads and Bridges.*—Figures showing the total expenditure on roads and bridges in the States are not available. The subjoined statement, however, gives the amounts of loan expenditure by the State Governments up to the 30th June, 1924 :—

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.—GOVERNMENT LOAN EXPENDITURE TO THE
30th JUNE, 1924.**

Expenditure.	N.S.W.	Victoria. (a)	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total to 30/6/23	2,381,744	4,724,249	931,775	2,110,535	459,468	3,847,083	14,454,854
„ „ 30/6/24	2,567,322	5,290,845	931,775	2,276,475	525,477	3,903,835	15,495,729

(a) This expenditure is from loan funds on country roads ; temporary advances not included.

(b) In addition, Main Roads Board loan expenditure to 30th June, 1924, was £773,500.

The following table shows the annual expenditure from loans on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—LOAN EXPENDITURE BY STATES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land. (a)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919-20 ..	6,674	623,570	..	66,393	14,538	81,940	793,115
1920-21 ..	13,555	965,646	..	120,223	32,121	100,621	1,232,166
1921-22 ..	320,271	960,821	..	109,120	12,585	99,760	1,502,557
1922-23 ..	231,271	573,972	217,500	62,510	34,311	71,017	1,190,581
1923-24 ..	185,578	960,821	496,000	165,940	66,009	56,752	1,931,100

(a) Main Roads Board loan expenditure.

The two tables given above show only a small proportion of the actual expenditure upon roads and bridges in the different States, for the reason that (a) there have been large expenditures from revenue, both by the central Governments and by local authorities, and (b) the State Governments have in many cases voted grants and subsidies on the amount of rates collected, and have issued loans to local authorities either for the express purpose of the construction of roads and bridges or for the general purpose of public works construction.

§ 3. Municipalities, Shires, Etc.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General*. Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1923 being 183,976 square miles, of which 2,836 square miles are included in the former and 181,140 in the latter. The areas incorporated comprise the whole of the eastern and central divisions of the State, with the exception of Lord Howe Island, the islands in Port Jackson, and the quarantine station at Port Jackson.

(ii) *Municipalities*.—(a) *Summary*. The following table gives the number, area and population of municipalities, together with the length of roads and the number of bridges and ferries therein for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES—SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	No. of Municipalities.	Sydney and Suburbs.		Country.		Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
		Area.	Population.	Area.	Population.			
1919	183	95,259	811,910	1,710,475	482,860	(a)	(a)	(a)
1920	185	95,259	881,594	1,725,875	525,264	(a)	(a)	(a)
1921	185	95,259	906,320	1,725,875	531,090	10,187	745	26
1922	185	95,259	934,970	1,725,875	536,050	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923	184	95,259	959,720	1,720,275	545,850	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 10,187 miles of roads, 4,474 were metalled, ballasted or gravelled, 1,912 formed only, and 2,162 cleared only, while 1,639 miles were natural surface.

(b) *Unimproved and Improved Values*. The following table gives a comparison of the unimproved and improved values for the years 1919 to 1923 inclusive :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL VALUES, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total Metropolis.	Country.	Grand Total.
-------	---------	----------	-------------------	----------	--------------

UNIMPROVED VALUE.

	£	£	£	£	£
1919	31,831,054	39,672,190	71,503,244	25,289,371	96,792,615
1920	33,077,620	46,847,825	79,925,445	29,060,263	108,985,708
1921	35,887,412	51,027,987	86,915,399	30,706,273	117,621,672
1922	36,838,607	54,642,223	91,480,830	32,343,067	123,823,897
1923	36,918,354	60,984,924	97,903,278	34,238,069	132,141,347

IMPROVED VALUE.

	£	£	£	£	£
1919	82,808,760	111,686,717	194,495,477	66,059,272	260,554,749
1920	84,580,400	127,414,223	211,994,623	77,900,508	289,895,131
1921	99,647,060	141,632,450	241,279,510	88,922,248	330,201,758
1922	103,667,740	155,607,105	259,274,845	90,627,326	349,902,171
1923	107,239,980	174,364,307	281,604,287	99,739,138	381,343,425

(c) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities for the year ending 31st December, 1923, under various headings :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
REVENUE.				
	£	£	£	£
General fund	2,568,357 (a)	1,622,785	1,031,024	2,653,809 (b)
Trading accounts		26,496	516,889	543,385 (b)
Special and local funds		59,981	288,741	348,722 (b)
Gross revenue	2,568,357	1,709,262	1,836,654	6,114,273

EXPENDITURE.				
	£	£	£	£
General fund	2,371,043 (a)	1,715,797	1,004,555	2,720,352 (b)
Trading accounts		18,715	439,872	468,587 (b)
Special and local funds		55,608	267,307	322,915 (b)
Gross expenditure	2,371,043	1,790,120	1,711,734	5,872,897

(a) Items of revenue and expenditure for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities. (b) Exclusive of Sydney.

The subjoined table shows the gross revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the five years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923.

Municipalities.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
GROSS REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	1,483,810	1,724,858	2,068,153	2,348,854	2,568,357
Suburban	1,012,024	1,200,139	1,413,469	1,561,760	1,709,262
Country	1,271,005	1,357,065	1,582,055	1,701,288	1,836,654
Total	3,766,839	4,282,062	5,063,677	5,611,902	6,114,273
GROSS EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	1,454,277	1,747,972	2,060,635	2,187,856	2,371,043
Suburban	987,885	1,145,765	1,511,543	1,618,413	1,790,120
Country	1,228,553	1,293,564	1,507,423	1,637,140	1,711,734
Total	3,670,715	4,187,301	5,079,601	5,443,409	5,872,897

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.* The financial position of the municipalities as at the 31st December, 1923, is shown by the following statement of assets and liabilities.

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1923.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
Bank balance and cash	15,845,841 (a)	179,295	346,449	525,744 (b)
Outstanding rates		96,532	174,139	270,671 (b)
Sundry debtors		98,725	206,096	304,821 (b)
Stores and materials		28,076	90,082	118,158 (b)
Land, buildings, furniture etc. ..		835,386	4,070,245	4,905,631 (b)
Other		30,314	38,657	68,971 (b)
Total	15,845,841	1,268,328	4,925,668	22,039,837
LIABILITIES.				
Loans, outstanding interest and sundry creditors	15,401,033 (a)	1,518,185	1,417,105	2,935,290 (b)
Debts due to Government and interest thereon		109,937	1,977,339	2,087,276 (b)
Bank overdrafts		199,162	152,244	351,406 (b)
Other		26,313	94,142	120,455 (b)
	15,401,033	1,853,597	3,640,830	20,895,460

(a) Particulars for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities.
(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

(iii) *Shires.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area, population, and unimproved capital value of shires, together with the length of the roads, and the number of bridges and ferries therein. It is not possible to give the improved capital value or the assessed annual value, as shires are not compelled to make these valuations.

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	No. of Shires.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
	No.	sq. miles.	No.	£	miles.	No.	No.
1919	136	180,708	692,230	110,881,306	(a)	(a)	(a)
1920	136	181,140	670,123	120,872,326	(a)	(a)	(a)
1921	136	181,140	676,130	130,834,456	85,458	3,627	175
1922	136	181,140	688,560	135,380,748	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923	136	181,140	691,000	140,392,104	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 85,458 miles of roads, 17,216 were metalled or ballasted, 12,200 formed only, and 26,538 cleared only, the balance being natural surface.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of shires for the years 1919 to 1923 are shown in the following table. Included in the receipts for 1923 are Government grants amounting to £167,169:—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES,—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923.

Particulars.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
REVENUE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>	£	£	£	£	£
General rates (including interest) ..	742,026	825,781	968,886	1,033,921	1,064,842
Government endowment ..	153,234	156,429	178,420	156,861	150,296
Public works ..	230,673	196,045	188,533	218,952	204,129
Health administration ..	13,731	79,410	84,014	88,165	98,532
Public services ..	12,481	14,630	15,540	16,052	15,712
Shire property ..	15,539	13,456	16,145	20,344	8,124
Miscellaneous ..	7,192	12,125	8,939	13,852	16,977
<i>Special and Local Funds</i> ..	114,885	57,540	87,124	99,960	157,547
Total revenue ..	1,289,761	1,355,416	1,547,601	1,648,107	1,716,159
EXPENDITURE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>					
Administrative expenses	115,657	146,762	140,300	168,802	158,362
Public works ..	1,013,337	994,731	1,187,349	1,245,857	1,268,550
Health administration ..	26,237	84,282	89,344	95,578	104,437
Public services ..	21,293	26,239	33,782	32,205	31,526
Shire property ..	17,037	14,935	18,721	18,518	7,041
Miscellaneous ..	16,034	8,589	9,418	11,626*	20,327†
<i>Special, Local, and Loan Funds</i>	98,403	50,210	78,474	91,295	131,715
Total expenditure ..	1,307,998	1,325,748	1,557,388	1,663,881	1,721,958

* Includes £7,597 for interest on loans and overdrafts. † Includes £13,185 for interest.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The finances of the shires at the end of the year 1923 showed an excess of assets of £373,309. The following table gives particulars of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December, 1923 :—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1923.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
	£		£
Bank balances and cash ..	231,366	Loans outstanding, interest and	
Outstanding rates ..	155,846	sundry creditors ..	489,424
Sundry debtors ..	39,785	Bank overdrafts ..	207,553
Stores and materials ..	31,513	Other ..	73,278
Land, buildings, furniture, plant,			
machinery, etc. ..	683,397		
Other ..	1,657		
Total ..	1,143,564	Total ..	770,255

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* Local Government is established throughout the State (with the exception of French Island), the various divisions being termed cities, towns, boroughs, or shires. Melbourne and Geelong were incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of a general system of local government, and except in a few details are not subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000, the municipalities received from the Government during the financial year 1923–24 a sum of £65,264 out of the Licensing

Fund as the equivalent for (a) fees for licences, (b) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants, and (c) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under the Licensing Act 1915.

The financial years of the cities of Melbourne and Geelong end on the 31st December and the 31st August respectively; those of all other municipalities on the 30th September.

(ii) *Municipalities.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table shows the number of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires, with estimated population, number of ratepayers and dwellings, and value of ratable property for the years 1920 to 1924 inclusive :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ending 30th September.	Number of Municipal- ities.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers (both sexes).	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Ratable Property.		
					Total.	Annual.	
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHs.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	
1920..	52	877,880	228,518	200,206	172,838,636	9,687,320	
1921..	55	886,030	237,037	} 205,416a {	193,947,624	10,864,184	
1922..	53	914,371a	245,589		210,501,055	11,869,636	
1923..	53	963,180	270,058		220,392	233,586,201	13,116,589
1924..	53	998,950	279,292		229,066	264,693,364	14,964,345
SHIRES.							
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£	
1920..	138	628,420	188,892	142,570	184,599,186	9,340,172	
1921..	138	628,970	198,801	} 142,579a {	205,555,121	10,350,524	
1922..	139	610,987a	201,956		215,984,328	10,875,948	
1923..	139	616,410	200,834		143,809	221,623,773	11,200,825
1924..	139	627,420	213,317		147,830	235,274,597	11,816,074

(a) Census figures.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue from various sources, and the expenditure under various heads, exclusive of loan revenue and expenditure, of municipalities during the years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923.

Items.		1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
REVENUE.						
		£	£	£	£	£
Taxation	Rates ..	1,560,968	1,750,778	2,083,931	2,303,664	2,559,847
	Licences ..	136,517	135,383	126,952	137,036	152,437
	Dog fees ..	21,074	22,575	23,682	24,316	24,832
	Market and weigh- bridge dues ..	85,240	87,845	91,448	99,485	99,337
Government endowments and grants ..		96,429	74,563	65,581	75,627	60,607
Contributions for streets, etc.		93,900	73,182	84,936	111,983	141,484
Sanitary charges ..		101,996	116,096	133,244	146,559	162,129
Rents ..		69,845	85,517	92,717	102,784	108,502
Other sources ..		714,156	879,024	890,625	1,030,323	1,179,748
Total	..	2,880,125	3,224,963	3,593,116	4,031,777	4,488,923

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923—continued.

Items.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
EXPENDITURE.					
Salaries, etc.	£ 226,692	£ 246,851	£ 284,158	£ 319,430	£ 340,319
Sanitary work, street cleaning, etc.	248,956	306,775	345,834	363,706	396,524
Lighting	100,679	102,945	115,968	130,722	131,342
Fire brigades' contributions	35,120	39,637	46,512	48,526	49,225
Public works { Construction	294,874	208,326	238,165	271,007	294,711
{ Maintenance	1,152,247	1,385,347	1,683,619	1,865,549	1,948,582
Formation of private streets, etc.	111,125	82,746	130,125	147,612	163,660
Redemption of loans	137,688	128,664	133,786	136,090	165,675
Interest on loans	257,057	264,147	276,065	305,289	343,164
Charities	21,103	25,031	29,468	26,436	26,288
Other expenditure	332,347	313,650	315,085	332,067	356,199
Total	2,917,888	3,104,119	3,598,785	3,946,434	4,215,689

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The assets of municipalities may be classified under three heads—(a) the municipal fund, (b) the loan fund, and (c) property; the liabilities under two heads—(a) the municipal fund, and (b) the loan fund. The following table shows the amount of municipal assets and liabilities for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1919 TO 1923.

Items.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
ASSETS.					
MUNICIPAL FUND—	£	£	£	£	£
Uncollected rates	133,585	133,573	158,301	176,830	202,251
Other assets	550,283	483,724	591,508	636,509	730,603
LOAN FUND—					
(a) Sinking funds—					
Amount at credit	465,132	489,332	523,834	430,689	455,766
Arrears due	1,093	3,098	483	511	670
(b) Unexpended balances	204,761	221,405	331,561	442,360	526,622
PROPERTY—					
Buildings, markets, etc. ..	3,938,068	4,077,892	4,457,527	4,804,008	5,170,071
Waterworks	271,581	270,147	256,169	253,520	255,737
Gasworks	114,505	117,704	123,454	129,020	145,874
Total	5,679,008	5,796,875	6,442,837	6,873,447	7,487,594
LIABILITIES.					
MUNICIPAL FUND—					
Arrears due sinking funds	1,093	3,098	483	511	670
Overdue interest	6,611	7,091	5,379	6,026	8,054
Bank overdrafts	484,785	442,326	542,462	858,733	665,866
Other liabilities	280,475	281,675	352,518	389,340	440,031
LOAN FUND—					
Loans outstanding	5,041,429	5,192,069	5,595,614	5,714,570	6,601,731
Due on loan contracts	129,192	220,188	158,009	177,755	380,839
Due on current contracts	64,037	85,368	102,191	88,936	155,233
Total	6,007,622	6,231,815	6,756,656	7,235,871	8,252,424

3. Queensland.—(i) *General.* The whole of the State is incorporated into cities, towns, and shires under the Local Authorities Act of 1902 and its amendments.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars of the area, population, number of inhabited dwellings, and assets and liabilities of cities and towns and of shires for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.	
							Govern- ment Loans.	Total.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

		sq. miles.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	
1919	..	35	510	346,019	66,879	17,648,597	2,037,948	304,204	1,667,595
1920	..	35	510	330,044	69,340	19,066,071	2,161,774	457,170	1,867,186
1921	..	36	522	339,420	71,257	19,350,707	2,579,726	506,131	2,081,724
1922	..	36	522	343,799	71,887	19,486,391	2,402,864	540,520	2,251,373
1923	..	36	537	354,187	73,874	20,606,516	2,674,349	589,715	2,540,921

SHIRES.

1919	..	136	669,384	425,855	92,030	46,259,148	625,883	191,551	398,272
1920	..	135	669,384	422,683	95,173	47,259,059	723,871	299,361	513,623
1921	..	134	669,372	423,857	99,364	49,051,635	800,451	338,681	620,180
1922	..	134	669,372	427,739	96,840	50,284,568	846,102	365,863	623,086
1923	..	134	669,627	446,943	98,608	51,041,891	1,037,880	448,390	799,755

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for each year from 1919 to 1923 :—

**MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1919 TO 1923.**

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Govern- ment Loans and Subsidies.	Total.	Public Works and Services.	Loan Redemp- tion.	Office Expenses and Salaries.	Total.

CITIES AND TOWNS.

		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919	..	612,476	45,833	798,473	577,993	20,925	68,585	860,958
1920	..	700,321	180,110	1,024,834	774,969	30,234	76,703	1,074,648
1921	..	791,259	94,453	1,025,504	842,567	32,696	92,194	1,180,420
1922	..	868,996	59,652	1,139,009	960,770	32,892	86,639	1,309,288
1923	..	913,182	77,736	1,492,209	1,057,611*	34,907	87,320	1,432,525

SHIRES.

1919	..	538,769	41,000	690,476	507,506	18,080	97,047	718,018
1920	..	616,025	123,554	860,043	618,287	18,136	110,603	831,807
1921	..	666,951	86,237	844,834	671,997	22,732	134,380	925,953
1922	..	723,478	62,424	933,771	665,229	24,545	119,776	922,811
1923	..	740,433	93,536	1,139,324	879,942*	27,523	126,302	1,141,111

* Including Expenditure on Main Roads.

4. South Australia.—(i) *General*. A large proportion of South Australia is unincorporated, the balance being under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in outside areas. These bodies are subsidized by Government, and special grants allocated on the recommendation of the Roads Advisory Board are given for the maintenance and construction of main roads.

(ii) *Local Authorities*. (a) *Summary*. During the past five years the number of corporations and district councils has increased by 3, the total being 187, of which 10 corporations and 14 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 25 corporations and 137 district councils in outside areas. According to the latest available information, there are 955 miles of roads under the control of corporations and about 42,439 miles under the control of district councils, and of these totals, 14½ miles are wood-blocked and 10,529 miles macadamized. The following table gives the area, population, number of occupied dwellings, capital and assessment values and outstanding loans for corporations and district councils separately for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Area.	Estimated Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
-------	-------	-----------------------	---------------------	----------------	-------------------	--------------------

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

		Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	£
1919	..	53,949	218,932	45,814	42,401,746	2,337,394	343,926
1920	..	53,949	208,022	45,674	44,106,632	2,300,858	343,643
1921	..	53,959	214,730	46,782	47,980,109	2,421,920	382,293
1922	..	59,279	220,559	48,120	51,100,946	2,544,974	439,319
1923	..	59,279	223,875	49,260	54,983,943	2,759,282	443,893

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1919	..	29,602,382	260,409	57,127	57,503,456	2,829,198	23,836
1920	..	29,602,382	259,096	57,548	60,184,690	2,938,336	35,797
1921	..	29,605,269	264,712	57,630	63,510,162	3,160,976	38,131
1922	..	30,196,509	272,104	59,737	68,293,518	3,429,776	35,358
1923	..	30,177,455	282,266	62,223	74,949,756	3,747,623	43,848

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure*. The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the years 1919 to 1923, showing in separate columns the receipts and expenditure on main roads. The financial year of municipal corporations ends on the 30th November and that of district councils on the 30th June.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Local Government (exclusive of Government Grants Account).						Government Grants Account (Main Roads).	
	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works.	Total.		

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919	..	215,605	25,280	334,092	114,102	140,457	340,172	14,734
1920	..	233,645	27,347	364,200	115,013	163,260	379,709	16,703
1921	..	279,992	29,094	420,060	147,129	184,966	444,782	23,927
1922	..	315,772	29,328	470,183	185,758	188,756	500,421	33,222
1923	..	346,844	34,576	511,078	248,270	204,314	584,005	25,637

DISTRICT COUNCILS.

1919	..	167,161	38,555	249,622	176,056	30,896	270,108	120,790
1920	..	180,414	37,730	298,953	179,802	52,891	310,676	128,345
1921	..	212,801	43,316	315,166	189,332	40,048	318,614	208,608
1922	..	242,591	50,101	356,359	213,557	53,323	361,290	171,756
1923	..	277,563	56,281	407,980	222,574	59,380	403,194	217,267

5. Western Australia.—(i) *General.* In this State there are three forms of local authorities, namely :—(a) municipalities, (b) district road boards, and (c) local boards of health, the two former covering the whole of the State. Local boards of health are of three descriptions, (a) municipal, the members being the same as those of the municipal council of the municipality in which each is situated, (b) those under the control of road boards, and (c) those not under the control of road boards or municipalities. Several of the two latter are inactive. The financial year of municipalities and municipal boards of health terminates on the 31st October, and that of road boards and other local boards of health on the 30th June.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, their area, population, number of dwelling houses, capital value (including improvements), annual value, and length of roads and streets, for the years 1920 to 1924. The figures for 1921 include those for one municipality which was dissolved on the 1st July, 1921, and for the population and number of dwellings in 1920, 1921 and 1922, the census-figures for 4th April, 1921, are given.

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 31st Oct.—	Muni- cipalities.	Area.	Population.	Dwelling Houses.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	Miles
1920 ..	23	60,911	166,222	35,492	26,280,406	1,550,134	1,135
1921 ..	22	60,911	166,222	34,537	29,947,232	1,673,545	1,140
1922 ..	21	58,981	162,561	35,137	29,492,571	1,710,389	992
1923 ..	21	58,981	172,881	35,498	31,054,031	1,810,173	993
1924 ..	21	58,981	172,427	35,498	32,881,961	1,910,798	994

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table gives the revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the years 1919 to 1924 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 31st October—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Rates.	From Govt. Grants.	From other sources.	Total.	Works and Improve- ments.	Disburse- ments in respect of Loans.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	190,171	1,142	471,859	663,172	95,194	147,396	423,233	665,823
1921 ..	250,356	710	531,589	782,655	132,011	156,123	461,547	749,681
1922 ..	263,008	300	571,394	834,702	180,537	173,038	493,635	847,210
1923 ..	277,993	939	593,937	872,869	202,758	190,738	471,140	864,636
1924 ..	287,863	4,372	738,040	1,030,275	236,050	191,618	599,952	1,027,620

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The following table shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October in each financial year 1920 to 1924 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 31st October—	Assets.				Liabilities.	
	Balance in Hand.	Value of Property.	Accrued Sinking Funds.	Total.	Outstanding Debts and Bonds.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	36,087	1,456,109	385,692	2,011,498	1,745,908	1,836,596
1921 ..	64,687	1,514,671	409,879	2,089,501	1,782,471	1,890,307
1922 ..	45,461	1,533,276	412,578	2,100,799	1,767,562	1,857,490
1923 ..	48,580	1,574,805	477,016	2,121,099	1,802,782	1,894,126
1924 ..	51,460	1,570,010	449,007	2,193,487	1,864,993	1,961,763

(iii) *District Road Boards. (a) Summary.* In the table hereunder the unimproved values given are approximate, allowance being made for three districts for which the annual values only are available. In other instances the annual value is also given, and those portions of districts rated under the annual value are not included in the area rated under the unimproved capital value. The population at the date of the census of 4th April, 1921, was 160,970, and the number of dwellings 41,662.

On the 30th June, 1924, the population was estimated at 188,640, and the number of dwelling-houses at 45,540. Forty-two districts, however, only give figures at time of the 1921 census.

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Road Districts.	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value (Approximate).	Length of Roads in Existence.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Out- standing Loans.
	No.	sq. miles.	£	miles.	£	£	£
1920 ..	118	975,820	14,553,000	34,631	280,066	191,823	140,185
1921 ..	119	975,820	14,547,000	36,506	307,521	219,660	154,411
1922 ..	121	975,828	15,088,027	37,238	356,270	286,423	172,984
1923 ..	121	975,828	16,175,944	38,907	379,649	292,915	210,755
1924 ..	122	975,828	16,202,890	39,863	418,060	348,690	242,043

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the years 1920 to 1924:—

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	135,644	53,234	68,902	257,780	31,722	152,172	59,471	243,365
1921 ..	149,904	39,172	85,659	274,735	36,891	179,317	63,008	285,216
1922 ..	166,161	35,976	87,182	289,319	38,348	185,477	83,326	307,151
1923 ..	193,018	56,518	120,202	369,738	38,704	203,267	105,315	347,286
1924 ..	213,848	74,184	146,743	434,775	44,233	288,014	113,604	445,851

(iv) *Local Boards of Health. (a) General.* On the 31st October, 1924, there were twenty-one local boards of health within municipalities, and on the 30th June, 1924, seventy-six under control of road boards, and twenty-five extra-municipal boards. Of the latter, three under the control of road boards and four extra-municipal boards were inactive during the year.

(b) *Finances.* The following table shows the number of boards, their revenue and expenditure, and the assets and liabilities of such as were active from 1920 to 1924. As already stated, the financial year of municipal boards ends on the 31st October, and that of other boards on the 30th June.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Number.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		Assets.	Liabilities
		Rates.	Sanitary Charges and Rubbish Fees.	Total.	Sanitary and Rubbish Service.	Total.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920..	124	49,012	52,775	123,645	82,856	122,575	78,938	16,944
1921..	126	57,194	63,484	133,021	89,709	131,400	83,875	20,872
1922..	126	56,362	65,786	133,280	87,479	129,941	85,768	17,689
1923..	125	56,523	70,700	140,056	89,430	133,191	88,456	16,192
1924..	122	60,255	66,378	137,047	92,324	136,099	89,311	16,549

6. Tasmania.—(i) *General.* The whole State, with the exception of the cities of Hobart and Launceston, which were incorporated under separate Acts, is divided into municipal districts.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, valuations, outstanding loans and length of roads for the years 1919 to 1923. The latest available figures for inhabited dwellings is for the year 1921, when the number was 45,950.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Municipalities.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.		

HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.

	No.	£	£	£	£	Miles.
1919	2	654,184	5,215,895	11,315,593	1,592,631	176
1920	2	688,290	5,435,180	11,902,005	1,637,550	178
1921	2	771,297	5,768,348	13,112,954	1,700,128	178
1922	2	784,945	6,139,362	14,123,587	1,924,252	179
1923	2	887,583	6,388,152	15,140,686	2,017,691	187

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1919	47	1,218,152	13,434,415	25,805,735	337,020	11,219
1920	47	1,246,500	13,899,687	26,834,221	345,963	11,461
1921	47	1,347,839	14,670,035	28,436,345	534,127	11,563
1922	47	1,396,941	14,735,436	29,034,047	407,719	11,557
1923	47	1,423,174	15,168,896	30,318,877	417,535	11,725

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Adminis- tration.	Works and Services.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.

HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919 ..	125,043	1,250	354,126	12,900*	234,345	103,764	355,999
1920 ..	125,620	1,347	533,235	14,620*	279,462	266,163	560,245
1921 ..	159,094	250	626,855	24,579*	285,904	97,237	408,944
1922 ..	178,921	2,056	577,707	29,491*	403,555	110,716	544,133
1923 ..	234,313	1,263	641,070	28,361*	336,961	125,297	613,380

* Hobart only (Launceston figures not available).

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919 ..	115,618	32,717	224,760	26,438	163,756	21,476	229,492
1920 ..	129,812	27,725	223,825	31,311	140,648	23,087	209,815
1921 ..	144,531	27,889	261,162	35,798	167,870	22,797	248,468
1922 ..	156,408	30,694	269,388	36,038	193,188	24,248	270,386
1923 ..	167,616	26,026	267,674	36,003	181,087	28,438	264,395

7. *Northern Territory.*—(i) *Municipality of Darwin.* The following particulars relate to the year 1923–24 :—Area 2,024 acres, population 1,000, number of occupied dwellings 200, of unoccupied dwellings 30, and of other buildings 130. Revenue from general rates £1,686, from Government grants £818, other sources £567, total £3,071 ; expenditure £2,914.

(ii) *Bagot Road District.* During the year 1923–24 the receipts amounted to £251, and the expenditure to £641, leaving (with a balance of £660 brought forward from the previous year) a balance in hand of £270.

8. *Basis for Municipal Rating and Limits for Rates.*—These matters were dealt with at some length in Official Year Book, No. 17, pp. 124–25, but limitations of space preclude their repetition in the present issue.

§ 4. Summary of Municipal Finance.

1. *General.* In the preceding parts of this chapter certain particulars have been given regarding local authorities in each individual State. In this paragraph comparative figures are given for each State regarding the financial operations of the local governing bodies referred to in § 3. The particulars in the next two tables refer to financial years as follows :—New South Wales : calendar year 1923. Victoria : 30th September, 1923, except Melbourne, 31st December, and Geelong, 31st August, 1923. Queensland : calendar year 1923. South Australia : Corporations, 30th November, and district councils, 30th June, 1923. Western Australia : Municipalities, 31st October, 1923, district road boards, 30th June, 1923. Tasmania : calendar year 1923.

2. Number, Revenue, Expenditure, and Valuation of Local Authorities.—The following table shows the number, revenue, expenditure, and valuation of local authorities in each State and in Australia during the years indicated above. It should be noted that, excepting in Tasmania, the metropolitan water supply systems are not under municipal control; the particulars given of revenue and expenditure for the five States other than Tasmania do not, therefore, include revenue and expenditure on account of these systems.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN EACH STATE.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1923.

Particulars	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities	320	192	170	187	142	49	1,060

RECEIPTS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates—							
General ..		2,559,847	1,184,986	624,407	368,161	141,556	
Other ..		438,735	462,629		102,850	260,373	
Government grants, &c. ..	7,830,432	60,607	4,297	283,804	57,457	27,289	18,264,201
Loans and other sources ..		1,429,734	973,621	253,751	714,139	479,526	
Total ..	7,830,432	4,488,923	2,631,533	1,161,962	1,242,607	908,744	18,264,201

EXPENDITURE.

Works, services, etc.		2,934,819	1,937,553	962,382	806,164	518,048	
Interest on loans and overdrafts		343,164	50,483	24,427	96,551	126,013	
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..	7,594,855	165,675	62,430	26,818	115,703	27,722	17,697,232
Administration ..		340,319	213,622	110,325	98,130	64,364	
Other ..		431,712	309,548	99,403	95,374	141,628	
Total ..	7,594,855	4,215,689	2,573,636	1,223,355	1,211,922	877,775	17,697,232

VALUATIONS.

Capital value of property ..	2,272,533,451	499,967,961	71,648,407	129,933,699	47,229,975	43,157,634	(b)
Annual value of property ..	(b)	26,780,419	(b)	6,506,905	4,810,173	2,181,886	(b)

(a) Unimproved capital value of all ratable property. (b) Not available. (c) The valuation of road districts is the unimproved capital value. (d) Excluding district road boards.

3. Local Government Loans, 1923.—The following table shows the amount of loans raised by local authorities during the year 1923, of loans current at the end of that year, of liability on account of interest and sinking fund, and of loans redeemed during 1923 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—LOANS, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loans raised during year ..	1,870,466	1,093,858	462,024	50,743	98,599	191,388	3,767,078
Loans current at end of year	13,955,161	6,601,731	2,538,976	487,741	2,013,536	2,435,226	28,032,371
Annual liability on account of interest ..	655,934	(b) 334,000	(c) 50,603	24,888	97,149	146,314	(a)
Total sinking fund at end of year ..	1,362,124	456,436	168,343	23,626	439,761	297,577	2,747,867
Amount of loans redeemed during year ..	(a)	(a)	(c) 62,430	38,675	48,461	85,783	(a)

(a) Not available. (b) Approximate. (c) Government loans only.

§ 5. Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General*. In Sydney and its suburbs, the water supply and sewerage systems are controlled by the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, and in Newcastle and its suburbs by the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board. In country districts, both waterworks and sewerage works are constructed by the Public Works Department, and, when completed, handed over to the municipalities affected, by which the cost must be repaid.

(ii) *Metropolitan Waterworks*. (a) *General*. During the year ended 30th June, 1924, the mileage of water mains laid was 127 miles, being equal to the length laid in the preceding year, making the total length in sizes from 3 inches to 72 inches in diameter, 3,211 miles. An additional storage of 150,000,000 gallons at Potts Hill was completed by 31st December, 1923. In 1923, the supply to the city was improved by the installation of a pump to boost 14,000,000 gallons per day through the 36-in. western suburbs main. In 1924, 234 miles of mains were cleaned out during the year, greatly improving the flow. Important amplification works are in process of construction.

(b) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses and estimated population supplied, and other details for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—WATER SUPPLIED, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses. Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1920 ..	212,046	1,060,230	48,021	17,527,753	226	45.29	142
1921 ..	221,886	1,109,430	48,496	17,701,000	218	43.71	128
1922 ..	229,274	1,146,370	51,002	18,616,000	222	44.49	118
1923 ..	239,528	1,197,640	56,595	20,657,319	236	47.26	126
1924 ..	250,804	1,254,020	58,628	21,458,036	234	46.78	126

(c) *Finances*. The next table gives details of the finances for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest is not charged.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest Payable on Capital Cost.	Net Profit after Paying Working Expenses and Interest.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1920 ..	664,975	291,618	9,584,723	43.85	6.93	433,170	—59,813
1921 ..	855,751	347,298	10,323,252	40.58	8.28	473,889	34,564
1922 ..	923,798	376,203	11,130,857	40.72	8.30	543,164	4,431
1923 ..	992,702	363,102	12,019,600	36.58	8.26	597,351	32,249
1924 ..	1,105,098	380,407	13,094,176	34.42	8.43	648,011	76,680

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) signifies loss.

(iii) *Metropolitan Sewerage Systems.* (a) *General.* In addition to the usual progress made in connecting additional houses, 40 miles of new sewers were laid, the total length now being 1,314 miles. The quantity of sewage pumped was 3,970 million gallons.

(b) *Houses Drained, Population Served, Length of Sewers, etc.* The subjoined table gives the number of houses drained, the estimated population served, the length of sewers and stormwater drains, the length of ventilating shafts erected, and the length of sewers ventilated for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population Served.	Total Length of Sewers.	Total Length of Storm-water Drains.	Ventilating Shafts Erected.	Sewers Ventilated.
	No.	No.	Miles.	Miles.	Feet.	Miles.
1920	145,304	726,520	1,161.94	63.73	503,362	1,052
1921	148,923	744,615	1,196.96	63.73	514,536	1,096
1922	153,789	768,945	1,226.96	63.73	527,766	1,122
1923	159,390	796,950	1,273.71	65.70	532,470	1,162
1924	165,215	826,075	1,313.90	65.96	543,306	1,208

(c) *Finances.* The following table shows the revenue, working expenses, capital cost, interest, etc., for the sewerage branch of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest is not charged.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest Payable on Capital Cost.	Profit or Loss after Payment of Working Expenses and Interest.
	£	£	£	£	%	£	£
1920 ..	512,621	202,360	7,124,813	39.47	7.26	328,239	—17,978
1921 ..	615,615	229,441	7,329,632	37.27	8.39	341,674	44,500
1922 ..	683,434	244,916	7,553,906	35.83	9.05	373,671	64,847
1923 ..	661,964	231,672	7,857,504	34.99	8.42	395,152	35,140
1924 ..	756,539	244,480	8,145,061	32.31	9.28	409,721	102,338

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) represents a loss.

(iv) *Newcastle Water Supply.* (a) *General.* No works of great importance were completed during the year ended 30th June, 1924, but 20 miles of water mains were laid, bringing the total up to 526 miles. The construction of the Chichester River pipe-line has been completed, and it is anticipated the Chichester dam will be completed in 1925.

(b) *Particulars of Services.* The following table gives the average daily supply of water, the total quantity pumped during the year, and the number of houses and population supplied for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Quantity Pumped for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 gallons.	1,000 gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1920 ..	24,864	124,320	4,319	1,580,906	174	34.74	11
1921 ..	25,874	129,370	4,688	1,711,187	181	36.23	14
1922 ..	26,758	133,790	4,626	1,688,537	173	34.57	13
1923 ..	28,036	140,180	4,806	1,754,417	171	34.28	29
1924 ..	29,568	147,840	5,756	2,106,614	195	38.92	21

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives the revenue, working expenses, capital debt, and net profit for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1920 ..	97,469	45,516	973,512	46.70	10.01	42,972	8,981
1921 ..	116,320	59,895	1,379,427	51.49	8.43	46,299	10,126
1922 ..	113,217	63,736	1,819,534	56.29	6.22	50,785	— 1,304
1923 ..	110,076	62,155	2,271,295	56.47	4.85	54,682	— 6,761
1924 ..	143,138	63,883	2,730,003	44.63	5.24	58,701	20,554

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) represents loss.

The capital debt in respect of water supply set down as £2,730,003 includes expenditure amounting to £1,806,825 on the incomplete Chichester Scheme, which was not vested in the Board at 30th June, 1924. The capital expenditure in respect of transferred works is £923,177. The percentage of revenue on transferred (and, therefore, revenue-producing) works is 15.55 per cent. as against 5.24 per cent. on total debt.

(v) *Newcastle Sewerage Works.* (a) *General.* The sewerage works for Newcastle and suburbs as originally designed have been completed by the Department of Public Works as the constructing authority and vested in the Board.

The amplification, extension, and improvement of such sewerage works have been referred to an Engineering Experts Committee for investigation and report.

This Committee is also inquiring into the question of the amplification, extension, and improvement of the stormwater drainage works of the Newcastle District.

(b) *Sewerage Connexions and Length of Sewers.* During the year ended 30th June, 1924, the number of properties connected with sewers was 1,281, making a total of 15,606. New sewers of a total length of 6 miles were constructed by the Board, bringing the total length of sewers under the Board's control to 166 miles.

(c) *Finances.* Particulars are given in the following table of revenue, working expenses, capital debt, interest, and profit or loss of the sewerage branch of the Board for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

NEWCASTLE SEWERAGE.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1920 ..	28,050	12,734	518,804	45.40	5.41	27,892	12,576
1921 ..	32,164	16,007	555,513	49.77	5.79	30,577	14,420
1922 ..	39,477	18,863	577,833	47.78	6.83	34,446	13,832
1923 ..	49,551	19,692	592,148	39.74	8.37	36,172	6,313
1924 ..	56,210	21,915	610,849	38.99	9.202	37,083	2,788

(vi) *Water Supply and Sewerage in Country Towns.* (a) *General.* Under the Local Government Act of 1919, the Public Works Department may, upon application by any municipal council, construct, out of moneys voted by Parliament therefor, waterworks and sewerage works, and when completed transfer the control thereof to the council. The cost must be repaid in instalments, with interest fixed by the Governor, spread over a period not exceeding one hundred years.

(b) *Waterworks.* Up to the 30th June, 1924, waterworks had been completed in 63 towns and handed over to the respective municipal or shire councils, with the exception of the Junee Water Supply, which has been placed under special administration, and the Grafton Water Supply, which is vested in a Board composed of three members of the Grafton council and three members of the South Grafton council. The capital debt of all waterworks on the date mentioned was £1,729,972, and the annual amount payable in instalments and for interest was £74,751. The water supply of Broken Hill, on which loan expenditure to the amount of £481,795 was incurred, was constructed under a special Act, and the undertaking is administered by the Minister for Public Works. A few municipalities have also constructed waterworks out of their own resources.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* Sewerage and storm-water drainage works were completed in twenty municipalities at the 30th June, 1924. The capital debt thereon amounted to £537,069, and the amount payable annually in instalments and for interest to £24,143.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *A. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.* (a) *General.* All land within thirteen miles of the General Post Office is included within the metropolitan area for water supply and sewerage purposes. This area covers 434 square miles of land area, and in 1924 embraced 21 cities, two towns and part of another, and parts of 13 shires, or a total of 37 municipalities or portions thereof. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board is also empowered to supply water to certain municipalities outside the thirteen-mile radius to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the outfall-sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange for bulk supplies of water. The liability on the 30th June, 1924, for loans raised by the Board, was £14,502,036. The Board is still empowered to borrow £2,137,898 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the actual receipts and expenditure, and the loan receipts and expenditure of the Board from 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

**WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Particulars.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
ORDINARY RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply	394,007	419,474	446,875	500,671	545,835
Sewerage, etc.	396,718	404,234	454,521	542,698	472,074
Live stock—Metropolitan farm ..	53,051	43,975	19,994	42,045	85,059
Interest { Water supply	1,707	1,021	1,917	4,587	12,427
{ Sewerage	9,509	8,737	8,477	11,306	11,190
Total	854,992	877,441	931,784	1,101,307	1,126,585
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.					
General management	51,259	59,420	65,612	64,027	68,803
Live stock, etc.—Metropolitan farm	60,851	68,742	53,162	46,632	101,311
Maintenance { Water supply	60,362	67,131	62,919	65,551	81,991
{ Sewerage	62,149	78,037	74,861	60,548	74,459
Interest { Water supply	147,750	156,645	179,034	203,569	238,572
{ Sewerage	362,886	369,204	411,828	430,418	441,567
War expenditure: Safeguarding works, etc.	1,195	..	..	..	..
Patriotic, Relief Funds, etc. ..	100	104	80	10	..
Sinking fund investment	5,036	4,813	..	..	..
Pensions and Compensation Al- lowances .. ..	..	..	6,007	5,756	5,562
Total	751,588	804,096	853,503	876,511	1,012,265

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Particulars.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
LOAN RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply	4,712	7,016	11,748	19,074	18,588
Sewerage	53,973	47,769	46,120	61,959	61,992
Proceeds of loans	543,853	543,616	1,573,326	749,410	1,260,716
Miscellaneous	4,351	3,196	17,497	25,978	21,875
Total	606,889	601,597	1,648,691	856,421	1,363,171
LOAN EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply construction	55,937	119,744	316,329	297,365	348,483
Sewerage construction	205,516	257,240	300,818	351,006	425,653
Renewals, main outfall .. ..	..	..	..	2,280	1,654
Cleaning rising main .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,156
Expenses in floating and redemption of loans	249,617	378,820	1,111,814	80,840	954,774
Miscellaneous	27,622	46,478	82,222	49,911	106,081
Total	538,692	802,282	1,811,183	781,402	1,837,801

B. Melbourne Water Supply. (a) Progress of Work. The principal works completed or in hand during the year ended 30th June, 1924, were:—Clearing site of Maroondah Dam; construction of Maroondah Dam (upper portion) and outlet tower; manufacture of 6-ft. diameter pipes and 30-in. valves for Maroondah Dam; clearing site for O'Shanassy Dam; construction of O'Shanassy Dam; completion of Mitcham reservoir and 2,306 lineal feet of 18-in. reinforced concrete pipes for outlet scour; raising lining of O'Shanassy aqueduct, 36,497 lineal feet; laying 4 miles 3 chains of 18-in. steel main to Moorabbin; laying 8 miles 77 chains of electrically welded steel main from Morang to Broadmeadows; laying 75 miles 42 chains of water supply reticulation under 12 inches diameter; cleaning 70 miles 51 chains of water mains.

(b) Quantity of Water, Number of Houses, and Population Supplied. The following table gives various particulars for the years 1920 to 1924. The rate levied over the period has remained at sixpence in the pound.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied. (a)	Estimated Population Supplied. (a)	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticulation, etc.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1920 ..	167,798	743,345	44,360	16,235,587	264.4	59.7	1,723
1921 ..	174,274	771,348	46,772	17,071,857	268.4	60.6	1,783
1922 ..	181,226	802,144	47,661	17,396,103	263.0	59.4	1,857
1923 ..	190,108	842,179	51,206	18,690,114	269.3	60.8	1,931
1924 ..	201,548	892,858	47,642	17,436,949	236.4	53.4	2,011

(a) 31st December of previous year.

(c) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Expenditure and Surplus.* The following table shows the total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals and special war expenditure), interest and surplus for the five years ending 30th June, 1924, together with the total amounts to that date :—

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1920	47,251	398,173	a 62,941	15.80	b 156,588	178,644
1921	112,025	407,093	a 78,755	19.34	b 173,550	154,788
1922	310,578	438,399	a 86,925	19.82	b 196,746	154,728
1923	285,352	507,475	a 85,407	16.83	b 217,723	204,345
1924	314,521	524,165	a 86,853	16.57	b 247,883	189,429
Total to date ..	5,990,793	11,771,796	2,023,795	17.19	5,112,132	4,635,869

(a) Exclusive of Renewals.

(b) Includes Interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

C. *Melbourne Sewerage.* (a) *Progress of Work. By Contract.* Of the seven remaining steam pumps at the Pumping Station, Spotswood, only one at a time is now in constant daily operation under normal conditions. Except for peak loads, pumping during the year ended 30th June, 1924, has been done by two electrical units of 18 million gallons per day capacity operated by 25-cycle energy supplied from Newport "A" Power Station. The reduction in cost of pumping is considerable. Contracts for supply of further electrical centrifugal pumps, viz., (a) two of a capacity of 12 million gallons per day, and (b) one of 18 million gallons per day capacity, were practically completed. These new pumps will be operated by 50-cycle current supplied from Newport "B" Generating Station. The necessary 50-cycle sub-station with all transformer and switch gear has been completed. The low tension bus bars and switch gear were manufactured and erected by the Board's staff, who also laid and connected up the low tension cables from the sub-station to the various wells. One main and five branch sewers were completed; twenty-three reticulation areas and 61 minor reticulation extensions were also completed, while eight reticulation areas and four minor reticulation extensions were in progress. *By Day Labour.* One reticulation area was completed, also 219 minor reticulation extensions, 3,391 branches and short pieces of reticulation, and 17 alterations, while one branch sewer and one reticulation area were in progress. At 30th June, 1924, there were 25 separate contracts and day labour jobs in progress, ranging in cost from £100 to £17,176.

(b) *Number of Houses Connected, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses connected, the estimated population served, the total length of sewers, and the number of gallons of sewage pumped for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses for which Sewers are Provided. (a)	Estimated Population for which Sewers are Provided. (a)	Average Daily Pumping. 1,000 Gallons.	Total Sewage Pumped for the Year. 1,000 Gallons.	Average Daily Pumping.		Length of Sewers, etc. Miles.
					Per House. Gallons.	Per Head of Estimated Population. Gallons.	
1920 ..	156,987	695,450	34,361	12,576,051	218.9	49.4	1,705
1921 ..	160,345	710,328	37,846	13,813,897	236.0	53.3	1,733
1922 ..	164,413	728,350	39,236	14,320,960	238.6	53.9	1,774
1923 ..	171,125	758,084	36,335	13,262,326	212.3	47.9	1,812
1924 ..	179,183	793,781	35,750	13,084,370	199.5	45.0	1,861

(a) 31st December of previous year.

(c) *Finances.* The capital cost, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and deficiency for the years 1920 to 1924 are given below :—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1920	158,288	409,057	a 95,287	23.29	b 373,925	60,155
1921	203,324	411,177	a 119,304	29.01	b 378,023	86,150
1922	242,220	441,516	a 121,045	27.41	b 422,295	101,824
1923	263,050	552,643	a 116,804	21.14	b 438,577	2,738
1924	337,740	480,748	a 119,571	24.87	b 451,168	89,991
Total to date	8,923,580	7,393,742	1,735,951	23.48	7,904,023	2,246,232

(a) Exclusive of Renewals. (b) Includes interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

(d) *Metropolitan Sewerage Farm.* On 30th June, 1924, the total area of the farm was 13,601 acres. The following table gives the capital cost, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), interest net cost of sewage purification, and trading profit for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Interest.	Net cost of Sewage Purification.	Trading Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	8,099	46,921	c18,296	22,964	(a) 5,661	41,061
1921	21,245	22,925	c22,744	23,550	23,369	15,750
1922	12,472	2,993	c23,588	28,711	49,306	(b) 4,837
1923	28,654	20,282	c26,441	29,744	35,903	11,285
1924	36,081	28,903	c26,786	31,995	29,878	19,968
Total to date ..	676,591	528,008	289,960	564,877	292,915	293,240

(a) Profit.

(b) Loss.

(c) Exclusive of Renewals.

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners, two of whom represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the borough of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio and South Barwon. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £610,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 38,000.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The works comprise the Korweinguboorra Reservoir and the Bolwarra Weir on Eastern Moorabool River, together with the necessary channels, mains and reservoirs. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,709,835,280 gallons, and there are 204½ miles of reticulation mains within the city of Geelong and its suburbs. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1924, was £487,222, and the revenue for the year 1923-24 was £42,294.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 90.4 miles of reticulation mains have already been laid. The drainage area is 8,081 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 9,000 and within the sewered areas 8,222, while 7,203 buildings have been connected with the sewers. Up to the 30th June, 1924, the total expenditure on sewerage works was £451,328 and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £159,338. The revenue amounted to £35,824.

(iii) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the whole area of the city of Bendigo. The works, when completed, are estimated to cost £250,000, and comprise treatment works consisting of—(a) Non-septic liquefying tanks and oxidizing chambers,

without filters, but with land disposal of effluent for irrigating grass and crops; (b) Main outfall sewer, main, sub-main, branch, and reticulation sewers, of which over 23½ miles had been constructed by the end of February, 1925, at which date 1,000 premises had been connected to sewers. An unique feature of the scheme is the entire omission of the "boundary trap" from house sewers with resulting omission of "induct vent" to house sewers and the omission of all ventilation on street sewers, the main and reticulation sewers all being amply ventilated by the house sewer ventilation, while the resulting all round saving both of first cost and maintenance is considerable. Expenditure to end of February, 1925, was £188,000.

(iv) *Water Supply in Country Towns and Districts.* Most of the country waterworks are controlled by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, but a number of other waterworks are controlled by Waterworks Trusts or by municipal corporations.

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
1920 ..	98	1,189,259	892,222	14,970	29	782,115	515,364	10,614
1921 ..	98	1,215,526	905,842	10,171	29	784,465	512,185	2,300
1922 ..	98	1,256,973	936,112	11,342	29	785,602	509,358	1,590
1923 ..	98	1,278,847	949,510	15,178	29	785,602	506,475	3,152
1924 ..	99	1,322,315	983,663	13,712	29	785,602	503,890	9,811

3. Queensland.—(i) The Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Brisbane.

(a) *General.* Since the filtration works on Holt's Hill were put into operation, the whole of the water supply in the metropolitan area is filtered. There are ten filters in operation and an additional one is approaching completion. The service reservoirs on Bartley's Hill, Highgate Hill, Wickham Terrace, and Tarragindi Hill have a total capacity of about 21,000,000 gallons. The 42-in. trunk main, commenced in July, 1923, is nearing completion, and a portion of it is in operation. The Board is also constructing a 36-in. trunk main from Kenmore to Tarragindi Hill Reservoir. The additional pumping plant is well in hand, and the contractors have commenced the erection of the necessary pumping machinery. The Board has in contemplation further extensive works, viz. :—Combining Gold Creek and Enoggera Reservoir waters with the object of increasing the supply into certain districts, and the building of a reservoir on Eildon Hill together with new 24-in. trunk main and other distributing mains.

(b) *Brisbane Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the last five years :—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population.
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1920 ..	505	40,266	193,160	3,293,061	8,997,436	46.58
1921 ..	546½	42,408	206,685	3,360,747	9,207,527	44.54
1922 ..	576½	46,025	221,080	3,648,833	9,996,805	45.22
1923 ..	620½	48,368*	235,980	4,292,246	11,759,579	46.76
1924 ..	645½	50,152*	246,300	4,378,486	11,963,078	44.68

* Metropolitan area.

The total length of the trunk mains is 129½ miles.

(c) *Brisbane Sewerage Scheme.* The main sewer from the treatment works to Toowong (13 miles) and the outfall sewers are complete; also two main sewers, one 3½ miles long, with a tunnel under Brisbane River, and the other 3 miles long. The treatment works are practically completed and in operation. The power house and pumping stations are under construction. The total completed is 122½ miles of main sewers and 48 miles of reticulation sewers. A temporary pumping plant has been installed and operated. Altogether 1,413 premises have been connected while 27,927 houses have been surveyed.

(d) *Brisbane Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the years 1920 to 1924:—

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Capital Cost.	Revenue, Net.	Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sink- ing Fund.
	£	£	£	£	£
1920	3,661,580	219,742	94,074	546,578	88,033
1921	4,057,994	269,505	97,379	396,414	105,259
1922	4,618,211	305,450	105,397	560,217	188,038
1923	5,475,473	339,915	116,367	857,261	232,247
1924	6,330,764	(a)	146,585	855,291	303,201

(a) Not available.

(ii) *Country Towns Water Supply.* In addition to the City of Brisbane there were at the end of the year 1923 thirty-two towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems, constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. The subjoined statement gives particulars of all the water supply systems, exclusive of Brisbane, for the year 1923:—

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, QUEENSLAND, 1923.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1923—£1,184,854.

Receipts.			£	Expenditure.			£
Rates and sales of water	..	..	144,040	Administration	..	..	25,000
Government loans	..	..	47,972	Construction ..	..	..	53,733
Other	..	..	24,209	Maintenance ..	..	..	44,029
				Interest and redemption	..	..	35,547
				Other expenses	..	..	57,274
Total receipts	..	..	216,221	Total	..	..	215,583
Assets	..	..	920,874	Liabilities	..	..	641,710

4. South Australia.—(i) *General.* The whole of the water supply systems as well as the several sewerage systems are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department.

(ii) *Adelaide Waterworks.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars for the years 1919–20 to 1923–24. The figures for consumption are as recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and include evaporation and absorption. There are 49,298 meters in the Adelaide district.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—SUMMARY, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—			Number of Assessments	Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption (a).
			No.	£	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1920	..	..	83,085	2,336,093	106,465	4,106	947	5,626,000
1921	..	..	84,995	2,584,704	106,465	7,753	991	5,179,000
1922	..	..	87,279	2,781,473	111,295	7,753	1,010	5,873,000
1923	..	..	91,903	3,337,345	111,295	7,753	1,034	6,599,000
1924	..	..	100,002	3,794,755	111,295	7,753	1,076	6,720,000

(a) For previous year ending 31st December.

(b) Year ended 30th June, 1923.

(c) Year ended 30th June, 1924.

(b) *Finances.* Particulars available are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1920	2,172,518	96,103	137,488	35,902	7,508	43,410	4.33
1921	2,768,769	107,665	177,722	42,700	9,678	52,378	4.53
1922	2,843,507	134,472	204,996	43,811	9,956	53,767	5.32
1923	2,924,702	167,465	232,478	47,532	9,737	57,269	5.99
1924	3,100,856	194,158	268,574	53,673	10,972	64,645	6.58

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 are given hereunder :—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Connexions.	Capital Cost of Revenue-Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Maintenance, etc.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1920	363	38,979	860,438	65,744	86,076	13,396	24,046	7.21
1921	368	40,168	894,085	74,582	87,183	16,222	28,587	6.55
1922	373	41,240	946,213	79,562	90,525	17,083	29,893	6.41
1923	390	42,879	997,604	83,266	98,657	17,356	29,514	6.93
1924	406	45,415	1,095,683	87,066	100,707	19,428	29,646	6.49

(iv) *Country Towns Water Supply.* (a) *Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

**COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption (a).
	No.	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1920	57,258	4,202,360	5,068	3,070	958,068
1921	58,552	4,847,295	4,978	3,136	770,030
1922	57,623	4,850,448	4,978	3,176	823,123
1923	60,552	4,933,732	6,350	3,257	1,071,094b
1924	60,200	11,252,740(c)	8,679	3,415	984,714d

(a) For previous year ending 31st December. (b) Year ended 30th June, 1923. (c) Includes the new Todd River Water District on Eyre Peninsula. (d) Year ended 30th June, 1924.

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

**COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1920	4,017,265	70,526	108,584	38,651	6,297	44,948	1.58
1921	4,168,876	73,024	110,656	42,084	7,220	49,304	1.47
1922	4,368,091	66,527	96,373	50,475	7,821	58,296	0.87
1923	4,562,092	78,649	105,865	56,039	8,034	64,073	0.90
1924	5,200,184	84,241	120,599	66,007	8,303	74,310	0.89

(v) *Other Sewerage Systems.* The following table gives information in summarized form regarding the two suburban sewerage systems, viz. : the Glenelg system and the Port Adelaide and Semaphore system, for the years 1919-20 to 1923-24 :—

**SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Con-nexions.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates.	Total.	Main-tenance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1920	58	4,657	354,084	8,765	9,849	5,581	5,952	1.10
1921	59	5,216	372,520	10,507	11,606	10,148	10,607	0.27
1922	63	5,868	400,198	12,145	13,520	10,347	10,978	0.64
1923	67	6,576	423,620	13,055	14,449	12,693	13,307	0.27
1924	72	7,208	451,709	17,538	18,855	14,595	15,165	0.81

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems of Western Australia are all under the management of Government departments, and are divided into the following categories:—(a) Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage covering Perth, Fremantle, Claremont, Guildford, Midland Junction and Armadale District, (b) Goldfields Water Supply, (c) Water Supply of other towns, (d) Agricultural Water Supply, (e) other Mines Water Supply, and (f) artesian and sub-artesian waters. The consumption of water by the railways is included in the figures for water supplied given hereunder.

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Bickley Brook, Lower Bickley Brook, Mundaring Reservoir, thirteen bores and the Armadale Pipe Head Dam. The sewerage system consists of septic tanks and percolating filters for Perth, and septic tanks and ocean outfall for Fremantle. At the 30th June, 1924, the number of houses connected with sewers was 15,023.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the years 1920 to 1924.

WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ending 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Houses Supplied.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per House.		
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	No.	Miles.
1920	166,414	34,677	2,256,100	37.04	177.76	21,437	633
1921	171,198	35,666	2,327,042	37.24	178.75	21,367	645
1922	175,876	36,641	2,600,697	40.51	194.46	21,511	659
1923	182,410	38,002	2,714,791	40.77	195.72	21,782	677
1924	189,053	39,386	3,089,825	44.77	214.93	22,114	700

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives particulars for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches separately for the years 1920 to 1924:—

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	1,119,910	96,882	103,570	947,411	59,628	66,001
1921	1,223,951	113,439	117,136	958,452	61,961	71,773
1922	1,309,262	122,669	129,412	968,540	70,086	72,153
1923	1,410,442	126,028	134,316	1,015,930	74,771	74,777
1924	1,722,594	135,250	152,824	1,055,612	83,388	76,532

(iii) *Goldfields Water Supply.* The source of supply for the Coolgardie and adjacent goldfields, as well as for places on or near the pipe-line, is the Mundaring Reservoir, which has a capacity of 4,650 million gallons. There are three classes of consumers—the railways, the mines, and “other,” and in 1922–23 the railways consumed 8 per cent., the

mines 21 per cent., and "other" 71 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives statistical data for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Consumption.	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	1,000 gallons.	No.	Miles.	£	£	£
1920	1,126,000	12,244	1,221	3,401,543	176,364	295,574
1921	1,130,000	12,238	1,219	3,427,300	187,010	311,070
1922	1,153,320	10,789	1,224	3,432,234	180,127	297,027
1923	1,169,000	10,899	1,234	3,445,059	178,495	217,680
1924	1,159,000	10,628	1,303	3,487,887	167,597	212,713

(iv) *Water Supply of other Towns.* During the year 1922–23, there were thirteen towns provided with water supplies, apart from those in the metropolitan area and those supplied by the Goldfields Water Scheme. The total consumption of water by these thirteen towns for the year ending 30th June, 1923, was 114,368,000 gallons, and the estimated population served was 13,464. The average daily consumption was 23.27 gallons per head. In eleven other towns the water supplies are administered by local boards.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1923–24, thirteen (13) tanks were excavated, and five (5) wells sunk, of which one yielded fresh water and 4 stock water. During the fourteen years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1924, 385 tanks were built, 308 wells sunk, and 2,599 bores put down to a total depth of 128,104 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 443 yielded fresh, and 236 stock-water.

(vi) *Other Mines Water Supply.* Twenty-eight bores were put down to a total depth of 1,283 feet; six of these provide fresh and one salt water. Three fresh-water wells were also sunk for the use of the travelling public.

(vii) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1924, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 215, including 49 sunk in the metropolitan area, ranging in depth from 32 to 4,006 feet.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 31st December, 1924, was £402,304, but a considerable amount of reticulation work has been done out of revenue and not charged to capital account. The outstanding loans at 30th June, 1924, amounted to £357,704. At the 31st December, 1924, the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 9,958, the population 46,100, and the length of reticulation mains 107 miles. The revenue and expenditure for the years 1920 to 1924 were as follows :—

HOBART WATERWORKS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1920 TO 1924.

Heading.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	28,287	30,671	36,798	35,494	34,965
Expenditure	30,696	33,773	33,697	35,494	34,965

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £27,177. Up to 31st December, 1924, 76 miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £209,917, and 1,841 tenements connected. Since the

original city was sewered, the Municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city area, and are being reticulated. In Queenborough 23 miles of sewers, connecting with 1,019 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £111,017. In New Town a total of 13½ miles of sewers has been laid, and 345 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1924, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £63,132.

§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *Sydney Harbour Trust*. (a) *General*. The Sydney Harbour Trust, which consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Government, controls the whole of the wharves resumed by the Government in 1901. The Commissioners also provide and maintain the lighting and marking of the harbour, and carry out all necessary dredging. The whole of what might be termed city wharves are owned by the Commissioners and leased to various shipping companies, but the Trust directly operates and maintains a certain number of open wharves. Outside the city area the wharves are, to a large extent, privately controlled, but all structures beyond high-water mark are held under leases issued by the Trust. The extent of wharfage accommodation now available for use totals 58,200 lineal feet, inclusive of 7,800 lineal feet privately owned.

The depth of water at the entrance to the port is not less than 80 feet and in the channels there are 40 feet at low-water spring tides. The foreshores of Sydney Harbour are about 200 miles in length. The area of the water in the port is 14,284 acres, of which 3,000 acres have a depth ranging from 35 to 160 feet.

Since its inception, the Trust has spent £5,814,768 on the reconstruction and extension of the wharfage of the port. Over 12,000 lineal feet of old and obsolete wharfage have been demolished, and 33,500 lineal feet of new berths have been constructed. Other improvements include 2,250,000 square feet of floor area of new sheds and nearly four miles of new roadways.

During the year 1924, 1,603,700 tons of material were dredged at a cost of £54,416. In the process of towing such material, 44,705 miles were run at a cost of £36,253.

(b) *Finances*. The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Trust for the years 1920 to 1924:—

SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.	Total Capital Debt.	Interest.	Balance.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920 ..	323,306	22,398	312,609	658,313	206,450	8,959,887	353,037	98,826
1921 ..	429,986	43,577	323,648	797,211	244,764	9,449,213	438,210	114,237
1922 ..	451,981	44,465	330,676	827,122	261,120	9,868,165	488,552	77,450
1923 ..	517,740	39,570	294,931	852,241	253,614	10,129,113	514,756	83,871
1924 ..	553,295	44,879	299,183	897,357	276,883	10,417,859	528,743	91,731

2. Victoria.—(i) *Melbourne Harbour Trust*. (a) *General*. Information regarding the origin and constitution of this Trust will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 970 *et seq.* In 1924, the length of sheds in the port was 19,468 feet, covering an area of 1,125,295 square feet. The quantity of material raised by the dredging and excavation done in the improvement of the river and bay amounts to 79,552,951 cubic yards. The Trust has expended £337,789 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of the Trust from 1920 to 1924 inclusive. Up to 31st December, 1924, the total capital expenditure amounted to £5,543,783.

MELBOURNE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Rates, rents, etc.	380,203	491,677	589,583	681,958	711,558
Interest	46	42	80	328	669
Other receipts	10,253	9,718	12,807	9,850	17,095
Total	390,502	501,437	602,470	692,136	729,322
EXPENDITURE.					
Management and general expenses ..	51,178	57,226	61,763	60,997	74,086
Interest	106,735	114,860	144,883	124,109	131,674
Total	157,913	172,086	206,646	185,106	205,760
Less standing charges added to works	29,150	30,862	34,628	37,272	43,749
Total	128,763	141,224	172,018	147,834	162,011
Wharfage and other refunds	2,529	3,064	3,866	5,728	4,879
Consolidated revenue of Victoria ..	75,554	96,224	114,986	135,520	140,382
Flotation of loans expenses	300	29,525	35	750	5
Redemption of loans expenses .. .. .	..	615	..	..	..
Maintenance	105,147	120,412	126,051	85,458	130,234
Total expenditure	312,293	391,064	416,956	375,290	437,511
Surplus on revenue account	78,209	110,373	185,514	316,846	291,811
Less depreciation and renewals account and sinking fund	52,500	65,000	100,000	213,000	213,000
Net surplus on revenue account	25,709	45,373	85,514	103,846	78,811
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and property	3,221	2,461	11,906	32,892	548
Deepening waterways	80,720	81,699	98,331	150,885	137,488
Wharves construction	50,084	79,206	45,613	67,360	194,318
Approaches construction	2,364	1,565	9,084	7,519	25,483
Other harbour improvements	2,936	14,099	25,311	8,719	23,826
Floating plant	834	2,957	1,708	632	3,192
General plant	883	1,131	925	2,025	3,440
Total	141,042	183,118	192,878	270,032	388,295

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was constituted in 1905, and is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. The Commissioners have vested in them the Port of Geelong which includes Corio Bay, Portarlington, some miles of Bay frontage, and certain lands on the River Barwon and at Barwon Heads. The Commissioners have established complete facilities for the export of grain, frozen meat, and other produce, and have also constructed extensive abattoirs and freezing works. A large amount of money has been expended in the reclamation of waste lands, and on part of such lands a dairy farm with a complete system of drainage and irrigation has been established.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial details for the years 1920 to 1924:—

GEELONG HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Loans.	Sinking Fund.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1920	591,000	27,954	50,020	60,625
1921	591,000	28,667	49,636	53,605
1922	591,000	29,379	54,234	52,066
1923	591,000	33,045	58,680	56,065
1924	591,000	36,912	61,356	52,315

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Bowen Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bowen Harbour Board consists of seven members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remainder elected by the electors of the Town of Bowen and adjacent shires. The district under its jurisdiction comprises the area within the boundaries of the Town of Bowen, the Shires of Proserpine and Wangaratta, and division I. of the Shire of Ayr.

(b) *Finances.* The capital expenditure to the 31st December, 1924, was £59,435, while for the year 1924 the receipts were £9,774 and the expenditure £6,435.

(ii) *Bundaberg Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bundaberg Harbour Board was re-constituted under an Act of 1922, and consists of nine members, of whom one is appointed by the Governor in Council, four by the City of Bundaberg, and two each by the Shires of Gooburrum and Woongarra, these three municipalities comprising the Harbour Board District. The jurisdiction of the Board extends over the harbour of Bundaberg and certain lands adjacent to the River Burnett.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1924 amounted to £6,803 as against £4,563 for the previous year, and the expenditure to £5,423 as compared with £4,434 for 1923.

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Cairns Harbour Board consists of twelve members, representing the town of Cairns and eight adjoining shires. The wharves at Cairns, which are all under the control of this Board, are constructed of reinforced ferro-concrete and are 1,500 feet in length. Mechanical sugar-handling conveyors have been installed at a cost of over £37,000. The wharves are electrically lighted and furnished with railways. The gantry 10-ton crane for handling sinker logs is being replaced by an electric portable crane estimated to cost £3,837. There is a special railway wharf with facilities for handling floater logs. A cold storage plant has been built at a cost of £9,000.

(b) *Finances.* During the year 1924 the revenue of the Board was £57,452, derived from harbour, berthage and miscellaneous dues.

(iv) *Gladstone Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Gladstone Harbour Board is composed of seven members, two of whom are appointed by the Governor in Council and five elected by the electors of the town of Gladstone and the shires of Calliope and Miriam Vale. The works under the control of the Board are (i) Auckland Point Jetty and Wharf, constructed of reinforced concrete and wood, the berth being 775 feet long, with an average depth alongside of 26 feet; (ii) the municipal wharf in Auckland-street; (iii) wood dumping plant on Auckland Point jetty, consisting of two hydraulic dumps, capable of doing either single or double dumping. Works under construction are (i) 15-ton electric crane for coal and timber for export; (ii) extension of 208 feet to western end of existing jetty; (iii) duplication of approach for mixed traffic; (iv) additional approach to jetty shed.

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure to the end of 1924 amounted to £89,892. The revenue for 1924 was £2,859, and the expenditure £3,064.

(v) *Mackay Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Mackay Harbour Board consists of nine members, elected by the electors of the City of Mackay and four adjacent shires. Works in connexion with the director wall in the Pioneer River were completed in June, 1924.

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure of the Board from its inception in 1897 is not available, but the capital expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1924, was £1,267. During the year 1924 the receipts amounted to £9,787 and the expenditure to £15,373.

(vi) *Rockhampton Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Rockhampton Harbour Board consists of eleven members, of whom seven are elected by the electors on the rolls for the city of Rockhampton, the town of Mount Morgan and the shires of Fitzroy and Livingstone. The remaining four are elected by the councillors of groups of inland shires.

In the port of Rockhampton, which comprises the tidal area of the Fitzroy River as far as the entrance to Keppel Bay, there are three principal places where steamers may lie and discharge cargo, viz., (i) Rockhampton itself, (ii) Port Alma, where the oversea steamers berth, and (iii) Broadmount, originally built for the oversea trade of twenty-five years ago. The wharves at these three places are connected by rail with Rockhampton and with the main central line. The Board undertakes the work of improving the navigable channels throughout the estuary and river, and of maintaining the wharves at Port Alma and Rockhampton.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1924 was £32,662, of which £111 represented loans, and the expenditure was £30,972, which included £11,253 interest on loans and overdraft.

(vii) *Townsville Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Townsville Harbour Board was created in 1896, and is composed of nine members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council, and the remaining seven are elected by the electors of Townsville and adjacent towns and shires. All harbour works and conveniences for the use of shipping are under the control of the Board.

(b) *Finances.* The total expenditure since the inception of the Board is £1,602,956, while the receipts for the year 1924 were £58,103, being £55,541 revenue and £2,562 loan for harbour works, and the expenditure for the same year £58,207.

(viii) *Harbour Boards—Financial Summary.* The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure of Harbour Boards and the outstanding loans for the years 1919 to 1923:—

HARBOUR BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Boards.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Outstanding Loans.
		Wharfage and Harbour Dues.	Government Loans.	Total.	Works and Maintenance.	Interest and Redemption of Loans.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919	6	87,153	9,044	139,592	65,629	35,570	128,663	886,677
1920	6	108,212	17,712	179,432	90,761	51,492	178,436	887,628
1921	7	117,417	46,219	183,949	101,563	65,452	199,341	979,341
1922	7	132,234	78,506	234,827	171,853	58,492	230,345	1,077,833
1923	7	142,848	120,281	320,105	233,894	56,156	290,050	1,209,022

4. *Western Australia.—(i) Fremantle Harbour Trust. (a) General.* Fremantle Harbour is controlled by a Board of five Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. A description of the works was given in a previous Year Book (see No. 12, p. 973). Since that account was written, the inner harbour and entrance channel have been dredged to a depth of 36 feet below the lowest known low water. The berthage accommodation at all the quays has also been deepened to 36 feet.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial data for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Gross Amount Paid to the Treasury.				
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Surplus Revenue.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	281,600	130,740	73,872	19,301	2,000	54,513	149,686
1921	301,065	133,904	77,240	19,819	2,000	71,410	170,469
1922	282,038	126,597	80,218	20,277	2,000	56,491	158,986
1923	282,015	120,086	83,386	20,764	2,000	47,272	153,422
1924	357,450	146,177	85,703	21,185	2,000	96,612	205,500

(ii) *Bunbury Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bunbury Harbour Board was constituted in 1909, and consists of five members appointed by the Government. The jetty is 4,900 feet long with berthage accommodation of 2,700 feet on the west side and 3,000 feet on the east side, and is electrically lighted. Vessels can load alongside to depths ranging from 16 to 27½ feet. Five electric and one steam gantry cranes, all of 3 tons lifting capacity, are available.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives the capital expenditure for each of the five years ending 30th June, 1920 to 1924, together with the revenue and expenditure for the same years. Any surplus revenue is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund.

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund.
	£	£	£	£
1920	377,688	16,487	8,013	8,474
1921	417,611	28,980	8,843	20,137
1922	440,965	26,175	9,818	16,357
1923	448,377	25,746	8,749	16,997
1924	450,000	33,836	10,707	23,129

5. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Marine Board of Hobart.*—(a) *General.* The Marine Board of Hobart consists of nine wardens elected by the ship-owners of the Port of Hobart and the importers and exporters of goods into or from any port within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board has jurisdiction over all ports, harbours and waters within the limits of the coast line from South-West Cape round the southern and eastern coasts to Cape Portland, and within all islands adjacent to such coast line. The duties of the Board are to maintain all wharves within its jurisdiction which are not vested in another authority or belonging to any private person, to construct new wharves where necessary, and to improve the navigation where desirable.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 30th JUNE, 1924.

Year.	Capital Debt.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
		Harbour Improve-ments, Deben-tures, etc:	General.	Total.	Harbour Improve-ments.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	General.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	106,350	4,568	30,584	35,152	3,859	5,585	21,807	31,251
1921	96,350	..	30,055	30,055	1,080	5,400	29,470	35,950
1922 (to 30th June) ..	92,350	..	16,133	16,133	3	3,265	11,975	15,243
1922-23 ..	90,350	..	32,620	32,620	373	6,511	25,670	32,554
1923-24 ..	86,806	2,456	37,465	39,921	226	6,180	35,865	42,271

(ii) *Marine Board of Launceston.* (a) *General.* The Marine Board of Launceston consists of five wardens elected by the ratepayers of the city of Launceston. The jurisdiction of the Board extends from Cape Portland along the north coast of Tasmania to Badger Head. The chief work carried out has been to deepen the channel of the River Tamar to 16 feet and to maintain the wharves. An important work was completed in 1923, the removal to a depth of 30 feet of Porpoise Rock, which lies 4 miles from the entrance of the port. It is proposed to establish a deepwater port at Bell Bay. The wharfrage accommodation at Launceston is being extended.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1920 to 1924 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Total Capital Debt.	Capital Debt, Tamar Improvement.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1920	263,718	216,480	39,569	40,865
1921	303,861	256,822	44,421	45,688
1922	318,361	271,322	47,638	40,021
1923	318,361	282,710	49,928	47,588
1924	330,713	283,475	53,672	46,044

(iii) *Marine Board of Burnie.* The length of the breakwater is 1,250 feet, with a depth up to 42 feet at low water, and a wharf alongside, 630 feet in length by 91 feet wide, with a depth at low water from 24 to 40 feet. There are two other timber wharves, 600 feet and 400 feet long respectively. The receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1924, were £18,311, and the expenditure £19,429, including £13,000 interest on construction loans.

(iv) *Other Boards and Trusts.* In addition to the three Marine Boards mentioned above, there are four Marine Boards and three Harbour Trusts, which have control of the smaller ports and harbours.

(v) *Financial Summary.* The total receipts and expenditure of the ten marine Boards and Harbour Trusts for the years 1919 to 1923-24 are shown in the following table :—

MARINE BOARDS AND HARBOUR TRUSTS, TASMANIA.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1919 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Receipts.				Expenditure.
	Taxes, Rents, etc.	Government and Loans.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1919	73,485	998	15,552	90,035	100,298
1920	85,845	5,154	83,412	174,411	207,378
1921	109,363	3,867	4,957	118,187	116,358
1922-23*	143,200	19,023	21,743	183,966	172,485
1923-24	162,801	4,360	72,856	240,017	227,389

* Figures for 18 months (except in the case of three trusts), the financial year having been changed.

§ 7. Fire Brigades.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act of 1909, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of five members was formed, and fire districts established. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in equal proportions by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from a farthing in the pound rate on the unimproved capital value of the district.

(ii) *Sydney Fire District.* (a) *Plant, etc.* The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, comprising a total area of 237 square miles. On the 31st December, 1924, the Board had under its control in this district 71 stations, 363 permanent men, 228 partially-paid firemen, 3 steam and 67 motor fire engines, 152,316 feet of hose, and 563 telephone fire-alarms. The length of wire used for telephone lines was 1,462 miles.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Board for the past five years in respect of the Sydney Fire District :—

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Receipts.						Disbursements.
	From Government.	From Municipalities.	From Fire Insurance Companies.	From Firms.	From other Sources.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920	47,808	47,808	47,218	589	3,815	147,238	143,262
1921	54,355	54,355	53,820	535	6,457	169,522	163,528
1922	53,979	53,979	53,425	554	4,745	166,682	163,750
1923	58,153	58,153	57,551	602	5,954	180,413	178,585
1924	60,768	60,768	60,183	584	5,401	187,704	186,159

2. Victoria.—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1915 provides for a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and a Country Fire Brigades Board, each consisting of nine members, with local committees in country districts. The income of each Board is derived in equal proportions from the Treasury, the municipalities, and insurance companies.

(ii) *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* On the 30th June, 1924, this Board had under its control 40 stations, 271 permanent men, 130 partially-paid firemen, 65 special-service firemen, 5 motor drawn steam fire engines, 8 petrol motor fire pumps, 57 other petrol motor appliances, 2 steam fire engines, 102,926 feet of hose, and 401 fire-alarm circuits having 1,212 street fire alarms, 1,195 containing telephones.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars as to the financial operations of the Board during each year from 1919-20 to 1923-24 inclusive :—

**METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—FINANCES,
1920 TO 1924.**

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
RECEIPTS.					
Contributions	£ 95,225	£ 117,893	£ 125,685	£ 122,700	£ 131,739
Receipts for services ..	9,651	10,807	21,857	14,028	16,486
Interest and sundries ..	3,593	11,797	3,926	6,898	9,811
Total	108,469	140,497	151,468	143,626	158,036
EXPENDITURE.					
Salaries	£ 67,060	£ 85,537	£ 87,523	£ 93,033	£ 85,477
Interest and sinking fund ..	12,970	14,100	21,136	10,219	10,821
Other expenditure	26,963	41,859	46,198	43,515	59,172
Total	106,993	141,496	154,857	146,767	155,470

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At 30th June, 1924, there were 115 municipal councils and 96 insurance companies included in the operations of the Act. The brigades are composed chiefly of volunteers, but in the large centres a few permanent station-keepers and partially-paid firemen are employed. There were 142 registered brigades and 2,710 registered firemen at 30th June, 1924. The equipment included 27 motor tenders, 3 steam fire engines, and numerous manual engines and hose reels.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Country Fire Brigades Board for the years 1920 to 1924 (30th June) :—

**COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE, 1920 TO 1924.**

Particulars.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924 (to 30th June).
Revenue	£ 18,816	£ 19,995	£ 22,718	£ 22,088	£ 16,907
Expenditure	18,544	20,353	23,122	22,813	16,432

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The Act of 1920 made provision for the retention of existing fire districts, and for the constitution of new districts. For each district there must be a Fire Brigades Board consisting of seven members, and the cost of maintenance of each brigade is proportioned as follows :—The Treasurer two-sevenths, insurance companies three-sevenths, and local authorities two-sevenths. All volunteer fire brigades must be registered.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of the year 1923 there were fire brigades in 26 towns, with a total strength of 120 permanent men, 285 partly paid, and 51 voluntary. The plant included 24 motor, 5 steam, and 11 manual fire engines, 63 hose reels, consisting of 15 motor, 7 horse, and 41 hand reels, and 87,112 feet of hose. The total number of call points was 300. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade protects an area of 32 square miles and has a staff of 144 men.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of all fire brigades in Queensland for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

**FIRE BRIGADE BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1919 TO 1923.**

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Govern-ment.	From Local Authorities.	From Insurance Companies.	Total.	Salaries and Wages.	Buildings, Repairs, etc.	Plant, Stores, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919 ..	12,135	12,162	12,266	38,356	23,090	4,937	4,938	38,641
1920 ..	13,724	13,320	20,330	48,573	28,583	4,499	7,793	56,306
1921 ..	14,637	14,524	22,313	54,685	31,513	3,866	8,856	55,263
1922 ..	14,711	14,996	22,976	53,647	34,340	3,687	8,444	56,071
1923 ..	16,054	15,094	22,455	64,190	35,803	12,336	10,166	64,597

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1913 and amendments provides for a Board of five members, and the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed as to two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies, and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of 1924 there were altogether 22 fire brigade stations. The strength of the brigades consists of 109 permanent firemen and 66 auxiliary firemen. The plant consists of 2 steam fire engines, 5 motor engines, 22 motor hose carriages, 54,400 feet of hose, one 90 feet turntable escape ladder, 2 telescopic currie ladders, and 2 fire escapes.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue of the Board for the years 1919 to 1923, the expenditure in each year being the same :—

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1919 TO 1923.

Heading.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Revenue	£ 31,129	£ 33,568	£ 35,817	£ 37,306	£ 35,071

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* Under the 1916 Act every municipal or road board district is constituted a fire district under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. The income of the Board is derived as to two-eighths from Government, three-eighths from municipalities, and three-eighths from insurance companies.

(ii) *Western Australian Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 42. The staff at the 31st December, 1924, included a chief officer, deputy chief officer, third officer, motor engineer, electrical engineer, 10 other officers, 67 permanent, 28 partially-paid, and 485 volunteer firemen. The plant comprised 4 steam, 5 motor and 4 manual engines, 18 motor hose carriages, 37 reels, and 75,200 feet of hose.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1920 to 1924:—

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.—FINANCES, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 31st December—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Estimated Value.	
			Land and Buildings.	Plant.
	£	£	£	£
1920	30,100	33,423	49,000	26,000
1921	40,630	35,511	46,840	26,000
1922	34,833	34,746	46,000	26,000
1923	35,553	35,463	46,000	28,000
1924	38,720	38,621	48,650	28,000

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *General.* The municipal council of any municipality may, under the Act of 1920, petition the Governor to proclaim the municipality or any portion of it to be a fire district, each district to have a Board of five members. The expenses of each Board are borne in equal proportions by contributions from the Treasurer, the municipalities concerned, and insurance companies insuring property within the district.

(ii) *Hobart Fire Brigade Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of 1923 the staff consisted of 12 permanent and 18 partially-paid firemen. There were at that date also 1 motor pump, 1 extension and 1 currie ladder, two motor hose carriages, 3 horse and 4 hand reels, and 8 Pompier ladders, and 8,500 feet of hose.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue for the years 1923 and 1924 amounted to £5,167 and £6,172 respectively, expenditure being the same for each year.