

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1923-24.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

1923-24

By

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GOVERNMENT STATIST

FORTY-FOURTH ISSUE.

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P R E F A C E .

THIS is the forty-fourth issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1923 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., V., VI., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts IV., VII., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. The various parts were issued as soon as completed.

The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date—on many subjects to the middle of the year 1924, and in a few instances to a later date.

In those tables in part "Vital Statistics" in which localities are mentioned births and deaths have been allotted to the usual place of residence of the mother and the deceased respectively. This was done to a partial extent in a few immediately preceding years.

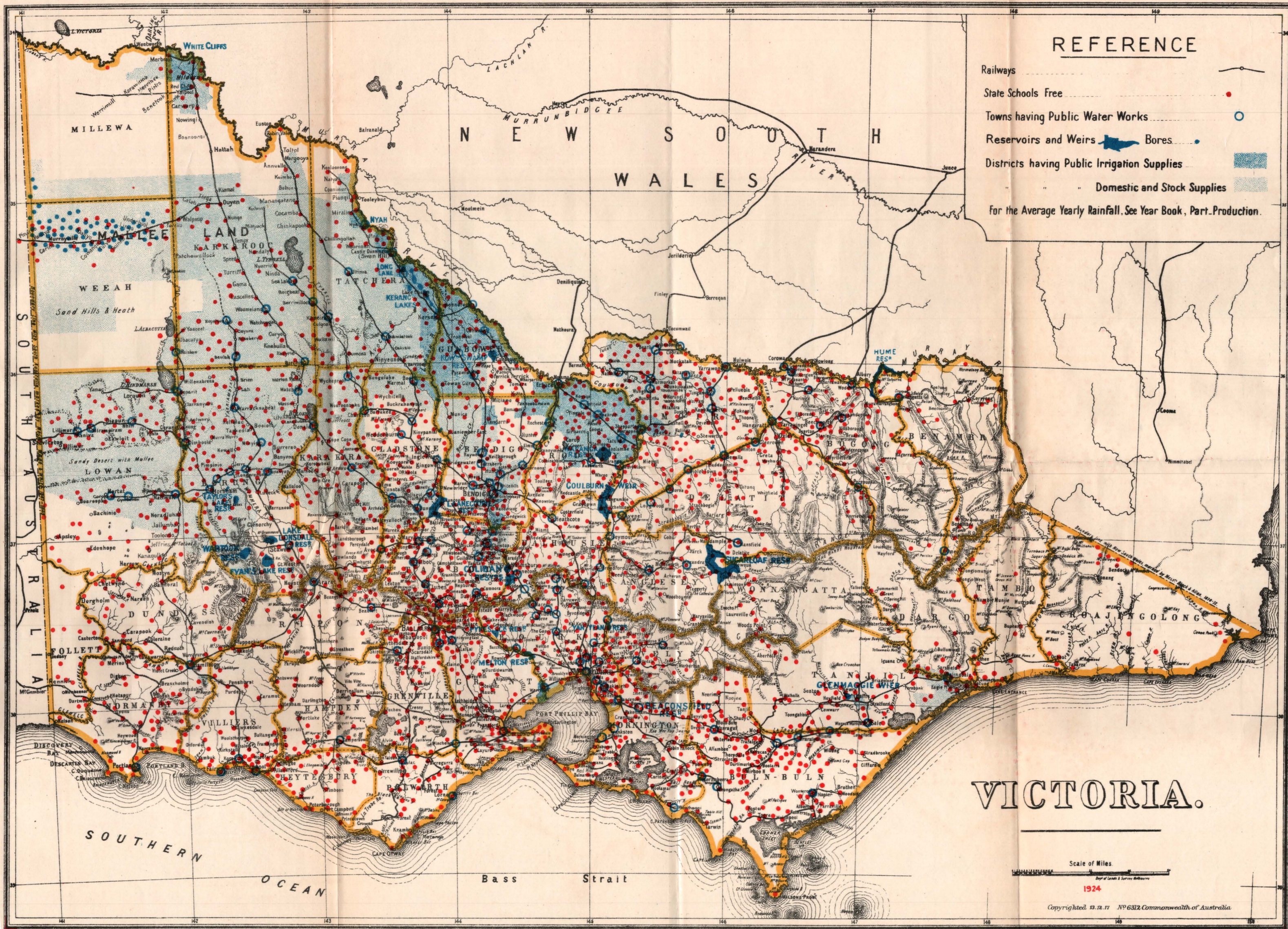
The statistics which appear on the map relating to "Production" have been extended so as to include information in regard to the principal products of the various divisions of the State.

I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of the book. I also take this opportunity of thanking the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them.

The figures and other material in each part of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

A. M. LAUGHTON,
Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 10th March, 1925.



Victorian Year-Book, 1923-24.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

Area of Victoria. Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 242 geographical miles.

Climate. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the sixty-eight years ended with 1923 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111·2 deg. Fahr., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 58·4 deg. Upon the average, on only four days during the year the thermometer rises above 100 deg. in the shade, and on nineteen days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. The minimum reading

approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1859) was 178·5 deg., on the 14th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was, during the sixty-six years ended with 1923, 30·012 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 137, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·61 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 68 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not so much felt as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6·3, and fogs occur, on an average, on only 18 days in the year.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Mountains and Hills. The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,* situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined.

Rivers. With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams; and the Murray itself, the rivers of Victoria are not navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciusko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

Lakes. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh-water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water, $10\frac{1}{2}$ square miles in extent, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915-16. This was revised by the Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

FLORA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Flora of Victoria" by the late J. R. Tovey appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1921-22 on pages 3 to 8 and an addendum thereto by Mr. J. W. Audas in the *Year-Book* for 1922-23 on pages 3 and 4.

FURTHER ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

By J. W. Audas, F.L.S., F.R.M.S. (*National Herbarium, Melbourne*).

During the period 1923-24 a very useful publication entitled *A Census of the Plants of Victoria* was published by the Field Naturalists' Club. The work contains the botanical and vernacular names of over 2,000 native plants, their distribution and other details; also a list of the weed introductions.

A number of species and one genus new to science were added to the list of the Flora during the year, namely:—*Choristemon humilis* H. B. Williamson (*Epacridaceæ*), new genus and species endemic to Victoria; *Kochia excavata* J. M. Black, "Bottle Blue Bush" (*Chenopodiaceæ*), a small saltbush indigenous to South Australia and Victoria. The following orchidaceous plants have been recently named by Dr. R. S. Rogers, of Adelaide:—*Microtis oblonga*, from Victoria and South Australia; *Prasophyllum Colemanæ*; *Prasophyllum Tadgellianum*, Victoria and New South Wales; and *Pterostylis decurva*, *Callistemon subulatus* Cheel, "Needle Bottle Brush" (*Myrtaceæ*).

During the period four species not previously recorded for this State have been added to the list of the native Flora—*Bassia tricornis* F.v.M., "Three-horned Saltbush" (*Chenopodiaceæ*);

Centipeda thespidioides F.v.M., "Desert Sneezeweed" (*Compositæ*);
Minuria denticulata Benth, "Toothed Minuria" (*Compositæ*);
Pultenaea acerosa R. Br., "Bristly Bush Pea" (*Leguminosæ*).

EXOTICS.

Eleven foreign plants have been recorded as growing wild for the first time, namely:—

Antholyza æthiopica L., "African Corn Flag" (*Iridaceæ*), a native of South Africa which has escaped from gardens; *Iris germanica* L., "German Iris or Common Flag" (*Iridaceæ*); *Leycestria formosa* Wallich, "Himalayan Honey Suckle," a native of India; *Lychnis divaricata* Reichb, "Spreading Lychnis" (*Caryophyllacæ*), a native of Sicily and Spain; *Lycopsis arvensis* L., "Bugloss" (*Boraginaceæ*), native of Europe; *Oxalis hirta* L., "Hairy Wood Sorrel" (*Oxalidaceæ*), native of South Africa; *Reseda lutea* L., "Cut-leaf Mignonette" (*Resedaceæ*), a native of Europe and Asia; *Rubus ideaus* L., "Common Raspberry," a native of Europe and Asia; *Solanum villosum* Lam., "Hairy Nightshade," a native of Europe, Asia, and Africa; *Stachys obtusifolia* McOwan, "Blunt-leaf Hedge Nettle" (*Labiata*), a native of South Africa; *Tradescantia virginica* L., "Common Spiderwort" (*Commelinaceæ*), a native of North America.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," by Mr. W. Baragwanath, Director of Victorian Geological Survey, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, on pages 3 to 13, and an addendum thereto in the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive. The leading events in the five years 1917 to 1922 were given in the volumes relating to those years.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1923 are given in the table which follows:—

1923. 9th January	..	Mr. T. A'Beckett Weigall, K.C., appointed as acting judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.
2nd February	..	The Hon. W. M. Hughes, P.C., resigned the position of Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. Mr. S. M. Bruce took up the duties of the office.
3rd March	..	Death of the Hon. Sir Peter McBride, formerly Agent-General for Victoria, at Cannes, in the south of France, aged 56 years.
5th March	..	The Broken Hill Proprietary's steel works at Port Waratah, Newcastle, re-opened after being shut down for many months.
31st March	..	Departure of the Governor of Victoria (Lord Stradbroke) and Lady Stradbroke on a visit to England.
10th May	..	Appointment of Mr. Donald Mackinnon as Commonwealth Commissioner in the United States.
24th May	..	Resignation of the Prime Minister of Great Britain (Mr. Bonar Law) on account of ill-health and appointment of Mr. Stanley Baldwin.
6th June	..	Death of Sir Denison Miller, Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, at Sydney, aged 63 years.
16th June	..	Death of Alderman Sir David Valentine Hennessy, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, 1912 to 1917.
8th July	..	Death of the Hon. D. McLeod, the oldest member of the Legislative Assembly, aged 86 years.
2nd August	..	Death of Mr. Warren Harding, President of the United States.
2nd September	..	Great earthquake in Japan. The cities of Yokohama and Tokio and other cities were almost completely destroyed. The loss of life was estimated at more than 100,000 persons, and the damage to property at £200,000,000.
19th September	..	The Broken Hill Proprietary Company resumed work at Broken Hill after a long period of idleness.
30th October	..	Death of Mr. Bonar Law, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, aged 65 years.
31st October	..	Police strike in Melbourne. Six hundred and twenty-five police refused duty. Special constables were sworn in temporarily. Subsequently the positions were filled by new appointments.
20th November	..	Sir Wm. M. McPherson resigned the position of Treasurer in the Lawson Government.
11th to 13th December	..	Elections for the British House of Commons. As a result of the voting the Ministry was so weakened that it was defeated in the House soon after Parliament met. A Labour Ministry, led by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, then assumed office.

PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1842.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1842, the year of the introduction of representative government into New South Wales, which then included the Port Phillip district. Figures are given for the year 1850, as this was the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1842 TO 1923.

	1842.	1850.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1923.
Population, 31st December ..	23,799	76,162	541,800	717,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,209,900	1,339,915	1,625,380
Revenue .. £	87,296	259,433	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,186,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	9,204,503	21,634,677
Expenditure from Revenue .. £	124,631	196,440	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,672,780	9,194,157	21,611,309
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	..	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,897	49,546,275	57,983,764	118,562,029
Gold produced .. oz.	..	1,967,453	1,855,477	858,850	576,400	542,074	789,562	105,514	105,514
Wool produced .. lbs.	2,752,330	16,345,468	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,508,635	73,235,138	101,803,644	102,467,950
Butter produced .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	16,703,786	16,703,786	16,703,786	84,355,939
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	8,124	52,341	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,647,459	5,386,247	7,049,429
Wheat bushels	55,360	556,167	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	34,813,019	35,697,220
Oats	66,100	99,535	2,136,480	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	9,699,127	8,093,459
Wine gallons	..	4,621	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,981,475	1,362,420	1,717,490
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	4,065	21,219	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	892,237	472,080	494,947
" Cattle	100,792	378,806	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,547,569	1,785,660
" Sheep	1,404,333	6,032,783	6,239,238	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,928,148	10,811,790	12,882,665	11,765,520
" Pigs .. ..	..	9,260	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	333,281	204,982
Total Imports—Value .. £	277,427	744,925	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	23,150,198*	..
" Exports—Value .. £	193,783	1,041,796	13,823,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,097	23,866,275*	..
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	..	10,991,377	9,201,942	11,481,567	13,802,598	12,686,880	21,839,224	46,608,239
Exports .. .. .. £	..	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,318,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	18,924,277	34,768,655
Shipping tonnage	78,025	195,117	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,715,109	6,715,491	9,907,046	13,230,320
Railways open miles	..	..	214	276	1,247	2,764	3,238	3,496	4,341
Telegraph wire .. ..	..	..	2,586	3,472	6,626	13,980	15,356	16,405	32,594
Postal business—Letters .. No.	97,490	381,651	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,347	62,526,448	83,973,199	143,483,191	178,682,295
" Newspapers	147,160	381,158	4,277,179	5,172,970	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,104,344	†	37,204,106
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	..	52,897	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,715,687	9,662,006	18,213,040	54,677,508†
Factories—									
Number of .. ..	..	..	531	1,740	2,488	3,111	3,249	4,873	7,096
Hands employed .. ..	..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	102,176	152,625
Value of machinery, plant, land, and buildings .. £	..	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	16,613,348	43,423,240
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	..	13,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	36,660,854	111,286,343
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	..	61	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,050	2,405
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	..	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,052,418	2,549,061
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	..	29,638,091	50,166,078	87,642,459	203,351,360	185,101,993	265,083,727	455,209,974
Friendly Societies—									
Number of members .. ..	..	..	7,166	35,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	139,308	145,254
Total funds .. .. .. £	..	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,122,602	3,547,798

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

* These figures relate to the calendar year 1909. Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of Inter-State trade the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year.

† Including deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank. ‡ Not available.

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from New South Wales. The subsequent years are census years except the last:—

Victorian Year-Book, 1923-24.

The population of the State at the end of 1842 was 23,799; at the end of 1923 it had increased to 1,625,380. During the period 1842-1923 the revenue steadily increased from £87,296 to £21,631,677. There was no public debt until after separation. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1923 the funded debt had reached £118,562,029, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1842 was slightly over 8,000 acres; it now amounts to 7,049,429 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1922-23 it was £44,608,239. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £33,768,655 in 1922-23. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1923 there were 4,341 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 32,594 miles up to the 30th June, 1923. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £54,677,508 in 1923.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £2,549,061 in 1922-23. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 145,254 in 1922—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £3,549,798 in 1922. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 152,625 in 1922-23. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £455,209,974 in 1922-23.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400 (since increased to £10,000); and decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from £100 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors

Reform Act
1903.

qualifying as lessees or occupying tenants from an annual value of £25 to one of £15. A reduction was also made in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 95 to 68—including two to be specially elected by the railway officers, and one by the State public servants—and in that of the electoral districts from 84 to 65. The Constitution was again amended in 1906 by the repeal of the provisions in the Act of 1903 relating to the separate representation of railway officers and State public servants. The Assembly now consists of 65 and the Council of 34 members.

Power is given to any Minister who is a member of the Assembly to sit in the Council or *vice versa*—in order to explain the provisions of any measure connected with any department administered by him. The Council is empowered to suggest alterations in any Appropriation Bill once at each of three stages of the Bill, viz.—(a) when in Committee, (b) on the Report of the Committee, and (c) on the third reading. The remedy provided to meet disagreements between the two Houses is the simultaneous dissolution of both after a Bill has been twice submitted to, and rejected by the Council—viz., once before, and once after a dissolution of the Assembly in consequence of such first rejection.

The Governor acts under the authority of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and according to Royal instructions issued by the Colonial Office. He is the official head of the Legislature, and assents in the name of the Crown to all Acts passed by the Parliament, reserving for the Royal assent certain Bills, such as those relating to divorce or to the granting of land or money to himself. The only matters in which the exercise of any discretion is required on the part of the Governor are (a) the assenting to or dissenting from or reserving of Bills passed by the Parliament; (b) the granting or withholding of a dissolution of Parliament when requested by a Premier; and (c) the appointment of a new Ministry.

When a Ministry is defeated in Parliament on an important measure or at the polls, its members almost invariably tender their resignations to the Governor, whose duty it is in such a case to announce his intention of accepting them. The outgoing Premier generally suggests to the Governor, as his successor, the name of the most prominent of his opponents, usually the leader of the Opposition. Thereupon the Governor "sends for" the individual suggested, who, if he feels in a position to carry on the Government, endeavours to form a Ministry. If he fails, he informs the Governor of the fact, and some one else is applied to. The distribution of the portfolios is first arranged by the proposed Ministers themselves, and submitted to the Governor for approval, who always adopts it, unless the list contains the name of some one against whom very serious objections exist, or foreshadows a new and revolutionary arrangement.

Forming a new Ministry.

Granting a dissolution. When a Ministry finds that it is unable to carry on the affairs of the country in the manner it deems essential for the well-being of the community, when it is defeated on a measure which it considers vital, or when it has not a proper working majority, the Premier may, instead of advising the Governor to "send for" some one else, ask for a dissolution; and the principle which guides a Governor in granting or refusing such a request is the probability of success for the Ministry in the event of its being granted. In regard to these matters, however, the instructions issued to the Governor are elaborate and definite; and it is very rarely that any personal exercise of discretion is necessary. In other matters the Governor acts on the advice of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of two classes of members, viz. :—(a) Members forming the Ministry of the day, whether salaried or honorary; (b) all ex-Ministers who have not actually resigned or vacated their seats. The latter Councillors take no active part, as such, in the deliberations of the Ministry, the title being merely an honorary distinction. The expression "Governor in Council," occurring so frequently in Victorian Acts, means the Governor by and with the advice of such members of the Executive Council as are included in the former category mentioned above. Even in its active phase, that of the existing Ministry, the Executive Council has two shapes, the formal and the informal. The latter, which is spoken of as the "Cabinet," is the real core and essence of the Government. In its private meetings at the Premier's office no one is admitted but the actual Ministry of the day, no record of the meetings transpire, and no official notice is ever taken of the proceedings. The former is presided over by the Governor, and attended by the Clerk of the Council, who keeps a formal record of its proceedings and deliberations, which are frequently published with the names of its members prefixed. Here the decisions of the Cabinet are put into official form.

Responsible Ministers. The number of salaried Ministers is now limited to eight, and their salaries to £10,000 (Act No. 3118); four at least must be members of the Council or Assembly, but not more than two shall be members of the Council nor more than six of the Assembly. Although only four Ministers are required to be members of either House, in practice all members of a Ministry are always members. The head of the Ministry—the Premier, a merely titular distinction—has usually filled the office of Treasurer as well, and may occupy any office.

The Parliament. The Parliament consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The general power of legislation is conferred upon "His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and Assembly."

By Section 56 of The Constitution Act it was provided that—"All Bills for appropriating any part of the revenue of Victoria, and for imposing any duty, rate, tax, rent, or impost shall originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected, but not altered, by the Council." There was great difference of opinion as to the interpretation of this section, it being held by many that the words "all Bills for appropriating" (revenue) "and for imposing" (taxes) signified Bills having for their principal object the authorizing of payments or the granting of supply; it was also contended that legislation which merely incidentally or consequentially authorized the collection of money or the payment of officials could be dealt with as ordinary legislation by the Council. This matter was dealt with by Section 30 of *The Constitution Act 1903*, which, on a consolidation of Acts, became Section 33 of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915* (No. 2632). This section declares that a Bill shall not be deemed for appropriating, &c., or for imposing, &c., by reason only of its containing provisions "for the imposition or appropriation of fines or other pecuniary penalties or for the demand or payment or appropriation of fees for licences or fees for services under such Bill." In regard to the latter portion of Section 56 of The Constitution Act, providing that Money Bills must originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected but not altered by the Council, the new Act provides, as in the Commonwealth Constitution, that the Council may suggest alterations, as mentioned previously.

It is also provided by Section 57 of The Constitution Act that Appropriation Bills must have been first recommended by a message of the Governor to the Assembly before they can be introduced. The Governor, of course, acts in this matter on the advice of the Ministry.

The Council—called the Upper House—now consists of 34 members. The State is divided into seventeen electoral provinces, each returning two members. At the first election the member in each constituency who, of the two elected, receives the higher number of votes retains his seat for six years, whilst the other member retains his seat for three years only, subject, of course, to the dissolution of both Houses in case of a deadlock, as previously described. One-half of the members thus retire every three years. To be qualified for membership, a candidate must be a male of the age of 30 years, and a natural-born subject, or, if not natural-born, must have been naturalized and resident in Victoria for ten years, and must have been beneficially entitled to a freehold estate in Victoria of the clear annual value according to municipal valuation of £50 for one year "previously to" his election. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1922* (No. 3218) provides for the reimbursement of expenses of members of the Legislative Council at the rate of £200 per annum. The following persons aged 21 or over, if they are natural-born subjects, or naturalized for three years and resident in Victoria for twelve months, are entitled to vote for the Council in the elec-

The
Legislative
Council.

toral division on the rolls of which their names appear:—The owner of a freehold rated at an annual value of £10; the owner of a leasehold created originally for five years or the occupying tenant of land, rated at £15 annual value; graduates of a British University, matriculated students of the University of Melbourne, barristers and solicitors, legally-qualified medical practitioners, duly appointed ministers of religion, certificated schoolmasters, and naval and military officers, active and retired. Qualified ratepayers are enrolled automatically from the municipal rolls. Those persons claiming in respect of a professional residential qualification must take out electors' rights for the division in which they reside. The Victorian Adult Suffrage Act, which received the Royal assent on 31st March, 1909, provides for womanhood suffrage in elections for the Council under the same property and other conditions as relate to men.

The Legislative Assembly. now consists of 65 members. For the whole of the seats single electorates are now provided. Each Assembly expires by effluxion of time at the end of three years from its first meeting, but may be sooner dissolved by the Governor. To be qualified for election to the Assembly, a candidate must be a natural-born subject or a person who has been naturalized for five years and resident in Victoria for two years. The following persons are ineligible:—Judges, ministers of religion, Government contractors, uncertificated insolvents, holders of offices of profit under the Crown (except Ministers), and persons who have been attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or infamous offence in the British dominions. Moreover, a member vacates his seat, if he resigns; is absent for a whole session without permission of the House; takes any oath or declaration of allegiance or adherence to a foreign power, or becomes a subject of a foreign State; becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or a public defaulter; is attainted of treason, or convicted of felony, &c.; becomes *non compos mentis*; or enters into a Government contract. Universal suffrage is in force for the Assembly, all persons over the age of 21 years, natural-born or naturalized, being allowed a vote, if they have been resident in Australia for at least six months continuously, in Victoria for at least three months, and in any subdivision for at least one month. An Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections was passed on 22nd December, 1923. It provides that arrangements may be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth that the electoral rolls may be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Legislative Assembly. The first roll will be composed of the persons on the Commonwealth roll, together with persons entitled to be enrolled for the Assembly. Persons enrolled in respect of residence may also be enrolled in another subdivision for lands or tenements situated therein. Enrolment is compulsory which, however, does not apply to enrolment in respect of a property qualification. No

person is entitled to have his name on more than two rolls, and a person cannot vote more than once at an Assembly election. The franchise was extended to women by the *Adult Suffrage Act* 1908, assented to in March, 1909. A member of the Assembly receives reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance at the rate of £500 per annum. The Assembly is presided over by a Speaker, who is elected at the first meeting after every general election, and vacates his seat by expiry or dissolution of the House, and by death, resignation, or a removing vote of the House. When the Assembly resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the details of any measure, it is presided over by a Chairman of Committees. The Assembly cannot proceed to business unless twenty members, exclusive of the Speaker, are present; the Speaker has a casting but no substantive vote.

To facilitate the exercise of the franchise in sparsely-populated districts, the *Voting by Post Act* 1900 was passed on 17th October, 1900. This measure enabled any elector who was resident, or was likely to be staying, on the polling day, more than five miles from the nearest polling booth, or who was prevented by reason of sickness or infirmity from voting personally, to obtain a ballot-paper entitling him to vote by post for any candidate in his district standing for either House of Parliament. The Act came into force on 1st December, 1900, and was to continue in force for a term of three years, and thence until the end of the next session of Parliament. Subsequent Acts continued the measure to 31st December, 1910. The *Electoral Act* 1910, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), makes permanent provision for voting by post at elections for either House. If an elector satisfies the returning officer that he resides five miles or, in the case of a mountainous division, at least three miles from the nearest polling booth, or has reason to believe that he will not be within five miles of the nearest polling booth on the day of the election during the hours of polling, or that on account of ill-health or infirmity he will be prevented from voting personally, a postal ballot-paper may be issued to him. At the State elections held on 30th August, 1921, 9,676 persons voted by post, representing 2·97 per cent. of the total votes recorded, and at the elections held on 26th June, 1924, 8,069 persons voted similarly, this number being 2·18 per cent. of the total votes polled.

By an Act originally passed on 24th December, 1903, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), it is provided that the electoral expenses (other than personal expenses incurred in travelling and attending election meetings) of a candidate for the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly shall not exceed £400 and £150 respectively. A limitation is also placed upon the matters in respect of which such

**Voting by
post at
elections.**

**Limitation of
election
expenses.**

sums may be expended. No electoral expenses shall be incurred by or on behalf of a candidate except in respect of:—(1) The expenses of printing, advertising, publishing, issuing, and distributing addresses and notices, and purchase of rolls. (2) The expenses of stationery, messages, postage, and telegrams. (3) The expenses of holding public meetings, and hiring halls for that purpose. (4) The expenses of committee rooms. (5) One scrutineer at each polling booth, and no more. (6) One agent for any electoral province or district.

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1922.

Elections for the Legislative Council. At the triennial elections for the Legislative Council, held on 31st May, 1922, seven seats were contested, ten members being returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors on the rolls for each province and the number who voted in the provinces where elections were held:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED AT THE TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 31st MAY, 1922.

Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.	Number of Electors who voted.			In-formal Votes.	Number who voted by Post.	Pro-portion of Electors who voted.
		Rate-payers.	Non-rate-payers.	Total.			
East Yarra ..	42,485	..	..	..	..	..	Per cent.
Melbourne ..	21,538	8,460	3	8,463	97	111	39·29
" East ..	20,203	..	..	..	..	..	..
" North ..	37,869	11,851	7	11,858	513	213	31·31
" South ..	27,751	..	..	..	..	..	..
" West ..	29,316	9,222	1	9,223	116	92	31·46
Bendigo ..	10,780	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland ..	15,926	3,462	..	3,462	20	19	21·74
Nelson ..	10,979	2,287	1	2,288	12	26	20·84
Northern ..	14,695	5,138	2	5,140	34	121	34·98
North-Eastern ..	13,661	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Western ..	18,181	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern ..	14,413	..	..	..	..	..	..
South-Eastern ..	31,408	6,574	..	6,574	231	319	20·93
South-Western ..	18,949	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington ..	10,760	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western ..	14,526	..	..	..	..	..	..
	353,440						
Less uncontested provinces (10)	191,709						
Total ..	161,731	46,994	14	47,008	1,023	901	29·07

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924.

At the elections for the Legislative Assembly held on 26th June, 1924, there were contests in 45 of the 65 constituencies, each returning one member. The number of electors on the rolls was 900,427—433,357 males and 467,070 females—and in contested districts 59·24 per cent. of the number entitled recorded their votes, the proportion for males being 63·02 per cent. and for females 55·72 per cent. The following table shows the number of electors, the votes polled, and the percentage of the latter to the former in the different electoral districts:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924.

Electoral Districts.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Abbotsford ..	6,656	7,854	14,510				No contest.		
Albert Park ..	9,318	11,113	20,431	5,862	6,212	12,074	62·91	55·90	59·10
Allandale ..	2,514	2,702	5,216				No contest.		
Ballaarat East	4,300	5,456	9,756	3,349	3,974	7,323	77·88	72·84	75·06
Ballaarat West	4,331	6,218	10,549	3,276	4,215	7,491	75·64	67·79	71·01
Barwon ..	6,022	6,333	12,355	3,780	3,587	7,367	62·77	56·64	59·63
Benalla ..	3,644	3,464	7,108	2,187	1,723	3,910	60·01	49·74	55·01
Benambra ..	3,633	3,067	6,700	2,164	1,490	3,654	59·57	48·58	54·54
Bendigo East	3,623	4,581	8,204	2,541	3,016	5,557	70·14	65·84	67·74
Bendigo West	4,165	4,852	9,017	3,234	3,496	6,730	77·65	72·05	74·64
Boroondara ..	27,955	35,168	63,123	13,250	14,895	28,145	47·40	42·35	44·59
Borung ..	4,301	3,555	7,856	2,203	1,559	3,762	51·22	43·85	47·89
Brighton ..	13,710	16,826	30,536	7,845	8,804	16,649	57·22	52·32	54·52
Brunswick ..	13,071	14,717	27,788				No contest.		
Bulla ..	6,209	5,601	11,810	4,208	3,162	7,370	67·77	56·45	62·40
Carlton ..	5,518	6,249	11,767				No contest.		
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	2,886	3,360	6,246	2,230	2,304	4,534	77·27	68·57	72·59
Collingwood ..	6,536	7,676	14,212				No contest.		
Dalhousie ..	3,292	3,412	6,704	2,755	2,747	5,502	83·69	80·51	82·07
Dandenong ..	9,802	9,703	19,505	5,599	4,494	10,093	57·12	46·32	51·75
Daylesford ..	3,032	3,153	6,185	2,637	2,483	5,120	86·97	78·75	82·78
Dundas ..	4,263	3,993	8,256	3,294	2,798	6,092	77·27	70·07	73·79
Eaglehawk ..	2,849	3,012	5,861	1,726	1,583	3,309	60·58	52·56	56·46
East Melbourne	5,389	5,549	10,938	2,872	2,819	5,691	53·29	50·80	52·03
Essendon ..	17,256	19,783	37,039	11,352	11,225	22,577	65·79	56·74	60·95
Evelyn ..	6,185	6,046	12,231	3,298	2,606	5,904	53·32	43·10	48·27
Fitzroy ..	5,660	6,693	12,353				No contest.		
Flemington ..	11,662	12,051	23,713				No contest.		
Geelong ..	7,134	8,271	15,405	5,392	5,785	11,177	75·58	69·94	72·55

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 26TH JUNE, 1924
—continued.

Electoral Districts.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Number on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Gippsland East	3,465	2,669	6,134				No contest.		
Gippsland Nth.	4,849	4,694	9,543	3,389	3,097	6,486	69·89	65·98	67·97
Gippsland Sth.	5,310	4,435	9,745				No contest.		
Gippsland West	5,024	4,361	9,385	3,399	2,596	5,995	67·66	59·53	63·88
Gleneig ..	4,548	4,474	9,022	3,696	3,217	6,913	81·27	71·90	76·62
Goulburn Valley	4,575	4,349	8,924				No contest.		
Grenville ..	2,104	2,152	4,256	1,639	1,573	3,212	77·90	73·09	75·47
Gunbower ..	5,053	4,125	9,178	3,411	2,606	6,017	67·50	63·18	65·56
Hampden ..	6,021	5,552	11,573	3,632	2,782	6,414	60·32	50·11	55·42
Hawthorn ..	13,530	18,613	32,143	8,730	10,478	19,208	64·52	56·29	59·76
Jika Jika	19,519	22,023	41,548	12,031	10,920	22,951	61·64	49·57	55·24
Kara Kara ..	3,053	2,905	5,958				No contest.		
Korong ..	3,434	3,084	6,518	2,267	1,878	4,145	66·02	60·89	63·59
Loway	5,466	5,004	10,470	3,840	3,170	7,010	70·25	63·35	66·95
Maryborough	3,099	3,261	6,360	2,422	2,304	4,726	78·15	70·65	74·31
Melbourne ..	4,227	3,511	7,738	2,427	2,011	4,438	57·42	57·28	57·35
Mornington ..	9,315	7,751	17,066	5,434	3,954	9,388	58·34	51·01	55·01
Nth. Melbourne	7,501	8,414	15,915				No contest.		
Ovens ..	2,455	2,425	4,880	1,861	1,701	3,562	75·80	70·14	72·99
Polwarth ..	6,968	5,426	11,494	4,076	3,279	7,355	67·17	60·43	63·99
Port Fairy ..	3,795	3,518	7,313				No contest.		
Port Melbourne	7,686	7,749	15,435				No contest.		
Prahran ..	8,147	11,238	19,436	5,541	6,995	12,536	68·01	61·96	64·50
Richmond ..	7,663	8,718	16,381				No contest.		
Rodney ..	5,875	5,318	11,194	3,614	2,770	6,384	61·51	52·08	57·03
Stawell and Ararat	3,911	3,998	7,910	3,012	2,873	5,885	77·01	71·84	74·40
St. Kilda ..	15,125	20,807	35,932				No contest.		
Swan Hill ..	12,598	8,715	21,313	6,468	3,940	10,408	51·34	45·21	48·83
Toorak	9,626	14,815	24,441	4,928	6,728	11,656	51·19	45·41	47·69
Upper Goulburn	4,205	3,555	7,760	3,218	2,437	5,655	76·53	68·55	72·87
Walhalla ..	4,697	3,100	7,797	2,726	1,451	4,177	58·04	46·81	53·57
Wangaratta ..	3,682	3,483	7,165				No contest.		
Waranga ..	3,397	3,068	6,466				No contest.		
Warrenheip ..	2,775	2,417	5,192				No contest.		
Warrnambool..	4,675	4,735	9,410	3,338	3,073	6,411	71·40	64·90	68·13
Williamstown..	11,968	12,090	24,058				No contest.		
Totals ..	433,357	467,070	900,427	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less twenty uncontested districts ..	131,612	142,565	274,177	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	301,745	324,505	626,250	190,153	180,810	370,963	63·02	55·72	59·24

**Preferential
Voting.**

The preferential system of voting was adopted where there were more than two persons standing for the same electorate. By the method in vogue previous to 1911 it was not unusual for a candidate to be elected who had received the support of only a minority of those voting. Under the present system a candidate is returned only if the result shows that the majority of those who have voted prefer him to the candidate who has received the next lower number of votes.

In filling up the ballot-paper electors are required to place the figure "1" opposite the name of the candidate whom they wish to see elected, the figure "2" opposite the name of the one whom they would prefer should the first not be returned, the figure "3" opposite their next choice, and so on. After it is known how many first preference votes have been given to the various candidates, if no candidate has received an absolute majority the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes is declared defeated. The ballot-papers of such defeated candidate are then examined with the view of ascertaining to what candidates the second preferences have been given, and these second preferences are allotted to the persons to whom they relate. Each remaining candidate thus receives, in addition to the first preferences accorded to him, the second preferences in his favour appearing on ballot-papers of the candidate who has been defeated. If there are still more than two candidates left, the procedure described above is repeated, the candidate occupying the lowest place being declared defeated, until it is found that one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes.

In eighteen of the contests in the election of June, 1924, there were more than two candidates. In ten of these the candidate who received the greatest number of votes had an absolute majority of the total first preferences recorded, and consequently a second count was unnecessary. In the eight remaining cases the distribution of ballot-papers of defeated candidates among non-defeated candidates next in order of voters' preference was put into operation, with the result that the candidates returned received an absolute majority of the votes recorded. In four of these cases the candidate who occupied the highest position on the first count was displaced after the second and subsequent preferences had been distributed.

The following are the proportions of electors who voted at the last twenty-four general elections of the State Lower House in districts in which the elections were contested :—

PROPORTION OF VOTERS AT GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1866 TO 1924.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted.
	Per cent.		Per cent.
1866	55·10	1897	70·33
1868	61·59	1900	63·47
1871	65·02	1902	65·47
1874	61·00	1904	66·72
1877	62·29	1907	61·26
1880 (Feb.)	66·56	1908	53·64
1880 (July)	65·85	1911	63·61
1883	64·96	1914	53·92
1886	64·70	1917	54·21
1889	66·58	1920	63·70
1892	65·12	1921	57·26
1894	70·98	1924	59·24

The first session of the twenty-seventh Parliament commenced on 6th September, 1921, and closed on 5th January, 1922. The second session commenced on 4th July, 1922, and closed on 5th January, 1923. The third session commenced on 11th July, 1923, and continued until 13th December, 1923, when an adjournment to 29th April, 1924, took place. The session terminated when Parliament was dissolved on 28th May, 1924.

The first session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on 8th July, 1924.

The following is a statement of the duration in days of each Parliament since the establishment of responsible government, the

Duration of Parliaments and Sessions.

number of days in session during each Parliament, and the percentage of the latter to the duration :—

**DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS,
1856 TO 1924.**

Number of Parliament.	Period.	Duration of Parliament.	Days in Session.	
			Number.	Percentage to Duration.
1st	1856-8	691	69·7
2nd	1859-60	566	88·8
3rd	1861-4	728	66·7
4th	1864-5	366	96·8
5th	1866-7	391	57·0
6th	1868-70	734	70·0
7th	1871-3	639	60·9
8th	1874-6	700	65·3
9th	1877-9	684	68·9
10th	1880	46	93·9
11th	1880-2	802	86·6
12th	1883-6	543	49·9
13th	1886-9	653	59·9
14th	1889-92	636	58·2
15th	1892-4	524	62·0
16th	1894-7	684	62·8
17th	1897-00	586	53·9
18th	1900-02	358	53·4
19th	1902-3	300	68·8
20th	1904-7	509	52·6
21st	1907-8	327	63·1
22nd	1909-11	548	53·7
23rd	1911-14	584	54·8
24th	1914-17	614	58·1
25th	1917-20	592	57·1
26th	1920-21	86	31·9
27th	1921-24	494	52·8

STATE ACTS PASSED DURING 1923.

The following is a short synopsis of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during 1923 :—

Act No.	Date.	
3270 ..	Reserved 14th Decem-ber, 1922. Royal Assent proclaimed 25th May, 1923	The <i>Imperial Acts Application Act</i> 1922, to come into operation on 1st September, 1923, declares that certain enactments of the Parliament of England and of the Parliament of Great Britain and of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in force at the time of the passing of the Act 9 George IV. CLXXXIII. shall not apply in Victoria, and transcribes or consolidates other enactments of such Parliaments.

- 3271 .. 12th July This Act applies £3,300,516 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
- 3272 .. 26th July This Act applies £385,762 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1922-23.
- 3273 .. 5th September This Act applies £1,172,079 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
- 3274 .. 2nd October The *Victorian Government Loan Act 1923* authorizes the raising of £1,500,000 to be expended on railways and tramways works, £1,000,000 for irrigation works and water supply in country districts, and £2,500,000 for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
- 3275 The *Friendly Societies Act 1923*, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, provides that a friendly society may pay an amount not exceeding £100 on the death of a member or a relative of a member, and increases the maximum amount that may be paid by a society for sick pay from 40s. to 60s. per week. The date up to which annual returns must be lodged with the Government Statist has been altered from 1st February to 1st August of each year. Power is given to the Government Statist to make inspections of the books of a society or to direct inspections by an officer of the department. Other sections relate to the appointment of trustees by the committee of management, provision for a minor to hold office as assistant secretary or on the committee of management of a branch of a society, and the powers of the Government Statist with respect to quinquennial valuations.
- 3276 .. 4th October The *Newmerella Land Act 1923* authorizes the application of payments made in respect of leases of certain lands in the township of Newmerella to or towards the purchase by the council of the Shire of Orbest of certain land as a site for a public park and recreation reserve.
- 3277 The *Narre Worrان Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of portion of certain land in the parish of Narre Worrان as a site for police purposes.
- 3278 The *Smeaton Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of portion of certain land in the parish of Smeaton in the county of Talbot reserved from sale permanently pursuant to the *Smeaton Land Act 1921* as a site for a public park.
- 3279 The *Toonallook Land Act 1923* revokes the permanent reservation of certain Crown land at Toonallook in the parish of Bairnsdale as a site for a State school.

Act No.	Date.	
3280 ..	4th October	.. This Act applies £1,115,647 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3281 ..	..	.. The <i>Parliamentary Witnesses Act 1923</i> , to be read with <i>The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915</i> , deals with the administration of the oath to witnesses appearing before the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly or committees appointed by the Houses of Parliament, and also to the privileges of witnesses who give evidence before these bodies.
3282 ..	17th October	.. The <i>Marriage Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Marriage Act 1915</i> , provides that any marriage celebrated by any minister of religion not registered in the office of the Government Statist shall not be avoided if either of the parties to the marriage at the time <i>bonâ fide</i> believed that such minister was qualified to celebrate marriages. Power is given to grant maintenance to a wife during the joint lives of husband and wife where a decree for judicial separation or dissolution of marriage has been granted on the ground of insanity. In other sections power is given to allow intervention in divorce cases of a party not already charged with adultery if the court considers that such intervention is desirable, and a duty is imposed on the party obtaining a decree <i>nisi</i> to comply with the rules of court as to the lodging and entering of such decree.
3283 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Standing Committee Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for additional remuneration to members of the committee in respect of inquiries, in 1923, as to certain proposed Border railways.
3284 ..	23rd October	.. The <i>Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915</i> , makes further and better provision with respect to main drains and main drainage works and certain rivers, creeks, and watercourses within the Metropolis.
3285 ..	..	.. The <i>University Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, makes important alterations in the constitution and government of the University of Melbourne.
3286 ..	..	.. The <i>Supreme Court Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, facilitates the enforcement in Victoria of judgments and awards in the superior courts of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
3287 ..	30th October	.. The <i>River Murray Waters Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, ratifies an agreement for the variation of the agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia respecting the river Murray and Lake Victoria and other waters.

Act. No.	Date.	
3288 ..	30th October	.. The <i>Fruit Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1915, relates to the handling of fruit and vegetables.
3289 ..	1st November	.. The <i>Smeaton Show Yards Lands Act</i> 1923 authorizes the re-vesting in the Crown of certain lands at Smeaton, in the parish of Springhill, county of Talbot, reserved from sale permanently as a site for Smeaton, Springhill, and Bullarook Agricultural Association's show yards.
3290 ..	..	.. The <i>Tarranginnie Land Act</i> 1923 revokes the permanent reservation of certain land in the parish of Tarranginnie, county of Lowan, as a site for water supply purposes.
3291 ..	..	.. This Act applies £1,351,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3292 ..	9th November	.. The <i>Public Safety Preservation Act</i> 1923 makes provision for the protection of the community in cases of emergency.
3293 ..	30th November	.. The <i>Lunacy Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for the performance and execution of the powers, authorities, and duties of the Master-in-Lunacy by the Master-in-Equity.
3294 ..	..	.. The <i>Surplus Revenue Act</i> 1923, to be deemed to have come into force on 30th June, 1923, allocates the surplus revenue for the year 1922-23, viz., £363,950, as follows:—For reduction of Consolidated Revenue Deficit Account, £234,802; and to recoup the Developmental Railways Account for amounts transferred from that account to make up revenue deficiencies in 1913-14 and 1916-17, £129,148.
3295 ..	..	.. The <i>Municipal Endowment Act</i> 1923 provides that the municipal endowment for the year ending 30th June, 1924, be £50,000.
3296 ..	..	.. The <i>Treasury Bills and Advances Act</i> 1923 amends the Act of 1922.
3297 ..	..	.. The <i>Victorian Government Stock Act</i> 1923 amends the Act of 1896 in relation to the dates for the payment of interest on bonds.
3298 ..	..	.. The <i>Victorian Loan Act</i> 1923 authorizes the raising of £165,000 for the repayment to the Government of New South Wales, under the <i>Border Railways Act</i> 1922, of the cost of acquisition or resumption of the right, title, and interest of the Deniliquin and Moama Railway Company in the Deniliquin and Moama railway.
3299 ..	..	.. The <i>Railway Loan Application Act</i> 1923 sanctions the issue and application of £2,630,000 available under loan Acts for railways and other purposes.
3300 ..	..	.. The <i>Water Supply Loans Application Act</i> 1923 sanctions the issue and application of £1,386,000 available under loan Acts for irrigation, water supply, drainage, and flood protection works in country districts, and for works under the River Murray Waters Acts.

Act No.	Date.	
3301 ..	30th November	.. This Act applies £1,294,364 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24.
3302 ..	18th December	.. The <i>Land Act 1923</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, gives power to sell township lands to State Savings Bank Commissioners or municipalities for housing schemes, and makes other amendments in the law relating to land settlement.
3303 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Advances (Stores Suspense Account) Act 1923</i> alters the date for the repayment of instalments of loan moneys under the Act of 1921.
3304 ..	..	.. The <i>State Savings Bank Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, alters the title of the principal officer of the bank from Inspector-General to General Manager, and confers the title of assistant general manager on the second officer of the bank, who in the absence of the general manager is empowered to perform all his duties. Other sections relate to the procedure to be adopted on the reduction of the rate of interest on Victorian Savings Bank deposit stock and to the freedom of State Savings Bank debentures and Crédit Foncier debenture stock from income tax.
3305 ..	..	.. The <i>Inebriates Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides that it is not necessary for any corroborative evidence to be tendered in addition to the medical certificate where the inebriate himself applies for admission to an institution. Power is given to a judge, the Master-in-Equity, or a police magistrate to make an interim order for the care and control of an alleged inebriate in certain cases, and authority is given to arrest an alleged inebriate who has escaped from the care and control under which he has been placed. The Inspector-General of the Insane is appointed Inspector of Inebriates' Institutions, and may order the discharge of any inebriate detained in any house, public or private hospital, institution or other place, and such inebriate must be discharged accordingly.
3306 ..	..	.. The <i>Electricity Supply Loan Application Act 1923</i> sanctions the issue and application of £1,447,000 available under loan Acts for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.
3307 ..	..	.. The <i>Nurses' Registration Act 1923</i> , to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation, makes provision with respect to the training, qualifications, and registration of nurses.

Act No.	Date.	
3308 ..	18th December	.. The <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Act of 1918, increases the borrowing powers of the Tramways Board from £750,000 to £3,000,000 and gives authority to set apart tramway reserves in streets or roads at least two chains wide. Power is given to the Board to operate omnibuses to aid or relieve tramway traffic. The duty is imposed on municipalities to keep in repair those portions of roads on which there are tramways. Provision is made to construct tramways under municipal guarantee, and authority is given to municipalities to levy tramway betterment rates. The salary of the Chairman of the Board is increased from £1,500 to £1,750 per annum.
3309 ..	..	.. The <i>Railways Sinking Fund Act</i> 1923, to be deemed to have come into operation from 1st July, 1922, provides that the surplus railways revenue of every financial year after the coming into operation of the Act be placed to the credit of a sinking fund until the amount at credit is equal to 75 per cent. of the total loan liability of the Victorian railways.
3310 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Witchipool Land Act</i> 1923 provides for the sale of certain land in the parish of Witchipool, including certain land reserved temporarily as a site for a watering place, and for the closing of a road.
3311 ..	..	.. The <i>Local Government (Borrowing Powers) Act</i> 1923, to be read with the <i>Local Government Act</i> 1915, relates to the borrowing powers of municipalities.
3312 ..	..	.. The <i>Goroke to Morea Railway Construction Act</i> 1923 authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Goroke to Morea.
3313 ..	..	.. The <i>Income Tax Act</i> 1923, to be read with the Acts of 1914 and 1915 and amending Acts, and to come into force on 31st December, 1923, fixes the rates of income tax for the year ending 30th June, 1924. Incomes of £200 and under are not taxable. On incomes from £201 to £500 there is an exemption of £150, which, however, does not apply to companies. Incomes from personal exertion are taxed 3d. in the £ up to £500; where such income exceeds £500, for every £ up to £500, 4d.; for every £ over £500 and up to £1,000, 5d.; for every £ over £1,000 and up to £1,500, 6d.; and for every £ over £1,500, 7d. Taxes on incomes from property are double these rates. Companies (including life insurance companies) are taxed at the rate of 1s. in the £.
3314 ..	..	.. The <i>Land Tax Act</i> 1923 fixes the rate of land tax for the year 1924 at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on every pound sterling of the unimproved value where the unimproved value exceeds £250, and in addition imposes a super-tax equal to 5 per cent. of the amount of land tax payable; the minimum tax payable to be two shillings and sixpence.

Act No.	Date.	
3315 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Kanagulk to Edenhope Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Kanagulk to Edenhope.
3316 The <i>Police Pensions Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Police Regulation Act 1915</i> , makes further provision with respect to the retirement, pensions, allowances, and gratuities of members of the police force and their widows, children, and dependants.
3317 The <i>Housing and Reclamation Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1920, alters the amounts that may be expended for houses constructed under the Act as follows:—For a weather-board house from £800 to £850, and for a brick house from £900 to £950. Power is given to make additions, improvements, and renovations to dwelling-houses provided that the unpaid balance, together with the amount expended, does not exceed £850 if the dwelling-house is of wood, or £950 if it is of brick, stone, or concrete. The Commissioners administering the Act may agree with any farmer, whether or not such farmer is an eligible person under the provisions of section 2 of the Principal Act, to provide a dwelling-house for farm labourers employed by him.
3318 The <i>Kooloonong to West Narrung Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Kooloonong to West Narrung.
3319 The <i>Income Tax Acts Amendment Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for the collection by State officers of income tax for the Commonwealth.
3320 The <i>Marine Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, and to come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation, dissolves the Marine Board of Victoria and provides that the exercise of its powers and duties be transferred to the Commonwealth, which will act on behalf of the State of Victoria. Power is also given to arrange for the future transfer to the control of the Commonwealth of the Port Phillip Pilot Sick and Superannuation Fund.
3321 The <i>Fire Brigades Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, authorizes the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to borrow a sum of £35,000 (which includes an amount of £20,000 authorized under an Act passed in 1922).
3322 The <i>Bowser to Peechelba Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Bowser to Peechelba.

Act No.	Date,	
3323 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Marnoo to Wallalo Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Marnoo to Wallalo.
3324 The <i>Black Rock to Beaumaris Electric Street Railway Act 1923</i> , to be read with the Act of 1920, increases the amount that may be spent on the cost of construction of the railway from £41,138 (including £6,500 for rolling-stock) to £52,000 exclusive of land and rolling-stock. The council of the City of Sandringham guarantees the Railways Commissioners for five years a sum not exceeding £2,000 per annum as a contribution towards meeting any loss resulting from the construction and operation of the line.
3325 The <i>Moorpanyal Lands Act 1923</i> takes from the Geelong Harbour Trust Commissioners certain land in the parish of Moorpanyal and revokes the permanent reservation of certain other land in that parish, and provides for the grant of the said lands to the Commonwealth of Australia as a site for a base for seaplanes of the Australian Air Force.
3326 The <i>Railways Classification Board Act 1923</i> extends the operation of the <i>Railways Classification Board Act 1919</i> .
3327 The <i>Geelong Land Act 1923</i> provides for the granting of a lease of certain Crown land at Geelong in the parish of Moorpanyal in the county of Grant to the Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia Limited.
3328 The <i>St. Arnaud School of Mines Site Act 1923</i> repeals the Act of 1891, which permanently reserved from sale land at St. Arnaud intended as a site for a School of Mines. The land, which is not now required for a School of Mines, becomes unalienated Crown land.
3329 The <i>Werrimull to The Hut Railway Construction Act 1923</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Werrimull to The Hut.
3330 The <i>Mining Development Act 1923</i> repeals the provision in the Act of 1915, which limited advances for prospecting to parties of not less than four or more than twenty persons.
3331 The <i>Electoral Act 1923</i> , to be read with the <i>Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915</i> , amends the law relating to Parliamentary elections. It provides that arrangements may be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth so that the electoral rolls may be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Assembly. Enrolment is compulsory for persons entitled to exercise the franchise.

Act No.	Date.	
3332 ..	22nd December	.. The <i>Closer Settlement Act 1923</i> amends the <i>Closer Settlement Acts</i> in regard to the determination of the amount of compensation to be paid in respect to land compulsorily acquired, and makes a number of alterations in the law relating to closer settlement.
3333 ..	"	.. The <i>Wyndham Race-course Act 1923</i> amends the Act of 1912 by increasing the number of race meetings that may be held on that race-course yearly from two to four.
3334 ..	"	.. The <i>Country Roads Act 1923</i> provides for the raising of money for the purpose of carrying out certain permanent works under the <i>Country Roads Acts</i> .
3335 ..	"	.. The <i>Victorian Loan (Public Works) Act 1923</i> authorizes the raising of £1,254,000, to be expended on public works, and sanctions the issue and application of such money.
3336 ..	"	.. This Act applies £6,763,966 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1923-24, and appropriates supplies granted during the session amounting to £15,383,334 to the service of the Government.

OFFICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY.

The following return shows the names and periods of office of Governors and Acting Governors of the State since the first appointment of Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent, in 1839 :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office
Charles Joseph La Trobe	30th Sept., 1839 ...	5th May, 1854
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	8th May, 1854 ...	22nd June, 1854
Captain Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B.	22nd June, 1854 ...	31st Dec., 1855
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	1st January, 1856...	26th Dec., 1856
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	26th December, 1856	10th September, 1863
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B.	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	7th May, 1866 ...	15th August, 1866

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—continued.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
The Honorable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.	15th August, 1866...	2nd March, 1873
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd March, 1873 ...	19th March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen. G.C.M.G.	31st March, 1873 ...	22nd February, 1879
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	3rd January, 1875...	10th January, 1875
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	11th January, 1875	14th January, 1876
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normandy, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February, 1879	18th April, 1884
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	18th April, 1884 ...	15th July, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.	15th July, 1884 ... 18th October, 1889	8th March, 1889 15th November, 1889
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, G.C.M.G. (acting)	9th March, 1889 ... 16th November, 1889	17th October, 1889 27th November, 1889
The Right Honorable John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun. G.C.M.G.	28th November, 1889.	12th July, 1895
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D. (acting)	26th January, 1893. 27th March, 1895 ...	11th May, 1893 24th October, 1895
The Right Honorable Baron Brassey, K.C.B.	25th October, 1895	31st March, 1900
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D. (acting)	29th December, 1896 27th September, 1897 23rd March, 1898 ...	16th February, 1897 10th October, 1897 21st October, 1898
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	15th January, 1900	16th December, 1901
Sir George Sydenham Clarke. K.C.M.G., F.R.S.	10th December, 1901	24th November, 1903
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	24th November, 1903	25th April, 1904
Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B.	25th April, 1904 ...	6th July, 1908
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant-Governor (acting)	20th March, 1907 ..	18th November, 1907
	6th July, 1908 ..	27th July, 1908
	26th July, 1909 ..	10th August, 1909
	2nd February, 1910	9th February, 1910
	18th February, 1910	24th February, 1910
	28th July, 1910 ..	8th August, 1910
19th May, 1911 ..	24th May, 1911	
28th August, 1913..	23rd February, 1914	

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—*continued.*

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Sir Thomas David Gibson Carmichael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	27th July, 1908 ..	19th May, 1911
Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet	24th May, 1911 ..	31st January, 1914
Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley, K.C.M.G.	23rd February, 1914	31st January, 1920*
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G. (acting)	30th July, 1919 ..	24th February, 1921
The Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.	24th February, 1921	

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the District until the appointment of Mr. C. J. La Trobe as Superintendent. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October, 1846, to the 25th January, 1847. Sir William H. Irvine was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, to act in the absence of the Governor, by Commission dated April, 1918.

* On leave of absence for six months from 30th July, 1919.

The following list shows the names of Ministers who held office from the separation of the Colony from New South Wales in 1851 up to the establishment of responsible government in 1855:—

MINISTERS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Name of Minister.	Office.	Date of Assumption of Office.
William Lonsdale	Colonial Secretary	} 15th July, 1851
Alastair Mackenzie	Colonial Treasurer..	
Charles Hotson Ebdon	Auditor-General ..	
Robert Hoddle	Surveyor-General ..	
Alexander McCrae	Chief Postmaster ..	
William Foster Stawell	Attorney-General ..	
Redmond Barry	Solicitor-General ..	} 13th April, 1852
James Horatio Nelson Cassell	Collector of Customs	
Edward Eyre Williams	Solicitor-General ..	} 21st July, 1852
James Croke	Solicitor-General ..	
Frederick Armand Powlett	Colonial Treasurer..	30th September, 1852
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Auditor-General ..	11th October, 1852
Andrew Clarke	Surveyor-General ..	1st July, 1853
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster	Colonial Secretary	20th July, 1853
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers	Collector of Customs	5th December, 1853
Edward Grimes	Auditor-General	8th December, 1853
Robert Molesworth	Solicitor-General ..	4th January, 1854
William Clark Haines	Colonial Secretary	12th December, 1854

In the next list will be found the names of the **Ministries, 1855 to 1924.** Premiers of the several Governments from 1855 to the present date :—

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
			Days.
1. William Clark Haines...	28th November, 1855	11th March, 1857 ...	469
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March, 1857 ...	29th April, 1857 ...	49
3. William Clark Haines...	29th April, 1857 ...	10th March, 1858 ...	315
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March, 1858 ...	27th October, 1859	596
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October, 1859...	26th November, 1860	396
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November, 1860	14th November, 1861	353
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November, 1861	27th June, 1863 ...	590
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June, 1863 ...	6th May, 1868 ...	1,775
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May, 1868 ...	11th July, 1868 ...	66
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July, 1868 ...	20th September, 1869	436
11. John Alexander MacPherson	20th September 1869	9th April, 1870 ...	201
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April, 1870 ...	19th June, 1871 ...	436
13. Charles Gavan Duffy...	19th June, 1871 ...	10th June, 1872 ...	357
14. James Goodall Francis	10th June, 1872 ..	31st July, 1874 ...	781
15. George Briscoe Kerferd	31st July, 1874 ...	7th August, 1875 ...	372
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August, 1875 ...	20th October, 1875	74
17. Sir James McCulloch	20th October, 1875...	21st May, 1877 ...	579
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May, 1877 ...	5th March, 1880 ...	1,019
19. James Service ...	5th March, 1880 ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	151
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	9th July, 1881 ...	340
21. Sir Bryan O'Loghlen...	9th July, 1881 ...	8th March, 1883 ...	607
22. James Service ...	8th March, 1883 ...	18th February, 1886	1,078
23. Duncan Gillies ...	18th February, 1886	5th November, 1890	1,722
24. James Munro ...	5th November, 1890	16th February, 1892	469
25. William Shiels ...	16th February, 1892	23rd January, 1893	343
26. James Brown Patterson	23rd January, 1893	27th September, 1894	612
27. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	27th September, 1894	5th December, 1899	1,895
28. Allan McLean ...	5th December, 1899	19th November, 1900	350
29. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	19th November, 1900	12th February, 1901	85
30. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	12th February, 1901	10th June, 1902 ...	483
31. William Hill Irvine ...	10th June, 1902 ...	16th February, 1904	616
32. Sir Thomas Bent, K.C.M.G.	16th February, 1904	8th January, 1909	1,789
33. John Murray ...	8th January, 1909	18th May, 1912 ...	1,226
34. William Alexander Watt	18th May, 1912 ...	9th December, 1913	205

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—*continued.*

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office. Days.
35. George Alexander Elmslie	9th December, 1913	22nd December, 1913	13
36. William Alexander Watt	22nd December, 1913	18th June, 1914 ...	178
37. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	18th June, 1914 ...	29th November, 1917	1,260
38. John Bowser ...	29th November, 1917	21st March, 1918 ...	112
39. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	21st March, 1918 ...	7th September, 1923	1,996
40. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	7th September, 1923	19th March, 1924	194
41. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	19th March, 1924	28th April, 1924	40
42. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	28th April, 1924	18th July, 1924	81
43. George Michael Prendergast ...	18th July, 1924		

Peacock Ministry. On 28th April, 1924, the Hon. H. S. W. Lawson resigned the position of Premier, and the Hon. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G., was commissioned to form an Administration. The following list shows the names of the Ministers in the beginning of July, 1924, and the offices held by them.

PEACOCK MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Peacock, Sir Alexander James, K.C.M.G.	Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Labour.
Robinson, Sir Arthur, K.C.M.G.*	Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.
Argyle, Stanley Seymour, M.R.C.S.	Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Health.
Oman, David Swan	Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Immigration, Minister in charge of the Wheat Scheme, and President of the Board of Land and Works.
Eggleston, Frederick William ..	Minister of Railways and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Cohen, Henry Isaac, K.C., M.L.C.	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.

* Sir Arthur Robinson resigned office on 11th July, 1924, and was succeeded by Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.

PEACOCK MINISTRY—continued.

Gordon, John	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Water Supply, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Toutcher, Richard Frederick ..	Minister of Public Instruction, Minister of Forests, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Brawn, Frederick William, M.L.C.	Minister without Portfolio.
McGregor, Martin, M.L.C.	Minister without Portfolio.
Groves, Frank	Minister without Portfolio.
Beardmore, Henry	Minister without Portfolio.

When Parliament met after the general elections held on 26th June, 1924, the Peacock Ministry was defeated in the Legislative Assembly, and it resigned office on 18th July, 1924. A Labour Ministry, led by the Hon. G. M. Prendergast, came into office, and was constituted as follows:—

PRENDERGAST MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Prendergast, George Michael ..	Premier and Treasurer.
Tunncliffe, Thomas	Chief Secretary.
Lemmon, John	Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Labour.
Hogan, Edmund John	Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways, Minister of Markets, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Bailey, Henry Stephen	President of the Board of Land and Works, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Water Supply.
Slater, William	Attorney-General and Solicitor-General.
Jones, John Percy, M.L.C. ..	Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Public Health, Minister in Charge of Immigration and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
McNamara, Daniel Laurence, M.L.C.	Minister of Mines, Minister of Forests, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Beckett, William James, M.L.C. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Disney, James Herbert, M.L.C. ..	Minister without Portfolio.
Cain, John	Minister without Portfolio.
Webber, Gordon Charles	Minister without Portfolio.

The names of members and of officers of Parliament and of the constituencies which the members represent are given below:—

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President : Hon. F. G. Clarke.

Name of Province.	Name of Member.	Date of Retirement.
Bendigo	Hon. H. Keck	1925
	Hon. J. Sternberg	1928
East Yarra	Hon. W. H. Edgar (Chairman of Committees)	1925
	Hon. J. K. Merritt	1928
Gippsland	Hon. G. M. Davis	1925
	Hon. M. McGregor	1928
Melbourne	Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.	1925
	Hon. H. H. Smith	1928
Melbourne East ..	Hon. D. L. McNamara (Minister of Mines and Minister of Forests)	1925
	Hon. J. P. Jones (Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Public Health, and Minister in charge of Immigration)	1928
Melbourne North ..	Hon. W. J. Beckett (Minister without Portfolio)	1925
Melbourne South ..	Hon. E. L. Kiernan	1928
	Hon. Sir A. Robinson, K.C.M.G.	1925
Melbourne West ..	Hon. T. H. Payne	1928
	Hon. J. H. Disney (Minister without Portfolio)	1925
Nelson	Hon. R. Williams	1928
	Hon. E. G. Bath	1925
Northern	Hon. T. Beggs	1928
	Hon. F. G. Clarke (President)	1925
North-Eastern ..	Hon. R. H. S. Abbott	1928
	Hon. A. M. Zwar	1925
North-Western ..	Hon. Dr. J. R. Harris	1928
	Hon. G. L. Goudie	1925
Southern	Hon. W. P. Crockett	1928
	Hon. W. L. R. Clarke	1925
South-Eastern ..	Hon. W. C. Angliss	1928
	Hon. A. E. Chandler	1925
South-Western ..	Hon. W. Tyner	1928
	Hon. A. A. Austin	1925
Wellington	Hon. H. F. Richardson	1928
	Hon. A. Bell	1925
Western	Hon. F. W. Brawn	1928
	Hon. E. J. White	1925
	Hon. M. Saltau	1928

Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: H. H. Newton, J.P.

Clerk Assistant: H. H. Pearson.

Usher, Accountant, and Clerk of Committees: W. R. Heywood.

Clerk of the Records: P. T. Pook.

Clerk of the Papers: L. V. Hoyle.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924—*continued.*

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Speaker : Hon. J. Bowser.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Abbotsford ..	Hon. G. C. Webber (Minister without Portfolio).
Albert Park ..	A. K. Wallace.
Allandale ..	Hon. Sir A. J. Peacock, K.C.M.G.
Ballaarat East ..	W. J. McAdam.
Ballaarat West ..	Hon. Major M. Baird.
Barwon ..	E. Morley.
Benalla ..	Hon. J. J. Carlisle.
Benambra ..	Hon. H. Beardmore.
Bendigo East ..	L. J. Clough.
Bendigo West ..	A. E. Cook.
Boroondara ..	E. W. Greenwood.
Borong ..	D. Allison.
Brighton ..	O. R. Snowball.
Brunswick ..	J. R. Jewell.
Bulla ..	R. T. Hjorth.
Carlton ..	R. H. Solly.
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	Hon. H. S. W. Lawson.
Collingwood ..	Hon. T. Tunnecliffe (Chief Secretary).
Dalhousie ..	R. T. Pollard.
Dandenong ..	Hon. F. Groves.
Daylesford ..	J. McDonald.
Dundas ..	Hon. W. Slater (Attorney-General and Solicitor-General).
Eaglehawk ..	A. A. Dunstan.
East Melbourne ..	A. A. Farthing.
Essendon ..	F. Keane.
Evelyn ..	W. H. Everard.
Fitzroy ..	Hon. J. W. Billson.
Flemington ..	E. C. Warde.
Geelong ..	W. Brownbill.
Gippsland East ..	A. E. Lind.
Gippsland North ..	J. W. McLachlan.
Gippsland South ..	W. West.
Gippsland West ..	A. L. N. Walter.
Glenelg ..	E. E. Bond.
Goulburn Valley ..	Colonel M. W. J. Bouchier, C.M.G., D.S.O.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1924—*continued.*THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—*continued.*

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Grenville	A. Hughes, M.C.
Gunbower	Hon. H. Angus.
Hampden	Hon. D. S. Oman.
Hawthorn	Hon. Sir W. M. McPherson.
Jika Jika	Hon. J. Cain (Minister without Portfolio).
Kara Kara	Hon. J. W. Pennington.
Korong	I. J. Weaver.
Lowan	Hon. M. E. Wettenhall.
Maryborough	G. C. Frost.
Melbourne	T. Hayes.
Mornington	Hon. A. Downward.
North Melbourne	Hon. G. M. Prendergast (Premier and Treasurer).
Ovens	Hon. A. A. Billson.
Polwarth	J. McDonald.
Port Fairy	Hon. H. S. Bailey (Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and Minister of Water Supply).
Port Melbourne	J. L. Murphy.
Prahran	A. R. Jackson.
Richmond	E. J. Cotter.
Rodney	Hon. J. Allan.
St. Kilda	Hon. F. W. Eggleston.
Stawell and Ararat	Hon. R. F. Toutcher.
Swan Hill	Hon. F. E. Old.
Toorak	Hon. Dr. Stanley S. Argyle.
Upper Goulburn	E. J. Mackrell.
Walhalla	Hon. S. Barnes.
Wangaratta	Hon. J. Bowser (Speaker).
Waranga	Hon. J. Gordon.
Warrenheip	Hon. E. J. Hogan (Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Railways and Minister of Markets.)
Warrnambool	J. D. Deany.
Williamstown	Hon. J. Lemmon (Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Labour).

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: W. R. Alexander.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Private Bills: T. R. Gilchrist.

Clerk of Committees and Serjeant-at-Arms: W. R. Barstow.

Clerk of the Papers: F. E. Wanke.

Reader and Clerk of the Record: G. R. Webb.

Accountant and Assistant Clerk of Committees: P. P. Conlan.

Chief Hansard Reporter: A. Burr.

Librarian (Acting): J. A. Finnie.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

The following is a return of Consuls-General and Consuls for Victoria of foreign countries :—

CONSULS-GENERAL.

Country.	Name.
Argentina	Bartoli, U. A.
Belgium	Drion, M. F.
China	Ouei Tze-King.
Colombia	Lyle, M.
Denmark	Lunn, Ove.
Germany	Busing, Dr. Hans.
Honduras	Mattei, Senor Don Rafael Medina (Hon.).
Norway	Arentz, E. K. B.
Swiss Confederation	Stahel, G. (Hon.).
United States	Blake, M.

CONSULS.

Austria	Hauser, L. (Hon.).
France	Turck, R.
Greece	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine.
Guatemala	De Bavay, Auguste.
Italy	Grossardi, Commendatore A.
Japan	Fullarton, D. B. (Hon.).
Mexico	McKinley, A. (Hon.).
Netherlands	Wichers, P. A. Van Buttingha.
Nicaragua	Medina, R.
Peru	Loyer, J. F. (Hon.).
Portugal	Thomson, J. (Hon.).
Salvador	Karagheusian, V. N. T. (Hon.).
Spain	Montero y de Madrazo, Senor Don J.
"	Cave, H. (Hon.).
Sweden	Waern, J. D.
Uruguay	Benjamin, L. S. (Hon.).

VICE-CONSULS.

Argentina	Mackay, S.
Belgium	Nihotte, A.
Brazil, United States of	Sheppard, H. A.
Denmark	Holdenson, P. J.
"	Blechingberg, E.
"	Belcher, E. N. (Geelong).
Finland	Sleigh, H. C. (Hon.).
Greece	Maniachi, A. V. (Hon.).
Italy	Vitali, L. B. (Hon.).
Japan	Black, P. J. (Hon.).
Liberia	Coombs, W. G. (performing duties of Consul-General).
Norway	Schreuder, A. T. (Hon.).
"	Howard, J. (Hon.).
Paraguay	Fraser, W. S.
United States	Fox, R.
"	Vebber, J. M.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

The following Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the countries mentioned to represent them in Victoria :—

Representing—

United Kingdom	..	..	Dalton, R. A.
Canada	..	..	Ross, D. H.
New Zealand	..	..	Manson, H. J.
United States	..	..	Ganly, E. G.

FINANCE.

State Finance. Under the Constitution Act the revenues of the State are payable into Consolidated Revenue, but certain of these revenues have been hypothecated by various Acts of Parliament for specified purposes, and are payable into special accounts or funds kept at the State Treasury. These special accounts or funds include the Mallee Land Account, the Assurance Fund, the Licensing Fund, the Police Superannuation Fund, and the Country Roads Board Fund. In addition to these funds there are various Trust Funds, as well as the Loan Funds into which all borrowed moneys are paid.

Subsequent to its elevation into a self-governing Colony in 1851, Victoria was divided for the purposes of local government into Districts, which evolved later into the present system of municipalities. The municipalities have power to levy rates, and are assisted with grants by the State Government. Particulars regarding municipal finance are given in another section of the *Year-Book*. Allied to the municipalities are the Boards and Trusts which control water supply, irrigation, and sewerage, and have rating powers in connexion therewith. There are also the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the Country Fire Brigades Board, which are concerned with fire extinction in the metropolis and urban districts, and derive their revenues from the State Government, the Municipalities, and Insurance Companies; and the Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts, which are intrusted with the management of those respective ports, and derive their revenues mainly from wharfage rates.

The Closer Settlement Board manages closer settlement and discharged soldiers' settlement on behalf of the State. Lands are purchased with loan moneys, and the revenues received by the Board from lessees, &c., are paid into the Closer Settlement Fund or Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Fund; from these funds the working expenses of the Board are met, interest on loans provided, and loans redeemed.

Upon the federation of the Australian Colonies in 1901 the Customs and Excise, Post and Telegraph, and Defence Departments were transferred to the Commonwealth Government, as a set off against which that Government paid to the States at least three-fourths of the net Customs and Excise revenue until 31st December, 1910; since that date it has paid annually a sum equal to 25s. per head of the population.

A summary of the transactions for the financial year 1922-23 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and in the special funds referred to above gives the following result:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF VICTORIA,
1922-23. £

Revenue	21,634,677
Expenditure	21,611,309
Surplus for the year	23,368
Revenue deficit at 30th June, 1922	1,205,252
Revenue deficit at 30th June, 1923	1,181,884

The Revenue and Expenditure Account is a statement of cash transactions, the revenue representing actual receipts less refunds, and the expenditure actual payments made during the year. The accumulated revenue deficiency had its beginning in the year 1890-91, when it amounted to £206,843, and in the course of the next five years it was added to year by year, until it reached its greatest magnitude (£2,711,436) on 30th June, 1896. After that date it was steadily reduced year by year, with one or two exceptions, to £251,652 on 30th June, 1914; but during 1914-15, under conditions brought about by the war and a serious drought, it was increased to £1,429,603, and it was further increased in the following year to £1,642,091. During each of the last seven years the deficit has been reduced, and, on 30th June, 1923, it was £1,181,884, there having been a decrease as compared with the previous year of £23,368.

The excess of receipts on account of the consolidated revenue over expenditure for the year 1922-23 was £363,949. This amount has since been appropriated to "Revenue Services" to be used as follows:—£234,802 towards the Reduction of the Revenue Deficit Account, and £129,147 to recoup the Developmental Railways Account for amounts transferred to revenue in the years 1913-14 and 1916-17.

The differences between the amounts of revenue and expenditure shown above and those given in the Treasurer's Finance Statement arise from the use of a different method of classification for statistical purposes, the particulars of which for 1922-23 are as follows:—

	Public Revenue.	Public Expenditure.
	£	£
Total according to Treasurer's Finance Statement ..	21,298,210	20,932,703
<i>Add public revenue of the following funds—</i>		
Mallee Land Account—appropriated to Loan Redemption purposes	88,324	88,324
Country Roads Board Fund	179,343	179,343
Licensing Fund*	168,070	168,070
Police Superannuation Fund	10,790	10,790
Assurance Fund	2,447	2,447
Surplus Revenue appropriated to "Revenue Services"		363,949
Surplus Revenue transferred to "Railway Reserve Account"		1,558
<i>Deduct—</i>		
Appropriation to reduction of deficit		23,368
Loss on non-paying railways	112,507	112,507
Total	21,634,677	21,611,309

* Excluding £157,206 transferred to Revenue under Section 39 of Act No. 3259.

Compiled on the above basis, the revenue and expenditure of the State for the last ten years are shown in the next statement:—

STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: 1913-14 TO 1922-23.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£		£	£
1914 ..	10,958,037	10,944,718	1919 ..	13,044,088	12,979,407
1915 ..	10,529,017	11,706,968	1920 ..	15,866,184	15,752,459
1916 ..	11,470,875	11,683,363	1921 ..	19,054,475	18,941,698
1917 ..	11,813,879	11,795,295	1922 ..	20,357,733	20,297,279
1918 ..	12,672,787	12,631,169	1923 ..	21,634,677	21,611,309

The expenditure in this statement includes considerable sums appropriated to pay off liabilities of former years, and to form sinking funds to meet outstanding loans. Such appropriations and the amount of revenue applied in reduction of the accumulated deficiency are detailed in the succeeding table.

REVENUE DEVOTED TO PAYING OFF OLD LIABILITIES, ETC., 1913-14 TO 1922-23.

Year ended 30th June—	ORDINARY REVENUE APPROPRIATED.			Total.
	In reduction of the accumulated revenue deficiency of former years.	In redemption of loans raised in anticipation of revenue.	Towards Redemption Funds to meet outstanding loans.	
	£	£	£	£
1914 ..	13,319	..	204,745	218,064
1915 ..	17,519	..	211,117	228,636
1916 ..	20,327	..	266,599	286,926
1917 ..	18,584	..	296,345	314,929
1918 ..	16,618	25,000	299,578	341,196
1919 ..	14,681	50,000	301,466	366,147
1920 ..	13,725	100,000	359,100	472,825
1921 ..	12,777	100,000	508,344	621,121
1922 ..	60,454	25,000	402,724	488,178
1923 ..	33,170	354,147*	421,166	808,483†
Total (10 years)	221,174	654,147	3,271,184	4,146,505

* Including £129,147 to recoup the Developmental Railways Account.

† The appropriation of the surplus revenue for 1922-23 (£363,949) is included in accordance with the *Surplus Revenue Act No. 3294*.

In addition to the above appropriations there were surpluses in the financial years 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20, and 1920-21, which were applied towards payment for public works or to other purposes of a public nature.

Details of the sources of the revenue for the last five financial years are given in the following statement:—

HEADS OF STATE REVENUE, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Heads of Revenue.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£
Federal Government	1,764,239	1,847,085	1,878,449	1,918,967	1,969,772
State Taxation—					
Income Tax ..	928,210	915,551	1,591,198	1,443,209	1,514,256
Stamp Duties ..	581,917	820,618	928,367	930,859	1,116,077
Probate and Succession Duties ..	718,194	881,423	702,468	706,181	697,482
Land Tax ..	324,232	314,217	331,756	372,060	392,594
Licences ..	179,338	213,204	274,020	320,127	335,402
Other ..	13,055	14,754	19,024	18,738	21,235
Public Works and Services—					
Railways ..	6,422,133	8,081,947	9,848,061	10,751,173	11,289,956
Water Supply ..	355,854	384,280	406,666	415,540	447,459
Harbor Trusts, Wharfrage, &c.	101,210	113,049	145,938	156,747	199,379
State Coal Mine ..	292,604	433,977	416,892	591,380	468,855
State Electricity Commission ..	..	..	..	58,111	253,288
Interest on properties transferred to Commonwealth	82,664	82,664	103,789	86,013	80,378
Other ..	116,050	197,637	220,176	190,286	230,841
Land—					
Sales ..	141,693	202,517	333,083	200,346	176,476
Rents ..	143,943	175,116	205,648	232,876	243,887
Interest, &c. ..	186,118	187,731	194,922	173,218	148,890
Other Sources—					
Interest—Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	20,811	102,785	463,878	827,330	1,013,885
Fees, Fines, &c. ..	236,429	293,281	317,968	332,497	424,345
Tramways Act 2995 (Sec. 88) ..	..	56,783	84,355	98,107	93,010
Sale of Books and Documents (Govt. Printer) ..	63,215	72,380	82,697	90,084	82,504
Agriculture Department ..	91,430	181,753	100,715	72,505	78,017
Miscellaneous ..	280,749	293,432	404,405	371,379	356,689
Total ..	13,044,088	15,866,184	19,054,475	20,357,733	21,634,677
Per Head of Population ..	£ s. d. 9 1 6	£ s. d. 10 11 1	£ s. d. 12 9 5	£ s. d. 13 2 6	£ s. d. 13 12 1

The revenue for 1922-23 represents an increase of £1,276,944 on that for the previous year. There were increases under the following

headings :—Railways, £533,783 ; State Taxation, £235,872 ; State Electricity Commission, £195,177 ; and Interest—Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts, £186,555. There was a falling off in revenue from the State Coal Mine of £122,525 and from Land of £37,187. The payments to the State by the Federal Government during the last thirteen years have been computed on the basis of a fixed payment of 25s.* per head of population in the State, whereas in preceding years the Federal Government paid over to the State at least three-fourths of the net revenue from Customs and Excise duties.

STATE EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows for the last five years the principal heads of expenditure from State Revenue :—

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE : 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Heads of Expenditure.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>General Government.</i>					
Governor ..	7,448	6,915	8,777	10,064	10,029
Parliament and Ministry ..	74,059	74,402	103,494	106,147	96,047
Civil Establishment	309,583	349,029	372,560	393,683	396,149
Pensions and Gratuities† ..	438,295	443,726	489,636	503,065	534,009
<i>Law, Order, and Protection.</i>					
Judicial and Legal ..	166,675	194,149	226,608	227,303	236,172
Police ..	366,079	462,303	533,920	533,986	540,037
Penal Establishments and Gaols ..	54,268	61,947	75,981	74,161	80,363
<i>Education, &c.</i>					
State Schools, &c. ..	1,111,276	1,324,595	1,659,663	1,755,834	1,755,395
Technical Schools ..	65,455	69,661	92,001	100,693	182,495
University ..	27,000	31,500	37,975	40,175	49,975
Libraries, &c. ..	26,006	27,672	33,500	34,108	36,261
Art and Science ..	9,136	8,976	9,305	9,630	7,437
<i>Recreation and Health.</i>					
Parks, Gardens, and Public Resorts ..	22,563	31,565	36,939	29,341	26,637
Public Health ..	180,684	190,844	80,848	97,599	93,995
Charitable Institutions, &c. ..	583,008	666,697	818,539	829,514	832,882

* This is subject to a slight reduction on account of a special payment to Western Australia. The reduction in 1922-23 was slightly less than 3d. per head of population. See *Year-Book* 1915-16, page 142.

† For details, see page 54.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE: 1918-19 TO
1922-23—continued.

Hheads of Expenditure.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
<i>Crown Lands, &c.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Crown Lands ..	157,557	167,818	207,760	221,565	236,022
Agriculture and Stock	214,001	266,314	244,968	275,107	305,832
Mining	379,556	587,031	538,855	678,785	559,465
<i>Public Works.</i>					
Railways	4,261,082	6,042,136	7,857,380	8,117,070	8,275,909
Water Supply ..	116,153	154,534	165,145	185,656	215,110
Harbors, Rivers, and Lights	92,825	81,436	93,929	98,984	91,438
Roads and Bridges ..	6,001	3,930	6,068	16,948	5,371
Country Roads Board	140,873	158,288	170,638	191,424	229,343
State Electricity Commission .. ..	..	..	32,015	112,608	144,193
Municipal Endow- ment, &c.* ..	129,459	136,928	118,214	120,081	119,542
Works and Buildings, n.e.l.	50,666	61,610	56,675	65,476	85,588
Interest and Expenses of Public Debt ..	3,087,059	3,249,393	3,882,095	4,579,665	5,355,575
Interest on Advances from Savings Banks	8,638	8,212	7,975	6,737	1,385
Redemption Funds, &c.	301,466	359,100	508,344	402,724	421,166
Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	58,011	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
<i>Other Expenditure.</i>					
Mint Subsidy ..	25,000	29,778	40,000	33,500	30,000
Fire Brigades ..	33,309	37,164	45,615	48,909	48,215
Immigration ..	7,275	6,870	11,885	18,135	18,896
Licences Reduction Board, including Compensation ..	37,745	69,617	91,063	72,210	60,730
Railway passes to Returned Soldiers	74,673	117,345	10,428	5,325	5,043
Surplus Revenue ap- propriated to "Re- venue Services" ..	274,521	103,716	56,936	..	363,949
Miscellaneous ..	82,002	92,258	140,964	226,067	85,654
Total ..	12,979,407	15,752,459	18,941,698	20,297,279	21,611,309
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per Head of Population	9 0 7	10 9 7	12 7 11	13 1 9	13 11 9

* Including annual payment from Licensing Fund.

Compared with the previous year the ordinary expenditure of the State for 1922-23 showed an increase of £1,314,030. The heads of expenditure showing the largest increases were—Interest and Expenses

of Public Debt, £775,910; appropriation of Surplus Revenue, £363,949; Railways, £158,833; and Technical Schools £81,802. The chief decrease was in Mining, on which the expenditure was £119,320 less than in the previous year.

In regard to the surpluses of various years which are included in the preceding table under the item "Surplus Revenue Appropriated to Revenue Services" it is interesting to note to what purposes the money so appropriated was applied in subsequent years. Up to 30th June, 1923, the total amount appropriated (exclusive of the 1922-23 surplus, *i.e.*, £363,949) was £2,440,142, of which all but £9,013 had been expended. The following table shows the details of such expenditure for each of the last four years and the total up to 30th June, 1923:—

SURPLUS REVENUE EXPENDITURE.

Service.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	Total to 30th June, 1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Services—					
Railways .. ..	..	..	..	..	250,696
Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	64,170
Revenue Services—					
Railways	50,000	37,098	..	..	497,729
Education—					
State schools ..	46,226	18,908	1,133	6,935	340,692
Other .. ..	..	14,689	45,629	12,914	136,808
Crown Lands (including reclamation, drainage, &c.) .. ..	..	14,874	26	..	149,480
Harbours, rivers, and lights	23,966	413	..	..	117,293
Roads and bridges ..	2,640	4,019	3,049	1,657	111,477
Railway salaries (arrears) .. ..	..	..	70,846	1,195	72,041
Public Health	19,573	2,479	1,151	132	34,621
Charitable Institutions .. ..	..	..	15,351	2,975	105,226
Redemption of Treasury Bonds	100,000	100,000	25,000	..	269,000
Miscellaneous	25,478	41,619	2,176	17,307	281,896
Total	267,883	234,099	164,361	43,115	2,431,129

INCOME TAX.

State Income Tax. An income tax was first imposed in Victoria in 1895, and, although originally fixed for a period of three years, it has, with certain amendments and alterations, been retained and continued from year to year until the present time. Incomes assessed

for tax in any year are those earned, derived, or received in Victoria in the preceding year, and are divided into two classes, viz. :— (1) those derived from personal exertion, and (2) those derived from property. The former consist of salaries, wages, stipends, fees, commissions, bonuses, pensions, superannuation or retiring allowances earned in or derived from Victoria, and all incomes arising or accruing from any profession, trade, or business carried on in Victoria ; whilst the latter comprise incomes from all other sources. In computing the taxable income certain deductions are allowed from the assessable income, the principal of which are outgoings and losses incurred in the production of the income, life assurance premiums not exceeding £50, and calls or contributions actually paid into any mining company registered under the *Companies Act* 1915, or to any company in liquidation.

On incomes not exceeding £800 the following deductions were allowed in the assessments for 1922-23 and 1923-24 :—(a) £30 in respect of each child under 16 years of age; (b) certain expenses during illness ; (c) friendly society contributions ; and (d) funeral and burial expenses not exceeding £20.

For each of the years 1918-19 to 1922-23 the minimum income subject to tax was £201, and the exemption allowed on incomes between £201 and £500 was £150. No exemption was allowed on incomes exceeding £500 or to companies. The rate of tax for individuals on the amount of taxable income from personal exertion up to but not exceeding £500 was 3d. in the £1. Where the taxable income exceeded £500 the rates on incomes from personal exertion were 4d. for every £1 of the taxable amount thereof up to £500, 5d. for every £1 between £500 and £1,000, 6d. for every £1 between £1,000 and £1,500, and 7d. for every £1 over £1,500. The rates on incomes from property were respectively double the rates on incomes from personal exertion. In the case of life assurance companies the tax was 12d. in the £1 on 30 per cent. of the premium income from ordinary business and on 15 per cent. of that from industrial business. In the case of mining companies the tax was 12d. in the £1 on the total amount of dividends declared and debenture interest paid. In the case of other companies liable to tax the rate was 12d. in the £1 on the profits.

For the purpose of simplifying the collection of income tax, the *Income Tax Amendment Act* 1923 was passed on 22nd December, 1923. This Act provides that the Victorian Income Tax Department shall be the collecting authority for the income tax payable in the State under Commonwealth law. In cases where income is received in two or more States, no alteration has been made—the tax being assessed and collected by the Central Office of the Commonwealth Income Tax Department.

In the following table are shown the rates of taxation, also the numbers of assessments, and the amounts of taxable income, and of tax payable in the respective groups for which different rates of taxation are charged :—

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS, 1922-23—BASED ON INCOMES OF 1921-22.

Taxable Income.	Rate of Tax per £ of Taxable Income.			Number of Assessments.			
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Companies.	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal Exertion and Property.	Companies.
	d.	d.	d.				
Up to £500 ..	3	6	} 12 }	76,984	3,919	1,088	419
£501 to £1,000	4	8		4,112	1,044	4,201	276
£1,001 to £1,500	5	10		1,033	311	1,486	170
£1,501 to £2,000	6	12		405	126	772	127
£2,001 and upwards	7	14		509	219	1,261	816
Total ..	..	..	..	83,043	5,619	8,808	1,808

Taxable Income.	Taxable Income.				Tax Payable.			
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal Exertion and Property.	Companies.	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal Exertion and Property.	Companies.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Up to £500 ..	10,059,644	618,373	228,865	79,357	124,367	15,503	3,989	3,917
£501 to £1,000	2,780,613	715,503	2,899,959	209,062	49,243	25,494	58,592	10,272
£1,001 to £1,500	1,247,871	377,334	1,816,182	209,685	24,680	14,979	39,718	10,453
£1,501 to £2,000	297,159	216,893	1,323,742	223,852	15,252	9,502	31,187	11,192
£2,001 and upwards	1,291,515	898,041	4,873,123	12,768,093	42,936	46,917	138,556	638,405
Total ..	15,676,802	2,326,144	11,141,871	13,490,049	256,478	112,395	272,042	674,239

On account of rebates of income tax allowed under section 18 of the *Income Tax Act 1915* the tax payable does not coincide with the amount obtained by applying the rates of tax to the taxable incomes shown in the above statement. The total net incomes of taxpayers who were assessed to pay tax in 1922-23 amounted to £55,429,166, but, as 81,962 taxpayers were allowed the £150 exemption, the amount available for taxation was £43,134,866.

In the succeeding statement particulars of the assessments, incomes, and tax for the last five years are set forth :—

INCOME TAX : 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Number of Assessments :					
Individuals ..	49,889	50,026	73,548	87,486	97,470
Companies ..	1,644	1,448	1,843	1,475	1,808
Total, Distinct Taxpayers ..	51,533	52,074	75,391	88,961	99,278
Taxable Incomes of previous year :					
Individuals ..	£ 16,572,006	£ 17,128,672	£ 28,999,298	£ 30,987,276	£ 29,644,817
Companies ..	8,423,513	8,607,366	14,164,719	11,032,628	13,490,049
Total ..	24,995,519	25,736,038	43,164,017	42,019,904	43,134,866
Tax payable :					
Individuals ..	399,944	383,602	651,126	651,745	640,915
Companies ..	420,995	430,028	707,770	551,265	674,239
Total* ..	820,939	813,630	1,358,896	1,203,010	1,315,154
Per taxpayer :					
Individuals ..	£ s. d. 8 0 4	£ s. d. 7 11 7	£ s. d. 8 17 1	£ s. d. 7 8 9	£ s. d. 6 8 10
Companies ..	256 1 7	296 19 7	384 0 8	373 14 9	372 18 4
Average tax payable in the £ on taxable incomes by—					
Individuals ..	d. 5·79	d. 5·37	d. 5·39	d. 5·05	d. 5·19
Companies ..	12·00	12·00	12·00	12·00	12·00

* For actual collections received, see page 40.

The figures have not been revised, and are subject to a slight adjustment for corrections and payments made in a year subsequent to that to which they relate, but it is unlikely that any such adjustment will materially affect them.

The next table shows the sources of the incomes of taxpayers, for all the principal occupations, under the heads of personal exertion and property.

SOURCES OF INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF TAXPAYERS,
1922-23.

Occupations.	Number of Taxpayers.				Amount of Tax.*			
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Personal Exertion and Property combined.	Total.	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Total.	Average to each Taxpayer.
1. Professional.					£	£	£	£ s. d.
Civil Servants	2,490	6	149	2,645	8,577	534	9,111	3 8 10
Clergymen ..	798	4	33	835	2,017	132	2,149	2 11 5
Legal Practitioners ..	517	6	214	737	12,071	2,558	14,629	19 16 11
Medical Practitioners ..	433	6	282	721	13,660	2,337	15,997	22 3 8
Police ..	986	..	28	1,014	1,718	74	1,792	1 15 4
Teachers ..	3,091	1	142	3,234	8,162	475	8,637	2 13 4
Various ..	4,459	22	566	5,047	29,499	5,169	34,668	6 17 4
	12,774	45	1,414	14,233	75,704	11,279	86,983	6 2 2
2. Domestic.								
Hotelkeepers	602	9	308	919	13,294	4,071	17,365	18 17 11
Various ..	959	10	123	1,092	4,652	1,050	5,702	5 4 5
	1,561	19	431	2,011	17,946	5,121	23,067	11 9 4
3. Commercial.								
Agents ..	911	18	310	1,239	10,414	3,140	13,554	10 18 9
Brokers ..	112	1	56	169	7,042	872	7,914	46 16 6
Butchers ..	763	3	213	979	7,873	1,848	9,721	9 18 7
Clerks ..	12,311	16	780	13,107	51,677	5,135	56,812	4 6 8
Drapers ..	569	3	151	723	8,751	1,446	10,197	14 2 0
Grocers ..	815	..	139	954	3,979	822	4,801	5 0 7
Merchants ..	633	10	459	1,102	28,963	7,147	36,110	32 15 4
Salesmen ..	5,575	4	400	5,979	22,065	2,414	24,479	4 1 10
Storekeepers	345	2	114	461	4,405	530	4,985	10 16 3
Various ..	3,308	61	565	3,934	23,205	5,877	29,082	7 7 10
	25,342	118	3,187	28,647	168,374	29,281	197,655	6 17 11

* The amount of tax is given to the nearest £, but the average given is based on the actual amount.

SOURCES OF INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF TAXPAYERS, 1922-23—
continued.

Occupations.	Number of Taxpayers.				Amount of Tax.*			
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Personal Exertion and Property combined.	Total.	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Total.	Average to each Taxpayer.
					£	£	£	£ s. d.
4. Transport.								
Carriers ..	3,622	1	94	3,717	6,900	316	7,216	1 18 9
Engaged in Postal Service ..	1,425	..	13	1,438	2,198	47	2,245	1 11 2
Engaged in Railways ..	5,558	..	64	5,622	8,982	229	9,211	1 12 9
Engaged in Shipping ..	436	1	44	481	2,939	252	3,191	6 12 8
	11,041	2	215	11,258	21,019	844	21,863	1 18 10
5. Industrial.								
Carpenters ..	2,493	10	260	2,763	11,431	1,800	13,231	4 15 9
Engine-drivers	725	..	1	726	1,114	1	1,115	1 10 9
Engineers ..	2,194	3	132	2,329	9,587	571	10,158	4 7 2
Managers ..	1,185	2	226	1,413	12,253	1,363	13,616	9 12 8
Manufacturers	811	7	417	1,235	30,062	3,681	33,743	27 6 5
Printers ..	1,543	2	77	1,622	5,187	610	5,797	3 11 5
Various ..	20,521	10	660	21,191	46,107	3,363	49,470	2 6 8
	29,472	34	1,773	31,279	115,741	11,389	127,130	4 1 3
6. Primary Producers.								
Engaged in Agriculture, &c.—								
Dairy								
Farmers	77	1	38	116	867	277	1,144	9 17 3
Farmers ..	577	42	651	1,270	23,246	3,178	26,424	20 16 1
Graziers ..	211	55	305	571	17,540	9,953	27,493	48 2 11
Various ..	524	11	108	643	3,130	742	3,872	6 0 5
	1,389	109	1,102	2,600	44,783	14,150	58,933	22 13 3

* The amount of tax is given to the nearest £, but the average given is based on the actual amount.

SOURCES OF INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF TAXPAYERS, 1922-23—
continued.

Occupations.	Number of Taxpayers.				Amount of Tax.*			
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Personal Exertion and Property combined.	Total.	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Total.	Average to each Taxpayer.
6. Primary Producers— continued.								
Engaged in Mining—					£	£	£	£ s. d.
Legal Managers ..	14	..	2	16	132	32	164	10 5 3
Miners ..	244	1	1	246	381	49	430	1 14 11
Mining Managers ..	58	..	7	65	444	37	481	7 8 0
Various ..	96	1	6	103	583	34	617	5 19 9
	412	2	16	430	1,540	152	1,692	3 18 8
	1,801	111	1,118	3,030	46,323	14,302	60,625	20 0 1
7. Indefinite..	1,052	5,290	670	7,012	10,399	113,193	123,592	17 12 6
8. Companies.								
Life Assurance	18	..	..	18	34,270	..	34,270	1,903 18 2
Mining	5	..	..	5	2,101	..	2,101	420 2 7
Other ..	1,785	..	..	1,785	637,868	..	637,868	357 6 10
	1,808	..	..	1,808	674,239	..	674,239	372 18 4
Total ..	84,851	5,619	8,808	99,278	1,129,745	185,409	1,315,154	13 4 11

* The amount of tax is given to the nearest £, but the average given is based on the actual amount.

Of the total taxpayers (exclusive of companies), 85 per cent. gained their incomes from personal exertion, 6 per cent. from property, and 9 per cent. from personal exertion combined with property. Occupations showing the highest average tax were—Graziers, £48 2s. 11d.; merchants, £32 15s. 4d.; and manufacturers, £27 6s. 5d.; while those showing the lowest were—Miners, £1 14s. 11d.; railway employees, £1 12s. 9d.; postal employees, £1 11s. 2d.; and engine-drivers, £1 10s. 9d. The total tax levied on individuals was £455,506 on income derived from personal exertion, and £185,409 on income from property, while companies, whose incomes are classified under personal exertion, were taxed to the extent of £674,239.

The taxable incomes of taxpayers in conjunction with occupations are given in the following statement :—

TAXABLE INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF TAXPAYERS,
1922-23.

Occupations.	Number of Taxpayers.				Amount of Tax.			
	With taxable incomes from—			Total.	On taxable incomes from—			Total.
	£51 to £500.	£501 to £1,000.	£1,001 and over.		£51 to £500.	£501 to £1,000.	£1,001 and over.	
1. Professional.								
Civil Servants ..	2,324	274	47	2,645	4,305	3,269	1,537	9,111
Clergymen ..	779	53	3	835	1,411	658	80	2,149
Legal Practitioners	344	160	233	737	722	2,225	11,682	14,629
Medical Practitioners	176	263	282	721	464	3,588	11,945	15,997
Police ..	988	24	2	1,014	1,423	295	74	1,792
Teachers ..	3,000	204	30	3,234	5,201	2,341	1,095	8,637
Various ..	3,876	824	347	5,047	7,696	10,360	16,612	34,668
	11,487	1,802	944	14,233	21,222	22,736	43,025	86,983
2. Domestic.								
Hotelkeepers ..	323	312	284	919	752	4,189	12,424	17,365
Various ..	918	117	57	1,092	1,486	1,489	2,727	5,702
	1,241	429	341	2,011	2,238	5,678	15,151	23,067
3. Commercial.								
Agents ..	791	284	164	1,239	1,656	4,007	7,891	13,554
Brokers ..	65	35	69	169	157	492	7,265	7,914
Butchers ..	638	205	136	979	1,006	2,691	6,024	9,721
Clerks ..	11,476	1,150	481	13,107	20,625	14,188	21,999	56,812
Drapers ..	477	147	99	723	880	1,903	7,414	10,197
Grocers ..	783	122	49	954	1,254	1,748	1,799	4,801
Merchants ..	405	245	452	1,102	953	3,389	31,768	36,110
Salesmen ..	5,253	542	184	5,979	9,455	6,633	8,391	24,479
Storekeepers ..	293	93	75	461	652	1,248	3,085	4,985
Various ..	3,124	494	316	3,934	5,233	6,763	17,086	29,082
	23,305	3,317	2,025	28,647	41,871	43,062	112,722	197,655
4. Transport.								
Carriers ..	3,597	83	37	3,717	4,599	1,050	1,567	7,216
Engaged in Postal Service ..	1,416	22	..	1,438	2,000	245	..	2,245
Engaged in Railways	5,523	90	9	5,622	7,862	1,000	349	9,211
Engaged in Shipping	409	26	46	481	686	337	2,168	3,191
	10,945	221	92	11,258	15,147	2,632	4,084	21,863
5. Industrial.								
Carpenters ..	2,443	197	123	2,763	3,724	2,592	6,915	13,231
Engine-drivers ..	724	2	..	726	1,097	18	..	1,115
Engineers ..	2,059	184	86	2,329	3,963	2,293	3,902	10,158
Managers ..	908	332	173	1,413	2,005	4,349	7,262	13,616
Manufacturers ..	545	322	368	1,235	1,090	4,520	28,123	33,743
Printers ..	1,496	86	40	1,622	2,505	1,077	2,215	5,797
Various ..	20,272	632	287	21,191	28,548	7,927	12,995	49,470
	28,447	1,755	1,077	31,279	42,932	22,786	61,412	127,130

TAXABLE INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF TAXPAYERS, 1922-23—
continued.

Occupations.	Number of Taxpayers.				Amount of Tax.			
	With taxable incomes from—			Total.	On taxable incomes from—			Total.
	£51 to £500.	£501 to £1,000.	£1,001 and over.		£51 to £500.	£501 to £1,000.	£1,001 and over.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
6. Primary Producers.								
Engaged in Agriculture, &c.—								
Dairy Farmers	68	33	15	116	147	419	578	1,144
Farmers ..	381	363	526	1,270	845	4,767	20,812	26,424
Graziers ..	201	96	274	571	485	1,549	25,459	27,493
Various ..	531	80	32	643	923	1,119	1,830	3,872
	1,181	572	847	2,600	2,400	7,854	48,679	58,933
Engaged in Mining—								
Legal Managers	10	4	2	16	16	69	79	164
Miners ..	243	2	1	246	312	27	91	430
Mining Managers ..	50	11	4	65	103	165	213	481
Various ..	96	3	4	103	150	39	428	617
	399	20	11	430	581	300	811	1,692
	1,580	592	858	3,030	2,981	8,154	49,490	60,625
7. Indefinite	4,986	1,241	785	7,012	17,462	28,282	77,848	123,592
8. Companies.								
Life Assurance	2	1	15	18	15	29	34,226	34,270
Mining ..	2	3	5	10	7	..	2,094	2,101
Other ..	415	275	1,095	1,785	3,895	10,243	623,730	637,868
	419	276	1,113	1,808	3,917	10,272	660,050	674,239
Total ..	82,410	9,633	7,235	99,278	147,770	143,602	1,023,782	1,315,154

Of the number of taxable incomes assessed, about 83 per cent. did not exceed £500, 10 per cent. were from £501 to £1,000, and 7 per cent. were over £1,000; but the tax levied on these incomes formed 11, 11, and 78 per cent. respectively of the total. A perusal of the above table shows that the occupational group which contributes the largest amount of tax is that of clerks, 13,107 of whom were taxed £56,812, and that of these 481 had taxable incomes of over £1,000, and were called upon to pay £21,999. The group paying the next largest amount of tax is that of merchants, 1,102 of whom were taxed £36,110. Of these, 452 had taxable incomes of over £1,000, and were called upon to pay £31,768.

In addition to the State Income Tax there is a Commonwealth Income Tax, which was first imposed on incomes earned in the financial year 1914-15. The tax collected by the Commonwealth Government, in the year 1922-23, amounted to £12,904,518, and it is estimated that the payments made on Victorian income would be £3,485,000.

LAND TAX.

State Land Tax.

The State Land Tax Act of 1915 provides for a tax on the unimproved value of land and for the assessment of land and other purposes. Unimproved value for the purposes of this Act means the sum which might be expected to be realized at the time of valuation if the land were offered for sale on such terms as a seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require, and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made. The nature of the taxation is a duty upon land for every pound sterling of the unimproved value thereof, as assessed under the Act, at a rate declared for each year by Act of Parliament. Previously to 1923 the rate of tax was one halfpenny on every pound sterling of the unimproved value of all land having an unimproved value exceeding £250, but for the year mentioned an increased amount was payable—a super-tax of 5 per cent. having been added to the old rate. No tax is chargeable when the total unimproved value of all lands owned does not exceed £250. Where the assessed unimproved value exceeds the amount of exemption (£250) the exemption diminishes at the rate of £1 for every £1 of such excess, so as to leave no exemption when the unimproved value amounts to, or exceeds £500.

The Assessment Roll on 31st December of each of the last five years showed the following particulars:—

			Taxpayers.	Net Tax Payable.	
			No.	£	
1919	..	..	89,363	..	310,059
1920	..	..	94,463	..	317,174
1921	..	..	103,237	..	335,566
1922	..	..	108,269	..	353,970
1923	..	..	114,614	..	392,434

Commonwealth Land Tax.

In addition to the State Land Tax there is upon the lands in the State a Commonwealth Land Tax, which was assented to on 17th November, 1910. The following particulars of land tax assessment for Victoria for the financial year 1920-21 have been furnished by the Federal Commissioner of Land Tax. The estates assessed numbered 4,326, of which 3,829 belonged to resident and 497 to absentee taxpayers. The unimproved value of these estates, as ascertained by the Department, was £51,230,691, comprising town land and country land of the following respective values:—£19,792,278 and £31,438,413. The tax payable was £460,965. Crown cases have now been removed from the scope of the tax.

RAILWAY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A summary of the results of the working of the Victorian Railways during the last five years is given in the appended statement. The figures have been taken from the Railway Report and represent the actual business done each year, not the receipts and payments brought to account by the Treasury within the year. They include particulars of the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways.

**Victorian
Railways,
financial
results.**

RAILWAY BALANCES : 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Item.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Gross Revenue ..	£ 6,476,076	£ 8,287,063	£ 9,851,909	£ 10,857,853	£ 11,413,782
Working Expenses ..	4,323,183	6,112,822	7,911,834	8,092,565	8,238,744
Pensions, Gratuities, &c. ..	151,588	152,932	182,036	194,581	203,470
Net Receipts ..	2,001,305	2,021,309	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568
Interest on Cost of Construction ..	2,164,902	2,234,202	2,409,674	2,589,816	2,951,385
Deficit ..	163,597	212,893	651,635	19,109	20,183*

* Surplus.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AND FIRE INSURANCE FUND.

The establishment of a permanent fund to be kept at the Treasury, and called the Railway Accident and Fire Insurance Fund, was effected by provision in the *Railways Act 1907* (now the *Railways Act 1915*). This provision requires the Railway Commissioners to pay into such fund the sum of 10s. for every £100 sterling of the revenue of the Victorian Railways until the fund amounts to £100,000, at which amount it is to be maintained. During the year ended 30th June, 1923, the receipts of the fund amounted to £84,760, whilst the payments made therefrom were £4,148 for compensation, damages, costs, &c., to persons other than employees injured; £10,739 as compensation on account of injuries to or deaths of employees; and £15,971 as compensation for goods or parcels lost, and for damages caused by fire, &c.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

The bestowal of pensions or superannuation allowances was abolished on 24th December, 1881, in the case of persons, except Supreme Court Judges, police, and railway employees, entering the Public Service after that date. Pensions to railway employees were abolished on 1st November, 1883.

During the year 1922-23, the Government expended on pensions, gratuities, etc., the sum of £534,009. Of this amount, £440,219 was

**Cost of
Pensions and
Gratuities.**

spent on ex-public servants who had contributed nothing towards their pensions. The remainder represents payments from State revenue to the Police Superannation Fund. The following table gives details of the expenditure for the year 1922-23:—

**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PENSIONS,
GRATUITIES, ETC., 1922-23.**

Division of Service.	Special Appropriations.		Annual Votes.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£
Education Department	1,023	121,868	10	261	1,033	122,129
Railways	1,513	187,060	107	6,285	1,620	193,345
Defence	3	308	..	..	3	308
Lunacy	27	3,240	..	..	27	3,240
Under Constitution Act	1	1,500	..	..	1	1,500
Officers of Parliament	1	509	..	..	1	509
County Court Judges ..	1	750	..	..	1	750
Under Civil Service Act 160	177	40,595	..	..	177	40,595
Under Public Service Act 773	149	34,876	..	..	149	34,876
Commonwealth Service —Officers of trans- ferred Departments	311	30,924	..	..	311	30,924
Various allowances ..	..	..	19	924	19	924
Total Pensions and Superannuation Allowances ..	3,206	421,630	136	7,470	3,342	429,100
Compensations and Gra- tuities	5	1,024	20	10,095	25	11,119
Police Superannuation Fund—						
Subsidy .. .. .	..	2,000	..	58,000	..	60,000
Tran-fer ed from Licensing Fund ..	..	..	..	23,000	..	23,000
Fines .. .. .	..	..	..	10,790	..	10,790
Total amount ..	..	424,654	..	109,355	..	534,009

This fund is maintained by an annual subsidy of £2,000 from the Consolidated Revenue; by a moiety of the fines inflicted by the Courts of Petty Sessions; by a deduction, not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., from the pay of the members of the Force entitled to pensions; by transfers from the Licensing Fund under the provisions of Act No. 2855; and, should the foregoing sources prove insufficient, by a further grant in aid from the Consolidated Revenue.

During the year 1922-23 the total receipts of the fund amounted to £97,688, consisting of £93,790 from Government revenue as shown in

the preceding table, £3,829 from members of the force, and £69 balance brought forward. Payments out of the Fund amounted to £97,620 (498 pensions for £80,116, and 28 gratuities for £17,504), thus leaving a balance of £68 at 30th June, 1923.

Pensions are payable out of this fund only to those members of the Police Force who joined prior to the 25th November, 1902.

This Act, which came into operation on 1st January, 1924, provides for pensions to those members of the Police Force who have joined it since 25th November, 1902, as well as to persons who may enter the Force in the future. Retirement is compulsory for senior constables and constables on attaining age 55; for sergeants, inspectors, and superintendents on attaining age 60, and for the Chief Commissioner on attaining age 65, except that in special cases any such person may be required to serve for a further period not exceeding five years. The ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age varies from one-fourth of the annual pay at the date of retirement after 15 years' service to two-thirds of such annual pay after 30 or more years' service. Retirement on a medical certificate entitles a member of the Force to a pension for life after completion of 10 years' service, and to a gratuity after a service of less than 10 years. Except in the cases mentioned below, the amount of the pension which is payable on retirement on a medical certificate is, for like durations of service of not less than 15 years, the same as the amount of an ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age. If a member of the Force is incapacitated for the performance of duty owing to an injury received in the execution of duty without his own default, he shall be entitled to a special pension for life which, except in a few instances, is larger than the ordinary pension and, in certain specified circumstances, is the full amount of salary. Provision is made for widows and children, the ordinary pension for a widow being approximately from £40 to £60 per annum, and the allowance for children under sixteen years of age from £10 to £15 per annum.

A deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is made from the pay of every member of the Force. When a member leaves the Force of his own accord after having completed 25 years' service or by reason of his having reached the age for compulsory retirement (whichever first happens) and does not receive a pension or gratuity, there shall be paid to him the whole of the rateable deductions which have been made from his pay without any interest thereon.

All pensions, gratuities, and allowances to members or their dependants shall be paid out of a special fund to be kept at the Treasury and to be known as the Police Pensions Fund. Into this fund shall be paid (a) an annual amount of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue, (b) the deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the pay of members which is referred to above, (c) all interest on surplus moneys in the fund invested as provided, and (d) all other moneys payable into the fund under the Act or any future Act.

**Police Pensions
Act, No. 3316
of 1923.**

All surplus moneys are to be invested in Victorian Government stock or debentures in the name of the Treasurer, and shall carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The Government Statist shall make an actuarial valuation of the fund at least once in three years, and shall certify each year what additional sum, if any, is required to be paid into the fund from Consolidated Revenue in order to provide that the assets shall be sufficient to meet the liabilities.

In the year 1922-23, 23 pensions amounting to £2,454 were paid out of the Port Phillip Pilot Sick and Superannuation Fund, towards which, however, the Government does not contribute, it being maintained by deductions from pilots' earnings and the annual income derived from investment of the moneys belonging to the fund.

**Port Phillip
Pilot Fund.**

**South Africa
Contingent
pensions.**

Pensions to members and relatives of members of the South African war contingents amounted to £649 in 1922-23.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

During the year 1922-23 the State expended on education generally the sum of £2,549,061, including £321,694 from Loan funds. The former amount includes the interest payable on loan moneys expended on buildings and expenditure in connexion with pensions and gratuities. The expenditure in each of the last five years, as detailed in the report of the Minister of Public Instruction, was as follows:—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION: 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Expenditure on—	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Education—	£	£	£	£	£
Primary	834,461	995,171	1,232,440	1,283,499	1,324,144
Intermediate	6,901	11,286	20,175	27,810	33,360
Secondary (including Scho'arships)	73,998	88,967	107,498	110,397	119,624
Special Subjects ..	30,540	37,231	49,214	56,930	63,038
Training of Teachers ..	18,049	21,873	26,353	26,768	26,797
Administration	50,308	55,436	63,252	66,549	69,335
Buildings (State Schools)..	87,273	131,265	176,099	322,471	349,562
Technical Schools (including Building Grants)	123,466	127,544	192,215	229,261	223,978
University (including Build- ing Grants)	32,874	38,584	67,498	113,111	117,197
Interest payable on Loan Moneys expended on Buildings	57,853	55,071	64,404	82,369	97,582
Miscellaneous (including Pensions and Gratuities)	114,854	116,336	118,003	120,694	124,444
Total	1,430,577	1,678,764	2,117,151	2,439,659	2,549,061*
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per head of population ..	0 19 11	1 2 4	1 7 9	1 11 6	1 12 1

* In addition, £29,813 paid by students in fees during the calendar year 1922, was expended on technical education.

The foregoing statement deals with the expenditure by the State on education generally, and includes expenditure connected with the University and technical schools, but the statement which follows relates to that portion of the expenditure which has been incurred in connexion with the State schools of Victoria, primary and secondary, excluding the amounts expended on technical schools and scholarships, in each of the last five years:—

**EXPENDITURE IN CONNEXION WITH STATE SCHOOLS:
1918-19 TO 1922-23.**

Items.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£
Education:					
Primary—					
Day Schools, including Central Schools	829,127	989,654	1,226,049	1,276,840	1,317,224
Night Schools	64	64	44	38	5
Schools for Deaf Mutes and Blind and Feeble-minded Children	3,231	3,405	4,391	4,612	5,571
Grant to Collingwood Play-ground	100	100	100	100	100
Subsidized Schools	639	648	556	609	214
Free Kindergarten Union ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
State Schools Horticultural Society	300	300	300	300	..
	834,461	995,171	1,232,440	1,283,499	1,324,144
Intermediate—					
Higher Elementary Schools ..	6,548	10,926	19,791	27,134	32,950
Evening Continuation Classes..	353	360	385	476	410
Secondary—					
High Schools	65,650	79,352	97,785	101,535	112,291
	72,551	90,638	117,961	129,145	145,651
Special Subjects—					
Domestic Arts	15,623	18,464	24,789	28,025	29,228
Manual Training	12,163	15,364	19,460	21,784	24,998
Physical Training	729	714	1,125	1,302	1,212
Medical Inspection	1,522	2,147	2,893	4,690	5,541
Dressmaking and Needlework..	253	252	379	404	388
School Gardening	250	200	568	725	891
Singing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	780
	30,540	37,231	49,214	56,930	63,038
Training of Teachers—					
Teachers' College	10,352	12,753	16,023	16,155	17,212
Miscellaneous	7,697	9,120	10,330	10,613	9,585
	18,049	21,873	26,353	26,768	26,797
Administration	50,308	55,436	63,252	66,549	69,335
Buildings—					
Primary Schools	66,140	98,163	126,112	275,205	296,858
(expended by School Committees)	6,263	9,770	11,112	11,201	13,199
Rents	5,300	6,402	6,999	8,234	6,876
Higher Elementary Schools ..	3,812	3,278	18,656	12,950	10,342
High Schools	5,758	13,562	13,220	14,881	22,287
	87,273	131,265	176,099	322,471	349,562
Interest payable on Loan Moneys expended on State School Buildings	57,769	54,987	62,597	75,292	84,958
Pensions and Gratunities	114,799	116,284	117,950	120,644	123,594
Total	1,265,750	1,502,885	1,845,866	2,081,298	2,187,079

The following return summarizes the expenditure and revenue connected with the Victorian State Schools, and shows the cost per scholar in average attendance for each of the last ten years :—

COST OF INSTRUCTION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS :
1913-14 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Expenditure by the State.	Revenue of the Education Department.	Net Expenditure.	Number of Scholars—Average Attendance.	Cost per Scholar to the State.
	£	£	£		£ s. d.
1913-14 ..	1,259,990	26,175	1,233,815	163,200	7 11 3
1914-15 ..	1,426,408	28,612	1,397,796	166,407	8 8 0
1915-16 ..	1,329,272	26,403	1,302,869	167,989	7 15 1
1916-17 ..	1,229,456	28,477	1,200,979	167,588	7 3 4
1917-18 ..	1,211,346	30,577	1,180,769	167,653	7 0 10
1918-19 ..	1,265,750	21,666	1,244,084	171,640	7 5 0
1919-20 ..	1,502,885	23,917	1,478,968	168,314	8 15 9
1920-21 ..	1,845,866	26,520	1,819,346	167,627	10 17 1
1921-22 ..	2,081,298	25,439	2,055,859	177,487	11 11 8
1922-23 ..	2,187,079	25,450	2,161,629	183,045	11 16 2

This table includes the amount payable each year as interest on loan moneys expended on State School buildings.

STATE UNDERTAKINGS.

The net result of the undermentioned State undertakings during the financial year 1922-23, as disclosed in the Auditor-General's report, was a loss of £9,444. Details are as follows :—

Undertaking.	Loss.	Profit.
	£	£
State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi	5,312	..
Brown Coal Mine, Morwell .. .. .	..	6,987
Victoria Dock Cool Store	23,839	..
Maffra Sugar Factory .. .. .	..	13,290
State Accident Insurance Office .. .. .	..	14,306
Newport Timber Seasoning Works	122	..
State Saw Mill, Nayook	1,409	..
Lighterage, &c., Explosives .. .. .	..	1,535
Wire Netting Factory, Pentridge	2,317	..
Experimental Farms (net)	9,989	..
High School Farms (net)	2,574	..
	45,562	36,118
Net Loss 1922-23 .. .. .	..	9,444
	45,562	45,562

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE IN VICTORIA.

Commonwealth Finance. A statement of the Commonwealth revenue and expenditure in Victoria for the last five years is given below :—

COMMONWEALTH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA (ESTIMATED) : 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties ..	4,010,055	4,371,405	7,345,609	5,835,394	7,648,521
Excise Duties ..	1,631,074	1,963,915	2,525,847	2,644,585	2,700,312
Income Tax* ..	2,527,000	3,601,000	4,203,000	4,533,000	3,485,000
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,621,218	1,803,551	2,272,719	2,555,883	2,698,251
War-time Profits Tax*	327,000	474,000	495,000	280,000	72,000
Land Tax* ..	534,000	486,000	492,436	525,000	464,000
Succession Duties* ..	370,000	619,000	435,873	367,000	434,000
War Postage ..	132,000	215,000	56,000	..	..
Entertainments Tax	110,815	176,411	203,769	222,210	208,240
Miscellaneous ..	1,594,838	1,108,718	1,238,747	1,578,928	1,231,676
Total ..	12,858,000	14,819,000	19,269,000	18,542,000	18,942,000
EXPENDITURE.					
Trade and Customs..	232,400	282,860	272,500	216,000	388,000
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,337,453	1,538,872	1,901,864	2,427,143	2,434,584
Payment to the State Government ..	1,764,239	1,847,085	1,878,449	1,918,967	1,969,772
Other Expenditure (including Defence, War and Repatriation Services, &c.)	8,976,908	10,981,183	14,109,187	13,663,890	13,294,644
Total ..	12,311,000	14,650,000	18,162,000	18,226,000	18,087,000

* Estimated.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Government revenue and expenditure within the State of Victoria is obtained by combining State and Commonwealth receipts and expenditure. This has been done in the following table, in which are given figures relating to the principal items:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATE COMBINED: 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Hheads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs and Excise	5,641,129	6,335,320	9,871,456	8,479,979	10,348,833
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,621,218	1,803,551	2,272,719	2,555,883	2,698,251
State Railways ..	6,422,133	8,081,947	9,848,061	10,751,173	11,289,956
State Taxation ..	2,744,946	3,159,767	3,846,833	3,791,174	4,077,046
Other sources ..	7,708,423	9,457,514	10,605,957	11,402,557	9,744,365
Total Revenue..	24,137,849	28,838,099	36,445,026	36,980,766	38,158,451
EXPENDITURE.					
Trade and Customs	232,400	282,860	272,500	216,000	388,000
Post, Telegraph, &c.	1,337,453	1,538,872	1,901,864	2,427,143	2,434,584
State Railways ..	4,261,082	6,042,136	7,857,380	8,117,070	8,275,909
Public Instruction*..	1,203,731	1,425,756	1,789,639	1,896,702	1,987,865
Public Debt (Victoria)—					
Interest and Ex-					
penses ..	3,087,059	3,249,393	3,882,095	4,579,665	5,355,575
Redemption ..	301,466	359,100	508,344	402,724	421,166
Other Expenditure..	13,102,977	15,657,257	19,013,427	18,965,008	18,416,984
Total Expenditure	23,526,168	28,555,374	35,225,249	36,604,312	37,280,083

* Primary and Technical Schools, and University.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A statement of the ordinary revenue and expenditure and of the loan expenditure of the Federal Government in Victoria, also of the State Government and of municipal and local bodies, during the last five years, will be found in the next table. From the totals of revenue and

Common-
wealth,
State, and
Local
Finance.

expenditure the amounts received by one body from another have been deducted.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE : 1919 TO 1923.

	Financial Year ended in—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Revenue.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal	12,858,000	14,819,000	19,269,000	18,542,000	18,493,546
State	11,220,153	13,964,354	17,129,995	18,404,028	19,630,167
Municipal	2,713,540	3,081,726	3,460,727	3,890,390	4,362,983
Harbor Trusts ..	318,373	362,439	451,784	537,853	609,568
Melbourne and Metro- politan Board of Works	783,043	854,992	877,441	931,784	1,101,307
Fire Brigades Boards	43,838	51,906	68,865	75,262	71,999
Total	27,936,947	33,134,417	41,257,812	42,381,317	44,269,570
 <i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Government—					
Federal	12,311,000	14,650,000	18,162,000	18,226,000	17,638,546
State	11,155,472	13,850,629	17,017,218	18,343,574	19,606,799
Municipal	2,751,303	2,960,882	3,466,396	3,804,947	4,089,749
Harbor Trusts ..	325,247	347,335	410,350	450,171	503,106
Melbourne and Metro- politan Board of Works	750,700	751,588	804,096	908,934	959,961
Fire Brigades Boards	45,278	50,171	70,318	77,456	73,168
Total	27,339,000	32,610,605	39,930,378	41,811,032	42,871,329

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE :
1919 TO 1923—continued.

	Financial Year ended in—				
	1919.	1920	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal* ..	18,095,454	13,502,000	10,245,000	3,613,000	2,020,000
State	2,932,521	7,601,266	11,095,158	11,804,990	8,764,306
Municipal ..	194,627	259,498	480,166	702,310	885,303
Harbor Trusts ..	179,030	158,311	188,779	201,534	270,032
Melbourne and Metro- politan Board of Works	236,263	289,930	423,692	665,578	596,841
Fire Brigades Boards	8,344	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443
Total	21,646,239	21,818,051	22,456,577	17,012,617	12,537,925
 <i>Expenditure—Grand Total</i>	 48,985,239	 54,428,656	 62,386,955	 58,823,699	 55,409,254
 Per Head of Popula- tion—					
Revenue ..	£ s. d. 19 8 8	£ s. d. 22 0 10	£ s. d. 27 0 0	£ s. d. 27 6 6	£ s. d. 27 16 9
 Ordinary Expen- diture	 19 0 5	 21 13 10	 26 2 6	 26 19 2	 26 19 2
Loan Expenditure	15 1 2	14 10 3	14 14 0	10 19 5	7 17 8

* Estimated.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The following statement shows the result of loan transactions including Treasury Bonds in aid of revenue to 30th June, 1923, with the exception of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Debentures taken over, which are not treated in the Treasury accounts as a loan raised by the State :—

LOANS RAISED AND REDEEMED TO 30th JUNE, 1923.

		£
Cash received .. .. .	.. .. .	217,739,742
Discount and expenses after deducting premiums .. .. .	.. .. .	2,703,548
		<hr/>
Securities issued .. .. .	.. .. .	220,443,290
Loans redeemed by—	£	
Redemption loans	88,430,157	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board's repayments	1,451,752	
Revenue (Special appropriations and Surplus Revenue)	4,054,200	
Redemption Funds	5,963,781	
Closer Settlement Fund	1,264,684	
Coal Mines Sinking Fund	7,050	
Discharged Soldiers' Concessions Fund	485,600	
Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Fund	168,336	
Discount (securities purchased under par)	56,701	
		<hr/>
		101,882,261
		<hr/>
Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923 .. .. .	.. .. .	118,561,029*

It will be seen that, upon the transactions to date, securities representing £220,443,290 have been issued, and that the amount of cash received has been £217,739,742. This means that the State has received £98 15s. 6d. in cash for every £100 bond given.

Excluding London debentures for £388,100 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway and since paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been raised in London at varying rates of interest is £96,624,607.

The amount which has been paid off by means of new loans is £47,384,723, and by means of appropriations from revenue, &c., £3,009,982; a sum of £543,905 has been transferred to the Melbourne register, leaving a balance due in London on 30th June, 1923, of £45,685,997, consisting of debentures amounting to £2,888,200, and inscribed stock, £42,797,797. The following table gives particulars respecting the various loans which have been raised in London, together with the average prices obtained after deducting flotation expenses as well as accrued interest, and the rates of interest to which such prices are equivalent :—

* There are, in addition to this amount, the overdue debentures for £1,000, which are referred to further on.

LOANS FLOATED IN LONDON.

When Raised.	Debentures or Stock.				Average Price Obtained per £100 Debenture Stock or Bond.		Actual Rate of Interest per cent.
	Currency.		Amount Sold.	Rate of Interest.	Ex Accrued Interest.	Ex Interest and Expenses. (Net Proceeds.)	
	When Due.	No. of Years.					
			£	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855	1857-72	2-17	500,900	6	..	..	..
1856	1872-74	16-18	65,200	6	..	..	..
1859	1883	24	1,000,000	5	105 1 11½	103 18 11½	5 14 0
	"	"	750,000	6	107 17 7½	106 14 7½	5 9 10
1860	"	23	1,837,500	6	104 17 10½	103 14 10½	5 14 1
	1884	"	812,500	6	103 1 6½	101 18 6½	5 17 0
1861	1885	24	1,000,000	6	102 19 7	101 16 7	5 17 2
1862	"	23	1,600,000	6	100 8 11½	99 5 11½	6 1 1
1866	1891	25	850,000	6	98 4 2½	97 1 2½	5 4 3
1869	1894	"	588,600	5	100 17 6½	99 14 6½	5 0 5
1870	"	24	1,518,400	5	90 2 7	88 19 7	4 15 5
1874	1899	25	1,500,000	4	94 16 10½	93 18 11½	4 8 1
1876	1901	"	500,000	4	..	..	..
	"	"	2,500,000	4	..	..	..
1878	1904	26	457,000	4	97 17 5½	96 19 2½	4 14 0
1879	"	25	3,000,000	4½	103 3 8½	102 5 11	4 6 11
1880	"	24	2,000,000	4½	100 0 0	98 2 9	4 18 6
1915	1920-25	5-10	784,700	4½	97 9 4½	97 9 4½	5 15 1
1916	1920-22	4-6	550,000	5½	97 9 4½	97 9 4½	5 15 1
1916	1920-22	4-6	100,000	5½	95 18 7½	95 18 7½	5 14 8
1917	1927	11	1,109,481	5½	95 17 8½	95 17 8½	5 14 9
1917	1927	10	194,519	5½	100 0 0	98 5 0	5 13 6
1919	1924-34	5-15	149,600	5½	..	..	..
1922	"	"	650,000*	4	..	..	..
			Stock.				
1883	1907	24	4,000,000	4	98 16 8½	97 13 7½	4 3 0
"	1908	"	2,000,000	4	97 14 1½	96 10 11½	4 4 6
1884	1918	29	1,957,500	4	98 5 7	97 2 8½	4 3 3
	1918-22	34	2,042,500	4	98 18 6½	97 15 9½	4 2 5
1885	1919	34	3,180,620	4	105 12 3½	104 9 0	3 15 5
	"	"	819,380	4	102 5 6½	101 2 9	3 18 9
1886	1920	"	1,500,000	4	108 1 1½	106 18 0½	3 12 9
1887	"	33	3,000,000	4	102 14 10	101 11 11½	3 8 5
1888	"	32	1,500,000	3½	100 2 4	98 19 6	3 11 1
1889	1923	34	3,000,000	3½	96 3 7	95 0 10	3 15 6
1890	"	33	4,000,000	3½	91 13 7	90 10 8	4 1 5
1891	1921-26	30-35	850,000	3½	94 7 5	93 4 8	4 11 7
1892	"	29-34	2,150,000	3½	94 7 1	93 4 2	3 7 8
1893	1911-26	17-32	2,000,000	4	92 2 1	89 14 5	3 11 10
1893	1911-26	17-32	2,107,000	4	95 16 6½	93 8 3½	3 7 6
1899	1920-49	30-50	1,600,000	3	91 14 9½	89 8 0	4 3 8
1901	"	28-48	3,000,000	3	100 0 0	98 19 1	3 11 5
1902	"	27-47	1,000,000	3	97 3 11½	94 15 8½	3 17 7
1903	"	26-46	3,148,176	3	99 2 6	97 10 0	3 13 8
1906	"	23-43	587,808	3½	98 0 0	96 4 7	4 17 4
1907	"	22-42	702,140	3½	97 15 0	95 7 5	4 5 10
1909	"	20-40	1,500,000	4	96 18 9	94 9 10	4 7 0
1910	"	19-39	538,352	4½	100 0 0	98 4 3½	4 18 2
1913	1918-22	5-9	3,000,000	5½	100 0 0	98 10 0	5 13 0
"	1940-60	27-47	1,000,000	6½	99 0 0	99 12 2	6 7 4
1915	1920-25	5-10	2,000,000	5½	99 0 0	97 1 0	5 15 4
1919	1924-34	5-15	1,465,300	5	100 0 0	100 0 0	5 0 0
1920	1923-25	3-5	2,850,400	5	99 10 0	97 13 4	5 3 11
1920	1923-25	3-5	2,323,363	5	..	..	..
1922	1930-40	8-18	4,000,000	4	99 0 0	98 18 9	4 7 0
"	1935-45	13-23	1,049,868	4	100 0 0	100 0 0	5 0 0
1923	1932-42	9-19	5,000,000	4	99 10 0	97 13 4	5 3 11
			Treasury-bonds				
1892	1893	1	1,000,000	4½	99 3 11	99 1 5	5 0 0
1898	1900	2	50,000,000	3½	100 0 0	100 0 0	3 15 0
1903	1906	3	2,254,800	4	99 10 8½	98 18 10	5 2 7
Total	..	..	96,624,607				
Paidoff	..	..	50,394,705				
Transferred to Melbourne register	..	..	513,905				
Outstanding	..	..	45,685,997				

*Amount temporarily advanced by the Commonwealth Government pending the flotation of a loan by it in London for the benefit of the States.

The figures in the last column represent the rates of interest payable by the State for the actual amount of money which was obtained after deduction of all expenses that had been incurred in connexion with the flotation, allowance being made for redemption at par on maturity.

Excluding Victorian debentures for £63,000 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway, of which £62,000 have since been paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been floated in Melbourne is £123,818,683. Of this amount £41,045,434 has been redeemed by loans, and £10,442,122 by revenue, &c., leaving due a balance of £72,331,127 on 30th June, 1923, consisting of debentures, £38,755,428, inscribed stock, £31,447,413, Treasury Bills, £1,000,000, and Treasury bonds in aid of revenue, £1,128,286. In addition, outstanding inscribed stock for £543,905 has been transferred from the London to the Melbourne Register, so that of the debt outstanding the total amount payable in Melbourne is £72,875,032.

The amount of the loans raised in London and Melbourne to 30th June, 1923, inclusive of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Debentures taken over, was £220,834,390, and of this sum a total of £102,332,361 had been repaid at that date, viz., £13,452,104 out of the general revenue, and £88,830,257 out of the proceeds of redemption loans. The balance outstanding on 30th June, 1923, was £118,562,029. The purposes for which this amount was borrowed and the annual interest payable thereon are as follows :—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH LOANS WERE RAISED.

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923.	Annual Interest Payable.
REVENUE-YIELDING WORKS.		
Railways	£ 65,976,631	£ 2,955,036
Discharged Soldiers' Settlement	19,021,805	1,083,776
Closer Settlement	4,392,753	168,109
Waterworks—		
Country	12,518,608	574,467
Metropolitan	938,182	31,020
Country Roads	4,433,871	227,238
Electricity Supply	4,012,232	214,258
Harbors	533,429	22,074
Agriculture and Advances to Farmers, &c.	395,560	19,454
Mining Development	294,936	10,616
Graving Dock	225,277	8,805
Cool Stores, Outer Ports, &c.	906,304	45,150
Total Revenue-yielding Works	113,649,588	5,360,003

PURPOSES FOR WHICH LOANS WERE RAISED—*continued.*

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923.	Annual Interest Payable.
OTHER WORKS.		
	£	£
State Schools, Technical Schools, and University Public Offices, Law Courts, and Parliament Houses	2,277,840	97,582
Wire Netting	230,019	8,777
Loans to Municipalities	226,449	10,786
Defence Works	379,958	18,565
Other Public Works and Buildings	112,510	3,875
Miscellaneous	305,341	10,890
	252,038	10,051
Total Other Works	3,784,155	160,526
In aid of Revenue	1,128,286	54,164
Net Borrowings	118,562,029	5,574,693

Of the proceeds of the loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923, sums not yet expended amounted in the aggregate to £2,673,498, of which £1,879,093 was for railways, £576,237 for country water supply, £51,457 for country roads, £42,892 for electricity supply, and £123,819 for various other services. Of the amount of the loans which were raised for public works and are still outstanding, 97 per cent. was obtained for works of a revenue-yielding nature.

The total amount of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923, inclusive of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue was £118,562,029, as mentioned above. Of this sum £41,644,628 was in the form of debentures; £42,797,797 of inscribed stock (London Register); £31,991,318 of inscribed stock (Melbourne Register); £1,000,000 of Treasury bills; and £1,123,286 of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue. Particulars concerning the due dates of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1923, are given in the following table. Where the Government has the option of redemption during a specified period the loans have been classified according to the latest date of maturity:—

**Due Dates
of Loans.**

DUE DATES OF VICTORIAN LOANS ON 30TH JUNE, 1923.

Due Date (Financial Year.)	Payable in London.	Payable in Melbourne.	Total.
	£	£	£
Overdue .. .. .	..	75,240	75,240
1923-24	7,618,600	13,850,570	21,469,170
1924-25	2,249,900	14,336,309	16,586,209
1925-26	7,206,313	4,044,570	11,250,883
1926-27	1,304,000	1,648,007	2,952,007
1927-28 .. .. .	..	7,199,448	7,199,448
1928-29 .. .. .	..	3,245,836	3,245,836
1929-30 .. .. .	..	2,775,980	2,775,980
1930-31 .. .. .	..	3,049,888	3,049,888
1931-32 .. .. .	..	1,104,950	1,104,950
1932-33 .. .. .	..	1,169,766	1,169,766
1933-34 .. .. .	..	4,000	4,000
1934-35	2,991,644	8,356	3,000,000
1935-36 .. .. .	..	300,000	300,000
1940-41	3,975,000	559,780	4,534,780
1941-42 .. .. .	..	423,600	423,600
1942-43	5,000,000	103,600	5,103,600
1944-45 .. .. .	..	400	400
1945-46	1,049,868	15,400	1,065,268
1946-47 .. .. .	..	202,000	202,000
1948-49	5,202,561	264,853	5,467,414
1949-50	6,125,695	106,262	6,231,957
1953-54 .. .. .	..	123,874	123,874
1959-60	2,962,416	17,284	2,979,700
Government Option*	..	5,696,219	5,696,219
Not yet fixed†	(a)	75,000	75,000
	(b)	11,799,840	11,799,840
	(c)	92,000	92,000
	(d)	583,000	583,000
Total	45,685,997	72,876,032	118,562,029

* At option of Government on giving twelve months' notice.

† Amounts received from Commonwealth for purposes of—(a) Immigration; (b) Discharged Soldiers' Settlement; and (c) Loans to Municipalities; and (d) on account of a loan to be floated.

An examination of the next table reveals interesting information in regard to the practice adopted when raising money in recent years. During the last 23 years the amount of loans due in Melbourne has grown from £4,669,306 to £72,876,032, while the amount due in London has shown no material variation. With few exceptions, the new loans raised have been obtained locally, while further large amounts have been borrowed in the State for the redemption of London loans as they matured.

PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE THEREON IN
LONDON AND MELBOURNE: 1900 TO 1923.

On 30th June—	Amount of Loans Payable in—		Annual Interest Payable in—	
	London.	Melbourne.	London.	Melbourne.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ..	44,655,579	4,669,306	1,735,307	152,046
1910 ..	39,012,436	16,564,289	1,419,579	560,520
1915 ..	41,333,738	31,750,189	1,520,762	1,131,811
1916 ..	42,160,566	34,614,466	1,562,884	1,270,886
1917 ..	42,907,086	35,218,309	1,604,171	1,327,518
1918 ..	43,437,719	36,157,927	1,633,681	1,407,419
1919 ..	43,400,300	38,631,629	1,632,372	1,547,192
1920 ..	42,406,040	45,241,699	1,637,615	1,902,108
1921 ..	38,709,050	58,608,781	1,527,541	2,780,300
1922 ..	42,708,244	66,390,955	1,761,734	3,324,535
1923 ..	45,685,997	72,876,032	1,933,000	3,641,693

Certain expenses are incurred each year in connexion with the payment of interest on London loans which are not common to local issues. In the financial year 1922-23 the amount was £15,274, which was paid as commission.

The appended table shows the rates of interest which were payable on the public debt at 30th June, 1923, and the portions of the debt at each rate in London and Melbourne respectively :—

RATES OF INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT AT 30TH
JUNE, 1923.

Rate of Interest.	Amount Payable in—		
	London.	Melbourne.	Total.
%	£	£	£
Not bearing interest .. .. .	..	75,240	75,240
7 $\frac{1}{4}$ .. .. .	..	586,414	586,414
6/15/2 .. .. .	..	631,248	631,248
6/7/0 .. .. .	..	5,523,543	5,523,543
6 $\frac{1}{4}$	2,301,163	3,145,271	5,446,434
6 .. .. .	..	600,081	600,081
5 $\frac{3}{4}$ .. .. .	..	5,036,833	5,036,833
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8,270,644	13,170,083	21,440,727
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .. .. .	..	3,563,724	3,563,724
5/6/11 .. .. .	..	1,586,911	1,586,911
5/5/3 .. .. .	..	4,133,613	4,133,613
5 $\frac{1}{4}$ .. .. .	..	10,583,138	16,633,006
5	6,049,868	1,050,000	1,050,000
4 $\frac{7}{8}$ .. .. .	..	1,406,010	1,406,010
4 $\frac{3}{4}$ .. .. .	..	3,900,000	3,900,000
4/14/5 .. .. .	..	937,989	3,187,889
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,249,900	733,660	733,660
4 $\frac{1}{4}$ .. .. .	..	3,437,895	7,050,311
4	3,612,416	277,720	277,720
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ .. .. .	..	7,917,852	25,917,297
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	17,999,445	4,503,807	9,706,368
3	5,202,561	75,000	75,000
Not fixed .. .. .	..	..	..
Total	45,685,997	72,876,032	118,562,029
Average Rate of Interest	4·23	5·00	4·70

Growth of
Public Debt.

While the public debt has increased from year to year a very noticeable feature is the rapid increase which has occurred during the last few years. Since 1920 there has been an increase of £30,914,290, of which £12,522,109 was for settling discharged soldiers on the land, £9,079,836 for railways, £4,012,232 for electricity supply, and £2,336,892 for country roads. The debt per head of population is not quite double the amount in 1890, while the annual interest payable per head of population is nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as great as it was in that year—the larger increase in the latter being due to the higher rates at which loans have been raised of late years. In the following statement is shown the growth of the public debt and of the interest payable thereon since the date of the establishment of responsible government in 1855:—

GROWTH OF PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST:
1855 TO 1923.

End of Financial Year in—	Loans Outstanding.			Amount per Head of Population.	
	Amount.	Annual Interest Payable.		Debt.	Annual Interest Payable.
		Total.	Average Rate per cent.		
	£	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855 ..	480,000	28,800	6·00	1 6 4	0 1 7
1860 ..	5,118,100	306,405	5·99	9 10 4	0 11 5
1870 ..	11,924,800	688,740	5·78	16 8 3	0 19 0
1880 ..	20,056,600	1,004,436	5·01	23 11 9	1 3 7
1890 ..	41,377,693	1,649,465	3·99	36 19 11	1 9 6
1900 ..	49,324,885	1,887,353	3·83	41 6 8	1 11 8
1910 ..	55,576,721	1,980,099	3·56	43 6 8	1 10 10
1920 ..	87,647,739	3,539,723	4·04	57 19 1	2 6 10
1921 ..	97,317,831	4,307,841	4·43	63 5 11	2 16 0
1922 ..	109,099,199	5,086,269	4·66	69 9 3	3 4 10
1923 ..	118,562,029	5,575,067	4·70	73 15 0	3 9 4

In addition to the ordinary expenditure from revenue, certain sums are disbursed annually for various purposes from Loan Funds. The following table shows the details of such expenditure for each of the last four years and the total to date :—

EXPENDITURE FROM LOAN FUNDS.

Purpose.	Expenditure during the Year—				Total to 30th June, 1923.
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	1,146,593	1,413,434	3,886,534	1,674,643	63,371,086
Water Supply—					
Country	484,325	810,437	968,047	1,210,485	13,102,348
Metropolitan ..	..	..	..	..	3,142,577
Closer Settlement ..	1,913	1,188	18	461,533	5,606,720
Discharged Soldiers' Land Settlement ..	5,219,308	6,935,064	4,287,114	1,959,231	19,669,377
Country Roads ..	504,346	1,042,009	960,821	573,972	4,724,249
Electricity Supply ..	1,176	158,773	1,337,818	2,471,457	3,969,224
State Schools, University, &c. ..	18,223	94,899	281,037	329,882	2,382,177
State Coal Mine ..	Cr. 14	Cr. 7	Cr. 185	..	239,432
Seed and Fodder Advance to Farmers	19,770	40,676	..	..	604,615
Cool Storage—Advances to Companies, &c. ..	71,577	213,616	41,710	3,503	573,268
Municipalities—Loans, Advances and Grants	13,869	67,290	38,600	..	1,112,283
Primary Products—Advances to Companies, &c. ..	..	258,780	59,821	..	318,601
Wire Netting ..	13,540	44,380	15,447	23,731	374,185
All other works and services ..	8,130	19,155	4,145	55,869	4,463,466
In aid of Revenue ..	..	..	..	..	2,919,652
Total ..	7,502,756	11,099,694	11,880,927	8,764,306	126,573,260*

* In addition to this amount, the sum of £470,911 was advanced from the Public Account Advances Account in 1922-23 and expended on the following :—Country Roads, £84,427; Closer Settlement, £20,939; Discharged Soldiers' Land Settlement, £358,181; and Electricity Supply, £7,364.

The total interest paid (including all expenses of payment) on loans raised to 30th June, 1923, amounts to about £103,000,000, of which £77,000,000 was paid in London and £26,000,000 in Melbourne. The amount of interest paid during each of the last five financial years is shown in the next table :—

Interest paid on Loans.

INTEREST PAID ON LOANS.

Year ended 30th June.	Interest Paid in—		Expenses, &c., connected with Payment of Interest in London.	Total.
	London.	Melbourne.		
	£	£	£	£
1919	1,632,372	1,423,945	30,742	3,087,059
1920	1,634,954	1,585,468	28,971	3,249,393
1921	1,648,984	2,162,261	70,850	3,882,095
1922	1,541,747	2,927,931	109,987	4,579,665
1923	1,765,579	3,563,982	26,014	5,355,575

SINKING FUNDS.

Sinking Funds. On 30th June, 1923, the sinking funds for repayment of the public debt amounted to £2,993,432. The balances to the credit of the various funds at that date are shown in the following table:—

	Balance at Credit.
	£
Mallee Land Account	11,322
Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund	2,570,577
Victorian Loans Redemption Fund	174,631
Closer Settlement Redemption Fund	40,000
State Coal Mines Sinking Fund	92,297
Main Roads Sinking Fund	104,555
Total	<u>2,993,432</u>

Mallee Land Account. By Act No. 2676 of 1915 the moneys accruing from licensing, leasing, or selling of land in the Mallee country or Mallee border are to be paid into the Treasury and placed to the credit of a separate account, to be called the "Mallee Land Account." The sums standing at credit of this account are available solely for the repurchase, redemption, or paying off of any Victorian stock or debentures. The amount in hand on 30th June, 1922, was £50,998, and during 1922-23 the receipts amounted to £88,324, and the expenditure to £128,000, so that the balance in the fund on 30th June, 1923, was £11,322.

Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund. By Act No. 1561 of 1898 it was enacted that a "Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury, and should be applied to the purchase or repurchase, and ultimately to the redemption of consolidated stock—that is, stock on the London Register—and to the payment of expenses connected with such purchase or redemption. The fund is made up of money derived

from special appropriations from revenue, from repayments by Water Trusts, and from the Mallee Land Account, &c. During 1922-23 there was no expenditure from this fund and receipts amounted to £258,538. Transactions to 30th June, 1923, were as follows:—

THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED INSCRIBED
STOCK REDEMPTION FUND: 30TH JUNE, 1923.

Transactions.	To 30th June, 1923.
RECEIPTS.	
	£
Waterworks Trusts	332,154
Mallee Land Account	1,038,000
Revenue	850,802
Interest on Investments	622,235
Miscellaneous	103,093
Total receipts	2,946,284
EXPENDITURE.	
Purchase of Stock	374,484
Commission, &c.	1,211
Investment Expenses	12
Total expenditure	375,707
Balance in the Fund	2,570,577
Amount of stock repurchased and cancelled	397,405

Of the balance in the fund, £2,562,211 was invested in Victorian Government debentures and stock, and £8,366 held in cash.

By Acts Nos. 1565 and 1796 it was provided that a "Victorian Loans Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury and should be available for the purchase, re-purchase, or redemption of Victorian Government stock and debentures payable at Melbourne, and for the payment of expenses, costs, &c., incurred. This fund is derived from special appropriations from revenue and repayments of advances made under any Act for "Resumption of Land in Mallee District," and of sundry loans made by the Government to municipalities, &c. During 1922-23 receipts amounted to £317,250, and £323,195 was expended in the purchase for cancellation of £324,065 stock and debentures.

Loans
Victorian
Redemption
Fund.

Transactions in the fund to 30th June, 1923, are shown in the following statement:—

THE VICTORIAN LOANS REDEMPTION FUND:
30TH JUNE, 1923.

Transactions.	To 30th June, 1923.
RECEIPTS.	
	£
From Revenue	2,665,358
Resumption of land in Mallee Districts and valuation of improvements	26,108
Payments by Municipalities	371,571
Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust	265,000
Interest on Investments	171,296
Shipbuilding Yard (realization)	178,500
Sale of Dredge	4,288
Repayment of Loans—	
Bush fires relief	22,721
Floods relief	1,453
Seed advances	606,157
New pilot steamer	15,354
Yarrowee Channel	16,054
Wire netting	332,084
Cool Stores	41,785
Municipalities	314,031
Country roads	80,000
Cattle advances	57,549
Royal Agricultural Society	2,218
Primary products	44,956
Excess of face value of securities over amount invested	408
Total receipts	5,216,891
EXPENDITURE.	
Purchase of stock and debentures	5,042,210
Balance in the Fund	174,681
Amount of stock and debentures repurchased and cancelled	5,075,325

The balance in the fund was represented by Victorian Government debentures and stock having a face value of £167,656, and £7,025 held in cash.

With the approval of the Treasurer this Fund was established to write down the valuation of Closer Settlement Estates by £200,000. The sole revenue of the Fund is a sum of £10,000, which, in accordance with an arrangement entered into, it must receive each year from the profits of the Closer Settlement Fund. Up to 30th June, 1923, the revenue of the Fund had been applied in the cancellation of stock and debentures to the value of £40,000.

**Closer
Settlement
Redemption
Fund.**

Coal Mines Sinking Fund. By Act No. 2630 (Section 96) the net surplus profits of the State Coal Mines were applied in establishing the Coal Mines Sinking Fund. Up to 30th June, 1923, the receipts of that Fund amounted to £99,347. Stock and debentures to the value of £7,050 had been cancelled at par, and there was thus a balance of £92,297, all of which was invested.

Main Roads Sinking Fund. By Act No. 2635 (Section 39) a portion of the money to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund is paid in to the Main Roads Sinking Fund. The receipts of the latter Fund to 30th June, 1923, amounted to £104,555 (£85,231 being invested and £19,324 held in cash).

TRUST FUNDS.

In the succeeding table the amount at credit of the various trust funds for each of the last five years is shown—investments in Victorian securities being distinguished. Included in these trust funds are the above-mentioned Sinking Funds as well as the State Savings Bank Commissioners' Fund; these amounted on 30th June, 1923, to £2,993,432 and £64,103 respectively.

On 30th June—	Amount at Credit of Trust Funds.		
	Invested in Victorian Debentures, Stock, or Bonds.	Held Otherwise.*	Total.
	£	£	£
1919	4,046,874	8,239,606	12,286,480
1920	3,963,276	8,577,569	12,540,845
1921	4,386,711	10,183,683	14,570,400
1922	4,760,336	8,100,051	12,860,387
1923	5,133,710	2,067,873	7,201,583

* In bank deposit receipts, cash, advances to Revenue, &c.

Stock inscribed under the Municipalities' Loans Extension Act and unspent balances under Surplus Revenue Acts, which are not treated in the Treasurer's Finance Statement as Trust Fund Accounts, are excluded from the above. The amounts at credit of these accounts on 30th June, 1923, were £18,145 and £9,013 respectively.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES.

Public Debts of Australian States. The following is a statement of the public debts of the Australian States on 30th June, 1923, showing the amounts, the amounts per head of population, the total interest payable, the average rates per cent., and the rates *per capita*. Sinking Funds have not been deducted. Treasury Bills, covering Revenue Deficits, are included. Revenue Deficits which are not covered

by Treasury Bills, overdrafts on Loan Account, and advances from Trust Funds are excluded.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES ON 30TH JUNE, 1923.

State.	Public Debt.		Interest Payable.		
	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Average Rate per cent.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
Victoria ..	118,562,029	73 15 0	5,574,693	3 9 4	4.702
New South Wales ..	197,936,092	90 5 6	9,418,959	4 6 0	4.758
Queensland ..	88,005,001	109 4 9	3,860,045	4 15 10	4.386
South Australia ..	65,451,873	125 15 9	3,124,937	6 1 0	4.774
Western Australia ..	58,485,555	168 0 1	2,557,748	7 6 11	4.373
Tasmania ..	22,438,091	104 19 2	1,091,975	5 2 2	4.867

The public debt of the Commonwealth on 30th June, 1923, was £410,996,316, and that of the six States, £550,878,641. From the total of these a deduction of £56,390,011 must be made for debts included twice. The balance (£905,484,946) represents the liability of the Australian public at the date mentioned, which is equal to £159 3s. 9d. per head of the population.

The full indebtedness of the Government, municipalities, and corporations of Victoria for the year 1923 is shown in detail hereunder. From the municipal and corporation debts the amounts of loans from the Government have been excluded.

STATE AND LOCAL DEBTS, VICTORIA, 1923.

State Public Debt—		£	£
London Register		45,685,997	
Melbourne Register		72,876,032	
Other State Debt		470,911	
		<hr/>	
Total State Debts			119,032,940
Municipal		5,378,840	
Harbor Trusts		2,897,107	
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board		143,329	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works		13,252,170	
		<hr/>	
Total Debts of Municipalities and Corporations (excl. Government loans)			21,671,446
Gross Debts			140,704,386
Sinking Funds			4,135,065
			<hr/>
Net Debt			136,569,321

This sum (£136,569,321) is equal to a net debt of £84 19s. 1d. per head of the population on 30th June, 1923.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXATION.

Taxation. The subjoined table shows approximately, for the last five financial years, the amount of revenue collected under the various heads of taxation by the Commonwealth, the State, and local bodies in Victoria:—

TAXATION IN VICTORIA—COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL: 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount Received.				
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£
Federal—					
Customs Duties ..	4,010,055	4,371,405	7,345,609	5,835,394	7,648,521
Excise Duties ..	1,631,074	1,963,915	2,525,847	2,644,585	2,700,312
Income Tax*	2,527,000	3,601,000	4,203,000	4,533,000	3,485,000
Land Tax*	534,000	486,000	492,436	525,000	464,000
Succession Duties*	370,000	619,000	435,873	367,000	434,000
War-time Profits Tax* ..	327,000	474,000	495,000	280,000	72,000
War Postage ..	132,000	215,000	56,000	...	...
Entertainments Tax	110,815	176,411	203,769	222,210	208,240
Total Federal Taxation ..	9,641,944	11,906,731	15,757,534	14,407,189	15,012,073
State—					
Income Tax ..	928,210	915,551	1,591,198	1,443,209	1,514,256
Stamp Duties ..	581,917	820,618	928,367	930,859	1,116,077
Probate and Succession Duties ..	718,194	881,423	702,468	706,181	697,482
Land Tax ..	324,232	314,217	331,756	372,060	392,594
Licences ..	179,338	213,204	274,020	320,127	335,402
Race Clubs' percentage ..	11,154	12,883	17,170	16,948	19,473
Duties on Bank Notes ..	1,901	1,871	1,854	1,790	1,762
Total State Taxation ..	2,744,946	3,159,767	3,846,833	3,791,174	4,077,046
Municipal Taxation ..	1,648,403	1,840,062	2,167,757	2,399,256	2,671,783
Total Taxation	14,035,293	16,906,560	21,772,124	20,597,619	21,760,902

* Estimated.

The total State taxation shown above excludes licences issued under the Motor Car Act. The revenue received therefrom is included under the heading "Fees and Fines," and amounted to £67,666 in 1918-19, £85,363 in 1919-20, £98,135 in 1920-21, £118,673 in 1921-22, and £158,390 in 1922-23.

The taxation in Victoria per head of population by the Commonwealth, the State, and local bodies for each of the last five years was as follows:—

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXATION PER
HEAD OF POPULATION: 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Division.	Taxation per Head of Population in Victoria.				
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth	6 14 2	7 18 5	10 6 3	9 5 9	9 8 10
State	1 18 2	2 2 0	2 10 4	2 8 11	2 11 3
Local	1 2 11	1 4 6	1 8 4	1 10 11	1 13 7
Total	9 15 3	11 4 11	14 4 11	13 5 7	13 13 8

While the estimated Commonwealth taxation imposed in Victoria was £9 8s. 10d. per head of population in 1922-23, the taxation in Australia levied by the Commonwealth Government was £8 17s. 1d. per head. The higher rate for Victoria was due to the amount of Customs duties actually collected in the State being much above the average collection on a population basis.

Additional Taxation. The Victorian Stamps Act was amended by the *Stamps Act* No. 3214. From 1st January, 1923, all transfers of leases are liable to the same amount of *ad valorem* duty as transfers of freehold property, and the old exemption from duty of £50 valuation in the case of the last-mentioned transfers is abolished. By reason of this, every transfer is subject to an extra 10s. duty—an impost which, under the Act, will continue in force until 30th June, 1927.

By the *Land Tax Act* No. 3213 additional land taxation was imposed from 1st January, 1923, in the form of a supertax of 5 per cent. on the old rate.

LICENCES.

Licences. The following is a statement of the net revenue received from each description of licence during the year 1922-23 (*vide* page 40). Municipal licences for slaughtering, dairies, noxious trades, &c., are excluded, also insurance licences (£68,946), and book-makers' licences (£14,100), the two last mentioned having been shown under Stamp Duties. Motor car licences (£158,390) are included under the heading "Fees and Fines."

REVENUE OF STATE GOVERNMENT FROM LICENCES :
1922-23.

Description of Licence.	Net Revenue Received.
	£
Spirit Merchants and Grocers	31,089
Victuallers	246,842
,, Temporary	3,888
Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,230
Packet	150
Australian Wine	4,943
Billiard Table	4,892
Brewers	217
Vignerons	75
Club Certificates	6,335
Permits (Extra Bars and Extended Hours)	1,913
Auctioneers	21,895
Real Estate Agents	2,743
Tobacco and Cigars—Selling	2,060
Pawnbrokers	890
Hawkers	2,073
Carriage, Stage Carriage, Forwarding Agents	424
Marine Stores	215
Explosives	838
Race Clubs	655
Gold-buyers	193
Second-hand Dealers	693
Farm Produce Agents	149
Total	335,402

In addition to the preceding, there are other licences issued in Victoria by the Department of Trade and Customs; the fees collected in respect of these during the calendar year 1923 were as follows:—

Description of Licence.	Amount of Fees collected.
<i>Customs.</i>	
	£
Carriage	309
Lighter and Boat	6
Custom House Agents	25
Bond	3,451
<i>Excise.</i>	
Distilling—	
General Distillers	250
Wine Distillers	125
Vignerons	75
Brewers	1,250
Manufacturing Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Snuff ..	2,041
Starch	15
Methylators	2

POPULATION.

Population of
Victoria, 1836
to 1923.

According to manuscript notes made by Captain Lonsdale (afterwards the first Colonial Secretary of Victoria), the first enumeration of the people of this State was made within a year after the arrival of Batman (29th May, 1835) by an officer from Sydney, George Stewart, who came in the revenue cutter *Prince George* with orders from His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke to report upon the state of things in the new district. It was then found (25th May, 1836) that the band of first arrivals consisted of 142 males and 35 females, or, in all, 177 residents of European origin. This was the first official census of what was at that time known as Port Phillip. The settlers came from Tasmania and New South Wales. The second enumeration was made on the 8th November of the same year (1836) by order of Captain Lonsdale, who on the 29th of the previous September arrived in H.M.S. *Rattlesnake* (Captain Hobson), which anchored in that part of the port now called Hobson's Bay. Captain Lonsdale had been appointed police magistrate, with instructions to take general charge of the district. On the 5th October the *Stirlingshire* (brig) arrived with the remainder of the Government establishment, consisting of a detachment of Captain Lonsdale's regiment (the 4th), a principal officer of Customs, three surveyors, an officer in charge of commissariat stores, a small number of Crown prisoners for public service, and three constables. Notwithstanding these additions to the population, the census of the following month showed an increase of 47 persons only—making a total of 224 persons (186 males and 38 females). The third census was taken nearly two years later, in September, 1838, when it was ascertained that the number of inhabitants had increased to 3,511. At the end of 1840 it was estimated that the Port Phillip district contained 10,291 persons. During each of the years 1840 and 1841 the population was doubled, owing principally to the number of assisted immigrants who arrived in the district, and good progress continued to be made to the end of 1850, when the community numbered 76,162 persons.

The discovery of gold in 1851, however, was the greatest factor in populating Victoria. When the discoveries were announced diggers came in thousands from New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania, and later on crowds of emigrants from the United Kingdom and other European countries joined in the rush. America contributed its quota, even Californians leaving their own gold-bearing country to try their fortunes in Australia. Some idea of this influx may be gathered from the official figures, which show that the population numbered 463,135 at the end of 1857, or more than six times that of 1850. During the decade 1861 to 1870 the population increased by 188,752, all but 39,000 of which was due to the excess of births over deaths. In the next decennial period, 1871 to 1880, there was an increase of 133,468, but this would have been nearly 13,000 greater if the arrivals in had equalled the departures from the colony. Between 1881 and 1890 an addition of 273,000 was made to the population, about 112,000 being due to immigration. The latter portion of this decennium is known as the "boom period," when land values were highly inflated, wages and prices were exceptionally high, and expenditure by the Government and the people generally was conducted on a most lavish scale. The inevitable reaction followed, and this is reflected in the records.

The net migration from the State during the ten years following 1890 amounted to 109,000 persons, the increase of 64,000 in the total population being accounted for by the fact that the births exceeded the deaths by 173,000. Most of the emigrants left for Western Australia, where gold had been discovered in large quantities. In 1902-3 a year of unexampled drought was experienced, which was felt severely by Victoria as well as all the other Eastern States. From 1903 to 1913 the seasons were usually good, with the result that employment was plentiful and that the State was able not only to retain its own people but also to attract a considerable number of immigrants from other States and countries. In the year 1914 there was a severe drought, and the outbreak of war led to the despatch of a large number of men to places outside Australia. The increase in population was therefore retarded in that year. Although there were record harvests in 1915 and 1916 there was a decrease of population in both of these years on account

of the departure of soldiers for the front, and the practical cessation of immigration. In 1917 and 1918 there were increases in spite of the fact that 20,633 soldiers left the State in the earlier and 4,532 in the later year to take part in the war. In 1919 there was a substantial addition to the population. The increases in the three years mentioned were entirely due to the return of soldiers to Victoria, the number who returned being 16,266 in 1917, 25,900 in 1918, and 77,468 in 1919. In the years 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923 there were increases of 24,874, 22,777, 39,539, and 35,155 respectively, included in which were 3,474 soldiers in the first-mentioned year, and about 4,000 assisted immigrants in 1921, 9,145 in 1922, and 9,504 in 1923. The subjoined table contains a statement of the population in various years from 1836 to 1923 :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 1836 TO 1923.

Year.	Estimated Population, 31st December.			Estimated Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1836 (25th May) ..	142	35	177	} 200
1836 (8th Novr.) ..	186	38	224	
1840	7,254	3,037	10,291	8,056
1850	45,495	30,667	76,162	71,191
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	338,315
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	534,055
1870	398,755	327,844	726,599	713,195
1880	451,456	408,611	860,067	850,343
1890	596,064	537,202	1,133,266	1,118,500
1900	602,487	594,719	1,197,206	1,193,338
1901	608,436	601,464	1,209,900	1,203,137
1902	604,318	603,913	1,208,231	1,207,527
1903	599,950	604,792	1,204,742	1,205,296
1904	597,617	607,991	1,205,608	1,202,814
1905	598,134	612,287	1,210,421	1,206,046
1906	600,856	618,976	1,219,832	1,213,672
1907	605,775	627,032	1,232,807	1,225,503
1908	614,937	635,512	1,250,449	1,240,488
1909	631,021	646,001	1,277,022	1,261,169
1910	646,482	654,926	1,301,408	1,282,477
1911	668,818	671,075	1,339,893	1,320,661
1912	690,056	692,497	1,382,553	1,357,864
1913	707,444	707,972	1,415,416	1,395,958
1914	713,307	721,881	1,435,188	1,427,512
1915	694,210	730,235	1,424,445	1,431,632
1916	666,245	738,418	1,404,663	1,414,480
1917	671,075	745,985	1,417,060	1,411,381
1918	684,243	753,002	1,437,245	1,424,054
1919	739,956	763,079	1,503,035	1,473,013
1920	753,803	774,106	1,527,909	1,512,093
1921	764,905	785,781	1,550,686	1,537,008
1922	788,626	801,599	1,590,225	1,570,824
1923	806,546	818,834	1,625,380	1,607,773

The rates of increase in population in different years are given on page 109.

Population, 1923. - The elements of increase in the population of Victoria during 1923 are shown in the following table :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1922.. ..	..	..	788,626	801,599	1,590,225
Births, 1923	18,565	17,312	..	..	..
Deaths, 1923	9,135	8,084	..	..	..
Natural Increase .. ..	..	..	9,430	9,228	18,658
Migration by Sea, 1923—					
Arrivals	49,332	37,916	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	33,298	31,967	..	..	..
Gain Seawards .. ..	..	..	11,034	5,949	16,983
Migration by Land, 1923—					
Arrivals	171,436	88,430	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	173,980	86,372	..	..	..
Loss Overland .. ..	..	..	2,544	*2,058	486
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1923.. ..	..	..	806,546	818,834	1,625,380
Full-blooded aborigines at the date of the 1921 census, not included in the estimate .. ..	..	..	80	64	144

*Gain.

Increase of Population, 1891-1923.

The population of Victoria on 5th April, 1891, when the census of that year was taken, was 1,140,405 ; in 1901 it was 1,201,341 ; in 1911, 1,315,551 ; and, in 1921, 1,531,280. The table which follows shows the increase of

population by excess of births over deaths, and the loss by emigration in each year since the first-mentioned date :—

INCREASE OF POPULATION BY EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS, AND LOSS BY EMIGRATION, 1891 TO 1923.

Year.	Natural Increase (i.e., Excess of Births over Deaths).	Loss by Emigration.	Net Increase.
1891 (from 5th April, Census) ..	15,859	+ 1,414	17,273
1892	21,980	11,058	10,922
1893	20,044	12,484	7,560
1894	18,828	12,698	6,130
1895	18,070	14,410	3,660
1896	16,464	22,134	- 5,670
1897	16,184	13,754	2,430
1898	11,477	11,127	350
1899	14,430	8,020	6,410
1900	15,564	7,828	7,736
1901 (to 31st March, Census) ..	3,613	+ 251	3,864
Total Intercensal period (10 years)..	172,513	111,848	60,665
1901 (from 1st April)	11,491	2,661	8,830
1902	14,284	15,953	- 1,669
1903	13,974	17,463	- 3,489
1904	15,370	14,504	866
1905	15,431	10,618	4,813
1906	15,607	6,196	9,411
1907	16,826	3,851	12,975
1908	15,331	+ 2,311	17,642
1909	17,108	+ 9,465	26,573
1910	16,705	+ 7,681	24,386
1911 (to 2nd April, Census) ..	4,694	+ 9,449	14,143
Total Intercensal period (10 years)..	156,821	42,340	114,481
1911 (from 3rd April)	13,116	+ 11,226	24,342
1912	19,207	+ 23,453	42,660
1913	20,496	+ 12,367	32,863
1914	19,719	+ 53	19,772
1915	19,186	29,929	- 10,743
1916	17,746	37,528	- 19,782
1917	18,478	6,081	12,397
1918	16,420	+ 3,765	20,185
1919	12,249	+ 53,541	65,790
1920	19,381	+ 5,493	24,874
1921 (to 4th April, Census) ..	4,679	1,308	3,371
Total Intercensal period (10 years)	180,677	+ 35,052	215,729
1921 (from 5th April)	14,747	+ 4,659	19,406
1922	21,133	+ 18,406	39,539
1923	18,658	+ 16,497	35,155

NOTE.—The plus sign (+) indicates that the arrivals in exceeded the departures from the State by the number against which it is placed.

**Emigration to
Western
Australia.**

It will be seen that Victoria has since 1891 suffered a serious loss by emigration. The State which has been by far the greatest gainer is Western Australia. In the *Year-Book* for 1915-16 the arrivals from and departures to that State are shown for the years 1891 to 1915 inclusive. Since 1905, in so far as seaward migration is concerned, the arrivals from Western Australia have exceeded the departures thereto in each year except three, when there was a small excess of departures. The net seaward migration for each of the last five years is given on page 88.

**Emigration to
South Africa.**

There was a large migration between South Africa and Victoria for some years, which, during the period 1895-1903, resulted in a loss to Victoria of 10,002 of her population. During the five years ended 1908 and in 1913, 1914, 1917, 1918, 1922, and 1923 this State gained from South Africa, but in the four years 1909 to 1912 and in 1915, 1916, 1919, 1920, and 1921 there was a loss due to emigration to that colony. Details of migration to and from South Africa are given in the *Year-Book* for 1910-11, and, for the last five years, on page 86 of this volume.

**Immigration
and
emigration,
1919-1923.**

The following table shows the total migration by sea to and from Victoria during the five years 1919 to 1923 :—

**RECORDED IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION BY SEA,
1919 TO 1923.**

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of Immigrants.
1919	33,621	37,099	- 3,478
1920	65,595	59,956	5,639
1921	66,537	63,944	2,593
1922	81,903	66,355	15,548
1923	87,248	69,986	17,262

NOTE.—The figures in this table are exclusive of members of the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

Migration of Soldiers. The number of soldiers belonging to the Australian Expeditionary Forces who arrived in Victoria from or left the State for oversea countries from the commencement of the war to the 31st December, 1920, is shown in the *Year-Book* for 1922-23, page 85.

Arrivals and departures by rail, 1919 to 1923. The Inter-State railway passenger traffic, as well as the seaward traffic, is taken into account in framing estimates of population. The effect of the railway traffic during the past five years is shown in the following return :—

RECORDED MIGRATION BY RAIL, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Arrivals.			Departures.			Excess of Arrivals.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1919	139,473	66,313	205,786	158,853	66,446	225,299	- 19,380	- 133	- 19,513
1920	184,554	95,084	279,638	184,233	98,099	282,332	321	- 3,015	- 2,694
1921	170,268	88,177	258,445	168,224	88,571	256,795	2,044	- 394	1,650
1922	168,025	86,986	255,011	164,280	86,998	251,278	3,745	- 12	3,733
1923	171,436	88,430	259,866	172,580	87,132	259,712	- 1,144	1,298	154

Since the beginning of 1913 a systematic count has been made of the passengers who travel by rail between the States of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia.

During 1923 Victoria gained by rail 427 persons from South Australia, but lost 273 to New South Wales.

Gain by immigration from various countries and vice versa. The net result of the recorded immigration and emigration by sea between Victoria and the neighbouring States, the United Kingdom, and foreign countries (exclusive of soldiers) during each of the five years ended 1923 is shown in the following table. Where a minus sign (-) appears, it indicates that the emigrants exceeded the immigrants by the number against which it is placed :—

RECORDED NET IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA BY SEA, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Excess of Immigration over Emigration between Victoria and—										Crews of Vessels.	Net Immigration.	
	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	United Kingdom.	Other British Dominions.	United States.			Other Foreign Ports.
1919	-1,196	- 181	-549	-163	-3,618	393	-215	2,456	-313	1	34	- 127	-3,478
1920	- 454	- 681	115	326	- 33	-373	- 97	6,873	-167	2	137	- 9	5,639
1921	- 158	- 649	9	175	-2,228	413	-163	5,876	- 8	10	105	- 789	2,593
1922	- 251	- 471	71	750	3,444	468	18	10,408	399	6	612	94	15,548
1923	450	- 355	-116	764	3,610	592	127	11,181	563	15	431	..	17,262
Total	-1,609	-2,337	-470	1,852	1,175	1,493	-330	36,794	474	34	1,319	- 831	37,564

The net result of the seaward migration for the five years has been an increase to Victoria of 37,564 persons, the principal gains having been from the United Kingdom, Western Australia, New Zealand, Foreign ports, and Tasmania. New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia attracted persons from this State during that period.

The number of persons who have been assisted to come to Victoria from the foundation of the State to the end of 1923 will be found in the next table :—

STATE-ASSISTED IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA TO THE END OF 1923.

Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.	Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.
1838-50	28,632	1911	6,776
1851-60	87,963	1912	15,119
1861-70	46,594	1913	12,146
1871-80	5,545	1914	7,496
1881-90	2	1915	1,724
1891-00 .. ..	..	1916	327
1901 .. ..	..	1917	146
1902 .. ..	..	1918	101
1903 .. ..	..	1919	139
1904 .. ..	..	1920	2,763
1905 .. ..	..	1921	3,987
1906 .. ..	..	1922	9,145
1907	127	1923	9,504
1908	360		
1909	652		
1910	1,690	Total	240,938

In 1923 the immigrants assisted by the Government numbered 9,504, of whom 3,856 were nominated and 5,648 selected. Of the immigrants 2,117 were married persons. The sex distribution of the State-assisted immigrants was—males 6,689, and females 2,815.

Upon the outbreak of war in August, 1914, instructions were issued by the Victorian Government that no men who were within the limits of the recruiting ages should be accepted for assisted passages by its representatives in England. Partly for this reason and partly because of the existence of prosperous conditions in Great Britain the number of assisted immigrants to Victoria was very small during the years 1915 to 1919.

A statement of the arrangements which have been made for assisting immigrants to come to Victoria is given in a later portion of this volume under the heading "Immigration, Intelligence, and Labour Bureau."

CENSUS OF 1921.

A census of Australia was taken on 4th April, 1921, under the general superintendence of the Commonwealth Statistician. The officer in charge of the collection in each State was the Commonwealth electoral officer for that State with the designation of "Deputy Supervisor of Census." Under him an enumerator was in charge of each Commonwealth electoral division, and under each enumerator there was a sub-enumerator in respect of each electoral subdivision or a group of subdivisions. In all cases the position of enumerator was filled by the divisional returning officer. Each subdivision was further cut up into collectors' districts for the actual work of collection. The collecting organizations for the States comprised six deputy supervisors, 75 enumerators, and about 1,100 sub-enumerators, and 7,000 collectors.

A deputy supervisor was appointed for each of the Territories, viz., Northern Territory, Federal Territory, Norfolk Island, and Papua, and for the late German New Guinea. In these cases the collectors worked under the immediate direction of the deputy supervisor.

The following statement shows the population and number of dwellings in each of the municipalities of the State at the census of 4th April, 1921:—

POPULATION AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921.

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Metropolitan.</i>						
Brighton	9,491	11,744	21,235	4,620	59	4,679
Brunswick	21,339	23,145	44,484	9,685	91	9,776
Camberwell	10,703	13,132	23,835	5,729	124	5,853
Caulfield	18,667	22,026	40,693	9,672	162	9,834
Coburg	8,952	9,162	18,114	3,857	40	3,897
Collingwood	15,956	18,283	34,239	7,564	1	7,565
Essendon	16,525	18,744	35,269	8,050	36	8,086
Fitzroy	16,311	18,627	34,938	7,708	4	7,712
Footscray	16,785	16,990	33,775	7,147	46	7,193
Hawthorn	12,870	16,295	29,165	6,563	29	6,592
Kew	7,711	9,671	17,382	3,650	57	3,707
Malvern	14,054	18,252	32,306	7,626	127	7,753
Melbourne	51,084	52,167	103,251	21,533	22	21,555
Northcote	14,694	15,825	30,519	6,841	112	6,953
Oakleigh	2,932	3,144	6,076	1,366	17	1,383
Port Melbourne	6,495	6,594	13,089	2,806	2	2,808
Prahran	21,706	28,584	50,290	11,479	18	11,497
Richmond	20,606	22,565	43,171	9,505	6	9,511
Sandringham	5,142	6,174	11,316	2,761	63	2,824
South Melbourne	22,167	24,706	46,873	10,153	16	10,169
St. Kilda	16,736	21,843	38,579	8,307	64	8,371
Williamstown	9,916	9,526	19,442	4,335	30	4,365
Total	340,842	387,199	728,041	160,957	1,126	162,083
<i>Extra Metropolitan.</i>						
Ararat	2,306	2,347	4,653	857	2	859
Ballarat	9,359	11,856	21,215	4,950	12	4,962
Ballarat East	6,194	7,258	13,452	3,308	3	3,311
Bendigo	11,755	13,927	25,682	5,970	15	5,985
Carrum	2,490	2,735	5,225	1,850	17	1,867
Castlemaine	2,509	2,822	5,331	1,249	1	1,250
Clunes	510	715	1,225	354	1	355
Creswick	764	906	1,670	429	..	429
Daylesford	1,468	1,860	3,328	771	..	771
Dunolly	405	448	853	242	..	242
Eaglehawk	2,134	2,585	4,719	1,171	..	1,171
Echuca	1,836	1,909	3,745	859	1	860
Geelong	6,850	7,955	14,805	3,245	2	3,247
Geelong West	4,518	5,123	9,641	2,221	10	2,231
Hamilton	2,406	2,691	5,097	1,155	2	1,157
Horsham	1,805	1,985	3,790	833	12	845

POPULATION AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Extra Metropolitan—continued.</i>						
Inglewood	517	600	1,117	289	..	289
Koroit	856	904	1,760	364	..	364
Maryborough	2,216	2,528	4,744	1,172	2	1,174
Mentone and Mordialloc ..	2,629	3,045	5,674	1,361	7	1,368
Mildura	2,665	2,436	5,101	1,064	16	1,080
Newtown and Chilwell	3,312	3,928	7,240	1,596	5	1,601
Port Fairy	983	1,005	1,988	435	..	435
Portland	1,135	1,420	2,555	561	2	563
Queenscliff	1,102	1,384	2,486	502	..	502
Sale	1,766	2,003	3,769	824	6	830
Sebastopol	867	875	1,742	420	..	420
St. Arnaud	1,214	1,507	2,721	638	2	640
Stawell	2,041	2,372	4,413	1,046	1	1,047
Wangaratta	1,769	1,920	3,689	751	4	755
Warrnambool	3,718	4,012	7,730	1,655	4	1,659
Wonthaggi	2,809	2,361	5,170	1,045	19	1,064
Total	86,908	99,422	186,330	43,187	146	43,333
Total—Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ..	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
<i>Shires.</i>						
Alberton	3,114	2,508	5,622	1,339	5	1,344
Alexandra	1,890	1,464	3,354	920	1	921
Arapiles	1,198	1,126	2,324	480	..	480
Ararat	3,162	2,793	5,955	1,349	1	1,350
Avoca	1,658	1,649	3,307	818	4	822
Avon	1,287	1,097	2,384	543	3	546
Bacchus Marsh	1,738	1,561	3,299	675	9	684
Bairnsdale	3,888	3,831	7,719	1,794	3	1,797
Ballan	1,603	1,477	3,080	798	1	799
Ballarat	1,894	2,059	3,953	733	4	737
Bannockburn	1,345	1,244	2,589	633	..	633
Barrarbool	968	843	1,811	411	..	411
Barwon South	1,529	1,639	3,168	857	1	858
Beechworth	2,358	2,293	4,651	1,014	1	1,015
Belfast	1,322	1,166	2,488	524	..	524
Bellarine	2,040	1,969	4,009	969	4	973
Benalla	3,895	3,692	7,587	1,771	3	1,774
Berwick	4,832	4,119	8,951	2,156	10	2,166
Bet Bet	1,424	1,255	2,679	698	1	699
Birchip	1,014	836	1,850	395	2	397
Borong	2,532	2,219	4,751	1,056	2	1,058
Braybrook	2,335	2,096	4,431	944	75	1,019
Bright	2,044	1,958	4,002	1,000	..	1,000
Broadford	710	622	1,332	347	1	348

POPULATION AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Broadmeadows ..	3,626	1,804	5,430	820	7	827
Bulla	1,264	1,337	2,601	370	..	370
Buln Buln	3,264	2,618	5,882	1,472	..	1,472
Bungaree	1,528	1,490	3,018	717	..	717
Buninyong	2,637	2,427	5,064	1,225	3	1,228
Charlton	1,325	1,140	2,465	535	..	535
Chiltern	1,063	1,077	2,140	536	..	536
Colac	6,248	5,851	12,099	2,662	23	2,685
Corio	2,256	1,685	3,941	766	8	774
Cranbourne	3,219	2,462	5,681	1,403	10	1,413
Creswick	1,505	1,539	3,044	774	..	774
Dandenong	3,439	3,441	6,880	1,583	27	1,610
Deakin	2,163	1,761	3,924	926	2	928
Dimboola	3,370	2,899	6,269	1,256	4	1,260
Donald	1,727	1,513	3,240	709	..	709
Doncaster	1,342	1,242	2,584	670	3	673
Dundas	1,788	1,699	3,487	794	1	795
Dunmunkle	2,486	2,097	4,583	982	2	984
Eltham	2,092	1,981	4,073	1,104	1	1,105
Euroa	1,994	1,914	3,908	898	1	899
Ferntree Gully	3,372	3,632	7,004	2,255	37	2,292
Flinders	2,505	2,250	4,755	1,237	3	1,240
Frankston and Hastings ..	2,299	2,347	4,646	1,431	2	1,433
Gippsland South	2,615	2,058	4,673	1,037	1	1,038
Gisborne	1,089	1,286	2,375	564	..	564
Glenelg	2,815	2,664	5,479	1,235	4	1,239
Glenlyon	1,638	1,783	3,421	847	2	849
Gordon	1,717	1,433	3,150	708	1	709
Goulburn	1,145	1,001	2,146	506	1	507
Grenville	1,557	1,565	3,122	803	..	803
Hampden	5,370	5,133	10,503	2,282	6	2,288
Healesville	1,550	1,864	3,414	710	5	715
Heidelberg	7,942	8,674	16,616	3,420	43	3,463
Heytesbury	2,326	2,123	4,449	961	1	962
Huntly	1,696	1,402	3,098	767	1	768
Kara Kara	1,649	1,392	3,041	709	4	713
Karkaroc	3,139	2,354	5,493	1,210	5	1,215
Keilor	663	528	1,191	265	..	265
Kerang	5,697	4,779	10,476	2,353	12	2,365
Kilmore	942	848	1,790	431	..	431
Korong	2,611	2,262	4,873	1,141	2	1,143
Kowree	1,748	1,550	3,298	792	2	794
Kyneton	3,341	3,630	6,971	1,705	4	1,709
Lawloit	1,150	1,016	2,166	443	..	443
Leigh	807	716	1,523	387	..	387

POPULATION AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Lexton	894	729	1,623	414	..	414
Lilydale	4,651	4,758	9,409	2,463	35	2,498
Loddon East	971	800	1,771	407	..	407
Lowan	1,906	1,722	3,628	772	..	772
Maffra	3,082	2,571	5,653	1,282	9	1,291
Maldon	1,508	1,630	3,138	764	..	764
Mansfield	2,119	1,874	3,993	980	2	982
Marong	3,053	2,822	5,875	1,342	1	1,343
Melton	786	644	1,430	341	..	341
Metcalfe	1,350	1,323	2,673	647	1	648
Mildura	4,891	3,189	8,080	2,189	9	2,198
Minhamite	1,017	863	1,880	468	24	492
Mirboo	892	646	1,538	367	..	367
Moorabbin	3,786	3,657	7,443	1,499	19	1,518
Mornington	987	1,215	2,202	588	2	590
Mortlake	1,497	1,414	2,911	697	4	701
Morwell	2,105	1,580	3,685	969	1	970
Mt. Rouse	1,361	1,348	2,709	597	..	597
Mulgrave	1,600	1,610	3,210	714	3	717
Murray Upper	1,169	942	2,111	460	1	461
McIvor	1,744	1,590	3,334	811	..	811
Narracan	3,810	3,110	6,920	1,671	3	1,674
Newham and Woodend ..	984	1,108	2,092	481	..	481
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	1,356	1,344	2,700	733	..	733
Numurkah	3,000	2,765	5,765	1,327	..	1,327
Nunawading	6,238	6,393	12,631	2,855	52	2,907
Ormeo	1,303	1,065	2,368	665	2	667
Orbost	2,204	1,624	3,828	999	1	1,000
Otway	2,339	1,701	4,040	997	4	1,001
Oxley	2,172	1,776	3,948	864	1	865
Phillip Island and Woolamai	2,721	2,379	5,100	1,111	2	1,113
Poowong and Jeetho	3,891	3,286	7,177	1,657	4	1,661
Portland	2,742	2,525	5,267	1,260	3	1,263
Preston	4,717	4,953	9,670	2,102	86	2,188
Pyalong	370	331	701	189	..	189
Ripon	1,730	1,700	3,430	803	..	803
Rochester	3,397	2,889	6,286	1,399	7	1,406
Rodney	3,913	3,481	7,394	1,642	7	1,649
Romsey	1,690	1,503	3,193	800	..	800
Rosedale	2,260	1,920	4,180	1,002	4	1,006
*Rutherglen	2,086	1,859	3,945	885	..	885
Seymour	2,028	1,778	3,806	870	2	872

*The borough of Rutherglen has been amalgamated with the shire, and the figures which are given above relate to the municipality in its altered form. In Census publications the population of the borough is shown as Males 572, Females 588—Total 1,160; and that of the shire as Males 1,514, Females 1,271—Total 2,785.

POPULATION AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Shepparton	4,019	3,692	7,711	1,685	5	1,690
Stawell	1,840	1,510	3,350	802	..	802
Strathfieldsaye	1,687	1,687	3,374	788	..	788
Swan Hill	6,723	4,830	11,553	2,721	16	2,737
Talbot	646	736	1,382	388	..	388
Tambo	2,235	1,993	4,228	929	1	930
Towong	2,412	1,915	4,327	1,008	2	1,010
Traralgon	1,729	1,609	3,338	791	4	795
Tullaroop	1,314	1,264	2,578	637	..	637
Tungamah	2,402	2,098	4,500	1,030	2	1,032
Upper Yarra	3,017	2,512	5,529	1,308	10	1,318
Violet Town	960	924	1,884	461	2	463
Walpeup	3,278	2,195	5,473	1,199	5	1,204
Wangaratta	1,268	1,117	2,385	525	..	525
Wannon	1,519	1,322	2,841	636	3	639
Waranga	2,909	2,462	5,371	1,321	2	1,323
Warragul	2,543	2,412	4,955	1,048	4	1,052
Warrnambool	4,256	3,978	8,234	1,760	..	1,760
Werribee	3,737	3,299	7,036	1,559	7	1,566
Whittlesea	1,835	1,645	3,480	788	..	788
Wimmera	2,346	1,810	4,156	870	2	872
Winchelsea	2,247	2,061	4,308	980	1	981
Wodonga	1,368	1,185	2,553	608	7	615
Woorayl	3,311	2,656	5,967	1,358	4	1,362
Wycheproof	2,428	1,785	4,213	1,000	..	1,000
Yackandandah	1,515	1,412	2,927	677	2	679
Yarrawonga	1,354	1,265	2,619	611	..	611
Yea	1,488	1,208	2,696	646	10	656
Total—Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579
SUMMARY.						
Cities, Towns and Boroughs	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579
Not Incorporated	106	68	174	64	..	64
Whole State	750,061	775,471	1,525,532	346,050	2,009	348,059
Shipping	4,663	1,085	5,748	..	..	..
Total Population	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	346,050	2,009	348,059

Population in each District. The enumerated populations of the districts of Victoria at the last two census dates are shown hereunder :—

ENUMERATED POPULATIONS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

District.	1911.			1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Central ..	358,360	388,532	746,892	465,671	510,370	976,041
North Central	37,256	37,268	74,524	30,946	31,645	62,591
Western ..	69,746	68,792	138,538	67,178	67,380	134,558
Wimmera ..	31,636	28,067	59,703	30,533	27,940	58,473
Mallee ..	17,247	11,806	29,053	25,896	19,032	44,928
Northern ..	67,819	63,988	131,807	62,066	59,767	121,833
North-Eastern	30,795	27,488	58,283	25,902	23,577	49,479
Gippsland ..	38,650	33,296	71,946	41,869	35,760	77,629
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748
Total ..	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

In only three districts are increases shown in the intercensal period. The population of the Central District, which includes Melbourne and suburbs, advanced by 229,149 ; that of the Mallee District by 15,875 ; and that of the Gippsland District. by 5,683 during the decennium. All the northern districts lost population during the period mentioned, and the Wimmera District, in which large quantities of wheat are grown, had 1,230 less residents in 1921 than in 1911.

The populations enumerated in each county of the State at the Censuses of 1911 and 1921 are given in the following statement, and the increases or decreases are shown:—

POPULATION OF COUNTIES IN VICTORIA,
1911 AND 1921.

County.	Enumerated Population in—						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1921 compared with 1911.		
	1911.			1921.			Males.	Females.	Total.
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.			
Anglesey ..	4,772	4,180	8,952	5,508	4,581	10,089	+ 736	+ 401	+ 1,137
Benambra ..	3,625	2,957	6,582	3,359	2,722	6,081	- 266	- 235	- 501
Bendigo ..	26,771	27,729	54,500	22,924	24,606	47,530	- 3,847	- 3,123	- 6,970
Bogong ..	14,681	13,224	27,905	11,639	10,668	22,307	- 3,042	- 2,556	- 5,598
Borong ..	16,289	14,562	30,851	16,173	14,721	30,894	+ 116	+ 159	+ 43
Bourke ..	295,309	327,502	622,811	388,959	433,810	822,769	+ 93,650	+ 106,308	+ 199,958
Buln Buln ..	22,283	18,774	41,057	24,546	20,344	44,890	+ 2,263	+ 1,570	+ 3,833
Croajingo- long ..	1,510	1,190	2,700	1,684	1,275	2,959	+ 174	+ 85	+ 259
Dalhousie ..	8,917	8,724	17,641	8,086	8,117	16,203	- 831	- 697	- 1,438
Dargo ..	3,077	2,441	5,518	2,353	2,050	4,403	- 724	- 301	- 1,115
Delatite ..	11,491	10,574	22,065	10,171	9,655	19,826	- 1,320	- 919	- 2,239
Dundas ..	5,298	5,152	10,450	5,330	5,258	10,588	+ 32	+ 106	+ 138
Evelyn ..	9,026	8,265	17,291	12,460	12,090	24,550	+ 3,434	+ 3,825	+ 7,259
Follett ..	1,372	1,339	2,711	1,611	1,552	3,163	+ 239	+ 213	+ 452
Gladstone ..	8,752	7,961	16,713	6,516	5,939	12,455	- 2,236	- 2,022	- 4,258
Grant ..	34,991	36,486	71,477	35,677	38,110	73,787	+ 686	+ 1,624	+ 2,310
Grenville ..	20,503	22,567	43,070	17,621	19,791	37,412	- 2,882	- 2,776	- 5,658
Gunbower ..	5,083	4,181	9,264	6,258	5,357	11,615	+ 1,175	+ 1,176	+ 2,351
Hampton ..	6,707	6,188	12,895	6,443	6,244	12,687	- 264	- 56	- 208
Heytesbury ..	3,705	3,261	6,966	4,090	3,764	7,854	+ 385	+ 503	+ 888
Kara Kara ..	8,265	7,274	15,539	7,627	7,195	14,822	- 638	- 79	- 717
Karkaroc ..	9,618	6,562	16,180	16,267	11,882	28,149	+ 6,649	+ 5,320	+ 11,969
Lowan ..	7,082	6,231	13,313	6,733	6,024	12,757	- 349	- 207	- 556
Millewa ..	56	28	84	49	21	70	- 7	- 7	- 14
Moir ..	16,814	15,028	31,842	14,878	13,623	28,501	- 1,936	- 1,405	- 3,341
Mornington ..	19,034	16,279	35,313	28,575	26,360	54,935	+ 9,541	+ 10,081	+ 19,622
Normanby ..	5,900	6,007	11,907	5,857	5,922	11,779	- 43	- 85	- 128
Polwarth ..	7,367	6,533	13,900	7,981	7,173	15,154	+ 614	+ 640	+ 1,254
Ripon ..	7,464	6,448	13,912	6,671	6,236	12,907	- 793	- 212	- 1,005
Rodney ..	10,399	9,089	19,488	11,490	10,242	21,732	+ 1,091	+ 1,153	+ 2,244
Talbot ..	23,567	24,364	47,931	17,352	18,947	36,299	- 6,215	- 5,417	- 11,632
Tambo ..	1,650	1,329	2,979	2,240	1,876	4,116	+ 590	+ 547	+ 1,137
Tanjil ..	10,130	9,562	19,692	11,046	10,215	21,261	+ 916	+ 653	+ 1,569
Tatchera ..	6,318	4,519	10,837	7,076	5,321	12,397	+ 758	+ 802	+ 1,560
Villiers ..	11,430	11,297	22,727	11,574	11,440	23,014	+ 144	+ 143	+ 287
Weeah ..	1,255	697	1,952	2,504	1,808	4,312	+ 1,249	+ 1,111	+ 2,360
Wonnangatta ..	998	733	1,731	733	532	1,265	- 265	- 201	- 466
<i>Outside Counties—</i>									
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748	+ 581	+ 362	+ 943
Total ..	655,591	659,969	1,315,561	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	+ 99,133	+ 116,596	+ 215,729

NOTE.—Full-blood aborigines to the number of 196 in 1911 and 144 in 1921, are excluded from the foregoing statement.

Decreases of population are shown in 17 of the 37 counties in the ten-year period 1911-1921. The largest of these are in the counties of Talbot, Bendigo, Grenville, Bogong and Gladstone, where the mining industry was in a depressed condition during the decade

mentioned. The north-eastern county of Moira, which is principally dependent on agriculture, shows a decline of about 10 per cent. The county of Bourke, which includes the metropolis, contained nearly 200,000 more people at the later census than at the earlier one. There were also large increases in the counties of Mornington, Evelyn, and Karkaroc.

The conjugal condition of the people, as ascertained at the census of 1921, is shown in the following table :—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE, 4TH APRIL, 1921.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Never married—			
Under age 15 years	231,086	224,850	455,936
Age 15 years and over	222,177	211,833	434,010
Married	277,183	282,494	559,677
Widowed	21,279	54,928	76,207
Divorced	1,092	1,221	2,313
Unspecified	1,907	1,230	3,137
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

The number of breadwinners in each class of occupation at the last two censuses, and of the persons dependent on them, are shown hereunder :—

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, AS RETURNED AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupation.	1911.	1921.
Breadwinners—		
Professional	43,819	60,585
Domestic	62,175	58,225
Commercial	91,611	108,011
Transport and Communication	39,238	53,332
Industrial	187,773	234,245
Primary Producers	144,384	147,438
Indefinite	8,053	7,617
Total Breadwinners	577,053	669,453
Dependents	721,137	856,379
Occupation not stated	17,361	5,448
Total	1,315,551	1,531,280

The grades of occupation of the population, as returned at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, were as follows:—

Grade.	Census of 1911.			Census of 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Employer	59,713	7,315	67,028	40,636	4,071	44,707
Working on own account	37,753	11,987	49,740	82,436	14,624	97,060
Assisting but not receiving salary or wages ..	19,273	3,002	22,275	10,742	1,003	11,745
Receiving salary or wages	281,727	103,975	385,702	315,391	118,052	433,443
Unemployed	14,930	3,012	17,942	32,432	7,581	40,013
Grade not applicable ..	229,594	528,264	757,858	266,661	629,013	895,674
Grade not stated ..	12,601	2,405	15,006	6,426	2,212	8,638
Total	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

The mode of occupancy of private dwellings changed materially between the dates of the 1911 and 1921 censuses. Particulars for those two census years are given below:—

MODE OF OCCUPANCY OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS, TENEMENTS AND FLATS—CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupied by—	4th April, 1921.			3rd April, 1911.	Increase during Ten years 1911-1921.
	Urban.		Rural.	Whole State.	
	Metro-politan.	Pro-vincial.			

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

Owner ..	45,096	18,778	66,998	130,872	118,716	12,156
Purchaser by Instalments	25,259	4,856	12,140	42,255	13,973	28,282
Tenant ..	83,067	14,280	30,398	127,745	119,562	8,183
Other and Un-specified ..	4,579	1,643	11,842	18,064	11,383	6,681
Total ..	158,001	39,557	121,378	318,936	263,634	55,302

The number of owner occupiers and rent purchasers of those dwellings for which definite information was given increased from 52.6 per cent. in the earlier to 57.5 per cent in the later year. The prevailing scarcity of houses doubtless influenced many persons who were formerly classed as tenants to become prospective owners, by entering into arrangements to purchase their houses on the instalment principle.

Ages of the people.

The following table shows the ages of the people at the dates of the censuses of 1901, 1911 and 1921, and the proportionate numbers living in successive age groups :—

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-5 ..	66,807	65,179	73,061	70,417	79,210	76,426
5-10 ..	72,052	70,493	65,615	63,904	79,452	77,680
10-15 ..	67,389	66,640	63,586	62,523	72,424	70,744
15-20 ..	58,896	59,717	67,804	67,719	66,020	64,589
20-25 ..	50,593	57,632	61,895	65,217	62,096	67,503
25-30 ..	45,469	52,832	51,955	55,651	62,845	69,647
30-35 ..	46,635	48,156	44,928	48,694	59,244	63,439
35-40 ..	46,723	43,390	41,308	44,549	50,696	53,790
40-45 ..	37,118	33,551	42,512	42,480	44,885	47,914
45-50 ..	24,137	21,810	41,015	38,477	39,556	42,378
50-55 ..	18,348	17,601	31,866	29,420	40,174	40,391
55-60 ..	15,351	15,157	19,486	18,457	35,923	34,841
60-65 ..	14,979	14,292	13,834	14,316	26,660	27,016
65-70 ..	16,080	13,843	11,432	12,603	15,054	15,717
70-75 ..	11,781	8,360	9,415	9,972	9,035	10,204
75-80 ..	5,733	4,231	7,275	6,934	5,415	6,826
80-85 ..	2,453	2,065	3,903	3,387	2,991	3,831
85-90 ..	603	587	1,133	1,129	1,336	1,672
90-100 ..	160	152	301	321	404	567
100 and over ..	12	11	8	10	9	8
Unspecified ..	2,564	1,759	3,259	3,780	1,295	1,373
Total ..	603,883	597,458	655,591	659,960	754,724	776,556

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921—*continued.*

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
PROPORTIONS PER CENT.						
0-5 ..	11·11	10·94	11·20	10·73	10·51	9·86
5-10 ..	11·98	11·83	10·06	9·74	10·55	10·02
10-15 ..	11·21	11·19	9·74	9·53	9·61	9·13
15-20 ..	9·80	10·03	10·40	10·32	8·76	8·33
20-25 ..	8·41	9·68	9·48	9·94	8·24	8·71
25-30 ..	7·56	8·87	7·96	8·48	8·34	8·98
30-35 ..	7·76	8·08	6·89	7·42	7·86	8·18
35-40 ..	7·77	7·28	6·33	6·79	6·73	6·94
40-45 ..	6·17	5·63	6·52	6·47	5·96	6·18
45-50 ..	4·02	3·66	6·29	5·87	5·25	5·47
50-55 ..	3·05	2·96	4·89	4·48	5·33	5·21
55-60 ..	2·55	2·54	2·99	2·81	4·77	4·49
60-65 ..	2·49	2·40	2·12	2·18	3·54	3·49
65-70 ..	2·67	2·32	1·75	1·92	2·00	2·03
70-75 ..	1·96	1·40	1·44	1·52	1·20	1·32
75-80 ..	·95	·71	1·11	1·06	·72	·88
80-85 ..	·41	·35	·60	·52	·40	·49
85-90 ..	·10	·10	·18	·17	·18	·22
90 and over ..	·03	·03	·05	·05	·05	·07
Specified Ages	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Persons at
dependent
and support-
ing ages.

By adopting larger groups a clearer idea is obtained of the age distribution of the population at the three census periods. The subjoined table shows the numbers and

proportions of males and females at ages 0-15, 15-45, 45-65 and 65 and upwards. Persons of unspecified ages have been omitted :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS AT DEPENDENT AND SUPPORTING AGES IN VICTORIA AT THREE CENSUS ENUMERATIONS.

Census Year.	Number of Persons at—							
	Dependent Ages (under 15 years).		Supporting Ages.				Old Age (65 years and upwards).	
			15 to 45 years.		45 to 65 years.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1901	206,248	202,312	285,434	295,278	72,815	68,860	36,822	29,249
1911	202,262	196,844	310,402	324,310	106,201	100,670	33,467	34,356
1921	231,086	224,850	345,786	366,882	142,313	144,626	34,244	38,825
	Proportions per cent.							
1901	34·30	33·96	47·47	49·57	12·11	11·56	6·12	4·91
1911	31·00	30·00	47·59	49·42	16·28	15·34	5·13	5·24
1921	30·67	29·00	45·89	47·33	18·89	18·66	4·55	5·01

Australian Born and other Population in State.

The next table shows the length of residence in Australia, at the date of the census of 1921, of persons included in the population of the State who were born outside the Commonwealth :—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA.

No. of Completed Years of Residence.	Enumerated Population.			No. of Completed Years of Residence.	Enumerated Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.		Males.	Females.	Persons.
0 to 1 ..	8,559	9,588	18,147	90 and upwards	3	12	15
2 " 4 ..	1,389	1,595	2,984	Not stated ..	3,666	4,205	7,871
5 " 9 ..	24,576	20,039	44,615	Total ..	108,603	92,349	200,952
10 " 19 ..	12,586	7,338	19,924	Born in Commonwealth ..	646,121	684,207	1,330,328
20 " 39 ..	29,898	19,232	49,130	Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280
40 " 59 ..	17,226	16,034	33,260				
60 " 79 ..	10,570	14,080	24,650				
80 " 89 ..	130	226	356				

There were 17 persons—9 males and 8 females—aged 100 years and upwards in Victoria when the 1921 census was taken.

Centenarians
in Victoria.

In the following return the persons and dwellings to the square mile, persons and rooms to a dwelling, and persons to a room are shown for the seven census years 1861-1921 :—

Density of
population, &c.

DENSITY OF POPULATION.—RETURN FOR SEVEN CENSUS YEARS.

Year of Census.	Persons to the Square Mile (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Inhabited Dwellings to the Square Mile.	Persons to the Inhabited Dwelling (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Rooms to an Inhabited Dwelling.	Persons to a Room.
1861 ..	6·126	1·470	4·16	2·96	1·39
1871 ..	8·298	1·714	4·84	3·88	1·24
1881 ..	9·791	1·935	5·06	4·43	1·14
1891 ..	12·948	2·549	5·08	5·09	1·00
1901 ..	13·643	2·747	4·97	5·38	·93
1911 ..	14·915	3·103	4·80	5·51	·87
1921 ..	17·360	3·766	4·61	5·35	·85

The population returned at the census of 1921 represents a proportion of 17·4 persons to the square mile. In 1911 the proportion was 14·9; in 1901, 13·6; in 1891, 12·9; in 1881, 9·8; in 1871, 8·3; and in 1861, 6·1. There were 461 persons to every 100 inhabited dwellings in 1921, a number smaller than in any of the five preceding census years, but greater than in 1861.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, 1921.

The census of 1921 gave the birthplaces of the people as follows:—

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	646,023	684,113	1,330,136
New Zealand	5,460	5,750	11,210
British Isles	83,712	77,405	161,117
British India	1,003	537	1,540
Union of South Africa	818	854	1,672
Canada	523	340	863
Denmark	835	200	1,035
Germany	2,462	1,231	3,693
France	393	353	746
Italy	1,411	439	1,850
Sweden	1,021	94	1,115
Norway	637	89	726
Russia	601	342	943
Greece	505	53	558
United States	952	641	1,593
China	2,740	85	2,825
Japan	52	20	72
Switzerland	321	118	439
Other Countries	2,710	1,484	4,194
At Sea	524	587	1,111
Unspecified	2,021	1,821	3,842
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280
Allegiance—			
British	747,482	774,702	1,522,184
Foreign	6,873	1,496	8,369
Unstated	369	358	727

Australian born. The residents of Victoria at the date of the Census who were born in the Commonwealth of Australia numbered 1,330,136 or 87 per cent. of the total population. The number born in Australia or New Zealand was 1,341,346, the ratio to population being 88 per cent. The corresponding ratios in 1911 and 1901 were 85 per cent. and 79 per cent. respectively.

Foreign born. The number of persons in the State in 1921 who were born in countries outside the British dominions was 19,486, or 1·3 per cent. of the population. This is a decrease as compared with 1911, when they numbered 21,252, or 1·6 per cent. of the population.

Allegiance. The number of persons living in Victoria in 1921 who owed their allegiance to a foreign country was 8,369.

Chinese. In the interval between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 natives of China decreased from 4,302 to 2,825. These figures, however, do not represent all the Chinese in the State, as there are persons of this race born in places outside of China who are resident in Victoria. The total number of the Chinese race

in Victoria (including Chinese born in Australia) was 5,601 in 1911 and 4,179 in 1921.

The enumerated population at each of the last seven censuses and the decennial increases, numerical and centesimal, were as shown hereunder:—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA (INCLUDING ABORIGINES) AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	Population.	Increase since last Census.		Population.	Increase since last Census.		Population.	Increase since last Census.	
		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.
1861	540,322	129,556	31·54	328,651	64,317	24·33	211,671	65,239	44·55
1871	731,528	191,206	35·39	401,050	72,399	22·03	330,478	118,807	56·13
1881	862,346	130,818	17·88	452,083	51,033	12·72	410,263	79,785	24·14
1891	1,140,405	278,059	32·24	598,414	146,331	32·37	541,991	131,728	32·11
1901	1,201,341	60,936	5·34	603,883	5,469	·91	597,458	55,467	10·23
1911	1,315,747	114,406	9·52	655,694	51,811	8·58	660,053	62,595	10·48
1921	1,531,424	215,677	16·39	754,804	99,110	15·12	776,620	116,567	17·66

NOTE.—The figures in this table include full-blood aboriginals. These numbered 144 in 1921, viz., 80 males and 64 females.

The increase in population between the censuses of 1911 and 1921, viz., 215,677, was larger than in any intercensal period subsequent to 1851, with the exception of the decennium 1881-1891, when it was 278,059 persons.

The masculinity of the population, or the ratio of males to females, at each of the last seven census enumerations, was as follows:—

Year.	Males to 100 Females.
1861	155·26
1871	121·36
1881	110·19
1891	110·41
1901	101·08
1911	99·34
1921	97·19

The number of males to every 100 females in age-groups at the date of the 1921 census was as follows:—Age-group 0-10, 103·0; 10-20, 102·3; 20-40, 92·5; 40-60, 97·0; 60-80, 94·0; and 80 and over, 78·0. The ratios for certain age groups in the census years 1891, 1901, and 1911 are given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, also the proportions existing between males and females at the census of 1911 in other parts of Australasia and England and Wales.

Population of Greater Melbourne, 1923. The following table shows the area in acres and the enumerated population at the census of 1921 of the various municipalities of Greater Melbourne, also the number of persons to the acre in these municipalities and the estimated population at the end of 1923:—

POPULATION, ETC., OF GREATER MELBOURNE AT CENSUS OF 1921, AND 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Sub-District.	Area in Acres.	Enumerated Population at the Census of 1921.	Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1923.	Persons to the Acre, 31st Dec., 1923.
Melbourne City	7,555	103,251	103,600	13·7
Fitzroy City	923	34,938	34,850	37·8
Collingwood City	1,139	34,239	34,200	30·0
Richmond City	1,430	43,171	43,550	30·5
Brunswick City	2,719	44,484	47,170	17·3
Northcote City	2,850	30,519	33,920	11·9
Prahran City	2,320	50,290	51,000	22·0
South Melbourne City	2,303	46,873	47,100	20·5
Port Melbourne City	2,366	13,089	13,150	5·6
St. Kilda City	2,049	38,579	40,500	19·8
Brighton City	3,308	21,235	24,470	7·4
Essendon City	4,000	35,269	37,960	9·5
Hawthorn City	2,400	29,165	30,810	12·8
Kew City	3,553	17,382	20,400	5·7
Footscray City	3,982	33,775	40,000	10·0
Williamstown City	2,775	19,442	20,570	7·4
Oakleigh Town	2,658	6,076	7,100	2·7
Caulfield City	5,600	40,693	52,490	9·4
Malvern City	4,000	32,306	40,850	10·2
Camberwell City	8,320	23,835	29,170	3·5
Preston Town	8,800	9,670	12,050	1·4
Coburg City	4,800	18,114	25,000	5·2
Sandringham City	3,740	11,316	15,000	4·0
Remainder of District	79,776	40,557	43,230	·5
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River .. .. .	..	4,711	4,710	..
Total, including Shipping	163,366	782,979	852,850	5·2*

* In making this calculation persons in ships were excluded from the total population.

NOTE.—Sandringham was proclaimed a city on 20th March, 1923, and Oakleigh a town on 19th February, 1924.

Density of metropolitan population. Fitzroy is the most thickly populated municipality, with about 38 persons to the acre; Collingwood and Richmond have 30; Prahran, 22; South Melbourne, 20; St. Kilda City, 20; Brunswick, 17; and Melbourne City 14 persons. There are large areas devoted to parks, gardens, and other reserves in many of the municipalities, so that the population is really living closer together than the figures in the table indicate. Melbourne City contains 1,969

acres of such reserves; Kew, 643; South Melbourne, 497; Williamstown, 446; Caulfield, 305; St. Kilda, 298; Richmond, 227; and Brighton, 193 acres. There are smaller areas in other districts, but they do not appreciably affect the question of density of population. The total area of all the reserves is 6,212½ acres; if these be excluded, the number of persons to the acre in the places named will be as follows:—Richmond, 36; South Melbourne, 26; St. Kilda, 23; Melbourne City, 19; Caulfield, 10; Williamstown, 9; Brighton, 8; and Kew, 7.

In the following return Victoria is shown in three divisions, the first being the Metropolitan (Greater Melbourne) District, or the area extending in all directions for a distance of 10 miles from the centre of the city; the second, the other urban districts, outside the limits of Greater Melbourne; and the third, the remaining portions of the State, which are termed "rural districts." The second division includes not only all existing cities, towns and boroughs, but also the larger towns in shires. The population of each of these divisions at the end of 1923, the ratio of its population to that of the whole State, and the number of persons to the square mile were as follows:—

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION, 1923.

Divisions.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population, 31st Decr., 1923.		
		Total.	Proportion per cent.	Persons to the Sq. Mile.
Metropolitan	255	852,850	52·47	3,344
Other Urban	376	214,501	13·20	570
Total Urban	631	1,067,351	65·67	1,692
„ Rural	87,253	558,029	34·33	6·4
Total, Victoria ..	87,884	1,625,380	100·00	18·5

The urban is much greater than the rural population, and the population of the metropolis alone is about 52½ per cent. of that of the whole State. The results of each census (except that of 1901), after the census of 1861, showed an increase in the proportion of the total population resident in the metropolitan area. The marked nature of this increase will be apparent from the following statement:—

PROPORTION OF POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE TO THAT OF THE WHOLE OF VICTORIA.

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1861 (Census)	25·9	1901 (Census)	41·3
1871 „	28·9	1911 „	45·1
1881 „	32·8	1921 „	51·1
1891 „	43·0	1923 (Estimated) ..	52·5

The next return gives the population of the municipal districts in Greater Melbourne at the last three census dates. There was a slight falling-off in the cities of Melbourne and Port Melbourne between 1911 and 1921, but in all other districts there were increases during each decennial period. The most remarkable of these increases was in the City of Caulfield, where the population was enumerated as 9,541 in 1901 and 40,693 in 1921. Northcote, Malvern, and Camberwell also made great progress in the twenty-year period, their respective populations being trebled.

RETURN SHOWING THE POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE IN 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Municipal District.	Population at the Census of—		
	1901.	1911.	1921.
Cities—			
Melbourne	97,440	103,593	103,251
Fitzroy	31,687	34,283	34,938
Collingwood	32,749	34,190	34,239
Richmond	37,824	40,442	43,171
Brunswick	24,141	32,215	44,484
Northcote	9,677	17,519	30,519
Prahran	40,441	45,367	50,290
South Melbourne	40,619	46,190	46,873
Port Melbourne	12,176	13,515	13,089
St. Kilda	20,542	25,334	38,579
Brighton	10,047	12,083	21,235
Essendon	17,426	23,749	35,269
Hawthorn	21,430	24,450	29,165
Kew	9,469	11,152	17,382
Footscray	18,318	23,643	33,775
Williamstown	14,052	15,275	19,442
Caulfield	9,541	15,919	40,693
Malvern	10,619	15,969	32,306
Camberwell	8,602	12,551	23,835
Coburg	6,772	9,505	18,114
Sandringham	*	*	11,316
Town—			
Preston	4,059	5,049	9,670
Borough—			
Oakleigh	1,273	2,151	6,076
Shires—			
Parts of Shires, forming remainder of District	15,445	24,873	40,557
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River	1,730	4,220	4,711
Total	496,079	593,237	782,979

* Included with Moorabbin Shire in 1901 and 1911.

The numbers of males and females in Melbourne and suburbs at each census date from 1861 to 1921, and as estimated in 1923, are shown in the following statement.

The proportion of males to the total population of the metropolis and the percentage of the population in the metropolitan area to that of the whole State are also given.

POPULATION OF MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS,
1861 TO 1923.

Year.	Census Population.			Males Percentage of Total Population.	Proportion of Metropolitan to State Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
1861	71,300	68,616	139,916	51.0	per cent. 25.9
1871	103,404	103,376	206,780	50.0	28.9
1881	139,006	143,941	282,947	49.1	32.8
1891	247,960	242,936	490,896	50.5	43.0
1901	235,203	260,876	496,079	47.4	41.3
1911	279,900	313,337	593,237	47.2	45.1
1921	370,016	412,963	782,979	47.3	51.1
1923 (estimated) ..	403,050	449,800	852,850	47.3	52.5

Outside Melbourne and suburbs, the most important towns in Victoria are Ballarat, comprising two municipalities; Geelong, three; Bendigo, two; and Warrnambool, Castlemaine, Mordialloc, Carrum, Wonthaggi, Mildura, Ararat, and Hamilton, one each. The populations of these, with their immediate suburbs, according to the census of 1921, and as estimated in 1923, were as follows:—

POPULATION OF CHIEF TOWNS IN VICTORIA, 1921 AND 1923.

Name of Town.	1921 (Census).	1923 (Estimated).
Ballarat	38,500	39,960
Geelong	36,170	37,100
Bendigo	33,170	33,490
Warrnambool	7,739	7,950
Castlemaine	7,000	7,170
Mordialloc	5,225	6,900
Carrum	5,674	6,000
Wonthaggi	5,176	5,600
Mildura	5,100	5,550
Ararat	4,653	5,500
Hamilton	5,098	5,110

The following is a list of the other towns in Victoria which contained a population of 3,000 persons or over in 1923 :—

Town.	Estimated Population in 1923.	Town.	Estimated Population in 1923.
Maryborough ..	4,800	Echuca	3,900
Stawell	4,600	Sale	3,880
Colac	4,250	Camperdown ..	3,750
Wangaratta ..	4,050	Daylesford ..	3,410
Horsham	4,030	Benalla	3,320
Dandenong ..	4,000	Bairnsdale ..	3,300
Shepparton ..	4,000	Kyneton	3,210

Rates of increase of population. The average annual rates at which the population has increased (1) in the whole State, (2) in Melbourne and Suburbs, and (3) in the remainder of the State are shown hereunder :—

AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF POPULATION IN THE WHOLE STATE, IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, AND IN REMAINDER OF STATE, 1851 TO 1923.

Period.	In Victoria.		In Melbourne and Suburbs.		In Remainder of State.	
	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1851-60 ..	2·01	21·59	*	13·62	*	26·67
1861-70 ..	2·46	3·05	1·96†	3·91	2·63†	2·74
1871-80 ..	1·87	1·70	1·33	3·31	2·11	1·01
1881-90 ..	1·66	2·80	1·53	5·56	1·74	1·17
1891-1900 ..	1·47	·55	1·36	·25	1·55	·77
1901-10 ..	1·26	·89	1·05	1·74	1·42	·25
1911 ..	1·37	2·96	1·18	4·11	1·52	2·01
1912 ..	1·43	3·19	1·35	3·92	1·50	2·57
1913 ..	1·48	2·38	1·48	3·77	1·48	1·20
1914 ..	1·39	1·40	1·39	3·08	1·40	—·07
1915 ..	1·34	—·75	1·35	1·24	1·33	—2·54
1916 ..	1·25	—1·39	1·26	1·92	1·23	—4·48
1917 ..	1·32	·88	1·30	2·00	1·33	—·23
1918 ..	1·16	1·42	1·13	2·05	1·19	·79
1919 ..	·85	4·53	·67	2·75	1·04	6·47
1920 ..	1·29	1·66	1·30	3·45	1·27	—·13
1921 ..	1·27	1·49	1·26	2·35	1·28	·60
1922 ..	1·36	2·55	1·30	2·73	1·43	2·36
1923 ..	1·17	2·21	1·00	4·41	1·35	—·12

* Not available.
 † Average 1862-1870.

It will be observed that the rate of natural increase (excess of births over deaths) has during all periods, except the years 1915, 1916, and 1920, been less in Melbourne than in other portions of the State, while the rate of total increase has usually been greater. It would appear from this that the metropolis has been gaining population at the expense of the country districts. The higher rate of natural increase in extra-metropolitan areas is due principally to the low death rates prevailing there, and this favorable mortality can only be partially accounted for by the migration from country to town of persons in indifferent health. The light mortality in country districts shows the advantage to be derived from a large increase in the population of these portions of the State.

The small natural increase both in Melbourne and the remainder of the State in 1919 is accounted for by a heavy death rate in that year due to the existence of an epidemic of influenza. The rate of total increase in 1919 was large on account of the return to the State of soldiers, and the extra-Metropolitan districts benefited to a greater extent proportionally by their return than Melbourne and suburbs.

Population of
Australia and
New Zealand,
1861-1921.

The following table shows the population of each Australian State and New Zealand at each census from 1861 to 1921 :—

POPULATION OF THE SIX STATES OF AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND, 1861-1921.

State.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Victoria	540,822	731,528	862,346	1,140,405	1,201,070	1,315,551	1,531,280
New South Wales ..	350,860	503,981	751,468	1,132,234	1,354,846	1,648,448	2,102,943*
Queensland	30,059	117,960	213,525	393,718	498,129	605,813	755,972
South Australia ..	126,830	185,626	279,865	320,431	363,157	411,868	499,027†
Western Australia ..	15,100	25,270	29,708	49,782	184,124	282,114	332,732
Tasmania	89,977	101,020	115,705	146,667	172,475	191,211	213,780
Australia	1,153,148	1,665,385	2,252,617	3,183,237	3,773,801	4,455,005	5,435,734
New Zealand	84,536	257,810	489,933	626,658	772,719	1,008,407	1,218,270

* Including Federal Territory, 2,572.

† Including Northern Territory, 3,867.

Population of
Australian
States and
New Zealand,
1923.

In the next table is shown the estimated population of each Australian State (excluding aborigines) and of New Zealand at the end of 1923, also the increase of population since the census of 1921, and the number of persons to the square mile.

POPULATION OF EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND NEW ZEALAND, AT 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

State.	Estimated Population at 31st December, 1923.			Increase since Census of 1921 (4th April).	Persons to the Square Mile.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Victoria	806,546	818,834	1,625,380	94,100	18·49
New South Wales ..	1,127,195	1,082,250	2,209,445	109,074	7·14
Queensland	428,312	382,856	811,168	55,196	1·21
South Australia ..	265,340	259,408	524,748	29,588	1·38
Western Australia ..	189,429	164,386	353,815	21,083	·36
Tasmania	109,546	109,528	219,074	5,294	8·36
Territories—					
Northern	2,527	1,028	3,555	-312	·01
Federal	1,407	1,215	2,622	50	2·79
Australia	2,930,302	2,819,505	5,749,807	314,073	1·93
New Zealand	657,561	631,660	1,289,221	70,951	12·45

Particulars of the movement of population by migration and of the natural increase by excess of births over deaths are given for each State since the year 1851 on page 300 of the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

The enumerated populations of Australasian capital cities during the past 52 years are shown in the following table. Melbourne during that time has made great progress, the most noticeable advance having been in the decennial period, 1881-91, when the increase of population was 73 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the population remained almost stationary, but in the intercensal period 1901 to 1911 there was an increase of 97,158 and in the period 1911 to 1921 an increase of 189,742 persons. Sydney, which since 1902 has been the most populous city in Australasia, had 981,400 inhabitants in 1923. These two cities contain about 32 per cent. of the population of the Commonwealth.

POPULATION OF AUSTRALASIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1871 TO 1923.

Capital City. (with Suburbs).	Enumerated Population at the Census of—						Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1923.	Persons to the Acre, 1923.
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.		
Melbourne	206,780	282,947	490,896	496,079	593,237	782,979	852,850	5·22
Sydney	137,776	224,939	383,283	481,830	636,355	897,640	981,400	8·30
Brisbane	15,029	31,109	101,554	119,428	140,977	209,699	235,687	1·21
Adelaide	42,744	103,864	133,252	162,094	191,312	255,318	278,856	1·63
Perth	*	*	*	66,832	109,375	155,129	171,859	1·97
Hobart	26,004	27,248	33,450	34,604	40,335	52,385	55,243	1·18
Wellington	7,908	20,563	34,190	49,344	70,729	107,491	114,510	3·53

* Not available.

Density of population in capital cities.

It will be noticed that the population of Sydney is more concentrated than that of any other metropolitan city, the population of Melbourne being spread over about one and a half times the corresponding area. In Adelaide and Perth there is less than two persons, and in Brisbane and Hobart about one person, to the acre.

A list of cities in the British Empire which had a population exceeding 300,000 was given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 335.

Chinese and Aborigines in Victoria.

In the subjoined table is given the population of Victoria at each of the last seven census enumerations, Chinese and Aborigines being distinguished.

POPULATION OF VICTORIA, DISTINGUISHING CHINESE AND ABORIGINES, AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Total Population—including Chinese and Aborigines.			Chinese.			Aborigines.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1861	540,322	328,651	211,671	24,732	24,724	8	1,694	1,046	648
1871	731,528	401,050	330,478	17,935	17,899	36	1,330	784	546
1881	862,346	452,083	410,263	12,128	11,869	259	780	460	320
1891	1,140,405	598,414	541,991	9,377	8,772	605	565	325	240
1901	1,201,341	603,883	597,458	7,349	6,740	609	652	367	285
1911	1,315,747	655,694	660,053	5,601	4,956	645	643	340	303
1921	1,531,424	754,804	776,620	4,179	3,433	746	586	279	307

NOTE.—The population of the State at each census date since 1861, which appears in the above table and in the table on page 104 includes full-blood aborigines. When comparisons are made elsewhere in this part with the populations at these census dates, the aborigines referred to are not included.

Arrivals and departures of Chinese.

During each of the five years ended 1923 the number of Chinese who left Victoria was greater than the number who entered the State. The net decrease in the Chinese population in the last five years by excess of emigration over immigration was 795. The figures for each year are as follows:—

CHINESE IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+), Departures (-).
1919	187	408	- 221
1920	300	410	- 110
1921	315	591	- 276
1922	346	509	- 163
1923	462	487	- 25
Total	1,610	2,405	- 795

At the first colonization of Victoria the Aborigines were officially estimated to number about 5,000, but according to other and apparently more reliable estimates they numbered at that time not less than 15,000. When the colony was separated from New South Wales the number was officially stated to be 2,693. At the 1921 census there were enumerated 586 Aborigines, consisting of 144 of pure blood and 442 half-castes. Between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 there was a decrease of 57, the reduction in the pure race being 51 and, in the half-castes, 6. These figures indicate that the race is gradually but surely dying out. From the records of the Aborigines Board it would appear that most of the natives are under the care of that body, the numbers in the different stations being as under :—

NUMBER OF ABORIGINES UNDER CARE AT
STATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1922-23.

Station.	Aborigines.	Three-quarter and Half-castes.	Total.
Coranderrk	1	26	27
Lake Condah	4	25	29
Lake Tyers	57	154	211
Framlingham	1	40	41
Antwerp	2	..	2
Swan Hill	4	1	5
Other Dépôts	7	10	17
In Institutions .. .. .	..	3	3
In Service	2	..	2
Total	78	259	337*

* Including all who received intermittent rations during the year.

In addition to the above there are 37 half-castes at Antwerp and Cove Dam whom it is proposed to transfer to Lake Tyers under a concentration scheme.

Of the Aborigines not enumerated in the table, some are residing elsewhere than at the stations, but receive supplies of food and clothing when they call; while others prefer to lead a wandering life and but rarely come under the notice of the Board.

During the year 1922-23, 16 deaths occurred—12 at Lake Tyers, 1 at Framlingham, and 3 at Coranderrk. There were 12 births—9 at Lake Tyers, and 3 at Coranderrk. The births recorded were all half-castes, while, of the deaths, 6 were those of full-blood Aborigines, and 10 of half-castes.

The amount expended on the maintenance of Aborigines during the year was £7,010. The following statement shows the net cost of Aborigines in Victoria (including cost of administration) from 1851 to 1923 :—

Amount expended	£427,060
Revenue from stations paid into the Consolidated Revenue ..	15,164*
Net cost	£411,896

* This includes a sum of £1,994 paid into a Trust Fund in the Treasury.

With a view to restricting the immigration of Asiatics and other coloured persons the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, which provides that any person, who, when asked to do so by a public officer, fails to write out from dictation and sign in the presence of the officer a passage of fifty words in any prescribed language, is prohibited from landing in Australia. Certificates of exemption are granted in certain cases, and members of the military and naval forces, as well as the master and crew of any public vessel of any government, are excepted. The Act appears to have achieved its purpose, judging by the small number of coloured persons who have been admitted into the Commonwealth since it commenced to operate. The following are the numbers of coloured persons, other than Chinese, who have entered or left Victoria since 1st April, 1901 :—

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION OF COLOURED PERSONS (OTHER THAN CHINESE) FROM 1ST APRIL, 1901, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+) Departures (-)
From 1st April, 1901, to 31st Dec., 1905	1,118	1,311	- 193
1906-10	382	495	- 113
1911-15	491	406	+ 85
1916	80	92	- 12
1917	67	208	- 141
1918	52	46	+ 6
1919	46	151	- 105
1920	59	86	- 27
1921	70	64	+ 6
1922	65	47	+ 18
1923	76	64	+ 12
Total	2,506	2,970	- 464

Coloured persons in Victoria, 1921.

The number of coloured persons in Victoria was ascertained at the census of 1921. Chinese were found to number 4,179, and other coloured persons 1,932—a total of

6,111, as compared with 7,631 at the previous census in 1911. The figures for the different races are given below :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS OF COLOURED RACES (EXCLUSIVE OF FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES) IN VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Race.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.
Asiatic—						
Chinese	2,918	515	244	502	3,162	1,017
Hindus	431	62	15	50	446	112
Japanese.. .. .	37	12	13	12	50	24
Syrians	292	20	240	31	532	51
Cingalese.. .. .	19	9	2	4	21	13
Other	55	14	23	9	78	23
African—						
Negroes	11	24	..	12	11	36
Other	3	3	1	1	4	4
American—						
American Indians	1	..	..	3	1	3
Other	8	8	1	9	9	17
Polynesians—						
Maoris	2	3	1	2	3	5
Other	7	9	1	8	8	17
Australian Aborigines (H.C.) ..	..	199	..	243	..	442
Indefinite	14	..	7	..	21	..
Total	3,798	879	548	886	4,346	1,765

Under the "Commonwealth Naturalization Act No. 11 Naturalization. of 1903," the right to issue certificates of naturalization was taken from the States, and vested in the Commonwealth. This Act came into force on 1st January, 1904. An epitome of its principal provisions is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 340.

The number of persons naturalized in Victoria in the year 1923 was 145 ; in the fifty-three years, 1871 to 1923 inclusive, it was 15,598.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The present official system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers—framed on the best models—are replete with all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has control over the local registrars of births and deaths, and the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) over the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by him or by the Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the head office in Melbourne there is kept for reference, a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

Applicants for searches or certificates of births, deaths, or marriages should, in applying to the Government Statist, furnish particulars of the date and place of the event; also the names of the parties in the case of a marriage, and the name, age (if a death), and parentage in the case of a birth or death. The fee for a search in the Official Records, or an extract of an entry, is 2s. 6d., and for a certificate, including the cost of search, 7s. 6d. (except where the case appears in the records of the current quarter, when 5s. only is charged). For a search in the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is only 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate is required.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on pages 301 to 303 a statement of the law relating to marriages and the registration of births and deaths in Victoria.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages. Marriages in Victoria in 1923 numbered 13,126. This was the third highest number for one year in the history of the State, being 1,772 less than the greatest number previously
10027.—8

recorded—that for 1920. The figures for each of the last twenty years are as follows :—

MARRIAGES IN EACH YEAR, 1904 TO 1923.

Year.	No. of Marriages.	Year.	No. of Marriages.
1904 ..	8,210	1914 ..	11,830
1905 ..	8,774	1915 ..	12,832
1906 ..	8,930	1916 ..	11,341
1907 ..	9,575	1917 ..	9,506
1908 ..	9,334	1918 ..	9,156
1909 ..	9,431	1919 ..	11,706
1910 ..	10,240	1920 ..	14,898
1911 ..	11,088	1921 ..	13,676
1912 ..	11,738	1922 ..	12,996
1913 ..	11,324	1923 ..	13,126

The marriages in Australia for 1923 numbered 44,541, as against 44,731 in the previous year, 46,869 in 1921, 51,552 in 1920, 40,540 in 1919, and 33,141 in 1918. Of the total for 1923, 13,126 took place in Victoria, 17,523 in New South Wales, 5,814 in Queensland, 4,099 in South Australia, 2,376 in Western Australia, 1,592 in Tasmania, 7 in the Northern Territory, and 4 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Marriage rates. The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is somewhat unreliable in comparatively newly settled countries like Australia, especially in earlier periods, but, as it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated, the figures relating to Victoria are shown in the following table for the last ten years :—

MARRIAGE RATES, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Marriage Rate.	Year.	Marriage Rate.
1914 ..	8·29	1919 ..	7·95
1915 ..	8·96	1920 ..	9·85
1916 ..	8·02	1921 ..	8·90
1917 ..	6·73	1922 ..	8·27
1918 ..	6·43	1923 ..	8·16

The rates in the other States, New Zealand, and England and Wales in 1923 were as follows:—New South Wales, 8·00; Queensland, 7·24; South Australia, 7·92; Western Australia, 6·82; Tasmania, 7·39; New Zealand, 7·90; and England and Wales, 7·60.

The marriage rate for 1920 was the highest recorded in the history of the State. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of returned soldiers who had settled down to ordinary civilian life. The rates for 1922 and 1923 were considerably lower than the rates for the two preceding years and did not differ much from the rates for the years 1913 and 1914.

The marriages in proportion to the population, to the unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55, and to the unmarried women and widows aged 18 to 50 in each census year, 1857 to 1921, are given in the following table:—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION AND OF SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN, 1857 TO 1921.

Year of Census.	Exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines.						
	Enumerated Population.	Number of Unmarried and Widowed.		Marriages.	Proportion of Marriages per 1,000 of the—		
		Men (aged 21 to 55).	Women (aged 18 to 50).		Population.	Unmarried and Widowed Men (aged 21 to 55).	Unmarried and Widowed Women (aged 18 to 50).
1857 ..	383,668	88,456	18,128	4,465	11·64	50·48	246·30
1861 ..	513,896	98,665	24,009	4,528	8·81	45·89	188·60
1871 ..	712,263	77,078	40,836	4,715	6·62	61·17	115·46
1881 ..	849,438	77,250	75,098	5,732	6·75	74·20	76·33
1891 ..	1,130,463	133,576	113,276	9,007	7·97	67·43	79·51
1901 ..	1,193,340	123,691	137,267	8,468	7·10	68·46	61·69
1911 ..	1,309,950	132,642	158,556	10,984	8·39	82·81	69·28
1921 ..	1,531,280	136,569	163,488	14,009	9·15	102·57	85·69

NOTE.—The figures in this table relate to the twelve months of which the date of census is the central point.

Factors in marriage rates.

An examination of the figures for the eight census periods shows how the crude marriage rate is affected by the proportion of marriageable persons in the community. The maximum marriage rate (per 1,000 of population), which occurred in 1857, was co-incidental with the highest proportion of marriageable

persons, while the minimum rate—in 1871—was associated with the lowest proportion of such persons. A further examination of the figures shows that the ordinary marriage rate is more directly affected by the proportion of eligible men than by that of eligible women in the population. Thus, the percentage of single women aged 18 to 50 rose from 4·7 in 1857 to 10·7 in 1921, whilst that of single men aged 21 to 55 fell from 23 to 8·9 in the same period. After allowing for the more uniform distribution of males and females of marriageable ages in the later years, the decrease in the percentage of marriageable men coincides fairly closely with the decline in the ordinary marriage rate. The female marriage rates show that, of females aged 18 to 50, the proportion entering wedlock each year fell from about 1 in 4 in 1857, and nearly 1 in 5 in 1861, to 1 in 16 in 1901, 1 in 15 in 1911, and nearly 1 in 12 in 1921.

The large number of discharged soldiers settling down to civilian life is responsible to a great extent for the high crude marriage rate recorded in 1921. This factor, however, only partially accounts for the very high proportion of marriageable men and women entering wedlock in that year in comparison with the years 1901 and 1911, as, quite apart from the effect produced by the marriages of discharged soldiers, the improvement in the rate shown in 1911 has become more prominent.

Marriages
to marriage-
able males
in Austral-
asia.

The following statement shows for the period 1900-2 and for the years 1911 and 1921 the number of marriages per 1,000 marriageable males in Victoria, the other States of Australia, and New Zealand. It has been assumed that marriageable males are unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55 :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MALES IN AUSTRALASIA.

	1900-2.	1911.	1921.	Increase per cent. in 20 Years.
Victoria	56·0	67·3	81·7	45·9
New South Wales	58·3	68·0	73·9	26·8
Queensland	41·6	54·9	62·1	49·3
South Australia	56·8	81·3	88·7	56·2
Western Australia	41·9	45·8	62·5	49·2
Tasmania	65·7	69·3	81·9	24·7
Australia	55·7	64·7	77·2	38·6
New Zealand	55·1	58·8	78·9	43·2

In each State the proportion of marriageable men who married during the year 1921 was greater than that for the period 1900-2 or for 1911, the excess over the proportion for the earlier period, expressed as a percentage, being 56 in South Australia, 49 in Western Australia, 49 in Queensland, 46 in Victoria, nearly 27 in New South Wales, and nearly 25 in Tasmania. The comparatively low marriage rates for men in Western Australia and Queensland were due to the unequal distribution of marriageable men and women. At the 1921 census, to every 1,000 unmarried and widowed women aged 18 to 50 the numbers of bachelors and widowers between 21 and 55 years of age in each State and Australia were as follows :—Victoria, 837 ; New South Wales, 1,015 ; Queensland, 1,230 ; South Australia, 892 ; Western Australia, 1,330 ; Tasmania, 889 ; and Australia, 984.

Marriageable persons in Metropolis and Country. An examination of the sex distribution of persons residing in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State discloses the fact that, whether the comparison be made for all ages or for marriageable ages only, there is a great preponderance of women over men in the metropolis, whilst in the remainder of the State the men are in excess. In Greater Melbourne in 1921 there were 63,337 marriageable men aged 21 to 55, as compared with 95,024 marriageable women aged 18 to 50. In the rest of the State the eligible men and women at those ages numbered 73,232 and 68,464 respectively. It is thus seen that, while there was a surplus of 31,687 marriageable females in the metropolis as compared with males, there was a deficiency of 4,768 in the country.

The number of such males to 1,000 marriageable females in the metropolis was 667, while in the rest of the State the corresponding number was 1,070.

The following statement shows the proportions of marriageable men and women per 1,000 of the respective populations in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State :—

MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN PER 1,000 OF POPULATION IN GREATER MELBOURNE AND THE REST OF THE STATE, 1921.

District.	Males.	Females.
Greater Melbourne ..	82·6	124·0
Rest of the State..	95·8	89·5

The marriage rates of marriageable men and women at different periods of life have been computed for various age groups at each of four census periods, and are shown in the following table:—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Men.				Women.			
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
15-21 ..	..	..	..	..	23·6	18·8	23·3	25·7
21-25* ..	44·3	44·6	55·2	64·9	106·0	87·2	105·6	129·8
25-30 ..	85·9	90·5	118·6	148·2	100·5	84·7	112·1	135·3
30-35 ..	75·2	82·1	101·1	126·0	66·4	57·9	66·0	79·6
35-40 ..	51·1	62·6	72·9	91·1	46·4	37·2	43·0	43·3
40-45 ..	33·4	39·9	44·7	50·5	27·7	22·3	20·7	22·2
45-50 ..	25·9	29·8	34·9	35·0	17·8	14·3	5·5	13·5
50 and upwards	9·1	9·1	12·1	12·8	4·2	2·4	2·6	3·1

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The probabilities of bachelors and spinsters marrying and of widowers and widows re-marrying have been obtained by comparing their marriages at specified ages with the respective numbers in the community at those ages at the census of 1921. The marriages per 1,000 of the above-mentioned persons are given in the following table for the year mentioned:—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 BACHELORS, WIDOWERS, SPINSTERS, AND WIDOWS, 1921.

Age Group.	Marriages to every 1,000—			
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Spinsters.	Widows.
15-21 ..	..	..	25·7	..
21-25* ..	64·8	114·3	129·5	179·4
25-30 ..	147·4	165·2	134·1	132·2
30-35 ..	123·3	170·4	77·5	84·4
35-40 ..	85·4	129·4	37·5	64·8
40-45 ..	40·8	105·6	18·9	31·3
45-50 ..	25·7	71·5	10·6	18·9
50 and upwards	6·7	20·2	3·3	2·9

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The figures show that the probability of a widower marrying within a year is greater than that of a bachelor of similar age, and further, that the difference in favour of the former is much greater at ages

over 30 than at earlier ages. Comparing the marriage rate for widows with that for spinsters it is seen that at every age under 50, except the age group 25-30, the chance of a widow marrying is considerably greater than that of a spinster of the same age. As 78 per cent. of both widowers and widows are over 50 years—a period of life when the chance of re-marrying is small—and the great majority of the bachelors and spinsters are under that age—a period when the probability of marrying is much greater—it was to be expected that the rate for each of the two former sections would be much lower than that for each of the latter. In proportion to their respective numbers, the marriages of widowers were only slightly more than half as numerous as those of bachelors, and the marriages of widows were less than one-fourth of those of spinsters.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1923 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION IN VICTORIA, 1923.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.															Total Bridegrooms.				
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.		60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 and over.	Not stated.
16	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
17	2	4	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
18	...	1	7	11	18	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
19	...	1	13	31	35	30	23	24	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
20	...	1	10	24	39	48	57	51	11	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
21 to 25	1	5	28	105	218	303	320	1,864	438	58	15	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3,362
25 to 30	2	1	17	27	81	146	190	1,861	1,774	364	63	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4,534
30 to 35	...	1	2	7	23	37	54	582	909	553	130	30	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,331
35 to 40	1	4	5	14	13	139	330	337	180	49	17	1	1	...	...	...	...	1,091
40 to 45	2	3	6	34	86	156	141	83	21	9	1	1	1	...	...	544
45 to 50	2	1	...	12	36	62	70	53	50	11	...	...	1	...	...	298
50 to 55	2	...	...	...	10	14	28	35	32	36	30	12	...	...	...	...	199
55 to 60	1	7	13	18	21	23	26	18	4	2	...	...	133
60 to 65	5	11	19	9	23	9	7	3	...	...	86
65 to 70	2	3	11	5	8	12	4	2	1	54
70 to 75	4	...	...	1	2	1	3	5	...	...	16
75 and over	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	6	1	1	1	...	13
Total Brides	3	10	81	215	427	589	666	4,584	3,613	1,579	669	302	175	113	53	31	12	3	1	13,126

Although age inequalities among contracting parties were relatively few, they were striking in degree. Thus five men between 45 and 55 married women under 21, while twenty-two women between 35 and 65

were married to men who were under 25 years. The great majority of the parties were, however, of suitable ages. Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 707 were older and 194 younger than their brides, and 99 were of the same age as their partners.

Proportion of
marriages
at various
ages.

The proportions of both sexes marrying in the various age groups are shown in the succeeding table for the periods 1881-90 and 1911-20, and the year 1923 :—

PROPORTIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES MARRYING AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1881-90, 1911-20, AND 1923.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total.					
	Bridegrooms.			Brides.		
	1881-90.	1911-20.	1923.	1881-90.	1911-20.	1923.
Under 15 ... ..	...	...	...	·15	·07	·23
15 to 16 ... ..	...	...	...	1·17	·75	·76
16 to 17	·03	·16	·15	6·53	3·79	6·17
17 to 18	·29	·62	·91	20·32	12·65	16·38
18 to 19	1·46	3·81	3·89	42·94	29·53	32·53
19 to 20	5·62	9·53	12·04	65·03	44·34	44·87
20 to 21	15·19	16·82	18·44	73·84	54·41	50·74
21 to 25	321·02	255·25	256·13	432·34	360·34	349·23
25 to 30	365·48	356·68	345·42	223·83	286·34	275·25
30 to 35	134·57	166·37	177·59	62·07	105·01	120·30
35 to 40	58·29	84·52	83·12	29·53	50·44	50·97
40 to 45	32·54	42·03	41·44	17·10	24·21	23·01
45 to 50	24·77	28·21	22·70	12·23	15·13	13·33
50 to 55	18·40	16·55	15·16	6·74	6·60	8·61
55 to 60	11·49	9·65	10·13	3·40	3·29	4·04
60 and over	10·85	9·86	12·88	2·78	3·10	3·50
Not stated ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	·08
Total	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00

Of every 1,000 women who were married during 1923, 501 were under 25 years, and 275 were aged 25-30, as against 506 and 286 at corresponding ages in the years 1911 to 1920.

Age at
marriage.

A high proportion of re-marriages has the effect of increasing the average marrying age of bridegrooms and brides. This is readily seen by comparing for 1923 the mean

age at marriage of bachelors, 28·64, with that of divorced men, and of widowers—38·77 and 46·33 respectively. The average age of spinsters marrying was 25·86, as against 34·35 for divorced women and 40·86 for widows. The average age of men marrying women under 45 and of their brides for certain periods since 1870 is shown in the following table :--

MEAN AGES AT MARRIAGE.

Period.	Average Age of—	
	Brides under 45.	Bridegrooms of Brides under 45.
	Years.	Years.
1870-4	24·13	29·93
1880-4	23·83	28·61
1890-4	24·66	28·66
1900-4	25·44	29·70
1905-9	25·88	29·80
1910	25·88	29·58
1911	25·81	29·46
1912	25·75	29·17
1913	25·66	29·01
1914	25·71	29·01
1915	25·68	28·75
1916	26·07	29·48
1917	26·03	29·69
1918	25·95	29·66
1919	26·14	29·64
1920	26·00	29·21
1921	25·92	29·26
1922	26·05	29·31
1923	25·91	29·20

The mean age of women under 45 who married in 1923 differed very slightly from the average of the previous five years. In Victoria in 1923 the mean marrying age of all brides was 26·69, and of all bridegrooms, 29·96.

Marrying age according to occupation.

In the *Year-Book* for 1915-16 a table is given showing the average age at marriage of persons engaged in various occupations. This was based on 42,764 marriages in the period 1907-11, in connexion with which the records gave definite occupations.

Birthplaces of persons marrying.

Marriage records show that, of the persons married in Victoria during 1923, 89·7 per cent. were born in Australia, 8·2 per cent. in the United Kingdom, and 1·0 per cent. in other British Possessions, and that only small proportions, about 1·6 per cent. of the bridegrooms and ·6 per cent. of the brides, were natives of foreign countries. The numbers born in Aus-

tralia and other countries are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1913 and 1923 :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1913 AND 1923.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1913.	1923.	1913.	1923.
Australia	9,628	11,519	10,274	12,035
New Zealand	155	101	82	77
England and Wales	972	953	644	668
Scotland	213	208	141	169
Ireland	126	90	83	53
Other British Possessions	40	44	24	39
Germany	46	24	19	8
Russia	17	14	3	7
Italy	15	29	12	12
United States	30	24	14	3
Other Foreign Countries	82	120	28	55
Total	11,324	13,126	11,324	13,126

Marriages in quarters.

Victorian experience shows that, prior to 1919, the Autumn quarter was the most frequently selected season for marrying. During the years 1919 to 1923, however, the greatest proportion of marriages took place in the Spring, except in the year 1920. The numbers celebrated in the different seasons in 1923 were—3,523 in the Spring, 3,440 in the Autumn, 3,222 in the Summer, and 2,941 in the Winter.

Conjugal condition of persons marrying.

The following statement shows the percentages of persons in each conjugal condition who have married in different periods since 1870 :—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1871-1923.

Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of total Marriages.					
	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1923.
Bachelors and Spinsters..	80·59	85·84	87·22	88·46	90·31	90·46
Bachelors and Widows ..	7·10	4·72	4·23	3·66	3·15	3·02
Widowers and Spinsters..	7·75	6·17	6·07	5·70	4·81	4·84
Widowers and Widows ..	4·56	3·27	2·48	2·18	1·73	1·68

Of every 1,000 persons of each sex married in Victoria during 1923, 65 were widowers and 47 were widows, as against 71 and 55 respectively in 1922, 64 and 54 in 1921, 61 and 55 in 1920, 68 and 58 in 1919, and 77 and 57 in 1918.

Divorced persons re-marrying.

The number of divorced persons re-married during 1923 was 401, which was 11·11 per cent. above the number for the preceding year. Of the 132,804 persons married during the last five years, divorced persons numbered 1,691, or 1 in every 79 persons, as compared with 1 in every 109 in the preceding five-year period. The following are the numbers of divorced persons who have re-married since 1918 :—

DIVORCED PERSONS RE-MARRYING, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1919	..	..	..	121	151	272
1920	..	..	..	158	146	304
1921	..	..	..	188	165	353
1922	..	..	..	182	179	361
1923	..	..	..	209	192	401

The divorced persons in the State at the census of 1921 numbered 2,313, of whom 1,092 were men and 1,221 women. A comparison of the re-marriages of divorced males and females during 1921 with these numbers shows that, according to the experience of that year, 17·2 per cent. of the males and 13·5 per cent. of the females re-marry each year. As these proportions greatly exceed the rates for other sections of the community, it is evident that many divorces are obtained with a view to early re-marriage.

Marriages of minors.

The proportions of bridegrooms and brides under 21 years of age are given in the subjoined table for the years 1919 to 1923 :—

Year.				Percentage under 21 years of age.	
				Bridegrooms.	Brides.
1919	..	..	3·14	13·09
1920	..	..	2·66	13·46
1921	..	..	2·83	14·09
1922	..	..	3·29	13·63
1923	..	..	3·51	15·14

Marriages in
religious
denomina-
tions.

The numbers and proportions of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations and of those performed by registrars of marriages, for the years 1922 and 1923, are shown in the following table:—

MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.	1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	3,771	29·02	3,756	28·61
Roman Catholic Church	2,288	17·60	2,399	18·28
Presbyterian Church	2,548	19·61	2,528	19·26
Methodist Church	1,835	14·12	1,852	14·11
Congregational Church	889	6·84	850	6·48
Baptist Church	569	4·38	641	4·88
Lutheran Church	59	·45	47	·36
Church of Christ	284	2·19	272	2·07
Salvation Army	48	·37	57	·43
Hebrew	42	·32	46	·35
Free Christians	143	1·10	76	·58
Other Sects	84	·65	94	·72
Registrars of Marriages	436	3·35	508	3·87
Total	12,996	100·00	13,126	100·00

Marriages by Anglican clergymen represented 28·61 per cent. of the total in 1923, as compared with 29·02 per cent. in the previous year, 29·10 per cent. in 1921, 29·56 per cent. in 1920, 25·44 per cent. in 1911 and 21·18 per cent. in the period 1904-8. Excepting the ratios for the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, there were great disparities between the proportion of marriages celebrated according to the rites of each of the principal denominations and the proportionate number of adherents possessed by it in the community.

Civil marriages. In 1923, 3·87 per cent., in 1922, 3·35 per cent., in 1921, 2·85 per cent., and, in 1914 and 1913, 2·6 per cent. of the total marriages in Victoria were celebrated by lay registrars, as against 1 per cent. in 1909, and about 7 per cent. in the decade ended 1890. The decrease which occurred between the earlier period and 1909 was due to the competition of matrimonial agencies which sprang up about 1894, and the increase since 1909 has probably been due to the *Marriage Act*

1909 (now incorporated in the *Marriage Act* 1915—No. 2691) permitting the removal from the list of registered clergymen of the names of those who make a business of celebrating marriages. The proportion of civil marriages in Victoria is only about one-seventh of the proportion in England and Wales, and is approximately one-fifth of the proportion in New Zealand.

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages in Victoria numbered 1,612 on 31st December, 1923. The numbers of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and lay registrars of marriages were as follows:—

REGISTERED MINISTERS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	397	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Roman Catholic ..	339	New Church	1
Presbyterian	304	Greek Orthodox Church ..	1
Methodist	275	Unitarian	1
Congregational	70	International Bible	
Baptist	89	Students' Association ..	1
Church of Christ	64	Latter Day Saints (Mor-	
Lutheran	25	mons)	1
Salvation Army	28		
Latter Day Saints (Re-		Total Clergymen ..	1,612
organized)	4	Lay Registrars of Mar-	
Seventh Day Adventist ..	6	riages	25
Catholic Apostolic	2		
Free Christian	2		
Australian Church	1	Grand Total ..	1,637

Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted from the law relating to marriages in Victoria, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages.

BIRTHS.

Number of births. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1923 was 35,876, of which 18,567 were of males and 17,309 of females. This was 412 below the number recorded for the preceding year. Still-births, which are excluded from

both births and deaths, numbered 1,056, and corresponded to a ratio of 2·9 per 100 infants born alive in 1923. There were 1,073 male to every 1,000 female births in 1923, as compared with 1,068 in 1922, 1,057 in 1921, and 1,062 in 1920. The figures for each year since 1903 are as follows:—

BIRTHS IN VICTORIA, 1904 TO 1923.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1904 ..	15,313	14,450	29,763	1914 ..	18,549	17,676	36,225
1905 ..	15,523	14,584	30,107	1915 ..	17,821	17,189	35,010
1906 ..	15,716	15,128	30,844	1916 ..	17,625	16,614	34,239
1907 ..	15,989	15,380	31,369	1917 ..	17,222	15,813	33,035
1908 ..	16,073	15,028	31,101	1918 ..	16,176	15,425	31,601
1909 ..	16,092	15,457	31,549	1919 ..	16,227	15,394	31,621
1910 ..	16,411	15,026	31,437	1920 ..	18,648	17,566	36,214
1911 ..	16,944	16,100	33,044	1921 ..	18,289	17,304	35,593
1912 ..	18,244	17,573	35,817	1922 ..	18,740	17,548	36,288
1913 ..	18,436	17,542	35,978	1923 ..	18,567	17,309	35,876

The births in Australia were fewer by 2,762 in 1923 than in 1914. The number in 1923 was 135,221, as compared with 137,496 in 1922, 136,200 in 1921, 136,407 in 1920, 122,290 in 1919, 125,739 in 1918, 129,965 in 1917, 131,426 in 1916, 134,871 in 1915, and 137,983 in 1914. Of the total recorded for 1923, 35,876 occurred in Victoria, 54,069 in New South Wales, 19,982 in Queensland, 11,692 in South Australia, 7,854 in Western Australia, 5,657 in Tasmania, 72 in the Northern Territory, and 19 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Birth rates. In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent unreliable and misleading. In the earlier periods, when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, the rates are obviously high. As time proceeds, however, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, of necessity, the birth rate. The

following table shows the birth rates in Victoria from 1870 to 1923 :—

BIRTH RATES IN VICTORIA PER 1,000 OF POPULATION,
1870 TO 1923.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Birth Rate.	Year.	Birth Rate.
1870 ..	38·07	1899 ..	26·14	1912 ..	26·38
1875 ..	33·94	1900 ..	25·79	1913 ..	25·77
1880 ..	30·75	1901 ..	25·72	1914 ..	25·37
1885 ..	31·33	1902 ..	25·05	1915 ..	24·45
1890 ..	33·60	1903 ..	24·28	1916 ..	24·20
1891 ..	33·57	1904 ..	24·42	1917 ..	23·40
1892 ..	32·51	1905 ..	24·57	1918 ..	22·19
1893 ..	31·18	1906 ..	24·91	1919 ..	21·46
1894 ..	29·05	1907 ..	25·03	1920 ..	23·95
1895 ..	28·46	1908 ..	24·56	1921 ..	23·15
1896 ..	27·19	1909 ..	24·62	1922 ..	23·10
1897 ..	26·49	1910 ..	24·20	1923 ..	22·31
1898 ..	25·51	1911 ..	25·03		

The births per 1,000 of the population in the other States, New Zealand, and England and Wales in 1923 were as follows :—New South Wales, 24·68; Queensland, 24·89; South Australia, 22·60; Western Australia, 22·55; Tasmania, 26·27; New Zealand, 21·94; and England and Wales, 19·7.

The birth rate of a community is almost wholly dependent upon the proportion of wives at the reproductive period of life and their internal age distribution. As these elements, especially the former, differ widely in certain Australian States, the crude rates of the different States are scarcely comparable. The figures for the census of 1921 showed that in every 1,000 of the population of each State and of the Commonwealth the married women aged 15 to 45 numbered 116·1 in Victoria, 127·5 in New South Wales, 119·3 in Queensland, 125·3 in South Australia, 118·0 in Western Australia, 117·3 in Tasmania, and 121·9 in Australia. In the case of Victoria, the deficiency in the proportion of wives at the ages mentioned was accentuated by their comparatively unfavorable internal age distribution, the proportion at the younger and more fertile ages being smaller than that of any other State. A computation shows that, owing to these differences, the legitimate births in Victoria to every 1,000 of the population in 1921 were fewer by 2·8 than in New South Wales, by 3·4 than in Queensland, by ·9 than in South Australia, by ·3 than in Western Australia, and by 3·8 than in Tasmania, also that they were 1·8 less than in the whole of Australia.

**Births to
wives in
Australasia
and England.**

The next table shows the legitimate births per 1,000 married women under 45 (not allowing for their differing age distribution) in each State, New Zealand, and England and Wales in the four census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

**LEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER
45 YEARS OF AGE.**

Country.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women aged 15 to 45.				Decrease per cent. in 20 years.
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	
Victoria	297·0	229·0	223·0	190·5	16·8
New South Wales	298·9	235·6	235·4	194·2	17·6
Queensland	315·0	251·0	244·8	213·6	14·9
South Australia	311·1	235·0	235·9	186·9	20·5
Western Australia	352·8	244·0	221·8	190·9	21·8
Tasmania	315·9	254·6	244·8	216·9	14·8
New Zealand	279·1	246·1	211·7	181·0	26·9
England and Wales	268·8	234·2	196·2	*	*

* Not available.

**Birthplaces
of parents
of legitimate
children.**

The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in 1923, 82 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 95 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows:—80·4 in Victoria; 88·3 in Australia; ·7 in New Zealand; 7·1 in England and Wales; 1·4 in Scotland; ·9 in Ireland; ·2 in other British Possessions; and 1·4 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were: Victoria, 81·8; Australia, 89·5; New Zealand, ·7; England and Wales, 7·0; Scotland, 1·3; Ireland, ·7; other British Possessions, ·1; and foreign countries, ·7.

**Corrected
birth rates
per 1,000
wives in
Victoria.**

An accurate view of the alteration in the fertility of wives is obtained by comparing the ratio of legitimate births to wives at reproductive ages, and allowing for the difference in their age distribution at each period. The following

table shows for Victoria the distribution of married women in six five-year groups in the last six census years :—

PROPORTION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS TO TOTAL BETWEEN 15 AND 45 IN THE LAST SIX CENSUS YEARS.

Census Year.	Proportion in each Age Group to Every 1,000 Married Women between 15 and 45.					
	15-20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	40-45.
1871	20·3	130·4	211·4	230·7	233·2	174·0
1881	17·3	159·5	204·6	206·0	209·7	202·9
1891	13·5	156·9	275·2	244·1	172·1	138·2
1901	8·1	99·0	198·3	249·6	249·2	195·8
1911	12·4	113·8	206·9	226·6	221·2	219·1
1921	9·2	105·3	222·5	247·9	221·1	194·0

To estimate the effect which the alteration in age distribution has on the birth rate, the proportion in each of the above groups was multiplied by the average natality rate for the group according to a standard table—the standard used for this purpose being the Swedish table of 1891. The sum of the products for each census year represented the number of births which would have occurred in that year per 1,000 married women between 15 and 45 had the fertility of these women remained unaltered, i.e., the potential births. The year 1871 was used as a basis with which to compare the five subsequent census years, and corrections were applied to the actual births (per 1,000) occurring in those years, so as to make them conform to the age constitution in the first-mentioned year. The correction factors were obtained by taking the number of births per 1,000 married women aged 15-45 which would have occurred in 1871 had the standard natality rates prevailed, and dividing this number by the corresponding numbers of potential births for 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921. The above method was applied to find what proportion of the alteration in the ratio of births to married women under 45 was due to causes other than varying age constitution. The last mentioned factor has been taken into account in the computation of the birth rates appearing in column (5) of the subjoined table :—

CORRECTED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES.

(1) Census Year.	(2) Married Women between 15 and 45 years of age.	(3) Legitimate Births.	(4) Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(5) Corrected Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(6) Factor for Correction of Rate in Column 4.
1871	88,561	26,805	302·67	..	..
1881	84,831	25,675	302·66	303·14	1·0016
1891	120,700	35,853	297·04	281·98	0·9493
1901	127,858	29,279	229·00	238·75	1·0426
1911	139,398	31,080	222·96	231·50	1·0383
1921	177,803	33,879	190·50	195·47	1·0261

An inspection of the rates in column (5) shows that there was a fall of 7 per cent. in 1891 as compared with 1881, a further serious decline of over 15 per cent. in 1901 as compared with 1891, a decrease of 3 per cent. in 1911 as compared with 1901, and a further decline of nearly 16 per cent. in 1921 as compared with 1911, which were not due to variations in the age distribution of the married women between 15 and 45 in the community. A further examination of the corrected legitimate birth rates appearing in this column shows that the births in 1921 to every 1,000 married women of reproductive ages were 108 fewer than in 1881, 87 fewer than in 1891, 43 fewer than in 1901, and 36 fewer than in 1911.

Corrected legitimate birth rate for Victoria. Legitimate birth rates (per 1,000 of the total population) for widely separated periods do not give a correct indication of the relative fertilities of those periods, unless the number of married women at reproductive ages in proportion to the population and the age constitution of such women have remained unchanged. In order to allow for the disturbance which may have been introduced through variations in these elements it is necessary that corrections be made in the crude rates. The factor to correct the result of changes in the proportion of married women between 15 and 45 is obtained by comparing the number of such women in the community at the period of observation with the number in a standard population. The method of obtaining the correcting factor for the disturbance due to the second element was explained in a previous paragraph.

The following table shows the crude legitimate birth rates in six census years, the corrections to be applied thereto for the reasons mentioned above, the amended birth rates, and the difference between these and the crude rates. The standard used in the computation of the correction factors was the Victorian population of 1871. Corrected birth rates per 1,000 of the population in the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 are as follows:—

CORRECTED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Year.	Enu-merated Population.	Legitimate Births.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 of Population (crude Rates).	Wives aged 15-45 per 1,000 of Population.	Correction Factor for variations in—		Cor-rected Birth Rate.	Difference between crude and corrected Rates.
					Proportion of Wives aged 15-45.	Age Distribu-tion of Wives aged 15-45.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1871	731,528	26,805	36.64	121.1	..	..	..	..
1881	862,346	25,675	29.77	98.4	1.2307	1.0016	36.69	6.92
1891	1,140,405	35,853	31.44	105.8	1.1446	0.9493	34.39	2.95
1901	1,201,341	29,279	24.37	106.4	1.1382	1.0426	28.77	4.40
1911	1,315,551	31,080	23.63	106.0	1.1425	1.0383	27.89	4.26
1921	1,531,280	33,879	22.12	116.1	1.0431	1.0261	23.68	1.56

An inspection of the crude rates in the fourth column of the above table shows that legitimate births per 1,000 of population apparently declined by 6·87 in 1881, 5·20 in 1891, 12·27 in 1901, 13·01 in 1911, and 14·52 in 1921, as compared with the first census date. After making allowance for the disturbing elements known to exist, the apparent decline of 6·87 in 1881 is altered to an increase of ·05 per 1,000, while the decline of 1891 is reduced from 5·20 to 2·25, that of 1901 from 12·27 to 7·87, that of 1911 from 13·01 to 8·75, and that of 1921 from 14·52 to 12·96 per 1,000 as compared with 1871. Between 1901 and 1921 there was a reduction of nearly 18 per cent. in the rate due to other than normal causes.

Chinese and half-caste Chinese births. During the past ten years the births to Chinese parents numbered 43, or 1 in every 7,619 legitimate births, and there were 257 Chinese half-caste births (fathers only Chinese), or 1 in every 1,275 legitimate births registered in the same period.

Ages of parents of legitimate children. The average ages of fathers and mothers of legitimate children whose births were recorded in 1923 were 33·55 and 29·80 years respectively, which were 4·35 and 3·89 years above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides for the same period. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :—

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS IN AGE GROUPS, 1923.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.	Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.
Under 20	...	·40	Under 20	...	2·87
20 to 25	...	9·93	20 to 25	...	20·75
25 to 30	...	25·38	25 to 30	...	30·88
30 to 35	...	27·15	30 to 35	...	25·00
35 to 40	...	19·15	35 to 40	...	14·79
40 to 45	...	10·34	40 to 45	...	5·18
45 to 50	...	4·86	45 and over	...	·53
50 and over	...	2·79			
Total	...	100·00	Total	...	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1923, 51·6 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 39·8 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 35·3 and 46·3 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 legitimate births, about 29 were due to mothers under 20 years, and 5 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 326 information relating to the ages of mothers of first-born children.

In previous editions of this work birth rates for the various municipalities and divisions of the State were based on the births occurring therein in relation to their respective populations.

This method made no allowance for prospective mothers travelling from rural districts to towns where better lying-in facilities and attention were available, or to the metropolis or for metropolitan residents, *enceinte*, travelling from one municipality to another. By reason of this the rates for the metropolis and urban districts were unduly inflated at the expense of the rural districts, and the recorded variations in the rates of the various municipalities were incorrect. Also, no provision was made for births which had occurred in the Women's and other public hospitals being credited to the districts in which the mothers resided. As about one-seventh of the metropolitan births occur in these institutions the rates for certain municipalities—particularly the poorer and more congested ones—were necessarily considerably understated.

In 1923, therefore, it was decided to allot all births registered in Victoria to the place of usual residence of the mother. Upon this being done for the year under review it was found that the total for the metropolis, i.e., the births registered therein, had decreased by approximately 1,200. This gives a fair indication of the extent by which the rates in districts outside the metropolitan area suffered under the discarded system of compilation.

The following table, computed on the above mentioned basis, shows the number of births per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the year 1923 :—

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN, AND
RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923.

Division.			Births per 1,000 of Population.
Metropolitan District	..	..	21·10
Country Towns	..	..	22·08
Rest of State	..	..	24·03
Total State	..	..	22·31

Birth rates in country towns.

The appended statement shows, for the year 1923, the populations of, and the number of births, and the births per 1,000 of the population in the eleven principal country towns:—

BIRTH RATES IN THE ELEVEN PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923.

Town.	Population at end of year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.	Town.	Population at end of year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.
Ballarat and Suburbs ..	39,960	785	19·64	Hamilton ..	5,110	139	27·20
Bendigo and Suburbs ..	33,490	653	19·50	Mildura ..	5,550	200	36·04
Geelong and Suburbs ..	37,100	829	22·35	Mordialloc ..	6,900	120	17·39
Carrum ..	6,000	133	22·17	Stawell ..	4,600	130	28·26
Castlemaine and Suburbs	7,170	147	20·50	Warrnambool	7,950	196	24·65
				Wonthaggi	5,600	188	33·57

Birth rates in metropolitan municipalities.

Similar information relating to metropolitan municipalities is given in the table which follows:—

METROPOLITAN BIRTH RATES, 1923.

District.	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population.
Melbourne City	101,930	2,011	19·73
Fitzroy City	34,820	805	23·12
Collingwood City	34,270	687	20·05
Richmond City	43,500	898	20·64
Brunswick City	46,580	1,130	24·26
Northcote City	32,950	823	24·98
Prahran City	50,930	954	18·73
South Melbourne City...	46,990	951	20·24
Port Melbourne City ...	13,140	305	23·21
St Kilda City	40,200	648	16·12
Brighton City	23,500	482	20·51
Essendon City	37,480	833	22·23
Hawthorn City	30,300	562	18·55
Kew City	18,660	378	20·26
Footscray City	38,240	1,022	26·73
Williamstown City	20,270	499	24·62
Oakleigh Borough	6,840	235	34·36
Caulfield City	49,180	1,050	21·35
Malvern City	39,320	625	15·89
Camberwell City	27,520	632	22·97
Preston Town	11,660	3·0	32·59
Coburg City	22,370	553	24·50
Sandringham City	14,000	221	15·79
Remainder of Metropolis	39,040	927	23·74
Hospitals and Shipping	10,930	...	...
Total	834,820	17,611	21·10

Twin and triplet births. The numbers of cases of twin and triplet births in Victoria in the past five years were as follows:—

CASES OF TWINS AND TRIPLETS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.
1919	382	5
1920	410	5
1921	408	3
1922	394	8
1923	412	4

On the average of the five years 1 mother in every 86 gave birth to twins, and 1 in every 6,941 was delivered of triplets. The proportions for the decennium ended 1917 were 1 in every 94 and 1 in every 9,538 respectively.

Children legitimized. In December, 1912, an Act was passed which provides that children born out of wedlock may be legitimized at any time after the marriage of the parents, on the application of the father, provided there was no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the birth. An amending Act passed in 1916 allowed legitimation to be effected on the application of the mother if the father were absent on war service or had died not more than two years previously. Up to the end of 1923 advantage was taken of these Acts, and of an Act (now repealed) passed in 1903, to legitimize 2,225 children, of whom 14 were registered in 1903, 19 in 1904, 34 in 1905, 43 in 1906, 58 in 1907, 60 in 1908, 51 in 1909, 71 in 1910, 126 in 1911, 106 in 1912, 157 in 1913, 149 in 1914, 141 in 1915, 140 in 1916, 136 in 1917, 162 in 1918, 159 in 1919, 165 in 1920, 168 in 1921, 133 in 1922, and 133 in 1923.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the States and New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1923, the numbers of legitimations in the various States and New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Western Australia, 18·2; New South Wales, 14·7; South Australia, 11·4; New Zealand, 24·6; Queensland, 17·3; Victoria, 8·4; and Tasmania, 13·7.

Illegitimate births in Victoria. The number of illegitimate births in Victoria during the year 1923 was 1,578, which represents a proportion of 4·37 to every 100 births registered, as against 4·41 in the previous year, 4·82 in 1921, 5·24 in 1920, 5·77 in 1919, 5·84 in 1918, 5·51 in 1917, 5·15 in 1916, 5·75 in 1915, and 5·77 in the period 1910-14.

Illegitimate births to unmarried women in Victoria.

The percentage of illegitimate to total births in Victoria varied from 5·36 in 1891 to 5·94 in 1911, and 4·82 in 1921. The proportion of infants born out of wedlock to the unmarried and widowed women between 15 and 45 years of age in Victoria is shown in the subjoined table for the census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921, when the conjugal condition of the population was known :—

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 SINGLE WOMEN.

Year.	Single Women aged 15 to 45.	Illegitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births per 1,000 Single Women.
1891	142,443	2,064	14·5
1901	167,760	1,729	10·3
1911	187,488	1,964	10·5
1921	189,737	1,714	9·0

The number of infants born out of wedlock per 1,000 unmarried and widowed women in Victoria was 9·0 in 1921. This was considerably lower than the latest available figures for most European countries. The proportions ranged from 23 in Germany, 26 in Sweden, 24 in Denmark, 14 in Italy, and 16 in France, to 12 in Belgium, 13 in Scotland, 7 in England and Wales, 5 in Holland, and 4 in Ireland.

Illegitimacy in town and country. A larger proportion of illegitimacy prevails in Melbourne and suburbs than in the other urban and the rural districts of Victoria, the proportion in the country districts being the smallest of all. During the year 1923, in the metropolitan area 1 birth in every 18, in other urban districts 1 in 23, and in the rural districts only 1 in 34 were registered as illegitimate. One striking result attending the introduction of the system of allotting all births to the mother's place of usual residence has been the altered ratios of illegitimacy in town and country—both the metropolitan and the other urban areas having lower ratios than on the basis previously adopted. For 1922 the proportions of illegitimate to total births, based on the births which actually occurred in the various municipalities, were 1 in 15, 1 in 38, and 1 in 58 respectively.

DEATHS.

The following return shows the number of deaths—male and female—also the quarters in which they were registered and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1899 :—

DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1900 TO 1923.

Period.	Annual Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1900-4 ..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-9 ..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910 ..	14,736	8,132	6,604	3,820	3,693	3,661	3,562	11·34
1911 ..	15,217	8,356	6,861	3,519	3,774	4,132	3,792	11·52
1912 ..	16,595	9,077	7,518	4,000	4,199	4,498	3,898	12·22
1913 ..	15,475	8,496	6,979	4,075	3,678	4,137	3,585	11·09
1914 ..	16,503	9,017	7,486	3,953	4,030	4,257	4,263	11·56
1915 ..	15,823	8,860	6,963	3,524	3,788	4,380	4,131	11·05
1916 ..	16,489	8,901	7,588	4,111	4,140	4,509	3,729	11·66
1917 ..	14,555	7,952	6,603	3,430	3,585	3,831	3,709	10·31
1918 ..	15,177	8,079	7,098	3,537	3,563	4,144	3,933	10·66
1919 ..	19,370	10,508	8,862	4,303	5,784	5,469	3,814	13·15
1920 ..	16,832	9,060	7,772	3,998	4,351	4,433	4,050	11·13
1921 ..	16,165	8,662	7,503	4,017	4,031	4,412	3,705	10·51
1922 ..	15,156	8,187	6,969	3,610	3,867	4,084	3,595	9·65
1923 ..	17,219	9,135	8,084	3,766	4,593	4,760	4,100	10·71
Average 1919-23	16,948	9,110	7,838	3,939	4,525	4,631	3,853	11·03

The number of deaths in 1923 was 17,219, which was 679 above the average of the preceding five years. In one of those years—1919—the death rate was abnormally high owing to the existence of an epidemic of influenza.

The deaths in Australia in 1923 numbered 56,236 as against 51,312 in the preceding year, 54,076 in 1921, 56,289 in 1920, 65,930 in 1919, 50,249 in 1918, 48,029 in 1917, 54,197 in 1916, 52,782 in 1915, and 51,720 in 1914. Of the total deaths in the year under review 17,219 occurred in Victoria, 21,048 in New South Wales, 7,893 in Queensland, 4,961 in South Australia, 2,930 in Western Australia, 2,137 in Tasmania, 38 in the Northern Territory, and 10 in the Federal Capital Territory. The death rates per 1,000 of the population for each of the Australian States and New Zealand are shown in the following statement for

Death rates
in Australian
States and
New Zealand.

the periods 1902-6 and 1907-11, and for each of the last twelve years :--

DEATH RATES IN THE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1902-6	12.55	10.84	10.92	10.67	12.17	11.04	11.44	9.81
1907-11	11.64	10.20	10.12	9.89	10.47	10.83	10.64	9.77
1912 ..	12.22	10.86	10.96	10.28	11.06	10.73	11.23	8.87
1913 ..	11.09	10.89	10.39	10.82	9.34	10.87	10.78	9.47
1914 ..	11.56	10.11	9.97	10.71	9.41	9.67	10.51	9.31
1915 ..	11.05	10.48	11.00	10.68	9.28	10.11	10.66	9.06
1916 ..	11.66	10.63	11.09	11.73	9.80	10.38	11.04	9.64
1917 ..	10.31	9.56	9.73	10.10	8.97	8.89	9.80	9.58
1918 ..	10.66	9.84	10.39	9.97	9.11	8.84	10.09	14.84
1919 ..	13.15	13.46	12.42	12.01	11.10	10.37	12.82	9.51
1920 ..	11.13	10.32	10.82	10.76	10.14	9.35	10.62	10.27
1921 ..	10.51	9.51	9.34	10.02	10.44	10.30	9.91	8.73
1922 ..	9.65	8.92	9.14	9.10	9.33	9.29	9.21	8.77
1923 ..	10.71	9.61	9.83	9.59	8.41	9.92	9.89	9.03

The rate in Victoria, taking the average of the last five years, was higher than in any other State, but this result was chiefly due to its containing a larger proportion of elderly persons, amongst whom the mortality rate is very high. The comparatively high rate in Australia in 1919 and the abnormal rate in New Zealand in the previous year were due to a heavy mortality from influenza.

Age distribution and crude death rates. Comparisons of the crude death rates of a country for different periods, or of different countries for the same period, are frequently misleading, as they do not allow for variations in the age distributions of the population. In European countries, the proportion of elderly people, among whom the death rate is heavy, is higher than in the Commonwealth or any of the Australian States, and it is greater in South Australia, and lower in Western Australia, than in any of the other States. The proportions living in various age groups at the census of 1921 in each division of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and those in 1890 in Sweden—a

country which fairly represents European conditions—are shown in the following table:—

PROPORTIONS LIVING IN FIVE AGE GROUPS IN AUSTRALIAN STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND SWEDEN.

Country.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population living in the Age Group—					Total.
	Under 1 Year.	1 to 20.	20 to 40.	40 to 60.	60 and over.	
Victoria	227	3,603	3,198	2,133	839	10,000
New South Wales	253	3,812	3,276	1,927	732	10,000
Queensland	268	3,926	3,270	1,846	690	10,000
South Australia	236	3,748	3,247	1,922	847	10,000
Western Australia	232	3,887	2,949	2,310	622	10,000
Tasmania	263	4,101	2,988	1,840	808	10,000
Australia	246	3,779	3,219	1,993	763	10,000
New Zealand	224	3,795	3,146	2,084	751	10,000
Sweden	255	3,980	2,696	1,923	1,146	10,000

The figures show that the characteristic features of Australian populations, as compared with those of European countries, are a large preponderance of persons in the age group 20-40, and a relatively small number aged 60 and over. Among the Australian States, South Australia and Western Australia have, as mentioned previously, the highest and lowest proportions respectively of persons aged 60 years and upwards—a point which should be kept in view when comparing their crude death rates.

The differences shown in the preceding table in the age constitutions of the populations of the six States have been taken into account in computing their respective indexes of mortality. The results for each are based upon an age distribution corresponding to that of Sweden in 1890, which has been adopted by statisticians as a standard for this purpose. Mortality indexes for each State for the undermentioned years, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows:—

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN STATES.

Year.	Index of Mortality.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Commonwealth.
1919	15·51	16·48	15·97	14·59	15·50	13·29	15·75
1920	13·72	13·32	14·36	13·49	15·63	12·28	13·65
1921	12·85	12·27	12·30	12·47	15·60	13·16	12·66
1922	11·20	10·91	11·38	10·62	11·80	10·88	11·10
1923	12·44	11·79	12·35	11·24	10·74	11·80	11·95

In four of the last five years the crude death rate was higher in Victoria than in any other Australian State, but the figures in the

above table show that, in each of the years under review, with the exception of 1923, two States had a higher index of mortality than Victoria.

A reliable estimate of the improvement in the health of the community is obtained by comparing the death rates for groups of ages at different periods. Such rates for Victoria are given in the subjoined table for the decennial periods 1891-1900, 1902-11, and 1912-21 :—

DEATH RATES IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS IN VICTORIA.

Age Group.	Deaths per 1,000 at each Age.		
	1891-1900.	1902-11.	1912-21.
<i>Males.</i>			
Under 5	39.29	26.73	23.85
5 to 10	3.36	2.16	2.42
10 to 15	2.20	1.87	1.75
15 to 20	3.28	2.72	2.37
20 to 25	4.79	3.51	3.57
25 to 35	6.60	4.75	4.71
35 to 45	9.03	7.81	7.14
45 to 55	15.32	13.48	13.10
55 to 65	32.90	25.38	25.05
65 to 75	62.99	59.04	53.18
75 and upwards	145.05	157.26	157.97
All ages	15.47	13.30	12.57
<i>Females.</i>			
Under 5	34.09	22.35	19.26
5 to 10	3.12	2.03	2.24
10 to 15	2.06	1.78	1.56
15 to 20	3.43	2.80	2.27
20 to 25	4.81	3.59	3.56
25 to 35	6.89	5.01	4.58
35 to 45	8.68	7.16	6.01
45 to 55	12.12	9.96	9.44
55 to 65	23.64	18.80	17.46
65 to 75	45.87	46.71	42.01
75 and upwards	124.33	131.77	136.61
All ages	12.36	10.66	10.35

The figures show that at all ages, excepting between 5 and 10, and 20 and 25, and 75 and over for males, and between 5 and 10, and 75 and over for females, much lower death rates were experienced during the decennium 1912-21 than in the preceding one. Compared with 1902-11, the mortality rate for the period 1912-21 for the two sexes combined was lower by 10 per cent. for the age group 0-10, by 9 per cent. at ages 10-15, by 16 per cent. at 15-20, by 5 per cent. at 25-35, by 12 per cent. at 35-45, and by 4 per cent. at 45-55 and 55-65. The rates, up to age 65 and probably to age 75, are comparable, and the marked decrease at successive periods shows that there had been a general improvement in hygienic conditions.

In years prior to 1923 it was the custom, when computing local death rates, to treat the deaths in two main divisions—those occurring in public institutions and those occurring elsewhere. The latter were credited to the district in which they were registered. Of the institutional deaths those occurring in hospitals were allotted to the usual residence; the remainder, together with any deaths of persons unknown or whose residence was not stated, were allotted to the various divisions of the State according to the population of each.

For purposes of greater accuracy, and following the lead of England and other countries, the allotment to usual residence has, for 1923, been extended to cover all deaths, only those institutional deaths where the usual residence is unknown being allotted to the various divisions of the State as before mentioned.

The deaths in Victoria of residents of metropolitan municipalities and their proportions to the populations of these municipalities are shown in the following table for the year 1923 :—

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923.

Municipality.	Mean Population for Year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.
Melbourne City	101,930	1,418	13·91
Fitzroy City	34,820	539	15·48
Collingwood City	34,270	457	13·34
Richmond City	43,500	561	12·90
Brunswick City	46,580	534	11·46
Northcote City	32,950	309	9·38
Prahran City	50,930	620	12·17
South Melbourne City	46,990	585	12·45
Port Melbourne City	13,140	158	12·02
St. Kilda City	40,200	446	11·09
Brighton City	23,500	249	10·60
Essendon City	37,480	401	10·70
Hawthorn City	30,300	359	11·85
Kew City	18,660	159	8·52
Footscray City	38,240	385	10·07
Williamstown City	20,270	240	11·84
Oakleigh Borough	6,840	87	12·72
Caulfield City	49,180	402	8·17
Malvern City	39,320	358	9·10
Camberwell City	27,520	264	9·59
Preston Town	11,660	137	11·75
Coburg City	22,570	227	10·06
Sandringham City	14,000	111	7·93
Remainder of Metropolis	39,040	408	10·45
Hospitals and Shipping	10,930	..	..
Whole Metropolis	834,820	9,414	11·28
Remainder of State	772,953	7,805	10·10

The outstanding features of the above figures are the high death rates prevailing in some of the old centres of population, of which Melbourne City, Fitzroy, Collingwood, Richmond, Prahran, South Melbourne, and Port Melbourne are examples, and the low rates in comparatively recently settled areas, such as Sandringham, Coburg, Northcote, Malvern, Caulfield, Camberwell, and Kew. The deaths for 1923 were 13·32 per 1,000 in the former as against 8·96 in the latter group. Slight differences in the age distribution of the populations of these two divisions may exist, but they can account for only a small portion of the great disparity in their mortality rates. It would appear that the standard of health, as indicated by death rates, is much better in the outlying and less densely populated suburbs than in the central and more congested areas of the metropolis.

**Metropolitan
and country
death rates
compared.**

The ages of the people, as disclosed at the census of 1921, enable a comparison to be made between the death rates prevailing at that time in Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State. On the average of the years 1920-22, the deaths of metropolitan residents were in the ratio of 11·50 per 1,000 of population, as against a ratio of 9·42 for residents of the rest of the State. The apparent difference in favour of the country is 2·08, but a computation shows that, when allowances are made for the unequal age and sex distribution of the people in these areas, the actual difference is greater—the deaths per 1,000 of population being fewer by 2·70 among country than among metropolitan residents.

**Decrease in
Metropolitan
death rate.**

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1914-23, there were 12·21 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of 26,342 lives in the past ten years. Many factors have contributed to this result, but it is probable that the introduction of the sewerage system, the notification of contagious diseases, the improvement in the conditions of labour, the increasing supervision of the manufacture and sale of articles of consumption, the greater proportion of females in the community, and the advance of medical science, have been the main causes of the decline. That the sanitary conditions of the metropolis have greatly improved is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and

certain other diseases for the period 1914-23 with those for the decennium 1892-1901. The following are the rates :—

Cause of Death.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1914-23.	Decrease in 1914-23.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1·654	0·788	0·866
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0·446	0·176	0·270
Typhoid Fever ...	0·293	0·027	0·266
Scarlet Fever ...	0·033	0·020	0·013
Measles ...	0·215	0·047	0·168
Diphtheria ...	0·196	0·144	0·052
Total ...	2·837	1·202	1·635

The figures show that the lower death rates from the six above-mentioned diseases in 1914-23 accounted for 46 per cent. of the total decline. It is impossible to state which municipalities have contributed most to this result, as their mortality rates from the diseases referred to are not available for the earlier period. A comparison, however, of the general death rates in each, for the periods under review, shows that all divisions of the metropolis have, in varying degrees, shared in the improvement.

**Death rates
in country
towns.**

The following table contains a statement of the death rates in the chief country towns of Victoria. The method employed in computing these—of which particulars are given on page 144—has been to allot the deaths to the usual place of residence. The urban districts of the State have been re-cast, and now embrace only the eleven principal country towns. The population, number of deaths, and deaths per 1,000 of population for each of these towns in the year 1923 were as follows :—

DEATHS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS IN COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923.

Town.	Population at end of Year.	Number of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.
Ballarat and Suburbs	39,960	552	13·81
Bendigo and Suburbs	33,490	474	14·15
Geelong and Suburbs	37,100	394	10·62
Carrum	6,000	71	11·83
Castlemaine and Suburbs	7,170	69	9·62
Hamilton	5,110	73	14·29
Mildura	5,550	70	12·61
Mordialloc	6,900	68	9·86
Stawell	4,600	61	13·26
Warrnambool	7,950	96	12·08
Wonthaggi	5,600	58	10·36

Residents of different areas dying in hospitals.

An examination of the particulars of residence of persons who have died in the public hospitals of Victoria during recent years reveals interesting and definite information regarding the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in different divisions of the State. For the metropolitan municipalities, the eleven principal country towns, and the remainder of the State, the percentages of the total deaths of residents thereof which occurred in public hospitals during the year 1923 were as follows:—

PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN HOSPITALS, 1923.

Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1923.	Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents, occurring in Hospitals, 1923.
Melbourne City	45·2	Preston Town	30·5
Fitzroy City	44·4	Coburg City	23·9
Collingwood City	36·1	Sandringham City	18·0
Richmond City	36·7	Remainder of Metropolis	23·7
Brunswick City	35·2	Ballarat	18·8
Northcote City	27·3	Bendigo	19·8
Prahran City	26·6	Geelong	20·8
South Melbourne City	34·3	Carrum	29·9
Port Melbourne City	37·2	Castlemaine	34·4
St. Kilda City	22·9	Hamilton	25·7
Brighton City	18·7	Mildura	47·8
Essendon City	18·9	Mordialloc	30·2
Hawthorn City	18·2	Stawell	17·2
Kew City	22·2	Warrnambool	22·0
Footscray City	30·5	Wonthaggi	43·6
Williamstown City	19·2	Summary—	
Oakleigh Borough	22·0	Greater Melbourne	28·0
Caulfield City	15·5	Eleven Country Towns	20·3
Malvern City	15·7	Remainder of State	21·4
Camberwell City	14·0	Whole State	24·9

Of the total deaths in the State 24·9 per cent. occurred in public hospitals in 1923, as against 23·3 in the previous year and 20·9 in 1910-15. The disparities in the proportions for different areas are very significant. Of the total cases of fatal illness which occurred amongst residents of the metropolitan districts mentioned in 1923, the percentage treated in public hospitals varied from 45·2 for Melbourne City, 44·4 for Fitzroy, 37·2 for Port Melbourne, and 36·1 for Collingwood, to 18·0 for Sandringham, 15·7 for Malvern, 15·5 for Caulfield, and 14·0 for Camberwell. For the whole metropolitan area the percentage was 28·0 as compared with 21·1 for the rest of the State. Taking the proportions for fatal cases as an index of all cases dealt with, it would appear that, relatively to population, the assistance rendered by public hospitals to the residents of Greater Melbourne exceeds by about 33 per cent. that given to people residing elsewhere.

Deaths in public institutions in Greater Melbourne.

In 1923 the deaths in public institutions were 31·1 per cent. of the total in the State. The number of deaths in each public institution in the metropolis in 1923 is given in the subjoined table :—

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1923.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
Hospitals—		Other Public Institutions—	
Melbourne	1,051	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	95
Alfred	377	Benevolent Asylum	181
St. Vincent's	199	Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor	72
Homœopathic	88	Old Colonists' Homes	6
Austin	234	Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	27
Children's	541	Macleod Military Sanatorium	2
Women's	173	Dépôt for Neglected Children	17
Infectious Diseases	100	Kew Lunatic Asylum	137
Queen Victoria	58	Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum	40
Eye and Ear	7	Mont Park Asylum	22
Williamstown	30	Receiving House — Mental Hospital	27
Caulfield Repatriation Hospital	41	The Haven	21
Police	1	Foundling Hospital, East Melbourne ... ..	...
Heatherton Sanatorium	88	Carlton Refuge	9
		Macleod Military Mental Asylum	6
		Anzac Hostel, Brighton	5
Total Hospitals	2,988	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	3,655

Residents of Greater Melbourne who died in public hospitals in Victoria during 1923 numbered 2,635.

Infantile mortality. The mortality of children under one year in proportion to births has been considerably less in recent than in earlier periods, but the necessity for reducing the risks to infant health and life, particularly amongst illegitimate children, is still apparent. The deaths of infants in 1923 numbered 2,358, and, as there were 35,876 births, it follows that of every 100 infants born approximately 6·57 died within twelve months. The rates for Melbourne and suburbs, the extra metropolitan area, and the whole

State, for different periods since 1880, are shown in the following table :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES, 1881 to 1923.

Period.	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births in—		
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Remainder of the State.	Whole State.
1881-1890	17·14	9·50	12·68
1891-1900	13·36	9·60	11·11
1901-1905	11·26	8·45	9·58
1906-1910	9·47	6·95	8·00
1911	7·82	6·12	6·87
1912	9·02	6·05	7·45
1913	7·63	6·51	7·05
1914	8·45	7·24	7·83
1915	7·99	5·77	6·88
1916	8·56	6·29	7·46
1917	6·55	4·72	5·67
1918	7·09	5·16	6·17
1919	7·87	5·65	6·80
1920	8·41	6·21	7·38
1921	7·40	7·11	7·27
1922	5·86	4·77	5·33
1923	7·34	5·84	6·57

On the average of the past five years the infantile death rate for the metropolis was 7·38 per 100 births, which was 29 per cent. below that for the decennium ended 1910, and 45 per cent. below the rate for the decennium 1891-1900.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 100 births in Greater Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and the rest of the State in 1923 were as follows :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF THE STATE, 1923.

Division.	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.
Melbourne and Suburbs	7·34
Ballarat and Suburbs	8·54
Bendigo and Suburbs	10·57
Geelong and Suburbs	10·01
Rest of the State	5·29
Victoria	6·57

The prejudicial effect of city surroundings on infant life is evidenced by the mortality being heavier in urban than in country districts. During 1923 the deaths of children under 1 year of age to every 1,000 births were 73 in Melbourne, 106 in Bendigo, 85 in Ballarat, and 100 in Geelong, as against 53 in the rest of the State.

In computing birth and death rates for 1923 the system has been introduced of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the case of births the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. The following table—compiled on this basis—shows for each metropolitan municipality the number of births, the deaths of infants under 1 year, and the number of such deaths per 100 births in the year 1923 :—

Infantile death rates in metropolitan districts.

INFANTILE DEATH RATES FOR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923.

Municipality.	Births.	Deaths under One Year.		Municipality.	Births.	Deaths under One Year.	
		No.	Rate per 100 Births.			No.	Rate per 100 Births.
Melbourne City ..	2,011	237	11·79	Footscray City ..	1,022	68	6·65
Fitzroy City ..	805	84	10·43	Williamstown City	499	32	6·41
Collingwood City	687	64	9·32	Oakleigh Borough	235	10	4·26
Richmond City ..	898	73	8·13	Caulfield City ..	1,050	56	5·33
Brunswick City ..	1,130	85	7·52	Malvern City ..	625	31	4·96
Northcote City ..	823	49	5·95	Camberwell City	632	25	3·96
Prahran City ..	954	68	7·13	Preston Town ..	380	24	6·32
South Melb. City	951	95	9·99	Coburg City ..	553	42	7·59
Port Melb. City	305	25	8·20	Sandringham City	221	16	7·24
St. Kilda City ..	648	31	4·78	Remainder of			
Brighton City ..	482	22	4·56	Metropolis ..	927	51	5·50
Essendon City ..	833	59	7·08				
Hawthorn City ..	562	32	5·69	Total Metro-			
Kew City ..	378	13	3·44	politan ..	17,611	1,292	7·34

It is noticeable that the centres having the lowest infantile death rates are residential areas which are not so thickly populated as nearly all of the other metropolitan districts.

Deaths of infants at different ages.

Of the deaths of infants under 1 year in 1923, 51 per cent. occurred in the first month and 65 per cent. in the first three months of life. The annual deaths at ages under 1 month, from 1 to 3 months, from 3 to 6 months, and from 6 to 12 months, during the five years ended with 1922, and the numbers for the year 1923, are given in the following table, together with the percentage of deaths at each of those age-periods and the proportion of deaths to each 100 births :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1918-22 AND 1923.

Age.	Average Annual Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age.					
	Five Years—1918-22.			Year 1923.		
	Number.	Percentage at each Age.	Number per 100 Births.	Number.	Percentage at each Age.	Number per 100 Births.
<i>Boys.</i>						
Under 1 month	660	51.1	3.75	676	51.6	3.64
1 to 3 months	205	15.9	1.16	193	14.7	1.04
3 to 6 "	191	14.8	1.08	187	14.3	1.01
6 to 12 "	236	18.2	1.34	255	19.4	1.37
Total ..	1,292	100.0	7.33	1,311	100.0	7.06
<i>Girls.</i>						
Under 1 month	492	50.9	2.95	535	51.1	3.09
1 to 3 months	149	15.4	.90	134	12.8	.78
3 to 6 "	140	14.5	.84	149	14.2	.86
6 to 12 "	186	19.2	1.12	229	21.9	1.32
Total ..	967	100.0	5.81	1,047	100.0	6.05

Probable mortality of infants.

The experience of the years 1918-23 shows that, of every 20,000 newly-born boys and girls in equal numbers, 729 boys and 585 girls died within twelve months, and 9,271 of the former and 9,415 of the latter, or 18,686 of mixed sexes, were living at the end of the year. The corresponding numbers surviving the first year in earlier periods were 17,765 in the ten years

1891-1900 and 17,468 in 1881-1890. It is thus seen that, of every 20,000 births comprising equal numbers of each sex, there were 921 more survivors in 1917-22 than in 1891-1900, and 1,218 more than in 1881-1890.

An investigation of infantile mortalities would be incomplete if the diseases which have proved fatal in different years were not ascertained, and their incidence in each period compared. Information of this nature reveals the causes of high death rates, and, when a fairly early period is selected for comparison with recent years, it shows in what direction improvements have taken place. The chief preventable and non-preventable causes of death, grouped under certain headings, are shown in the subjoined table for the periods 1891-3, 1901-10, and 1911-20, and for the year 1923 :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1891-3, 1901-10, 1911-20, AND 1923.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births in—			
	1891-3.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1923.
Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms ...	29·66	24·62	16·13	14·36
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, &c.) ...	22·24	12·74	13·09	8·67
Prematurity ...	13·13	14·99	15·17	17·98
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ...	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·77
Convulsions ...	6·83	3·10	1·63	1·48
Congenital Defects and Malformations ...	3·45	4·86	4·38	3·76
Violence ...	3·16	2·47	1·07	0·81
Whooping Cough ...	2·60	2·52	1·82	0·33
Other causes ...	24·49	14·46	9·40	11·57
Total, all causes ...	116·93	87·89	69·55	65·73

Of every 1,000 infants born 23 died from diarrhœal and wasting diseases in 1923, as against 29 in 1911-20, 37 in 1901-10, and 52 in 1891-3—a decrease of 56 per cent. since the last mentioned period. In 1923 acute bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia were responsible for 6·77 deaths per 1,000 births, as compared with 11·37 in 1891-3—a decline of 40 per cent. between the two periods. Certain causes, which may be regarded as of a non-preventable nature, such as prematurity, congenital defects, and malformations, were responsible for 29 per cent. of the total infantile mortality during the past thirteen years.

Of the deaths from preventable causes 1 in every 3 is due to diarrhoeal diseases, which are responsible for high death rates in December, January, February, March, and April. On the average of the last ten years, of every 1,000 children born 15 died from diarrhoeal complaints within a year, a proportion which shows the necessity for further preventive measures in relation to these diseases.

The tables which follow show the number of deaths and the death rate of infants under one month for Melbourne and Suburbs and the whole State for the years 1919 to 1923, also the principal causes of death.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Melbourne and Suburbs.		Victoria.	
	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per 100 Births.	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per 100 Births.
1919 ..	652	3·99	1,163	3·68
1920 ..	733	3·80	1,270	3·51
1921 ..	678	3·67	1,237	3·48
1922 ..	586	3·10	1,065	2·93
1923 ..	636	3·61	1,211	3·38

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1919 TO 1923.

Cause of Death.	Melbourne and Suburbs.					Victoria.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Diarrhoeal Diseases (all forms)	17	7	11	11	11	32	18	26	22	26
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, etc.)	103	120	78	81	87	203	228	182	188	166
Prematurity	308	361	322	277	326	537	583	548	485	594
Bronchitis, Broncho - Pneumonia and Pneumonia	16	18	23	13	33	29	33	37	19	55
Convulsions	13	11	16	31	6	22	24	37	54	27
Congenital Defects and Malformations	48	65	73	45	50	97	128	123	72	93
Violence	11	16	12	9	9	15	21	18	12	16
Syphilis	4	8	2	2	1	4	8	4	2	3
Other Causes	132	127	141	117	113	224	227	262	211	226

Legitimate and illegitimate infantile death rates. On the average of the past ten years, 166 in every 1,000 illegitimate infants died within a year, as against 62 in every 1,000 legitimate children. It is thus seen that the proportion of illegitimate children dying before the age of 1 year is nearly three times that of legitimate children. In the year 1923 the mortality rate of legitimate infants was 6·13 per 100 births. The children born out of wedlock during the same year numbered 1,578, and the deaths of illegitimate infants were 254, the death rate being thus 16·10 per 100 births. With the view of ascertaining the chief reasons for the marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes the following table has been constructed, showing the deaths from certain causes, per 1,000 legitimate and illegitimate births, for the periods 1904-8 and 1914-22 and the year 1923 :—

DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births.					
	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.		
	1904-8.	1914-22.	1923.	1904-8.	1914-22.	1923.
Diarrhoeal Diseases	19·8	13·5	13·1	72·6	47·8	41·2
Prematurity, Congenital Defects, Marasmus, &c.	30·3	30·6	28·8	52·1	68·9	64·7
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	6·9	6·1	6·2	18·6	13·9	19·0
Other causes	18·3	13·0	13·2	58·7	39·3	36·1
Total, all causes	75·3	63·2	61·3	202·0	169·9	161·0

The rates for 1923 show that of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock 41·2 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year as compared with 13·1 deaths per 1,000 legitimate infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected among them than among legitimate infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of illegitimate infants.

Infantile deaths in each month from certain causes.

The influence of temperature on infantile mortality from the chief digestive and respiratory diseases is specially noticeable, whilst on deaths from other causes, particularly those of a developmental character, very little influence is apparent. The infantile deaths in Melbourne and suburbs from the two former classes of complaint in each month during the past five years are shown in the appended table :—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN EACH MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1919-23.

Month.	Infantile Deaths in Greater Melbourne in 1919-23 from—					
	Diarrhoeal Diseases.			Respiratory Diseases.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	168	129	297	22	19	41
February	117	93	210	22	13	35
March	92	85	177	15	16	31
April	76	65	141	15	18	33
May	65	69	134	32	17	49
June	32	20	52	34	32	66
July	21	13	34	58	38	96
August	16	15	31	54	40	94
September	16	6	22	51	41	92
October	16	9	25	30	23	53
November	43	22	65	28	21	49
December	101	83	184	22	24	46
Total, 1919-23 ..	763	609	1,372	383	302	685

The experience of the last five years shows that of the total infantile deaths in the metropolis from diarrhoeal diseases 74 per cent. occur during the five months December to April, and of the deaths from respiratory diseases 51 per cent. occur in the four months June to September.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age in the Commonwealth numbered 8,187 in 1923, as compared with 7,251 in the previous year, 8,952 in 1921, 9,431 in 1920, 8,464 in 1919, 7,364 in 1918, 7,302 in 1917, and 9,282 in 1916. The next table gives the proportion of such deaths to the total births in each

Infantile mortality in Australasia.

Australian State and New Zealand for each of the last twelve years, and for earlier periods back to 1891 :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALASIA.

Period.	Deaths under 1 year per 100 Births.						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
1891-1900 ..	11·11	11·22	10·34	10·54	14·48	9·58	8·38
1902-6 ..	9·38	9·27	8·93	8·21	12·21	9·02	7·29
1907-11 ..	7·51	7·66	6·98	6·56	8·29	7·97	6·85
1912 ..	7·45	7·13	7·16	6·16	8·21	6·66	5·12
1913 ..	7·05	7·83	6·33	7·01	7·00	7·01	5·92
1914 ..	7·83	6·97	6·39	7·60	6·82	7·16	5·14
1915 ..	6·88	6·81	6·40	6·73	6·66	7·22	5·01
1916 ..	7·46	6·78	7·04	7·36	6·63	7·50	5·07
1917 ..	5·67	5·75	5·42	5·37	5·71	5·23	4·82
1918 ..	6·17	5·90	5·69	5·12	5·73	6·08	4·84
1919 ..	6·80	7·23	7·24	6·40	6·13	6·46	4·53
1920 ..	7·38	6·94	6·32	6·73	6·60	6·55	5·06
1921 ..	7·27	6·26	5·42	6·55	7·83	7·80	4·78
1922 ..	5·33	5·36	5·04	4·75	5·56	5·57	4·19
1923 ..	6·57	6·07	5·39	6·03	5·60	5·74	4·38

The infantile deaths per 100 births in the Australasian capitals in 1923 were as follows :—Melbourne 7·34, Sydney 6·38, Brisbane 5·95, Adelaide 6·67, Perth 6·17, Hobart 7·50, and Wellington 4·69.

In 1923 the deaths of male children under 5 years of age numbered 1,696, and the deaths of female children under that age, 1,342—the former being in the proportion of 18·57 per cent., and the latter of 16·60 per cent., to the total number

Deaths of children under 5.

of deaths of the respective sexes at all ages. The subjoined table gives the annual number of such deaths in the State at each year of age, and the proportion of the deaths under five years of age to the deaths at all ages in decennial periods from 1871 to 1920, and in the years 1921 to 1923 :—

MORTALITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS.

Period.	Year of Age at Death.					Total under 5 Years.	
	0.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Number.	Proportion Per 100 Deaths at all Ages.
<i>Males.</i>							
1871-1880..	1,783	508	206	148	119	2,764	39·41
1881-1890..	2,158	464	161	114	92	2,989	34·28
1891-1900..	2,050	432	143	93	76	2,794	30·05
1901-1910..	1,504	249	83	59	41	1,936	22·93
1911-1920..	1,363	233	92	64	48	1,800	20·38
1921 ..	1,479	213	86	50	45	1,873	21·62
1922 ..	1,130	170	65	47	34	1,446	17·66
1923 ..	1,311	213	86	43	43	1,696	18·57
<i>Females.</i>							
1871-1880..	1,482	482	198	139	106	2,407	46·06
1881-1890..	1,805	423	151	105	84	2,568	39·61
1891-1900..	1,702	385	129	82	68	2,366	33·61
1901-1910..	1,192	217	81	51	40	1,581	23·58
1911-1920..	1,029	190	74	59	49	1,401	19·00
1921 ..	1,107	183	73	36	57	1,456	19·41
1922 ..	805	123	61	34	27	1,050	15·07
1923 ..	1,047	159	71	33	32	1,342	16·60

The number of persons of advanced ages was greater in the later than in the earlier years mentioned in the above table, and, as the mortality is very heavy at the older ages, this accounts to some extent for the gradual decrease in the proportion of deaths under the age of 5 years. After making allowance for this there is still a marked reduction in the mortality under 5 years of age in recent years as compared with that in periods prior to 1901.

The ages of males and females who died in 1923 and in the two preceding years are shown in the following table:—

AGES AT DEATH IN VICTORIA, 1921 TO 1923.

Ages.	1921.			1922.			1923.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 ..	1,479	1,107	2,586	1,130	805	1,935	1,311	1,047	2,358
1 to 2	213	183	396	170	123	293	213	159	372
2 " 3	86	73	159	65	61	126	86	71	157
3 " 4	50	36	86	47	34	81	43	33	76
4 " 5	45	57	102	34	27	61	43	32	75
5 " 10	174	152	326	146	93	239	158	103	261
10 " 15	125	82	207	113	69	182	108	108	216
15 " 20	130	151	281	130	117	247	168	151	319
20 " 25	201	219	420	176	180	356	184	195	379
25 " 30	228	260	488	224	211	435	215	249	464
30 " 35	227	274	501	216	257	473	245	279	524
35 " 40	302	284	586	252	262	514	289	295	584
40 " 45	315	283	598	301	273	574	364	279	643
45 " 50	404	298	702	374	291	665	389	348	737
50 " 55	498	398	896	492	359	851	548	417	965
55 " 60	644	446	1,090	644	469	1,113	712	500	1,212
60 " 65	777	549	1,326	805	523	1,328	894	638	1,532
65 " 70	650	496	1,146	744	545	1,289	843	677	1,520
70 " 75	588	531	1,119	590	524	1,114	662	590	1,252
75 " 80	568	579	1,147	575	573	1,148	623	682	1,305
80 " 85	471	522	993	459	566	1,025	502	571	1,073
85 " 90	350	358	708	345	404	749	357	434	791
90 " 95	114	132	246	122	151	273	146	168	314
95 ..	7	9	16	10	19	29	12	21	33
96 ..	7	7	14	9	10	19	5	16	21
97 ..	2	9	11	5	8	13	5	9	14
98 ..	4	3	7	..	9	9	4	6	10
99 ..	1	4	5	1	2	3	1	2	3
100 ..	1	..	1	3	1	4	2	2	4
101 ..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	3
102 ..	..	..	..	4	2	6	2	1	3
103 ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
105 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
109 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	8,662	7,503	16,165	8,187	6,969	15,156	9,135	8,084	17,219

Of the 48,540 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 6,403 were aged 80 years and upwards, and 24—fifteen males and nine females—had attained or passed the age of 100 years.

The highest age at death recorded in the period 1921-23 was 109 years, which was attained by one man. To every 100 female deaths there were 113 male deaths in 1923, as against 117 in the previous year, 115 in 1921, and 117 in 1920.

The death rates from the chief diseases are shown in the appended table for the period 1908-12 and for the last five years :—

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Typhoid Fever	98	21	37	46	20	34
Scarlet Fever	16	24	24	12	8	11
Measles	33	17	146	4	1	48
Whooping Cough	77	24	125	63	26	12
Diphtheria and Croup	122	144	183	179	88	58
Influenza	109	2,407	52	88	46	248
Elydatids	22	18	13	14	13	10
Cancer	833	870	908	954	997	1,013
Phthisis	855	739	658	667	565	620
Other Tubercular Diseases	182	126	145	137	120	123
Syphilis	51	40	46	36	22	26
Diabetes	107	134	126	136	110	98
Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucæmia	81	93	90	104	85	118
Simple Meningitis	133	42	54	64	68	67
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	10	10	11	8	8
Infantile Paralysis .. .. .	..	2	3	3	2	1
Locomotor Ataxia and other diseases of Spinal Cord	71	78	45	52	38	49
Congestion and Hæmorrhage of the Brain	449	438	472	472	433	471
Epilepsy	35	38	31	34	27	39
Convulsions	76	55	45	47	59	45
Heart Disease (including Endocarditis, Pericarditis, and Angina Pectoris)	1,441	1,402	1,287	1,267	1,245	1,423
Acute and Chronic Bronchitis	348	284	273	222	209	233
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	834	904	801	676	746	978
Pleurisy	45	42	23	35	29	32
Congestion of Lungs and Pulmonary Apoplexy	63	51	84	59	59	45
Asthma and Pulmonary Emphysema	60	49	41	22	32	42
Enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, and Diarrhœal Diseases	833	501	639	657	358	480
Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction	113	111	118	100	107	95
Diseases of the Stomach (Cancer excepted)	99	98	106	79	81	81

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES—*continued.*

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Cirrhosis and other diseases of the Liver (Cancer excepted) ..	158	91	96	99	81	90
Biliary Calculi	27	27	31	25	20	14
Appendicitis	81	61	63	57	67	70
Simple Peritonitis (non-puerperal)..	35	31	28	24	29	34
Acute and Chronic Nephritis, Uræmia, Bright's Disease	576	510	540	516	514	501
Diseases of the Bladder and Prostate	94	88	82	57	55	68
Calculi of the Urinary System ..	7	6	6	8	4	6
Old Age	1,030	1,082	1,019	873	873	867
Suicide	102	89	95	95	81	78
Accidental Violence	531	424	451	452	393	414
Homicide	19	18	12	14	15	13

The above and other causes of death are fully dealt with in subsequent paragraphs.

Vaccinations. The proportion of successful vaccinations to every 100 births for the period 1876-1899, and for each year since, is given in the following table. A great reduction in the percentage of vaccinations to births is shown for the years 1920 to 1923. This is due to a large number of persons having taken advantage of the "Conscience Clause" of the Health Act of 1919, which came into operation on 24th March, 1920.

SUCCESSFUL VACCINATIONS PER 100 BIRTHS.

Period.	Vaccinations per 100 births.	Period.	Vaccinations per 100 births.
1876-1899 ..	72	1912 ..	60
1900 ..	67	1913 ..	69
1901 ..	62	1914 ..	65
1902 ..	53	1915 ..	69
1903 ..	71	1916 ..	61
1904 ..	69	1917 ..	60
1905 ..	67	1918 ..	48
1906 ..	67	1919 ..	44
1907 ..	67	1920 ..	12
1908 ..	67	1921 ..	11
1909 ..	68	1922 ..	8
1910 ..	69	1923 ..	6
1911 ..	62		

In 1923 the vaccinations of children were equal to 6 per cent. of the births, as compared with 8 per cent. in the preceding year, 11

per cent. in 1921, 12 per cent. in 1920, 44 per cent. in 1919, 64 per cent. in the period 1900-1918, and 72 per cent. in the period 1876-1899.

Small-pox—Deaths from. Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1923 only 31 deaths occurred from this cause, and of that number only 8 took place in the last thirty-nine years of the period.

Typhoid fever. The reported cases of typhoid fever for the whole State declined from 288 per 100,000 of population in 1895-9 to 53 per 100,000 in 1914-18, and 29 per 100,000 in 1923, or by 90 per cent. in the intervening years. The death rate from the disease decreased by 85 per cent. during the same period. The deaths per 100 cases in 1923 were 11·8 as compared with 10·7 in 1914-18. The reported cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever and their proportions to the population, also the percentage of cases that ended fatally, are given in the next table for periods back to 1890 :—

TYPHOID FEVER IN VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1923.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 reported Cases.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
1890-4	2,932	253·9	381	33·0	13·0
1895-9	3,397	288·4	355	30·1	10·4
1900-4	2,152	178·1	213	17·6	9·9
1905-9	1,569	125·4	135	10·8	8·6
1910-14	1,374	101·0	107	7·8	7·8
1915-19	563	39·3	60	4·2	10·6
1920	433	28·8	55	3·7	12·7
1921	532	34·6	71	4·6	13·3
1922	301	19·1	32	2·0	10·6
1923	468	29·1	55	3·4	11·8

The death rate from typhoid fever for Victoria is considerably lower than that for the Commonwealth.

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population, in Greater Melbourne, are given in the subjoined table for different periods during the past thirty-four years :—

TYPHOID FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS, 1890 TO 1923.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1890-4	1,645	349·3	205	43·5
1895-9	1,510	327·6	156	33·8
1900-4	701	140·0	74	14·8
1905-9	466	86·7	49	9·1
1910-14	385	61·4	36	5·8
1915-19	128	18·0	19	2·7
1920	128	17·0	13	1·7
1921	119	15·1	29	3·7
1922	80	9·9	11	1·4
1923	103	12·3	13	1·6

Both the cases of, and the deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population declined by 96 per cent. in Greater Melbourne between 1890-9 and 1923. The introduction and extension of the sewerage system coincide closely with, and in a large measure account for this great improvement.

Prevalence of typhoid fever in different areas.

The number of cases of typhoid fever during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1922 and 1923, are given in the following table :—

PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Area.	Reported Cases of Typhoid Fever.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1910-19.	1922.	1923.
Greater Melbourne ..	64	128	119	80	103	4·1	1·0	1·2
Ballarat and Suburbs	16	12	52	22	20	13·4	5·6	5·0
Bendigo and Suburbs	11	9	24	38	16	18·2	11·4	4·8
Geelong and Suburbs	5	10	35	7	3	9·0	1·9	0·8
Rest of the State ..	167	274	302	154	326	8·9	2·3	4·9

The cases in proportion to population were fewer by 71 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 63 per cent. in Ballarat, 74 per cent. in Bendigo, 91 per cent. in Geelong, and 45 per cent. in the rest of the State in 1923 than in the period 1910-19.

Death rates from typhoid fever at different ages.

The mortality from typhoid fever is higher at early adult and middle ages than at other periods of life, and higher among males than females. This is shown in the next table, which gives the death rates in age groups for each sex in the years 1900-2, 1910-12, and 1920-22, being the years adjoining the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

DEATH RATES FROM TYPHOID FEVER, 1900-2, 1910-12, AND 1920-22.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-15	0·97	0·38	0·12	1·46	0·44	0·28
15-20	2·65	1·76	0·40	2·23	1·22	0·46
20-25	4·39	1·82	0·97	1·84	1·32	0·54
25-35	3·28	1·71	0·41	2·04	0·82	0·38
35-45	2·25	1·26	0·45	1·21	0·68	0·36
45-55	1·95	0·82	0·54	0·93	0·39	0·20
55-65	0·66	0·20	0·42	0·34	0·50	0·16
65 and over .. ..	..	0·10	0·10	0·23	0·19	0·09
All ages	1·95	1·00	0·37	1·49	0·69	0·32

The experience of the three census periods mentioned shows that the rate for males exceeds that for females by 33 per cent., and that the heaviest mortality occurs between the ages 15 and 35. It is notable that at each census period there were proportionately fewer deaths of boys than of girls under the age of 15.

Scarlet fever. In 1923 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 18, which corresponded to a rate of 11 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 8 in 1922, 12 in 1921, 24 in 1920 and 1919, and 34 in 1890-2. During 1923 there were 1,730 cases reported, as against 1,972 in the previous year, 2,816 in 1921,

2,259 in 1920, and 1,763 in 1919. For the five years mentioned the deaths were equal to 1.1 per cent. of the cases. According to the experience of the past ten years the chance of dying from the disease is 62 per cent. greater for females than for males.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. In 1923 there were 77 deaths attributed to this cause, representing a rate of 48 per million of the population, as compared with rates of .6 in the previous year, 4 in 1921, 146 in 1920, 17 in 1919, 5 in 1918, 11 in 1917, 13 in 1916, 22 in 1915, 74 in 1914, and 32 in 1913.

On the average of the five years 1919 to 1923, 53 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years of age and 75 per cent. were under 5 years. The incidence of mortality at various ages for each sex for the period 1919-23 was as follows:—

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Measles per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males	4.17	7.64	2.83	1.69	0.87	0.75	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.46
Females	2.34	7.87	2.35	1.50	0.52	0.57	0.23	0.03	0.06	0.40

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 19 deaths in 1923, which equalled a rate of 12 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 26 in the previous year, 63 in 1921, 125 in 1920, 24 in 1919, 47 in 1918, 51 in 1917, 84 in 1916, 68 in 1915, 69 in 1914, and 71 in 1913. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 12 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age. On the average of the past ten years the mortality rate from the disease was 27 per cent. higher among girls than boys.

Diphtheria. The prevalence of diphtheria throughout the State during the past ten years was an unsatisfactory feature of the statistics of sickness relating to that period. For the year 1923 the number of cases was 3,467 as against 5,323 in 1922, 9,458 in 1921, and a yearly average of 5,161 in 1911-20, 1,410 in 1905-9, 1,680 in 1900-4, and 1,584 in 1895-9. On the other hand, a very great reduction took place from period to period in the proportion of cases which ended fatally. The case mortality rate was 2·7 per cent. in 1923, as compared with 4·6 per cent. in 1912-16, 6·3 per cent. in 1905-9, 9·5 per cent. in 1900-4, and 13·9 per cent. in 1895-9.

The appended table shows for the whole State and the metropolis the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, and their proportions to the population, also the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894 :—

**DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE,
1895 TO 1923.**

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
VICTORIA.					
1895-9	1,584	134·6	221	18·8	13·9
1900-4	1,680	139·0	159	13·2	9·5
1905-9	1,410	112·6	89	7·1	6·3
1910-14	4,612	339·1	212	15·6	4·6
1915-19	4,901	342·5	209	14·6	4·3
1920	6,458	429·2	276	18·3	4·3
1921	9,458	615·2	275	17·9	2·9
1922	5,323	338·8	138	8·8	2·6
1923	3,467	215·6	94	5·8	2·7
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-9	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-4	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-9	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920	2,698	357·5	117	15·5	4·3
1921	3,724	473·2	104	13·2	2·8
1922	2,213	274·6	53	6·6	2·4
1923	1,900	227·6	50	6·0	2·6

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in five divisions of the State in each of the past five years and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1922 and 1923, are given in the subjoined table :—

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1910-19.	1922.	1923.
Greater Melbourne ..	2,350	2,698	3,724	2,213	1,900	39·3	27·5	22·8
Ballarat and Suburbs	63	330	307	111	90	24·3	28·2	22·5
Bendigo and Suburbs	136	428	521	215	91	84·6	64·3	27·2
Geelong and Suburbs	165	369	405	200	98	43·4	54·9	26·4
Rest of the State ..	1,293	2,633	4,501	2,584	1,288	25·7	39·4	19·4

In 1923, the cases in each division of the State were considerably fewer than in the preceding year.

Of the 488 males and 506 females who died from diphtheria during the five years 1919-23, 850, or 86 per cent., were under 10 years of age. The incidence of mortality for each sex at different ages, for the period mentioned, was as follows :—

DEATH RATES FROM DIPHTHERIA AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1919-23.

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Diphtheria per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males ..	5·08	9·09	9·28	7·67	6·23	3·67	0·83	0·33	0·07	1·29
Females	3·86	6·65	6·09	6·56	7·10	4·91	0·96	0·62	0·13	1·30

The deaths attributed to hydatids in 1923 numbered 16, being equivalent to a rate of 10 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 13 in the preceding year, 14 in 1921, 13 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 14 in 1917, 21 in 1916, 18 in 1915, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-2. According to the experience of the past ten years the death rate from this disease is 31 per cent. higher among males than females. Hospital returns for the period 1914-23 show that 678 cases of hydatids were treated therein and that 97, or 1 in every 7, ended fatally.

Anæmia, chlorosis, leucæmia. Anæmia, chlorosis, and leucæmia were responsible for 190 deaths in 1923, which corresponded to a rate of 118 per million of the population, as against rates of 85 in the previous year, 104 in 1921, 90 in 1920, 93 in 1919, 90 in 1918, 97 in 1917, 94 in 1916, 83 in 1915, 100 in 1914, 76 in 1913, and 81 in 1908-12. Of the 37 persons who died from leucæmia in 1923, 19 were males.

Diabetes. During 1923 diabetes was responsible for 59 male and 99 female deaths, representing a rate of 98 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 110 in the preceding year, 136 in 1921, 126 in 1920, 134 in 1919, 146 in 1918, 120 in 1917, 128 in 1916, 114 in 1915, 119 in 1914, 91 in 1913, and 107 in 1908-12. The deaths from diabetes per 10,000 of each sex in nine age groups, for the periods 1900-2, 1910-12, and 1920-22, are shown in the subjoined table :—

DEATHS FROM DIABETES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10	·09	·10	·13	·05	·15	·22
10-20	·24	·20	·31	·26	·36	·39
20-30	·17	·64	·48	·36	·30	·53
30-40	·32	·58	·45	·51	·53	·54
40-50	·49	1·11	·95	·42	·78	1·11
50-60	1·38	1·80	2·14	1·42	3·18	2·79
60-70	2·67	5·63	5·19	3·19	8·47	8·02
70-80	4·36	7·34	7·37	5·01	11·54	12·51
80 and over	4·11	7·43	8·42	3·54	6·83	6·02
All Ages	·56	1·00	1·03	·60	1·26	1·45

In 1920-22 the female exceeded the male rate for each age group between 40 and 80, the excess for the twenty years of life 60 to 80 amounting to 61 per cent. For all ages combined the rate for females was 41 per cent. higher than that for males.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1923 numbered 398, which corresponded to a rate of 248 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 46 in the previous year, 88 in 1921, 52 in 1920, 2,407 in 1919, 148 in 1918, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

In 1923, 56 per cent. of the deaths recorded were associated with specified pneumonic complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages.

The next table gives the death rate per 10,000 of each sex in age groups for the last five census periods:—

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA IN VICTORIA PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.				1880-2.	1890-2.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	·34	2·50	1·10	·40	·23
15-20	...	...	...	·07	·64	·34	·24	·30
20-25	...	...	...	...	1·20	·59	·21	·38
25-35	...	...	...	·07	1·50	·79	·17	·27
35-45	...	...	...	...	3·04	1·31	·59	·56
45-55	...	...	...	·24	5·12	3·20	·73	·92
55-65	...	...	...	·24	12·65	5·25	2·38	1·44
65 and upwards	...	...	...	2·36	27·13	17·02	12·27	4·18
All ages	...	...	...	·25	3·94	2·30	1·10	·65
<i>Females.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	·34	1·86	1·15	·42	·25
15-20	...	...	...	...	·92	·83	·34	·26
20-25	...	...	...	...	1·28	·69	·35	·35
25-35	...	...	...	·07	2·35	·89	·22	·45
35-45	...	...	...	·08	4·11	1·86	·30	·46
45-55	...	...	...	...	5·39	2·02	·68	·68
55-65	...	...	...	·62	11·46	5·53	1·61	·91
65 and upwards	...	...	...	3·18	35·22	16·02	12·80	3·86
All ages	...	...	...	·24	3·72	2·13	1·10	·60

Influenza epidemic, 1919.

Information in regard to the epidemic of 1919 is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, pages 214-216; and in the 1919-20 issue, pages 180-182.

Respiratory diseases.

In 1923 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 2,316, which represented a rate of 1,441 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 1,195 in the previous year, 1,141 in 1921, 1,329 in 1920, 1,430 in 1919, 1,160 in 1918, 1,094 in 1917, 1,336 in 1916, 1,368 in 1915, and 1,397 in 1914. Of the deaths from complaints of this nature in the year under review, 71 were referred to acute bronchitis, 111 to chronic bronchitis, 192 to bronchitis unspecified, 595 to broncho-pneumonia, 977 to pneumonia, 51 to

pleurisy, and 63 to asthma. These six diseases accounted for 89 per cent. of the total respiratory mortality. The seasonal incidence of the maladies is evidenced by the deaths in June, July, August, and September, which represented 46 per cent. of the total for the whole year. Respiratory diseases are much more fatal at the extremes of life than at middle ages, and among males than females. This is shown in the appended table, which gives for each sex the death rates relating to groups of ages at five census periods:—

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.	1880-2.	1890-2.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>					
0-15	29.02	28.52	16.53	12.94	10.25
15-20	3.30	2.92	2.70	1.66	1.76
20-25	5.34	4.88	4.85	2.35	2.73
25-35	8.31	6.85	5.94	3.86	3.71
35-45	15.80	13.55	9.49	10.50	8.01
45-55	26.59	25.18	18.04	18.25	15.69
55-65	51.65	56.51	38.37	32.68	30.42
65 and upwards	136.54	141.07	112.38	138.37	112.17
All ages	24.48	24.30	18.66	17.17	14.42
<i>Females.</i>					
0-15	24.18	24.13	13.85	10.50	8.54
15-20	2.02	3.52	2.34	1.56	2.32
20-25	4.23	3.05	3.34	2.48	1.72
25-35	5.72	5.65	3.75	3.55	3.25
35-45	12.53	11.55	7.68	5.85	4.90
45-55	13.63	17.01	11.80	8.28	6.71
55-65	29.15	32.10	27.42	16.64	13.50
65 and upwards	116.12	112.38	86.78	99.81	86.51
All ages	17.08	17.62	13.28	11.81	10.15

The mortality from respiratory diseases at all ages combined was less in the period 1920-22 than in any of the four previous census periods. At each census date the male exceeded the female rate, the average excess for the five census periods being 42 per cent.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis was responsible for 13 deaths in 1923, 12 in 1922, 17 in 1921, 15 in 1920, 14 in 1919, 37 in 1918, 75 in 1917, 326 in 1916, and 338 in 1915. The cases reported to the Public Health Department in those years numbered 1693, and the proportion of these that ended fatally was 50 per cent.

**Cerebro-spinal,
tubercular,
and simple
meningitis.**

The numbers of deaths from cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis during the last ten years were as follows :—

DEATHS FROM DIFFERENT FORMS OF MENINGITIS, 1914-23.

Year.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.		Tubercular Meningitis.		Simple Meningitis.		Total—All Forms of Meningitis.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1914 ..	12	5	42	30	89	63	143	98
1915 ..	239	99	35	35	74	46	348	180
1916 ..	191	135	29	40	56	39	276	214
1917 ..	48	27	56	41	37	35	141	103
1918 ..	28	9	55	40	39	35	122	84
1919 ..	7	7	38	24	33	29	78	60
1920 ..	12	3	49	34	46	35	107	72
1921 ..	8	9	42	44	62	37	112	90
1922 ..	9	3	30	28	67	40	106	71
1923 ..	7	6	32	34	64	43	103	83

Age incidence of different forms of meningitis.

The next table shows the incidence of mortality at various ages from different forms of meningitis for the period 1914-23 :—

DEATHS AT DIFFERENT AGES FROM MENINGITIS, 1914-23.

Age Group.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.		Tubercular Meningitis.		Simple Meningitis.		Total—All Forms of Meningitis.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 5 ..	136	98	233	181	316	227	685	506
5 to 15 ..	69	57	87	79	68	50	224	186
15 ,, 25 ..	159	51	34	50	43	44	236	145
25 ,, 35 ..	77	26	28	19	26	18	131	63
35 ,, 45 ..	49	24	17	11	33	24	99	59
45 ,, 55 ..	48	28	4	8	43	17	95	53
55 ,, 65 ..	16	12	3	1	19	9	38	22
65 and over	7	7	2	1	19	13	28	21
Total 1914-23	561	303	408	350	567	402	1,536	1,055

On the average of the last ten years the deaths of children under 5 years of age from cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis represented 27, 55, and 56 per cent. respectively of the total deaths from these diseases. Of the 13 persons who succumbed to cerebro-spinal meningitis in 1923, 7 were under 5 and 10 were under 15 years of age. Up to the age of 15 years the incidence of the mortality from this disease in the period 1914-23 was 32 per cent. higher for males than for females, while for the age group 15 to 45 the rate for the former was about three times that for the latter.

Diseases of the spine. In 1923 locomotor ataxia and other diseases of the spine, excluding infantile paralysis, accounted for 52 male and 27 female deaths, representing a death rate of 49 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 38 in the previous year, 52 in 1921, 45 in 1920, 78 in 1919, 88 in 1918, 58 in 1917, 70 in 1916, 58 in 1915, 75 in 1914, 62 in 1913, and 71 in 1908-12. Of the 22 persons who died from locomotor ataxia 21 were males.

Infantile paralysis. Mortality returns show that infantile paralysis was responsible for 2 deaths in 1923 as against 3 in the previous year, 4 in 1921, 4 in 1920, 3 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 6 in 1917, 4 in 1916, 2 in 1915, 9 in 1914, 3 in 1913, and 6 in 1912. Of the 67 persons who died during these twelve years 40 were boys. Seven of the victims were under 1 year of age, and 33 were under 5 years. The cases reported to the Public Health Department in 1923 numbered 7, as compared with 23 in the preceding year, 27 in 1921, 5 in 1920, 2 in 1919, 303 in 1918, and 32 in 1917.

Heart disease. During 1923 there were 1,785 deaths ascribed to organic heart disease, 40 to pericarditis, 385 to endocarditis and acute myocarditis, and 78 to angina pectoris. The total—2,288—from these causes represented a rate of 1,423 per million of the population, as compared with 1,245 in the previous year, 1,267 in 1921, 1,287 in 1920, 1,402 in 1919, 1,400 in 1918, 1,442 in 1917, 1,287 in 1916, 1,134 in 1915, 1,278 in 1914, 1,294 in 1913, and 1,441 in 1908-12. Of the 1,956 persons who died from these diseases in 1923, only 59, or 2.6 per cent., were under 15 years of age. On the average of the three years 1920 to 1922 the deaths from all forms of heart disease per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM HEART DISEASE AT VARIOUS AGES, 1920-22.

Sex.	Deaths per 10,000 Persons aged—									
	0-15.	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65-75.	75 and upwards.	All Ages.
Males ..	1.52	1.92	2.04	2.64	5.40	14.52	40.62	112.20	247.10	13.74
Females ..	1.15	1.85	1.53	3.25	5.26	10.73	29.53	85.65	208.17	11.70

The figures indicate that the mortality rate from heart disease is a function of age, and that it attains its maximum at the oldest age. Of the deaths of persons aged 75 and upwards, approximately 1 in 5 is due to some form of this disease.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1923 there were 795 male and 675 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 914 per million of the population, as against rates of 796 in the previous year, 1,095 in 1921, 1,147 in 1920, 978 in 1919, 1,030 in 1918, 884 in 1917, 1,206 in 1916, 1,098 in 1915, 1,504 in 1914, 1,220 in

1913, 1,345 in 1912, 1,233 in 1911, and 2,382 in 1890-2. Diarrhoeal diseases were responsible for 771 deaths, which were equivalent to a rate of 480 per million of population, the corresponding rates in previous periods being 358 in 1922, 657 in 1921, 639 in 1920, 501 in 1919, 504 in 1918, 408 in 1917, 731 in 1916, 590 in 1915, 941 in 1914, 709 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-2. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. Of the 771 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in the year under review, 616, or 80 per cent., were of children under 2 years of age, and 61, or about 8 per cent., were of persons over 65 years of age. There were 45 male and 35 female deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, 48 male and 58 female deaths from other affections of that organ, and 84 male and 68 female deaths from hernia and intestinal obstruction.

Appendicitis. The deaths from appendicitis numbered 112 in 1923, 105 in the previous year, 88 in 1921, 95 in 1920, 89 in 1919, 94 in 1918, 87 in 1917, 78 in 1916, 102 in 1915, and 103 in 1914, and corresponded to rates of 70, 67, 57, 63, 61, 66, 62, 55, 72, and 72 per million of the population respectively. Hospital records show that during 1923 there were 2,077 cases treated, and that 43, or 2·1 per cent., ended fatally, as compared with fatality rates of 2·6 per cent. in 1922, 2·2 per cent. in 1921, 2·7 per cent. in 1920, 3·3 per cent. in 1919, 3·0 per cent. in 1918, 2·5 per cent. in 1917, 4·1 per cent. in 1916, 5·3 per cent. in 1915, and 6 per cent. in the period 1908-12. According to the experience of the three years 1920 to 1922 the death rate from appendicitis is approximately 63 per cent. higher among males than females. The mortality rates at various ages for that period were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM APPENDICITIS, 1920-22.

Sex.	Deaths from Appendicitis per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 and over.	All Ages.
Males..	0·31	0·87	1·31	0·86	0·74	1·08	0·79	0·85	0·68	0·78
Females	0·30	0·66	0·51	0·59	0·53	0·56	0·40	0·32	0·69	0·48

Diseases of urinary system. In 1923 there were 1,009 deaths attributed to diseases of the urinary system, which corresponded to a rate of 628 per million of the population, as against rates of 624 in the previous year, 643 in 1921, 697 in 1920, 645 in 1919, 741 in 1918, 710 in 1917, 705 in 1916, 712 in 1915, 670 in 1914, 724 in 1913, and 700 in 1909-12. Acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 806 deaths, or 80 per cent., and complaints of the bladder and prostate for 110 deaths, or 11 per cent. of the total referred to maladies of the urinary system. The deaths per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups,

for the periods 1900-2, 1910-12, and 1920-22 are shown in the following table :—

DEATH RATES FROM DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10 ...	·93	·67	·67	·59	·79	·67
10-20 ...	·45	·73	·53	·82	·71	·52
20-30 ...	1·83	1·72	1·23	1·59	1·61	1·72
30-40 ...	3·55	3·03	2·66	4·21	3·76	2·89
40-50 ...	8·12	9·03	6·23	7·26	7·07	5·27
50-60 ...	17·43	18·95	14·59	11·36	13·81	10·57
60-70 ...	39·62	46·63	38·30	21·49	24·44	22·04
70-80 ...	80·68	96·18	97·19	27·70	38·53	40·26
80 and over ...	128·48	153·04	167·09	27·15	43·70	54·38
All Ages ...	8·05	9·18	8·04	4·28	5·34	5·13

The figures for the latest period show that there is scarcely any difference between the rates for males and females under 50 years of age. For older ages, however, the excess of the male over the female rate is very pronounced, especially at ages 70 and upwards. For all ages the rate for males exceeds that for females by 57 per cent.

The ages and sexes of those who died from pulmonary tuberculosis in each of the last five years are given in the next table :—

DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	Year.					Year.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
0-10 ...	5	12	3	6	4	3	6	2	5	3
10-15 ...	2	3	3	2	...	4	6	3	4	11
15-20 ...	22	17	16	20	20	43	33	27	34	42
20-25 ...	58	47	56	44	54	83	67	71	69	64
25-30 ...	77	64	64	59	67	75	76	79	67	77
30-35 ...	80	65	51	53	61	54	55	62	71	51
35-40 ...	72	57	68	47	63	54	45	54	45	53
40-45 ...	65	60	70	55	84	32	42	53	41	35
45-50 ...	68	70	69	42	51	35	26	34	27	31
50-55 ...	65	58	46	49	42	20	21	22	17	13
55-60 ...	67	46	42	43	38	16	15	20	16	25
60-65 ...	31	39	40	35	44	11	13	22	6	16
65-70 ...	17	16	18	20	19	6	6	8	7	8
70 and over	10	16	13	6	11	9	9	9	7	10
Total ...	639	570	559	481	558	445	420	466	406	439

The deaths from phthisis in 1923 numbered 997—558 being of males and 439 of females—and equalled a rate of 620 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 565 in the previous year, 667 in 1921, 658 in 1920, 739 in 1919, 701 in 1918, 677 in 1917, 743 in 1916, 661 in 1915, 724 in 1914, 755 in 1913, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-2. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State in 1922, the deaths from this cause were 890, 830, 1,260 and 1,150 per million of their respective populations. The rates for Victoria are more fully shown in the following table, which gives the mortality per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, at six census periods :—

DEATH RATES IN VICTORIA FROM PHTHISIS IN AGE GROUPS AT SIX CENSUS PERIODS.

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Phthisis per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	1870-2.	1880-2.	1890-2.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>						
0 to 15	1·22	1·74	·90	·38	·46	·42
15 " 20	5·71	6·88	5·41	5·06	3·71	2·67
20 " 25	18·75	21·19	18·29	14·35	8·45	7·88
25 " 35	22·21	30·33	23·70	20·31	13·11	9·70
35 " 45	21·83	25·11	28·28	22·07	15·63	12·43
45 " 55	22·24	28·65	31·17	25·05	18·07	13·94
55 " 65	27·86	31·41	36·48	35·75	18·88	13·03
65 and upwards ...	19·56	18·08	25·40	31·07	13·55	8·65
All Ages	12·89	15·33	15·73	13·51	8·98	7·11
<i>Females.</i>						
0 to 15	·98	1·76	1·43	·93	·97	·38
15 " 20	12·37	12·50	9·51	8·18	7·62	4·84
20 " 25	19·28	21·00	18·49	12·79	12·68	10·20
25 " 35	22·02	26·56	21·77	18·15	14·03	10·00
35 " 45	21·65	24·06	22·53	17·74	11·51	9·15
45 " 55	19·60	20·72	16·13	14·41	8·18	5·91
55 " 65	10·51	14·26	12·35	12·52	7·47	4·95
65 and upwards ...	12·61	13·12	8·25	8·18	5·29	3·94
All Ages	10·62	12·75	11·51	9·72	7·61	5·55

A comparison of the mortalities from pulmonary tuberculosis at the census periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1920-22 than in 1910-12, and that the improvement was greater among females than males. By combining the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, as shown above, with those from other forms of tubercular disease, given in a subsequent page, it appears that every section of the community

experienced relief from tubercular diseases in 1920-22 as compared with the previous census period.

The distribution of tuberculous mortality shows that certain urban centres—particularly Bendigo and suburbs—furnish considerably higher death rates than the rural portions of the State. The tubercular death rate amongst miners is very considerably in excess of that among farmers and graziers, and, as mining occupations predominate in Bendigo and suburbs and farming and grazing occupations in the rural districts, the distribution of callings accounts in a large measure for the disparity in the mortality rates from this cause in the divisions of the State referred to. On the average of the past five years the tubercular death rate of Bendigo exceeded the rates of Ballarat and Melbourne by 53 and 66 per cent. respectively. The rates in these localities from phthisis and other tubercular diseases are given in the appended table for the periods 1891-1900, 1901-5, and 1906-10, and each of the last thirteen years :—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, AND BENDIGO, 1891 TO 1923.

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.								
	Phthisis.			Other Tubercular Diseases.			All Tubercular Diseases.		
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.
1891-1900 ..	16.7	17.1	24.1	4.7	3.5	4.0	21.4	20.6	28.1
1901-1905 ..	13.9	15.3	22.7	4.2	4.0	4.7	18.1	19.3	27.4
1906-1910 ..	10.8	11.5	21.2	3.0	2.1	2.0	13.8	13.6	23.2
1911 ..	9.9	9.4	19.5	2.6	3.3	2.5	12.5	12.7	22.0
1912 ..	10.0	10.0	17.7	2.0	1.7	2.1	12.0	11.7	19.8
1913 ..	8.8	10.9	20.0	2.2	2.8	2.3	11.0	13.7	22.3
1914 ..	8.9	11.2	11.8	2.0	.9	1.0	10.9	12.1	12.8
1915 ..	7.7	10.2	13.6	1.7	2.1	2.4	9.4	12.3	16.0
1916 ..	8.6	14.3	14.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	10.4	15.8	15.6
1917 ..	7.9	10.9	16.8	2.2	1.7	2.2	10.1	12.6	19.0
1918 ..	8.3	9.2	17.4	1.8	1.3	3.1	10.1	10.5	20.5
1919 ..	8.7	10.8	14.7	1.7	1.0	2.0	10.4	11.8	16.7
1920 ..	7.9	10.6	17.1	1.9	2.0	1.2	9.8	12.6	18.3
1921 ..	8.1	7.0	14.2	1.9	1.3	2.1	10.0	8.3	16.3
1922 ..	6.7	8.1	11.4	1.5	.3	2.7	8.2	8.4	14.1
1923 ..	6.9	7.3	9.9	1.4	2.3	2.1	8.3	9.6	12.0

Prevalence of phthisis in different areas.

Relatively to population cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are fewer in country districts than in urban areas. The cases reported during each of the past five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the populations of these divisions for the period 1910-19 and the years 1922 and 1923 are given in the subjoined table:—

PHTHISIS IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1910-19.	1922.	1923.
Greater Melbourne ..	889	653	878	783	750	13·9	9·7	9·0
Ballarat and Suburbs	28	21	36	31	27	12·8	7·9	6·8
Bendigo and Suburbs	31	21	45	52	47	18·0	15·6	14·0
Geelong and Suburbs	24	16	19	10	19	7·9	2·7	5·1
Rest of the State ..	213	211	324	282	245	5·8	4·3	3·7
Whole State ..	1,185	922	1,302	1,158	1,088	10·4	7·4	6·8

Phthisis in metropolitan municipalities.

In the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, page 226, a table is given showing the reported cases of phthisis in every 10,000 of the population of each metropolitan municipality. The rates are based on the reports received by the Public Health Department for the two and one-half years ended 30th June, 1911.

Other phases of phthisis.

The results of an investigation of 3,198 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which occurred in the State during the two and a half years ended June, 1911, are given in the 1913-14 edition of this work. The matters dealt with are the sex and age of the patients, their usual place of residence, the chances of metropolitan and extra metropolitan residents contracting the disease at different ages, the time elapsing from the commencement of the complaint to the date on which medical advice is obtained, and the probability of recovering from the disease. In the issue referred to the medical and economic results of sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis of the lungs in Germany are shown for a series of years.

Tubercular diseases (phthisis excepted).

In 1923 there were in Victoria 193 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis), which corresponded to a rate of 123 per million, as compared with rates of 120 in the previous year, 137 in 1921, 145 in 1920, 126 in 1919, 144 in 1918, 163 in 1917, 136 in 1916, 135 in 1915, 140 in 1914, 156 in 1913,

182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-2. The death rates in various age groups are shown in the following table for five census periods :—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES (PHTHISIS EXCEPTED) IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.				
	1880-2.	1890-2.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>					
0-15 ...	7.98	10.36	5.64	2.75	2.00
15-20 ...	.81	1.17	1.12	1.12	.83
20-25 ...	1.23	.89	1.77	1.23	1.55
25-35 ...	.66	.84	1.91	1.71	1.61
35-45 ...	.88	.77	1.39	1.38	1.15
45-55 ...	.85	.67	1.64	.82	1.17
55-65 ...	1.07	.78	2.40	1.29	1.06
65 and over	2.36	.56	1.17	.59	1.07
All ages	3.55	4.02	2.99	1.70	1.48
<i>Females.</i>					
0-15 ...	7.28	8.43	5.33	2.12	1.57
15-20 ...	1.30	1.27	1.95	2.34	1.13
20-25 ...	.69	1.23	2.09	2.59	1.73
25-35 ..	.41	.88	1.98	1.81	1.18
35-45 ...	.70	.42	1.77	1.33	.78
45-55 ...	.67	.34	1.01	.93	1.01
55-65 ...	.62	.69	.71	1.11	.70
65 and over	1.19	.64	.71	.29	.86
All ages	3.39	3.58	2.91	1.76	1.21

As compared with the period 1910-12 the proportion of persons under 15 years of age who died from tubercular diseases (excluding

phthisis) during 1920-22 represented a decline of 27 per cent. for males and of 26 per cent. for females.

The experience of recent years shows that the tubercular death rate in Victoria is but slightly affected by the arrival from beyond Australia of persons suffering from tubercular diseases. Only two of those who died in 1923 had been born outside and resident less than one year in Australia, and 13 had resided in the continent for a shorter period than five years.

The numbers dying from cancer in different age groups in each of the last five years are given below :—

DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
0-15	6	4	7	6	3	4	7	5	2	3
15-25	5	4	7	7	3	4	3	3	3	7
25-35	8	9	7	12	12	13	16	21	14	12
35-45	31	31	33	31	38	42	62	65	75	73
45-55	106	118	111	105	110	160	139	164	173	193
55-65	182	240	243	278	252	202	194	223	224	236
65-75	173	192	185	219	238	134	159	168	164	210
75-85	79	83	84	103	83	84	83	103	97	109
85 and over ..	18	27	18	21	25	24	25	20	32	21
Total	608	678	695	782	764	667	688	772	784	864

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases—cancer and phthisis—are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1923 the average age of those who died from cancer was 62·8 years for males and 62·0 years for females, whilst the corresponding averages for phthisis were 41·3 years for males and 35·2 years for females.

Deaths from cancer in 1923 numbered 1,628, and represented a death rate of 1,013 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 997 in the previous year, 954 in 1921, 908 in 1920, 870 in 1919, 942 in 1918, 925 in 1917, 921 in 1916, 812 in 1915, 830 in 1914, 838 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in

1890-2. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State in 1922 the deaths per million of population from this cause were 1,230, 1,250, 990, and 800 respectively.

Cancer—
Death Rates
at different
ages.

Cancer death rates, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and later periods, are not fairly comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. A more accurate mortality rate is obtained by comparing the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for four census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table:—

DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of each Sex.			
	1890-2.	1900-2.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·18	·30	·73	·46
5 to 10 ...	·10	·42	·25	·13
10 " 15 ...	·11	·20	·16	·14
15 " 20 ...	·17	·22	·15	·30
20 " 25 ...	·32	·33	·71	·64
25 " 35 ...	·81	1·26	·96	·76
35 " 45 ...	4·29	3·69	3·16	3·31
45 " 55 ...	14·33	14·14	16·03	13·94
55 " 65 ...	31·92	36·00	36·36	40·46
65 " 75 ...	52·75	59·04	74·15	78·21
75 and over	58·55	74·04	88·40	110·12
All ages	6·16	7·52	8·50	9·52
<i>Females.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·09	·26	·19	·39
5 to 10 ...	·10	·04	·10	·17
10 " 15 ...	·06	..	·27	·05
15 " 20 ...	·12	·28	·44	·15
20 " 25 ...	·22	·23	·41	·30
25 " 35 ...	1·68	1·61	1·39	1·28
35 " 45 ...	7·43	6·05	7·26	6·61
45 " 55 ...	18·00	18·13	17·87	19·14
55 " 65 ...	31·79	33·05	38·03	34·48
65 " 75 ...	53·96	51·18	61·66	63·05
75 and over	49·55	62·70	86·19	92·86
All ages	5·57	6·64	8·76	9·63

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age, and reaching a maximum

mortality rate in the oldest age group. From the figures for the periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 it will be seen that there was in the later period a considerable increase in the death rate from cancer.

Seat of cancer.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1923 :—

SEAT OF CANCER.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer of the buccal cavity (mouth, &c.) ..	77	14	91
„ the stomach and liver ...	331	247	578
„ the peritoneum, the intestines, and the rectum ...	107	116	223
„ the female genital organs ...	...	148	148
„ the breast ...	...	167	167
„ the skin ...	34	27	61
„ other and unspecified organs ...	215	145	360
Total Deaths ...	764	864	1,628

Thirty-six per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the stomach or liver. Of the females who died from the disease 36 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or the breast.

Senile decay.

During the year 1923, the deaths of 630 men and 764 women were ascribed to senile decay. The deaths at ages 65 and over from all causes during the year numbered 6,345--3,165 of men and 3,180 of women.

Accidental violence.

Death rates from accidental violence have been lower in late years than in earlier periods, a result that is chiefly due to the lighter mortality rate from accidental drowning, the smaller proportion of the population engaged in country occupations, which are generally of a more hazardous nature than those in towns, and the increasing proportion of females in the community.

In 1923, 528 male and 137 female deaths were attributed to accidents and negligence, which represented a rate of 414 per million of the population. This proportion was 2·4 per cent. below the average rate—424—for the previous five years, and 49 per cent. below the rate—811—for 1890-2. The numbers of deaths from various accidents in 1923 are given in the appended table :—

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1923.

Nature or Place of Accident.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Poisoning by Food	1	1	2
Snake Bite	2	..	2
Other Acute Poisonings	11	1	12
Burns (including Conflagrations)	30	37	67
Absorption of Poisonous Gases	3	2	5
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	19	9	28
Suffocation in bed (infants)	4	3	7
Drowning	101	25	126
Firearms	21	5	26
Falls	53	10	63
In Mines and Quarries	4	..	4
Machines	8	..	8
Vehicular Accidents—			
On Railways	33	8	41
Motor Car	72	5	77
Motor Cycle	15	1	16
Motor Lorry	9	1	10
Aeroplane .. .. .	..	..	..
Bicycle	2	..	2
Tram Car	20	6	26
Vehicle drawn by Horses	25	1	26
Vehicle, Undefined	3	..	3
Injuries by Animals	8	3	11
Effects of Heat	3	..	3
Excessive Cold	1	..	1
Electricity	4	..	4
Lightning .. .. .	..	..	..
Fractures, Unspecified	34	13	47
Other Violence	42	6	48
Total	528	137	665

On the average of the last three years the female mortality rate from accidents was 31 per cent. of the rate for males.

Fatal accidents among males at different ages. The mortality rate from accidents is only one-half as great among males aged 15 to 45 as among men over age 45. The deaths per 10,000 males at certain ages from drowning and other accidents for the period 1920-22 were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM ACCIDENTS—MALES, 1920-22.

	Accidental Deaths per 10,000 Males Aged—							
	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65 and over.	65 and upwards.
Drowning ..	1·92	1·13	1·06	1·11	1·46	1·91	2·43	1·44
Other Accidents ..	3·43	4·34	4·91	5·26	6·05	8·24	14·38	5·91
Total Accidents ..	5·35	5·47	5·97	6·37	7·51	10·15	16·81	7·35

For men aged 20 to 35 the death rate from accidental violence is about one-third of that for men over age 65 and slightly greater than one-half of the rate for those aged 55 to 65.

Occupations of men dying from accidents. During the year 1923, 397 males aged seventeen years and upwards died from the results of accidents. The numbers for the different occupations were as follows:—

Occupation.	Deaths from Accidents, 1923.	Occupation.	Deaths from Accidents, 1923.
Labourer (undefined) ..	73	Builder	3
Farmer, grazier	52	Butcher	3
Railway employee	17	Cabinet maker	3
Clerical	14	Cook	3
Carpenter	11	Explosive employee ..	3
Carter, carrier, driver ..	11	Leather worker	3
Seaman, shipping	11	Orchardist	3
Gardener, nurseryman ..	10	Storeman	3
Miner, quarryman	10	Student	3
Boot trade	9	Accountant	2
Engineering	7	Agent	2
Estate agent, auctioneer ..	6	Blacksmith	2
Merchant	6	Brewery trade	2
Painter	6	Dairyman	2
Timber worker	6	Dealer	2
Manager, overseer	5	Fisherman	2
Stevedore, wharf labourer ..	5	Fruiterer	2
Commercial traveller	4	Hawker	2
Electrician	4	Linesman	2
Engine-driver	4	Manufacturer	2
Grocer	4	Printer	2
Motor industry	4	Other (specified)	36
Publican	4	Unspecified	21
Boiler maker	3		
Bricklayer	3	Total	397

Of the above 397 deaths 66 were due to drowning.

Suicide. In the year 1923, 94 males and 31 females took their own lives. The deaths represented a rate of 78 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 81 in the preceding year, 99 in 1921, 95 in 1920, 89 in 1919, 72 in 1918, 88 in 1917, 83 in 1916, 105 in 1915, 90 in 1914, 103 in 1913, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-2. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than males, the rate for the former being slightly less than one-fourth of that for the latter on the average of the past five years.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1923 numbered 21, of which 4 were of males and 17 of females. These represented a rate of 13 per million of the population, as against rates of 15 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 12 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 13 in 1918 and 1917, 14 in 1916, 17 in 1915, 16 in 1914, 18 in 1913, and 19 in 1908-12.

Deaths of married women in childbed. The death rate of women in childbed varies considerably at different ages, and is less at younger than at older age periods. The number of deaths of married mothers in childbed, and the death rates in various age groups are shown for the decade 1906-15 and the year 1923 in the following table :—

DEATH RATES OF MARRIED MOTHERS IN CHILDBED IN AGE GROUPS, 1906-1915 AND 1923.

Age Group.	Married Mothers.			
	Deaths.		Deaths per 1,000 Confinements.	
	1906-15.	1923.	1906-15.	1923.
Under 20 years	23	3	2.71	3.08
20 to 25 "	184	10	2.85	1.42
25 " 30 "	326	23	3.60	2.20
30 " 35 "	334	27	4.59	3.19
35 " 40 "	346	23	6.86	4.59
40 years and over	156	8	6.90	4.13

The experience of the ten years 1906-15 showed that for the age period 35 years and upwards the deaths of mothers in childbed were 69 per 10,000 as against 37 per 10,000 for those under 35 years of age. For the same term of years the number of deaths per 1,000 married women of all ages in first confinements was 5.57, as against an average of 4.04 for other confinements.

The death rate of women in childbed is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of births. The proportions for each of the last eight years, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871 are given below :—

DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE) TO EVERY 10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE.

Period.	Number of Mothers who Died Annually of—			Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children Born Alive.
	Puerperal Diseases or Accidents. (Excluding Septicæmia.)	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Total.	
1871-1880 ..	127	46	173	64·38
1881-1890 ..	121	64	185	59·19
1891-1900 ..	117	66	183	56·01
1901-1905 ..	126	58	184	60·92
1906-1910 ..	101	46	147	47·17
1911-1915 ..	96	58	154	43·55
1916 ..	75	55	130	37·97
1917 ..	89	45	134	40·56
1918 ..	64	43	107	33·86
1919 ..	95	39	134	42·38
1920 ..	132	62	194	53·57
1921 ..	105	58	163	45·80
1922 ..	91	31	122	33·62
1923 ..	79	29	108	30·11

In recent periods a marked reduction has taken place in the death rate of women in childbed. The deaths of mothers per 10,000 children born alive were 41·0 in 1919-23, as compared with 43·5 in 1911-15, 47·2 in 1906-10, and 60·9 in 1901-5.

In 1923 there were 29 deaths of married and unmarried mothers from puerperal septicæmia, which corresponded to a death rate of 8·1 per 10,000 births, as against 8·5 in 1922, 16·3 in 1921, 17·1 in 1920, 12·3 in 1919, 13·6 in 1918 and 1917, 16·1 in 1916, 11·4 in 1915, 16·8 in 1914, 18·1 in 1913, 16·0 in 1908-12, and 18·1 in 1901-7.

NATURAL INCREASE.

The natural increase, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the population, in the various Australian States and New Zealand, for the periods 1902-6, 1907-11 and 1912-16, and for each of the last seven years, is shown in the following table:—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION,
AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1902-6	12·30	15·76	15·41	13·28	18·04	18·12	14·68	16·94
1907-11	13·05	17·45	17·03	15·54	18·13	18·85	16·01	17·07
1912-16	13·72	18·04	18·51	17·21	18·65	19·62	16·82	16·70
1917	13·09	18·13	19·37	15·74	16·71	18·57	16·56	16·08
1918	11·53	16·42	17·72	15·43	13·88	17·54	15·01	8·60
1919	8·31	11·10	13·58	11·92	10·47	15·21	10·84	12·03
1920	12·82	15·97	16·47	14·27	14·45	17·60	14·95	15·10
1921	12·64	16·43	17·25	14·05	12·99	16·67	15·04	14·61
1922	13·45	16·76	16·39	14·60	14·62	17·78	15·47	15·04
1923	11·60	15·08	15·06	13·01	14·14	16·34	13·88	12·91
Mean 1919-23	11·76	15·07	15·75	13·57	13·33	16·72	14·04	13·94

The smallness of the natural increase in 1919 was very largely due to a heavy mortality rate from influenza in that year. The mean increase in the Australian States for the period 1919-23 was 14·04 per 1,000 of population, which is probably greater than will prevail when the age constitution of the people becomes similar to that of old settled countries. At present the proportion of elderly people is smaller than in those countries and, partly as a

consequence of this, the death rate is lower. The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. The Australian annual rate of increase due to excess of births over deaths—14·04—would enable a population to double itself in 50 years, whilst, at the Victorian rate of 11·76 per 1,000 of population, a period of slightly more than 59 years would be required. In England and Wales in 1923 the excess of births over deaths was 8·1 per 1,000 of population.

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early
legislation.

Amongst the various enactments which became law for Victoria on its separation from New South Wales was a provision in the Imperial Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the inhabitants of every county, to form districts for the purpose of local government, and to establish elective District Councils with power to frame by-laws for making and maintaining roads, establishing schools, levying local tolls and rates, &c. Many of the provisions of the Act were found to be unworkable and expensive in the details, and the District Councils therefore discontinued their meetings and practical working under the Act. Improved legislation being required, an Act was passed in 1853, establishing a central Road Board for the whole Colony, with an Inspector-General and staff, and also providing for the creation of local Road Districts under the management of Road Boards. This Act made provision chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act. In the meanwhile suburban districts and towns were growing up, and in 1854 an Act was passed for the establishment of municipal institutions in Victoria. This Act also continued in force till 1863, when its chief provisions were merged into the Municipal Corporations Act. Further improvements and extensions have been made from time to time in the Acts dealing with local government, and such government is now practically universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State (except French Island) being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

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

Office, towns, boroughs, and shires. Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 53 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

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

Municipal councillors. Each municipality existing at the commencement of the original Act, 29th December, 1854—now incorporated in the Act of 1915—is allowed the number of councillors then assigned to it; but in other cases the number must be some multiple of three, not less than six nor more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is subdivided, the number of councillors is three for each subdivision. If at any time in any municipality there is no council or there are not enough councillors to form a quorum, a commissioner may be appointed by the Governor in Council to exercise the powers of the council. Every person of either sex liable to be rated in respect of property in the municipal district of the rateable annual value of £20 at least, whether consisting of one or more tenements, is qualified to hold the office of councillor, with the exception of (a) undischarged bankrupts or insolvents; (b) persons attainted of treason or convicted of felony or perjury or any infamous crime; (c) persons of unsound mind; and (d) persons holding an office of profit under the council or participating directly or indirectly in a contract with the council. The election of councillors takes place annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor; in the case of shires, the president.

Municipal electors. Every person (male or female) 21 years of age or upwards, liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district in respect of which all rates, made before 10th March of the year, have been paid by the 10th June, is entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Plurality of votes is allowed upon the following scale :—

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

IN SHIRES.

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

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

Rateable property. All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following :—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes; lands dedicated by the trustees of agricultural colleges as sites for agricultural colleges or experimental farms; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics’ institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, technical schools subsidized by Government, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality or council thereof, or any authority under the *Water Act 1915*; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression “land” includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants’ rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and expenses (if

any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz. :—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and must not exceed in any one year 3s. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 3s. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, a "separate rate" may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The separate rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or a sinking fund for a loan raised on the security of such rate.

Several municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 23th November, 1922.

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Rates Recovery Act 1916* power is given to any municipality to sell vacant land charged with rates unpaid for not less than 10 years and which has been unoccupied for more than 5 years. Prior to the sale the owner of the land must be informed by registered letter, and notices must be posted on the land and at the municipal offices for not less than one month.

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

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

Municipalities: The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1923 was 192. Of these, 25 ranked as cities, 6 as towns, 22 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1923-24 :—

MUNICIPALITIES : 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Popu-lation.	Number of Rate-payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In-habited.	Un-in-habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1919-20 ..	877,880	228,518	197,753	1,394	£ 172,838,636	£ 9,687,320	£ 2,053,584
1920-21 ..	886,030	237,037	202,581	865	193,947,624	10,864,184	2,314,017
1921-22 ..	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		210,501,055	11,869,636	2,648,855
1922-23 ..	963,180	270,058	217,518	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,992,159
1923-24 ..	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	..
Shires—							
1919-20 ..	628,420	188,892	140,049	1,869	£ 184,599,186	£ 9,340,172	£ 1,171,379
1920-21 ..	628,970	198,801	142,684	1,586	205,555,121	10,360,524	1,279,099
1921-22 ..	610,987*	201,956	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,778	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24 ..	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	..
Total—							
1919-20 ..	1,506,300	417,410	337,802	3,263	357,437,822	19,027,492	3,224,963
1920-21 ..	1,515,000	435,838	345,265	2,451	399,502,745	21,214,703	3,593,116
1921-22 ..	1,525,358*	447,545	345,936*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23 ..	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24 ..	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	..

* Census figures.

Increases in value of rateable properties and municipal revenue.

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1923-24 over 1919-20.		1922-23 over 1919-20.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	91,854,728	5,277,025	938,575
Shires	50,675,411	2,475,902	325,385
Total Increase	142,530,139	7,752,927	1,263,960

The number of ratepayers returned for 1923-24 was 492,609, and the total capital value of rateable property £499,967,961, which is equivalent to about 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £26,780,419.

Unimproved Value of Rateable Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1923-24 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £132,346,682, and in shires £156,849,732. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

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

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1919-20	266,559	263,106	529,665
1920-21	278,357	279,731	558,088
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962

The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1923-24, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1922-23:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1923-24.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
Ballarat ..	36,000	8,954	s. d. 2 9	£ 4,773,285	£ 318,219	£ 70,853	£
Bendigo ..	26,000	6,402	2 6	3,400,880	242,920	55,089	..
Brighton ..	24,470	7,592	2 6	6,690,256	364,491	54,427	..
Brunswick ..	47,170	10,061	*0 6	7,801,577	507,270	125,088	..
Camberwell ..	29,170	8,972	*0 4	9,366,832	483,099	79,678	..
Caulfield ..	52,490	15,660	*0 4½	14,039,439	789,357	97,065	..
Coburg ..	25,000	9,000	*0 4	3,813,795	254,253	58,219	..
Collingwood ..	34,200	7,620	2 3	3,905,480	415,274	45,971	..
Essendon ..	37,960	11,415	*0 5	8,656,743	500,671	67,484	..
Fitzroy ..	34,850	8,048	2 0	8,437,518	468,751	51,137	..
Footscray ..	40,000	12,200	2 6	7,790,960	389,548	102,001	..
Geelong ..	15,100	4,600	2 7	3,924,380	196,219	42,420	..
Hawthorn ..	30,810	7,828	2 6	9,678,640	483,932	67,115	..
Kew ..	20,400	5,100	2 5	4,347,135	289,809	41,974	..
Malvern ..	40,850	10,234	2 6	13,237,400	661,870	93,825	..
Melbourne ..	103,600	32,308	2 0	66,033,360	3,301,668	1,005,061	..
Northcote ..	33,920	9,150	2 6	6,840,650	342,034	80,534	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,150	2,868	2 3	1,714,612	136,369	34,452	..
Prahran ..	51,000	13,087	1 9	11,928,000	994,000	103,390	..
Richmond ..	43,550	9,310	2 3	8,925,444	495,858	62,693	..
Sandringham ..	15,000	4,021	2 6	3,120,000	208,000	41,407	..
South Melbourne ..	47,100	10,530	2 6	13,791,400	689,570	105,552	..
St. Kilda ..	40,500	9,865	2 0	10,165,320	847,110	89,626	..
Warrnambool ..	7,950	1,683	2 9	1,487,109	87,477	44,478	..
Williamstown ..	20,570	4,785	2 6	2,750,000	194,694	61,041	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	10,000	2,392	s. d. 2 8	£ 1,618,520	£ 80,926	£ 16,201	£ ..
Mildura ..	5,550	1,273	2 6	1,300,000	65,000	24,009	..
Mordialloc ..	6,900	2,275	2 6	2,366,700	118,335	28,940	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	7,450	1,961	*0 5½	1,695,494	87,186	14,126	25
Oakleigh ..	7,100	3,242	*0 3½	1,889,021	121,189	19,650	50
Preston ..	12,050	14,050	2 6	3,971,080	198,584	40,615	..
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,500	980	2 3	642,160	32,108	17,550	25
Carrum ..	6,000	4,190	*0 3	1,643,625	81,385	17,580	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,420	3 0	595,025	40,402	8,377	25
Clunes ..	1,220	484	1 9	54,649	7,807	2,072	38
Creswick ..	1,740	542	1 9	76,540	7,654	2,416	37
Daylesford ..	3,410	790	2 6	535,580	26,779	4,899	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,720	1,412	2 6	279,624	23,302	8,816	25
Echuca ..	3,900	1,210	2 9	489,753	31,597	9,470	25
Hamilton ..	5,110	1,333	2 3	1,026,440	51,322	9,519	25
Horsham ..	4,030	1,021	2 6	840,000	42,000	8,825	50
Inglewood ..	1,160	297	2 0	79,248	6,604	2,290	25
Koroit ..	1,850	410	2 6	429,880	21,494	5,680	25
Maryborough ..	4,800	1,145	2 6	303,700	30,370	6,745	25
Portland ..	2,650	985	*0 4	536,580	26,829	7,036	25
Port Fairy ..	2,020	494	2 8	386,960	19,348	6,313	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,530	641	2 9	316,320	15,816	2,932	50
Sale ..	3,880	1,036	2 3	649,160	32,458	11,563	25
Sebastopol ..	1,870	466	2 6	109,380	9,115	1,936	40
Stawell ..	4,600	627	2 3	288,340	28,884	10,652	25
St. Arnaud ..	2,950	838	2 3	450,960	22,548	4,492	25
Wangaratta ..	4,050	950	3 0	783,000	39,150	9,871	25
Wonthaggi ..	5,600	1,235	2 6	404,280	33,690	5,695	46
Total ..	998,950	279,292	..	264,693,364	14,964,345	2,992,159	761

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

SHIRES, 1923-24.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Alberton ..	5,680	1,309	s. d. 2 0	£ 2,087,000	£ 104,350	£ 12,524	£ 695
Alexandra ..	3,520	870	2 0	1,005,680	50,284	8,565	387
Arapiles ..	2,380	635	1 3	1,265,840	63,292	4,754	151
Ararat ..	6,020	1,675	1 6	3,265,800	163,290	15,276	639
Avoca ..	3,370	1,300	2 0	922,680	46,134	4,505	237
Avon ..	2,500	827	1 6	1,338,000	66,900	6,858	299
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,380	850	2 0	1,025,000	51,250	9,348	202
Bairnsdale ..	8,020	1,830	1 6	2,565,000	128,250	14,652	703
Ballan ..	3,150	1,214	1 6	1,112,960	55,649	5,265	283
Ballarat ..	4,010	912	1 6	1,218,460	60,923	6,097	283
Bannockburn ..	2,680	700	2 0	1,058,800	52,940	5,985	200

Municipal Statistics.

SHIRES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
			s.	d.	Total.	Annual.		
Barrarbool ..	1,850	474	2	0	889,400	44,470	5,445	209
Beechworth ..	4,660	1,420	1	9	533,632	33,352	9,797	268
Belfast ..	2,600	670	1	10	1,557,760	77,888	8,286	320
Bellarine ..	4,120	1,105	1	9	1,262,900	63,145	7,046	237
Benalla ..	7,800	3,000	1	9	3,087,980	154,399	24,057	713
Berwick ..	9,400	3,600	2	0	2,468,660	123,433	16,207	493
Bet Bet ..	3,560	1,241	1	6	843,460	42,173	4,487	234
Birchip ..	1,910	571	1	6	1,022,720	51,138	3,894	197
Borong ..	4,960	1,442	1	0	2,573,520	125,676	11,917	429
Braybrook ..	4,900	2,470	1	9	1,489,320	74,466	11,816	190
Bright ..	4,100	1,400	2	0	734,600	36,730	5,294	370
Broadford ..	1,350	370	1	9	380,000	19,000	2,189	148
Broadmeadows ..	5,830	3,500	1	9	1,692,900	84,645	7,054	251
Bulla ..	2,640	573	1	6	867,360	43,368	6,422	172
Buln Buln ..	6,000	1,550	2	3	1,260,600	63,030	9,340	616
Bungaree ..	3,170	740	2	0	685,960	34,298	4,188	395
Buninyong ..	5,050	1,745	1	9	1,276,800	63,840	6,800	296
Charlton ..	2,530	835	1	6	1,512,980	75,649	7,466	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	729	1	6	622,000	31,100	3,546	216
Cohuna ..	3,130	701	1	6	1,134,320	56,716	6,602	114
Colac ..	12,560	2,935	1	7	6,585,780	329,289	35,802	138
Corio ..	4,020	1,516	2	6	1,767,840	88,392	12,654	342
Cranbourne ..	5,950	1,875	2	0	2,007,200	100,380	10,852	255
Creswick ..	3,060	916	1	4	1,139,380	56,969	4,620	383
Dandenong ..	7,400	5,900	* 0	2½	2,042,140	102,107	24,833	209
Deakin ..	4,100	1,173	1	6	1,988,000	99,400	5,812	219
Dimboola ..	6,450	1,343	1	6	3,346,460	167,323	16,597	305
Donald ..	3,500	1,036	1	6	2,187,880	109,394	10,467	323
Doncaster ..	2,900	903	1	9	1,058,700	52,955	6,371	194
Dundas ..	3,630	1,179	1	6	2,826,600	141,330	10,976	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,730	1,170	1	6	2,690,240	134,512	15,170	612
East Loddon ..	1,830	513	1	9	1,211,600	60,580	6,222	271
Eltham ..	4,300	1,650	2	6	897,900	44,895	7,794	208
Euroa ..	4,000	1,136	1	6	1,407,600	70,380	8,294	321
Ferntree Gully ..	8,000	7,000	2	6	2,160,000	108,000	18,670	444
Flinders ..	4,880	5,220	1	9	1,406,020	70,301	14,830	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	4,900	3,558	2	3	1,408,400	70,420	19,707	213
Gisborne ..	2,430	720	1	9	685,200	34,260	5,293	168
Glenelg ..	5,580	1,647	1	6	2,507,320	125,366	13,175	591
Glenlyon ..	3,520	1,095	1	6	814,880	40,744	3,960	223
Gordon ..	3,250	880	1	6	1,928,400	96,420	5,685	365
Goulburn ..	2,240	620	1	0	768,480	38,424	4,307	172
Grenville ..	3,280	1,200	1	6	808,080	53,872	7,220	299
Hampden ..	10,920	2,420	2	0	6,237,060	311,853	43,851	370
Healesville ..	3,630	1,292	2	6	643,780	32,189	10,079	236
Heidelberg ..	19,000	12,000	2	0	5,006,820	250,341	72,597	245
Heytesbury ..	4,530	1,032	2	0	2,125,060	106,253	12,133	530
Huntly ..	3,160	965	1	6	1,292,100	64,605	4,146	198
Kara Kara ..	3,150	1,265	2	0	1,134,600	56,730	6,553	316
Karkaroc ..	5,650	1,480	1	6	3,076,420	153,821	14,850	460
Kellor ..	1,270	750	1	6	648,980	32,449	2,607	49
Kerang ..	8,200	1,998	1	3	3,722,160	186,108	31,946	380
Kilmore ..	1,800	535	2	0	204,680	20,468	4,319	136
Korong ..	4,500	1,550	1	6	2,023,420	101,171	9,020	382
Korumburra ..	7,400	1,954	1	9	2,614,100	130,705	19,951	921
Kowree ..	3,450	1,230	2	0	1,956,550	97,636	10,212	430
Kyneton ..	8,040	2,165	1	6	1,746,120	87,306	16,584	366
Lawloit ..	2,250	640	1	9	754,650	50,310	5,771	196
Leigh ..	1,570	530	1	6	1,037,900	51,895	4,511	272
Lexton ..	1,680	620	1	6	1,000,000	50,000	4,998	198
Lilydale ..	10,000	3,980	2	6	2,656,000	132,800	23,692	395
Lowan ..	3,750	1,300	2	0	1,936,460	96,823	12,432	296
Maffra ..	5,850	1,200	1	6	2,875,700	143,785	15,294	483
Maldon ..	3,160	1,103	1	6	708,380	35,419	3,537	185
Mansfield ..	4,070	1,332	2	6	1,711,400	85,570	9,460	542
Marong ..	5,920	1,434	1	7	2,039,880	101,984	9,426	454
Melton ..	1,460	403	1	6	1,069,720	53,486	5,963	145

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Metcalfe ..	2,700	1,000	1 6	797,680	39,884	3,542	162
Mildura ..	8,400	1,870	2 6	2,160,000	108,000	17,655	184
Minhamite ..	1,960	667	1 6	1,840,880	92,044	14,385	321
Mirboo ..	1,620	380	2 0	520,000	26,000	4,914	355
Moorabbin ..	8,530	6,800	2 6	2,918,760	145,938	21,806	296
Mornington ..	2,350	1,274	2 3	609,900	30,495	8,205	114
Mortlake ..	3,040	809	1 6	3,556,560	177,823	17,480	346
Morwell ..	3,900	880	2 1	1,253,220	62,661	9,533	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,800	725	1 6	2,050,480	102,524	8,645	198
Mulgrave ..	3,650	2,124	2 6	919,520	45,976	6,535	221
McIvor ..	3,450	1,122	1 3	1,138,780	56,939	5,474	221
Narraacan ..	7,040	1,370	2 0	2,120,000	106,000	13,677	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,220	650	1 6	596,220	29,811	5,357	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,750	913	1 6	539,880	26,994	2,994	166
Numurkah ..	5,900	1,265	1 0	3,156,400	157,820	15,976	591
Nunawading ..	14,320	7,000	2 6	4,877,720	243,886	43,407	469
Omeo ..	2,500	819	2 3	887,880	44,394	8,885	836
Orbost ..	3,940	1,002	2 0	1,271,440	63,572	8,579	472
Otway ..	4,320	1,054	3 0	915,940	45,797	7,028	471
Oxley ..	4,000	1,001	1 6	1,436,560	71,828	5,926	370
Phillip Island and Woolamal ..	5,400	1,339	2 0	1,465,560	73,278	9,648	545
Portland ..	5,400	1,991	1 6	1,794,100	89,705	8,046	494
Pyalong ..	740	330	1 6	423,540	21,177	1,723	113
Ripon ..	3,560	1,100	2 0	1,822,260	91,113	11,903	221
Rochester ..	6,420	1,666	1 6	2,566,560	128,328	13,088	246
Rodney ..	7,700	1,850	1 6	3,211,380	160,569	17,163	432
Romsey ..	3,280	850	2 0	1,249,040	62,452	7,523	337
Rosedale ..	4,500	1,160	* 0 1	2,860,000	143,000	8,643	520
Rutherglen ..	4,080	964	1 6	1,021,480	51,074	6,714	257
Seymour ..	3,900	994	1 6	1,016,280	50,814	9,418	420
Shepparton ..	7,940	1,775	1 6	2,657,720	132,886	16,381	469
South Barwon ..	3,300	1,945	2 6	936,880	46,844	7,029	137
South Gippsland ..	4,770	1,173	2 0	1,388,400	69,420	7,328	517
Stawell ..	3,420	1,255	1 6	2,021,520	101,076	8,463	308
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,450	1,003	1 6	520,000	26,000	2,583	137
Swan Hill ..	12,000	2,650	1 6	3,660,280	183,014	21,347	272
Talbot ..	1,450	585	1 4	473,720	23,686	3,185	134
Tambo ..	4,300	1,030	2 0	1,142,000	57,100	7,180	513
Towong ..	4,420	1,200	2 0	1,793,120	89,656	12,411	578
Traralgon ..	3,460	717	1 9	1,235,000	61,750	9,781	441
Tullaroop ..	2,900	948	1 6	575,145	38,343	3,918	206
Tungamah ..	4,630	1,587	1 0	2,564,560	128,228	9,570	444
Upper Murray ..	2,300	526	1 9	1,019,080	50,954	5,579	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,700	1,305	2 6	768,980	38,449	6,470	221
Violet Town ..	1,940	756	1 6	760,240	38,012	3,514	221
Walpeup ..	5,700	1,750	1 6	1,528,146	76,407	7,924	300
Wangaratta ..	2,500	902	1 6	681,420	34,071	3,018	146
Wannon ..	3,050	959	1 6	2,232,420	111,621	9,319	426
Waranga ..	5,550	2,000	1 6	1,666,760	83,338	8,686	370
Warragul ..	5,100	1,278	2 4	1,852,680	92,634	14,767	885
Warrnambool ..	8,450	1,947	1 6	4,403,920	220,196	29,025	678
Werribee ..	5,200	3,840	2 3	1,873,120	93,906	17,991	296
Whittlesea ..	3,580	1,016	1 9	1,510,000	75,500	7,706	226
Wimmera ..	4,320	1,074	1 0	2,400,000	120,000	8,824	360
Winchelsea ..	4,450	1,500	2 0	1,815,140	90,757	12,280	413
Wodonga ..	2,850	598	1 9	722,920	36,146	3,975	169
Woorayl ..	6,110	1,430	2 3	2,134,600	106,730	14,934	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,300	1,277	1 6	2,075,240	103,762	12,384	328
Yackandandah ..	3,010	903	1 9	838,440	41,922	4,722	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,710	838	1 6	1,219,560	60,978	7,293	281
Yea ..	2,800	830	* 0 2	1,172,420	58,621	6,900	377
Total ..	627,420	213,317	..	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,496,764	47,719

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
s. d.										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	14	12	9	5
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	27	16	9	9	3
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	1	1	2
1 6 ..	4	3	..	..	..	50	60	55	53	58
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	2
1 8 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	5	4	3	3	3	13	15	20	19	18
1 10 ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
2 0 ..	5	7	6	7	4	11	19	19	26	27
2 1 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
2 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
2 3 ..	17	9	7	6	8	3	1	6	7	6
2 4 ..	5	3	2	1	1	1	..	..	1	1
2 5 ..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	12	20	23	21	18	1	6	12	9	11
2 7 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..
3 0 ..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	52	47	46	44	44	138	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the four years ended 1923-24 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 3½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 7¼d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 8¼d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only three municipalities.

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

Municipal revenue and expenditure. The ordinary revenue and expenditure of municipalities for each of the last three financial years were as follows:—

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1921 TO 1923.**

Sources of Revenue.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Taxation —	£	£	£
Rates	2,083,931	2,303,664	2,559,847
Licences	126,952	137,036	152,437
Dog Fees	23,682	24,316	24,832
Government Endowment and Grants	65,581	75,627	60,607
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	84,936	111,983	141,484
Market and Weighbridge Dues	91,448	99,485	99,337
Sanitary Charges	133,244	146,559	162,129
Rents	92,717	102,784	108,502
Electric Light and Gas Works	599,010	722,088	794,544
Other Sources	291,615	308,235	385,204
Total	3,593,116	4,031,777	4,488,923
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	284,158	319,430	340,319
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	345,834	363,706	396,524
Lighting	115,968	130,722	131,342
Contributions to Fire Brigades	46,512	48,526	49,225
Public Works—			
Construction	238,165	271,007	294,711
Maintenance	1,181,897	1,324,845	1,366,202
Electric Light and Gas Works	501,722	540,704	582,380
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	130,125	147,612	163,660
Redemption of Loans	133,786	136,090	165,675
Interest on Loans	276,065	305,289	343,164
Charities	29,468	26,436	26,288
Other Expenditure	315,085	332,067	356,199
Total	3,598,785	3,946,434	4,215,689

As compared with 1922, the revenue of 1923 increased by £457,146, as follows:—Rates increased by £256,183, licences by £15,401, sanitary charges by £15,570, rents by £5,718, dog fees by £516, electric light and gas works by £72,456, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £29,501, and “other sources” by £76,969. The revenue from Government endowment and grants decreased by £15,020, and from market and weighbridge dues by £148. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £269,255. All the items, except charities, showed increases as under:—Salaries, £20,889; sanitary work and street cleansing, £32,818; lighting, £620; contributions to fire brigades boards, £699; public works construction, £23,704; public works maintenance, £41,357; electric light and gas works, £41,676; formation of private streets, &c., £16,048; redemption of loans, £29,585; interest on loans, £37,875; and other expenditure, £24,132. The expenditure on charities decreased by £148.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1923 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from dog fees, 1 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 3 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1923 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £340,319, or about 8 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £26,288, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1921 TO 1923.

Assets.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	158,301	176,830	202,251
Other Assets	591,508	636,509	730,603
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	523,834	430,689	455,766
Arrears Due	483	511	670
Unexpended Balances	331,561	442,360	526,622
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c.	3,117,266	3,254,042	3,470,951
Waterworks	256,169	253,520	255,737
Gasworks	123,454	129,020	145,874
Electric Light Works... ..	1,340,261	1,549,966	1,699,120
Total Assets	6,442,837	6,873,447	7,487,594
Liabilities.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	102,191	88,936	155,233
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	483	511	670
Overdue Interest	5,379	6,026	8,054
Bank Overdrafts	542,462	858,733	665,866
Other Liabilities	352,518	389,340	440,031
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	5,595,614	5,714,570	6,601,731
Due on Loan Contracts	158,009	177,755	380,839
Total Liabilities	6,756,656	7,235,871	8,252,424

Municipal assets and liabilities compared. The total of the assets of municipalities in 1923 was £7,487,594, and of the liabilities £8,252,424. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,269,854, against which there were assets amounting to £932,854.

The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £6,982,570, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £5,999,512. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c., (£5,571,682), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £427,830.

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

Endowment of municipalities. An annual endowment to municipalities of £310,000 was authorized by the *Local Government Act* 1874, and it ceased to be payable in 1879. A subsidy, however, in lieu of such endowment, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, and this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 the endowment was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-07, and from 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. Payments were made on the basis of this amount to 30th June, 1915, but the sum payable was reduced to £50,000 for the year ended 30th June, 1916, and was maintained at that amount in the eight succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received during the twelve months ended on the preceding 30th September, according to the following scale:—

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

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

**Rating on
Unimproved
Values.**

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. It did not come into operation until 1st October, 1915. Amendments were made by Act No. 3045, passed on 6th January, 1920, and Act No. 3060, passed on 14th September, 1920. The law on the subject has been consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199), which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

The Act may be adopted in any municipality by determination of the council or by a proposal for the adoption thereof being carried at a poll of the ratepayers. If the council, by special order, passes a resolution that it proposes to adopt this method of rating, a provisional valuation of all rateable properties within the municipal district (except "special rateable properties") computed at the unimproved capital value, the improved capital value and the net annual value thereof must be made. To the valuation must be added a statement setting forth the amount in the pound of the general rate last made on the basis of the net annual value of rateable properties, and the amount in the pound of a rate on the basis of the unimproved capital value of rateable properties which in its total revenue producing capacity corresponds with the amount in the pound of the said general rate. With respect to each rateable property a statement must be prepared showing the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the net annual value thereof under a general rate of the same amount in the pound as the general rate last made, and the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the property. Notice must be given to each occupier or owner or in a newspaper circulating in the district that such valuation has been made, and a statement containing particulars must be prepared, and must be open for inspection at the municipal offices during office hours by any ratepayer free of charge. After this has been done the municipality must publish in the *Government Gazette*, and in a newspaper generally circulating in the district, a notice that the council proposes to adopt the Act. If, within one month after the date of the last publication of the notice, one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll, the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of such votes forms at least one-third of the number of votes for which voters are inscribed on the roll.

Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act, one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll.

If a proposal is adopted or rescinded, it cannot again be submitted to the ratepayers for three years.

Special rateable properties, such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the rateable property, and other land, works or other rateable properties declared to be "special rateable properties" pursuant to the Act are not rateable on unimproved values.

New valuations showing the unimproved capital value, capital improved value, and net annual value are to be made at least once in every five years.

"Unimproved capital value" of land is defined as the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might in ordinary circumstances be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might be expected to require and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made.

"Capital improved value" of land means the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require.

"Improvements" in land means all work actually done or material used thereon by the expenditure of capital or labour on or for the benefit of the land, but in so far only as the effect of such work done or material used is to increase the value of the land, and the benefit thereof is unexhausted at the time of the valuation; it does not include work done or material used on or for the benefit of land by the Crown, or by any statutory public body, unless such work has been paid for by the contribution of the owner or occupier for that purpose.

"Net annual value" of rateable property means the net annual value thereof computed as provided in the Local Government Acts, and (in the case of the city of Melbourne and the city of Geelong) includes the annual value thereof computed as provided in any Act or enactment relating to the city of Melbourne or the city of Geelong.

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22 and 12 for each of the years 1922-23 and 1923-24. The following table gives for these

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1923-24.

Municipality.	Capital Improved Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Value.	Amount Collectable in 1924 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	7,801,577	2,393,864	507,270	0 6	2 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	59,847	30·68
Camberwell City ..	9,366,832	3,624,915	483,099	0 4	2 6	60,415	38·70
Carrum Borough ..	1,643,625	918,326	81,385	0 3*	2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	11,479	55·87
Caulfield City ..	14,039,439	5,106,204	789,357	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5	95,741	36·37
Coburg City ..	3,813,795	1,817,154	254,253	0 4	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	30,286	47·65
Essendon City ..	8,656,743	2,900,415	500,671	0 5	2 5	60,425	33·50
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	1,695,494	496,820	87,186	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6	10,868	29·30
Oakleigh Town ..	1,889,021	909,668	121,189	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	13,266	48·16
Portland Borough ..	536,580	202,104	26,829	0 4	2 6	3,368	37·66
Dandenong Shire ..	2,042,140	948,864	102,107	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ †	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	9,884	46·46
Rosedale Shire ..	2,860,000	1,500,000	143,000	0 1	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,250	52·44
Yea Shire ..	1,172,420	622,862	58,621	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	5,190	53·13

* In addition, there is an extra rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ in the Centre Ward, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in part of the North and Centre Wards.

† In addition, there is an extra rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the Centre Riding, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the South Riding.

‡ In addition, there is an extra rate of 2d. in the township of Yea, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the West Riding.

municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1923-24:—

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.

An Act (No. 3088) to provide dwellings for eligible persons, and for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or overcrowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3317) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 22nd December, 1923, respectively. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year. Power is given to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to acquire land and to erect dwelling-houses thereon, the capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house, together with the land on which it is erected, not to exceed £850 for houses of wood, or £950 for brick, stone or concrete dwellings.

A person who purchases a dwelling-house from the Commissioners is permitted to occupy it as a weekly tenant, and is required to pay a rental at such rate per cent. per annum on the capital cost, or (where the Commissioners have required the payment of a deposit) on the difference between the capital cost and the amount of deposit paid, as may be determined by the Commissioners, also to pay all rates and taxes, and the cost of insurance, repairs, and maintenance. An appropriation is made from the rent to cover interest on the amount of the capital cost outstanding, and the remainder of the rent is allotted towards payment of such capital cost.

When the purchaser has paid 20 per cent. of the purchase money and the amount due by him up to that time by way of instalments he may, if he so desires, execute a mortgage of the property in favour of the Commissioners. Payments in respect of purchase money are to be made in equal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments in accordance with the contract of sale or mortgage entered into, but the period of repayment is not to exceed 28 years.

The number of contracts entered into for the erection of dwellings has been—

For year ended 30th June, 1922	..	..	622
do. do. 1923	..	..	813
do. do. 1924	..	..	806

The position at 23rd September, 1924, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	2,078
In course of erection	..	..	..	347
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	166

Total number of applications approved 2,591

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Part XXVI: of the *Local Government Act* 1915 dealing with the erection of "workers' dwellings" by municipalities is repealed, but power is given to a municipality to purchase or take compulsorily any land in the municipal district regarded as suitable for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon for persons of small means. Power is also given to erect or purchase dwelling-houses at a cost not exceeding £800 including the cost of the land. These may be sold by the municipality to eligible persons under conditions similar to those existing in the case of the sales by the Savings Bank Commissioners referred to above. They may also be let upon such terms as the council of the municipality thinks fit. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted.

For the purposes of any housing scheme the municipal council may, out of the municipal fund, advance any money required, if necessary increase the amount of the general rate to an extent not exceeding 6d. in the pound notwithstanding any statutory limit for such rate, and may borrow £100,000 over and above the amount authorized under the *Local Government Act* or any other Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet and statement of accounts must be prepared, setting out full particulars of the operations of the scheme.

Power is given to municipalities to borrow money for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or over-crowded areas. The amount that may be borrowed for this purpose by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. The cities of Melbourne and Geelong are separately dealt with as regards borrowing powers. The amounts that may be borrowed by them are as follows:—For housing schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £100,000; for reclamation schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £50,000.

When the council of any municipality desires to carry out any housing scheme or reclamation scheme it must prepare a general plan or description of the scheme, showing the character and extent of the works proposed, the mode in which it is proposed to obtain funds for the scheme, an estimate of the cost, the area affected, and a description of the betterment area (if any), *i.e.*, the area within which it is proposed to impose a betterment charge. Power is given to a council to impose a betterment charge amounting to one-half of the amount of the enhanced market value derived by lands from reclamation after making all fair and proper deductions for rates, taxes, assessments and impositions on or in respect of such lands according to such enhanced value.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, dated 8th July, 1922, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are

building dwellings for returned soldiers and other eligible persons under the War Service Homes Acts, the funds being provided by the Commonwealth Government. The dwellings erected or being erected under this agreement are based on the same plans as are used in accordance with the Housing Act, and as nearly as possible they are built under the same conditions.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 1,521 War Service Homes buildings, of which 1,008 have been completed. In addition to this the Bank had up to the middle of September, 1924, made advances to 65 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 16 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,250, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £900 (Act No. 3255).

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

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

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal

and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. Additional sums were made available as follows:—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; and (by Act No. 3334) £1,000,000 over a period of three years from 1st July 1923. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasurer, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, &c.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act* 1903 (incorporated in the *Local Government Act* 1915), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £50,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is half the amount expended; the contribution is due on the first day of January following the financial year in which the expenditure is incurred and it must be paid before the succeeding first day of July. Power is given by Act No. 2986 to reduce contributions in respect of maintenance where the Board is satisfied that the cost of maintenance is excessive and that such cost is due to motor traffic not of local origin, or to timber traffic.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1922-23 constructional work to the value of £266,046, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £288,129 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1923, for permanent works was £2,732,155, and for developmental roads £1,950,240.

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

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

Developmental roads. Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000 and £1,000,000 by Acts Nos. 3255 and 3334 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £265,032 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £99,079 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1923.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Motor Car Act No. 2702—									
Registration Fees ..	150,622	7	6						
Licence Fees ..	8,915	18	6						
Fines ..	6,278	7	11						
	165,816	13	11						
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	7,567	11	3	158,249	2	8			
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—									
Licence Fees ..	21,457	12	0						
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	1,524	7	6	19,933	4	6			
Country Roads Act No. 2635—									
Registration Traction Engines ..	954	9	0						
Width of Tyres Administration, Fines and Costs ..	84	5	9	1,038	14	9			
Municipalities Repayments—									
Permanent Works ..	68,607	8	3						
Maintenance Works ..	123,819	5	7	192,426	13	10			
Appropriation for Maintenance of Main Roads, Act No. 2986 ..				50,000	0	0			
Advance under Special Loan Act No. 3161 ..				70,000	0	0			
Hire of Plant ..	8,590	16	11						
Stores and Materials ..	8,184	1	9						
Sundries ..	6,046	12	0	22,821	10	8			
				514,469	6	5			
Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure refunded ..				265,752	0	9			
Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 1 refunded ..				75,996	14	9			
Balance, 30th June, 1923 ..				26,299	11	10			
				£882,517	13	9			
							52,766	6	6
By Balance 1st July, 1922 ..							289,455	0	11
Maintenance Works ..							1,325	17	2
<i>Less</i> Refunds ..							288,129	3	9
Miscellaneous ..							126,245	19	4
Advances under Special Loan, Act No. 3161, repaid ..							70,000	0	0
Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure ..							269,170	4	9
Advances on account of Expenditure under provisions of Federal State Grant No. 1 ..							76,805	9	0
<i>Less</i> Refunds ..							613	8	3
							76,192	0	9
Similar Advances, Grant No. 2 ..							13	18	8
							76,205	19	5

Ordinary receipts and payments.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1922-23 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—

Municipal Statistics.

Loan receipts
and
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1923, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1922	4,533	7 0	By Permanent Works	269,170	4 9		
„ Proceeds of Loans	236,550	3 1	<i>Deduct Refunds</i>	3,124	1 8		
„ Transfers	385	16 8				266,046	3
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund	269,170	4 9	„ Temporary Advance from Country Roads Board Fund refunded			265,752	0 9
„ Advance from Public Account	44,616	18 9	„ Public Account—Advance Account			20,658	8 4
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1923			2,804	18 1
	<u>£555,261</u>	<u>10 3</u>				<u>£555,261</u>	<u>10 3</u>

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1923, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985 and 3255 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT— (ACTS Nos. 2944 AND 2985).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Proceeds of Loans	344,690	0 0	By Balance 1st July, 1922			19,338	3 0
„ Adjustment Account	68	11 7	„ Expenditure	309,927	14 8		
			<i>Less Refunds</i>	44,895	12 10	265,032	1 10
			„ Public Account—Advances Account			25,543	17 4
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1923			34,844	9 5
	<u>344,758</u>	<u>11 7</u>				<u>£344,758</u>	<u>11 7</u>

(Act No. 3255.)

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Proceeds of Loans	42,482	7 0	By Expenditure	99,405	11 11		
„ Public Account—Advances Account	39,809	14 7	<i>Less Refunds</i>	325	18 5	99,079	13 6
„ Balance, 30th June, 1923	16,787	11 11					
	<u>£99,079</u>	<u>13 6</u>				<u>99,079</u>	<u>13 6</u>

LICENSING FUND.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1923:—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1922-1923.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.		
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Balance, 30th June, 1922 ...	13,714 10 0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c. ...	5,570 2 8	
Fees ...	3,597 4 6	Incidental Expenses ...	10,704 10 7	
Fines ...	7,279 15 0	Annual payment to municipalities ...	64,340 0 0	
Sale of confiscated liquor ...	214 9 3	Compensation ...	44,455 0 0	
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers ...	31,088 10 6	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855 ...	23,000 0 0
	Victuallers ...	246,841 12 8	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259 ...	157,205 14 6
	Temporary ...	3,887 16 4	Balance £321,714 10 0	
	Railway Refreshment Rooms ...	2,229 13 0	Deduct	
	Packet ...	149 18 6	Investments	
	Australian Wine ...	4,943 2 6	in Stock 288,000 0 0	
	Billiard-table ...	4,892 10 0		
	Brewers ...	216 17 0		
	Vignerons ...	75 0 0		
	Club certificates ...	6,335 0 0		
	Permits—Extra Bars ...	1,046 0 0		
	„ Extended Hours ...	867 0 0		
	Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court ...	40 9 6		
Interest ...	11,520 0 0			
Cost of taking Poll ...	50 0 0			
Sale of Rolls ...	0 9 0			
Total ...	£338,989 17 9	Total ...	£338,989 17 9	

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1922-23 a sum of £64,340 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

and forfeitures incurred under the *Licensing Act* 1915. The particulars of this payment are as follows :—

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1922-23.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	31,868	0	0
„ Towns	428	0	0
„ Boroughs	7,568	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class	228	0	0
2nd „	10,624	0	0
3rd „	9,316	0	0
4th „	767	0	0
5th „	3,132	0	0
6th „	1,185	0	0
Total	65,116	0	0
Add payments on account of 1921-22	230	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1922-23	1,006	0	0
Amount paid in 1922-23	64,340	0	0

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

Moneys may be borrowed by municipalities for permanent works or undertakings or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Permanent works include the construction or alteration of streets, roads, bridges, culverts, levees, ferries, jetties, sewers, and drains; the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric light works and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, sheep dips, market places and houses, weighbridges, workers' dwellings, baths, pleasure grounds, libraries, museums, and places of public resort and recreation; the construction and establishment of hospitals, asylums, and other buildings for charitable purposes;

the construction and laying down of any track, way, or pavement of iron, steel, wood, or stone; the erection of machinery for the treatment of refuse or night-soil, or for quarrying or crushing stone; the works and undertakings connected with the reclamation and improvement of low-lying or over-crowded areas; and the purchase of land or any easement, term, or privilege in, over, or affecting land compulsorily taken for any of the foregoing purposes.

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

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

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

Power is given to any twenty persons whose names are inscribed on the municipal roll to demand the submission of any loan proposal to a poll of the ratepayers.

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1922-23 was £6,601,731, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows:—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1923.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			1,050,804	4,348,964
Shires	...	...	...	172,087	1,029,876
Total	...	...	...	1,222,891	5,378,840

Municipal loan receipts and expenditure. The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	882,188	211,670	1,093,858
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	263,873	54,194	318,067
Expenditure during the year	733,369	151,934	885,303
Balance unexpended at the end of 1923 ...	412,692	113,930	526,622

Municipal loan expenditure, 1919 to 1923. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1923 amounted to £885,303, of which £733,369 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £151,934 by shires. The following return shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1919	162,602	194,627
1920	275,708	259,498
1921	572,851	504,016
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,85	885,303

Loans raised
by municip-
alities,
1923.

The loan receipts for the year 1922-23 amounted to £1,093,858. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1922-23 was £526,622—£412,692 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £113,930 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1923.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—	£	£	£
Ballarat	40,000	32,124
Brighton	1,350
Brunswick	40,000	42,585
Camberwell	40,000	27,909
Carrum	3,600	775
Caulfield	29,208
Coburg	20,000	5,208
Collingwood	817
Essendon	3,000	1,337
Fitzroy	877
Footscray	104,000	68,849
Geelong West	25,500	13,212
Hawthorn	7,322
Kew	5,529
Malvern	15,000	9,223
Maryborough	4,000	1,257
Melbourne	404,773*	..
Mildura	8,215	790
Mordialloc	15,000	14,494
Northcote	12,750	3,298
Oakleigh	6,850	2,931
Portland	224
Port Melbourne	1,211
Prahran	40,561
Preston	20,000	20,000
Queenscliffe	125
Richmond	12,000	13,279
Sale	532
Sandringham	773
South Melbourne	2,099
St. Arnaud	1,500	1,096
St. Kilda	75,000	48,755
Stawell	15,500	2,576
Wangaratta	1,500	1,428
Warrnambool	6,460
Williamstown	9,000	1,210
Wonthaggi	5,000	3,268
Total	882,188	412,692

* Of this amount, £49,010 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £5,763 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1923—*continued.*

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
SHIRES—	£	£	£
Barrabool	1,100	19
Benalla	7,926
Berwick	6,000	3,128
Bet Bet	66
Borong	3,000	203
Braybrook	2,300	730
Bright	1,051
Colac	488
Corio	307
Dandenong	18,450	10,049
Donald	3,500	63
Dunmunkle	5,000	..
Eltham	4,500	3,599
Euroa	600	..
Ferntree Gully	10,200	5,641
Frankston and Hastings	10,000	9,728
Healesville	6,000	4,798
Heidelberg	47,528	18,074
Heytesbury	2,000	93
Huntly	930
Kilmore	592	..
Kyneton	3,800	1,400
Lillydale	3,000	1,932
Lowan	5,000	..
Mansfield	27
Melton	200
Mildura	5,000	4,294
Moorabbin	11,650	5,885
Mornington	3,250	3,250
Morwell	500	..
Mulgrave	4,000	747
McIvor	6,000	5,940
Nunawading	377
Rochester	1,200	1,553
Shepparton	2,169
South Barwon	3,500	2,791
Swan Hill	20,000	4,677
Traralgon	2,000	332
Tungamah	2,000	28
Walpeup	10,000	7,883
Wangaratta	87
Warragul	2,500	252
Werribee	6,900	1,777
Whittlesea	606
Winchelsea	457
Wycheproof	1,500	373
Total	211,670	113,930

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918*, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act 1915*, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898*, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans, the amounts of which were expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1923, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1923.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1922-23.	To 30th June, 1923.		1922-23.	To 30th June, 1923.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1922 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,188
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured ..	53,442	397,136
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,952	264,881	Redeemable in instalments ..	..	61,443
Stock realized ..	490	84,193	Ordinary loans .. ..	..	95,310
Other receipts ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund .. ..	..	4,372
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1923 ..	..	..
Total	53,442	1,176,374	Total	53,442	1,176,374

* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1923, was £213,681.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1923 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	320,750
Lighting	27,111
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	9,836
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees	56,348
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors	408
Other Licences	1,082
Fees under Dog Act	561
Baths	6,321
Market and Weighbridge Fees	58,345
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c.	411,363
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges	9,922
Fines and Costs	5,097
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges	47,948
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	6,721
Other	5,132
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	2,481
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators—Sale of Manure	14,035
Fees under Building Act	4,327
Sundries	17,273
Total	1,005,061

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.)	£ 49,478
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	1,140
Street Cleansing, &c.	75,042
Lighting—Electric and Gas	28,209
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	10,085
Public Works—	
Roads and Bridges	163,340
Markets and Weighbridges	29,479
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	68,621
Parks and Planting trees in streets	44,718
Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995	2,258
Interest on Loans from the Public	117,000
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	17,230
Repayment of Public Loans	10,000
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	307,711
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	142
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	8,184
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	3,250

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>	Amount.
	£
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital	6,978
" " Heatherton Sanatorium	1,209
Law Costs	1,843
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	5,196
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	1,217
Gas Conference	205
Fees—Dog Act	645
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	3,609
Libraries, Museums, &c.	375
Elections	166
Town Planning Commission	656
Band Performances	1,500
Milk Supply	1,685
Baby Health Centre	391
Ceremonials	1,286
Ambulance Service	500
Soldiers' Memorial	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution	8,193
Retiring Allowance to Employees	2,946
Sundries	4,424
Total	985,411

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1923, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 41 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 6 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—6 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 13 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 31 per cent.; for lighting, 3 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

**Municipal
Officers'
Guarantee
Fund.**

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

£3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro ratâ* to its contribution. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1923, amounting to £251,445, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £859. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1923, was £11,468. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1923, amounted to £2,545.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

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

are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st. December, 1923, was £2,657,107. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1919 TO 1923.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	255,234	310,805	415,737	510,240	600,161
Rents	33,740	35,238	37,445	37,449	39,725
Interest	193	45	43	80	328
Other Revenue	43,453	41,885	45,148	50,836	46,194
	332,620	387,973	498,373	598,605	686,408
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	62,460	75,554	96,224	114,986	135,520
Total	270,160	312,419	402,149	483,619	550,888
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	31,622	31,802	36,882	40,502	35,175
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	12,455	300	30,140	35	750
Maintenance—Dredging	47,382	71,017	78,689	90,129	39,774
" Harbor	2,418	3,721	3,814	3,183	4,613
" Wharfs	17,121	19,018	23,383	21,475	25,725
" Approaches	10,845	11,391	14,526	11,264	15,345
Interest on Loans*	94,698	96,961	104,342	131,516	112,659
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	52,500	52,500	65,000	100,000	213,000
Total	269,041	286,710	356,776	398,104	447,041
Surplus on Revenue Account	1,119	25,709	45,373	85,515	103,847
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	964	3,221	2,461	11,906	33,407
Deepening Waterways	68,746	80,720	81,699	98,331	150,885
Wharfs Construction	77,305	50,084	79,206	45,613	67,360
Approaches Construction	3,774	2,364	1,565	9,084	7,519
Other Harbor Improvements	3,068	2,936	14,099	25,311	8,204
Floating Plant	1,435	834	2,957	1,708	632
General Plant	509	883	1,131	925	2,025
Total	155,801	141,042	183,118	192,878	270,032

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £591,000 (the whole of which has been raised), and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure for the last five years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure:—

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
—					
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	13,004	12,772	17,415	21,737	26,387
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	5,125	4,237	4,189	4,363	4,563
Sparrovale Farm	7,403	9,375	8,789	7,852	8,952
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	20,999	19,548	15,042	16,752	15,754
Other Revenue	1,682	4,088	4,200	3,530	3,024
Total	48,213	50,020	49,635	54,234	58,680
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	6,381	7,765	7,909	7,856	8,362
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	670	3,393	2,733	2,325	4,311
" Harbor	701	493	874	505	669
" Floating Plant ..	1,204	278	467	710	405
" Other	1,397	1,972	1,213	925	1,421
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	27,755	25,540	25,501	25,087	27,849
Sparrovale Farm	4,894	6,511	6,507	5,768	6,601
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	2,845	3,383	3,451	3,240	3,361
Corio Quay Power-house ..	9,826	10,109	3,755	4,377	2,332
Miscellaneous	533	1,181	1,194	1,274	754
Total	56,206	60,625	53,604	52,067	56,065
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	22,911	16,896	5,707	8,541	7,915
Deepening Waterworks .. ..	..	..	..	..	341
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	270	113	135	115	10
Other Harbor Improvements .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Floating and General Plant ..	48	260	..	..	14
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	23,229	17,269	5,842	8,656	8,280

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

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

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

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

Functions of the Board. The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called for and pressing want.

Area under Board's control, and population. Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1923, comprised 21 cities, 1 town, and part of another, 1 borough, and parts of 13 shires, or 37 municipalities in all. 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 also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1923, was 892,857.

Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans.

The Board is authorized to borrow £13,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891. Under The Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act, No. 3284, it is also empowered to borrow £500,000 for works carried out in accordance with that Act.

The liability under Government loans on 30th June, 1923, was £938,182, and under loans raised by the Board, £13,252,170, a portion of the latter amount having been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £1,949,582 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.**Water supply assessments and rates.**

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1922-23 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

Water meters.

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

Garden rate.

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

Assessed value of property.

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £10,948,582 in 1922-23, and £12,189,013 in 1923-24.

Water rate receipts.

In 1922-23 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears) ..	258,139	4	0
Meters ..	196,946	9	7
Special rates ..	3,928	15	2
Total	£459,014	8	9

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £507,475, as against £438,399 in the previous year. The cost in 1922-23 of maintenance and management was £5,407, and the amount paid in interest was £217,723, the total charge being £303,130, as compared with a payment in 1921-22 of £86,925 for maintenance and management, and of £196,746 for interest, or a total charge of £283,671.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1923, was as follows :—

Original water supply station, &c.	..	..	..	..	£84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	..	636,338
Maroondah system	..	..	..	..	1,020,688
O'Shanassy system	..	..	..	..	543,606
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	..	318,648
Large mains..	..	..	..	..	1,302,899
Reticulation	..	..	..	..	1,769,208
Total	..	..	..	..	£5,676,272

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

Total catchment area.

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

Total daily supply.

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

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

Yan Yeau system. The Yan Yeau watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1923 was 25ft. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th November, and the minimum depth, 15ft. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. on 7th and 10th May. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1923, the total intake of the Reservoir was 5,038,016,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,786,632,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about $41\frac{1}{4}$ miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons) which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed. The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 33,000 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line, of an aggregate length of $48\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1923.

The total output of water from the various sources of
 Output of Water. supply in 1923 was as follows :—

	Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	4,786,632,000
„ Maroondah Streams	8,777,377,000
„ O'Shanassy River	4,943,633,000
Total Output	18,507,642,000

Storage and service reservoirs. There are two storage and fourteen service reservoirs, and it is proposed to have three other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1923 was 867,230, and the average daily consumption was 53.45 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1923 :—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1923.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	1,951,454,000	62,950,129
February	1,957,515,000	69,911,250
March	1,938,128,000	62,520,258
April	1,814,101,000	60,470,033
May	1,345,261,000	43,395,516
June	1,205,011,000	40,167,033
July	1,237,893,000	39,932,032
August	1,265,774,000	40,831,419
September	1,231,844,000	41,061,467
October	1,396,560,000	45,050,323
November	1,457,030,000	48,567,667
December	1,701,693,000	54,893,323
Total for the year	18,502,264,000	...
Daily average for the year .. ..	...	50,691,134

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1923 occurred on 22nd February and the minimum daily consumption on 5th August of that year. The consumption was 87,267,000 gallons on the former and 34,109,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN
MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64
1915 ...	674,000	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·73
1916 ...	713,957	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	727,196	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	744,018	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	759,212	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	784,530	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 11,310 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1923.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1923-24 was £12,406,203, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £ in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1922-23 was 1s. in the £ in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 1s. rate was £10,118,636 in 1922-23.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1922-23 amounted to £518,170.

The sewerage revenue for 1922-23 was £552,643, as against £441,516 in the previous year. The outlay in 1922-23 for management, working expenses and repairs was £116,894, and for interest £433,577, the total charges being £555,381, compared with an outlay in 1921-22 of £121,045 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £422,295 for interest, or a total expenditure of £543,340.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.

**Cost of the
Melbourne and
Metropolitan
sewerage
system.**

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1923, was £8,585,840, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£640,510
Outfall sewer and rising mains	447,388
Pumping station buildings and engines	257,226
Main and branch sewers	2,275,670
Street reticulation	2,705,323
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,231,031
House connexions branches	518,710
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	509,959
Night soil sites	23
Cost of sewerage system	£8,585,840
Householders' debts for house connexions	149,019
River improvements	3,977
Total	£8,738,836

**Main Sewers
and Subsidiary
Main.**

The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (North Yarra system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (South Yarra system). The subsidiary main, which takes in Williams-town, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station. Further information regarding these is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 222.

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

On 31st December, 1923, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon, Nunawading and Sandringham. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Caulfield, Malvern, the

older portions of Footscray and the thickly populated portions of Brunswick, Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown. Considerable progress had been made in the municipality of Heidelberg, and a small portion of Oakleigh had been completed.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1923, work was carried out principally in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Essendon, Footscray, Kew, Northcote, Oakleigh, and Sandringham, and in a lesser degree in Coburg, Malvern, Preston, and Williamstown.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—Mains have been extended and branch sewers constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas as follows:—Hobson's Bay Main Section 14, Sandringham; Moonee Ponds Main Section 5, Brunswick, Coburg and Essendon; Camberwell South Branch Sewer and Golf Links Branch, Camberwell; Five Mile Creek Branch Section 1, Coburg and Essendon; South Crescent Branch, Brighton. Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, Oakleigh, Preston, Sandringham, and Williamstown. Reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Caulfield, Malvern, Brighton, Camberwell, Essendon, Northcote, Coburg, Brunswick and Hawthorn, and in a lesser degree in Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Prahran, Preston, Sandringham, St. Kilda, and Williamstown.

Work in progress.—Five Mile Creek Branch Sewer Section 2, Essendon, and North Road East Intercepting Sewer, Caulfield, are now in course of construction. Reticulation contracts are being carried out in Camberwell, Caulfield, Essendon, Footscray, Kew and Nunawading, while contract and day labor reticulation extensions, to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh sub-divisions, are being carried out in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Collingwood, Malvern, Prahran and other municipalities.

In all $1,637\frac{9}{16}$ miles of reticulation and $174\frac{3}{16}$ miles of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of $1,811\frac{13}{16}$ miles.

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

Number of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st Decr., 1923.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1923, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 179,183, including 264 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1922-23, 10,337 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,508 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1923 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1923.
Melbourne City	27,763
South Melbourne City	11,084
Prahran City	12,616
Fitzroy City	8,219
Richmond City	10,639
St. Kilda City	8,927
Collingwood City	8,755
Footscray City	7,459
Hawthorn City	7,377
Brunswick City	10,654
Essendon City	8,516
Malvern City	8,229
Caulfield City	10,844
Northcote City	7,482
Camberwell City	4,501
Brighton City	5,280
Port Melbourne City	3,099
Williamstown City	4,078
Kew City	3,773
Coburg City	3,114
Preston Town	1,848
Sandringham City (part of)	1,710
Oakleigh Town	517
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	2,398
Nunawading Shire (part of)	301
Total	179,183

The house connexions pipes join the reticulation pipes, and these are gradually collected into branch sewers, which connect with the sub-mains and mains.

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 45 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid *debris* and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, and is transferred to a drier, which is situated in the building over the wells.

Pumping station.

It is there subject to steam pressure, and, consequently, to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial value, and is carted away. There are seven steam pumping engines installed, of about 300 horse-power each, which are together capable of pumping a maximum of 54,000,000 gallons of sewage daily. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 132,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low-water mark at the pumping station to 67 feet above low-water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through wrought-iron and mild steel rising mains, two 6-ft. and one 4-ft.—the three lengths running side by side, each 2·794 miles long (an aggregate length of 8·38 miles). Only two of these rising mains are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. From Brooklyn the sewage gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs **Sewage farm.** is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 13,218 acres 3 roods 16½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall to 31st December, 1923, of 17·96 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37·25 feet above low-water mark.

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

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an-acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main

carriers and drains which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south, through the farm.

The area under irrigation in the year 1922-23 included 246 acres of maize harvested for grain, which were estimated to yield about 60 bushels per acre, 133 acres of lucerne which were cut for hay, and yielded approximately 367 tons or $2\frac{3}{4}$ tons to the acre, and 8,471 acres which were available for grazing live stock.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1922-23 were— from sheep, profit £2,878; from cattle, profit £11,761. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £4,448.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1923 :—Lucerne (chaff and hay), £1,522; maize, £2,374; wheat and barley, £38; other, £73. Total, £4,007.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1922-23, or as at 30th June, 1923, are as follows :—

Total area of farm	13,219 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1922-23 = in gallons	36,335,140
= 133·85 acre-feet per day = 5·532 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 8,831 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1923	£640,510
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm	£11,285
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,444 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £29,744, interest on capital cost)	£35,903
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	3·68d.
Population served by sewerage system	776,929
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1923	13·73 inches
" " " 31st December, 1923	14·63 "
Average rainfall for 30 years to 31st December, 1923	17·96 "

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, by Act 44 Vict. No. 656 (Consolidated Act No. 2747). The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commission shall be the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

Finance.—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £314,120 as at 31st December, 1923. The annual revenue is £32,000.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. in the £ on the net annual value of properties, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been practically completed, and branch and reticulation sewers and sewage disposal works are in progress. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The outfall sewer is 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the main sewer is about 2 1-10th miles long. The method of sewage disposal proposed is by sedimentation and digestion tanks and oxidising beds. One mile of branch sewers and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of reticulating sewers have been laid.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from the Commonwealth Bank, £130,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1924.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923–24, 3d. in the £, on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district.

It is anticipated that the progress of the work will enable the connecting of houses with the sewerage system to commence early in 1925.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted under the *Geelong Municipal Water Act* 1907, and gazetted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act* No. 2230 (Consolidated Act No. 2661).

The Commissioners number five. Two of these represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio and South Barwon.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking; £510,000 for sewerage undertaking and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1923, was:—Water supply, £477,479; sewerage, £429,261; and sewerage installation, £143,330. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1923, was £40,525 on account of waterworks and £32,457 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 36,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 9,000; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 7,600; and the number connected with the sewers, 7,150.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pages 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,355,280 gallons.

Sewerage.—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 8,081 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon and Bellarine.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.
- (b) An additional rate of 4d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 4d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

In addition to the general and additional rates, the Trust, to prevent or minimize the pollution of the river Barwon, has power to strike a differential or special rate on properties which drain into that river.

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. M. G. Giudice, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at 5½ per cent. It is secured by debentures repayable in twenty years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 11th January, 1924, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial year ending 30th September, 1924, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 11th January, 1924.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 15 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 1,600 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1924, 440 houses had

been connected, while 86 others were in course of being sewered. The maximum number of men employed was 224, and the number in June, 1924, was 100.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom-road, and 4 miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 half-yearly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., has been arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays, viz., 6 per cent. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £250,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

The arrangements for fire extinction in the metropolis are closely allied to those for the Melbourne water supply, provision for the service being made by the *Fire Brigades Act* 1915.

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of 10 miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, as well as certain districts outside of that area. The districts referred to are portions of the shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, beyond the 10-mile radius. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc (16 miles from Melbourne), that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is composed of nine members, of whom three are appointed by the Governor in Council, three by the municipal councils, and three by the fire insurance companies.

Outfit of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1924, had under its control the following:—Forty-one stations, 271 members of permanent staff, 69 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 35 men engaged in the workshops, 110 partially paid firemen, 5 motor-drawn steam fire engines, 3 steam fire engines, 4 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage waggons, 7 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 35 motor hose waggons, 3 motor cycles, 2 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompier ladders, 7 inspection cars, 102,926 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 397 fire alarm circuits having 1,201 street fire alarms, of which 1,184 were with telephones and 17 were fire alarms only. There were also 1057 auxiliary boxes and 27 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 141 direct telephone lines, 61 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 82 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 141 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1923-24 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £131,868, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to '00364d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £12,052,503, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £4 14s. 4d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1922 amounted to £931,689, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1923-24 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £43,956.

Country Fire Brigades Board. The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1923 was £22,088, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £7,301; (b) municipalities, £7,286; (c) insurance companies, £7,299; and (d) other sources, £202. The expenditure for the year amounted to £22,813. There are 114 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1923

amounted to £315,529, and the total contribution by the companies in that year for the upkeep of the brigades was £7,301. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1923 was £2,375,303. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 140 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,710. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

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

Water Supply. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1923, the Board had fixed to its 244 miles 64 chains of leading mains and 1,555 miles 49 chains of reticulation mains 4,865 pillar hydrants, 36 Tregear patent hydrants, and 16,167 ball fire plugs (viz., 16,146 Bateman and Moore—of which 2,730 are with spring—and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 21,068. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

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

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire
 Receipts and expenditure. Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1923,
 are as follows :—

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

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance	100,442	112,976	137,626	148,139	144,587
Receipts for Services ...	7,200	9,651	10,808	12,300	14,028
Interest and Sundries ...	3,180	4,658	12,059	13,751	9,778
Total	110,822	127,285	160,493	174,190	168,393
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	66,767	74,038	101,392	106,046	103,416
Fire Expenses	3,439	3,349	3,834	4,022	4,205
Administrative Charges, &c. Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs	17,655	17,942	28,844	25,403	34,283
Interest	6,607	9,443	9,653	8,255	9,394
Sinking Fund	9,255	9,156	9,595	9,213	7,468
Firemen's Accident Fund Miscellaneous	5,727	3,814	4,666	12,052	2,959
	...	...	250	250	...
	2,812	7,808	3,732	11,143	7,837
Total	112,262	125,550	161,966	176,384	169,562
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	8,344	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443

ACCUMULATION.

**Property left
by deceased
persons.**

The accompanying table shows, in various age groups, the number and value of estates of deceased persons of each sex in connexion with which probate or letters of administration were granted during 1923, also the average amount left by each person whose estate passed through the Probate Office, and by each person dying, and the amount of duty collected on the estates. The resident adults who left property at death in 1923 numbered 5,719, the sex distribution being 3,371 males, or 48 per cent. of male deaths over the age of 21 years, and 2,348 females, or 37 per cent. of adult female deaths. The average value of estates left by males was 70 per cent. more than that of estates left by females. It appears that the average wealth of deceased persons in 1923 reached its maximum in the age group 90 years and upwards in the case of males, and in the age group 80 to 90 in the case of females.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS IN AGE GROUPS, 1923.

Age at Death.	Estates.		Value of Estates.					Amount of Duty.
	Total Number.	Percentage Intestate.	Gross.		Net—after deducting Liabilities.			
			Real.	Personal.	Real and Personal.	Average to each Estate.	Average per Death in Victoria in each Age Group.	
MALES.								
Under 15 years..	1	100·0	£	£	£	£	£	£
15 to 21	11	100·0	..	142	142	142	0·1	..
21 to 30	126	59·5	100	3,979	3,968	361	20	90
30 to 40	222	41·9	55,807	76,545	98,941	785	267	3,691
40 to 50	350	39·4	189,497	198,150	230,015	1,261	524	9,707
50 to 60	635	29·8	309,451	531,877	652,910	1,865	867	30,782
60 to 70	880	21·9	820,541	1,203,570	1,620,562	2,552	1,286	78,303
70 to 80	618	16·0	1,533,530	2,004,014	3,117,413	3,543	1,795	183,816
80 to 90	459	8·9	1,030,107	1,217,058	2,038,719	3,299	1,587	107,118
90 years and upwards ..	81	6·2	777,618	1,164,200	1,840,694	4,010	2,143	108,349
Absentees ..	373	16·6	151,917	370,684	513,970	6,345	2,887	39,122
Total Males	3,756	24·1	109,382	545,083	628,719	1,686	..	30,798
FEMALES.								
Under 15 years..	1	100·0	..	245	245	245	0·2	4
15 to 21	5	100·0	230	2,269	2,499	500	14	75
21 to 30	29	48·3	11,509	9,139	18,655	643	45	782
30 to 40	112	53·6	35,243	142,304	155,451	1,388	271	9,323
40 to 50	224	35·7	128,649	113,652	195,719	874	312	6,426
50 to 60	404	31·9	338,892	432,417	675,143	1,671	736	33,889
60 to 70	564	27·7	582,304	521,680	983,791	1,744	748	45,439
70 to 80	523	17·6	465,855	616,122	1,010,993	1,933	795	47,019
80 to 90	424	11·8	352,443	533,394	859,413	2,027	855	42,241
90 years and upwards ..	68	7·4	19,556	80,623	96,078	1,413	425	3,813
Absentees ..	173	23·7	33,037	246,681	276,685	1,599	..	13,540
Total Females	2,527	25·0	1,967,718	2,698,526	4,274,672	1,692	529	202,551
Total Males and Females—								
1923	6,283	24·5	6,945,668	10,063,628	15,070,725	2,399	875	794,327
1922	5,445	24·8	5,395,984	8,874,337	12,641,263	2,322	834	689,543
1921	5,769	25·6	5,905,994	8,331,966	12,554,865	2,176	777	632,783
1920	5,837	27·8	5,701,914	10,641,149	14,672,239	2,514	872	908,170
1919	7,404	28·5	5,972,686	9,862,003	13,844,186	1,870	715	749,218

The numbers and values of estates dealt with in each of the last four years, grouped according to value, and distinguishing estates of males from those of females, are as follows :—

NUMBER AND VALUE OF ESTATES OF DECEASED
PERSONS, 1920 TO 1923.

Value.	1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.	Number.	Net Value.
MALES.								
		£		£		£		£
Under £100 ..	520	23,479	422	20,588	366	18,323	358	17,647
£100 to £300 ..	751	140,850	625	121,326	599	115,363	641	124,132
£300 to £500 ..	472	185,607	498	198,408	419	163,879	480	189,797
£500 to £1,000 ..	557	408,913	612	449,209	553	408,128	671	483,776
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	442	640,212	498	715,964	446	643,173	569	814,293
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	232	571,869	217	534,027	202	506,503	293	716,143
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	139	483,476	148	509,761	136	470,248	165	576,040
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	105	465,899	106	471,360	117	524,454	123	543,146
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	190	1,311,939	229	1,589,705	221	1,553,951	259	1,784,848
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	82	996,761	95	1,144,823	78	938,856	82	1,000,997
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	54	1,072,867	63	1,174,236	56	1,081,097	64	1,232,761
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	29	965,117	33	1,080,936	41	1,430,126	31	1,063,864
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	14	983,770	17	1,101,279	7	532,879	11	698,590
Over £100,000 ..	9	3,490,702	2	303,592	5	1,078,019	9	1,549,419
Total Males ..	3,596	11,741,461	3,565	9,415,214	3,246	9,459,999	3,756	10,796,053
FEMALES.								
		£		£		£		£
Under £100 ..	293	14,788	246	12,752	236	12,533	253	13,560
£100 to £300 ..	561	106,008	471	89,622	512	99,227	522	100,946
£300 to £500 ..	342	134,829	371	146,479	332	131,361	383	151,232
£500 to £1,000 ..	424	301,825	416	301,051	413	297,249	499	360,829
£1,000 to £2,000 ..	306	428,675	338	477,434	366	516,881	403	577,137
£2,000 to £3,000 ..	112	277,499	136	336,522	132	320,972	169	415,641
£3,000 to £4,000 ..	60	206,070	77	268,958	46	156,418	98	337,925
£4,000 to £5,000 ..	46	205,656	45	210,149	43	190,250	45	205,602
£5,000 to £10,000 ..	60	410,759	63	435,505	73	478,756	92	644,732
£10,000 to £15,000 ..	14	171,631	23	268,734	22	272,623	26	312,343
£15,000 to £25,000 ..	13	244,066	8	147,144	15	292,152	23	454,450
£25,000 to £50,000 ..	8	268,069	7	261,489	8	297,980	10	375,878
£50,000 to £100,000 ..	1	54,152	3	183,812	..	..	3	218,971
Over £100,000 ..	1	106,701	..	..	1	114,832	1	105,396
Total Females ..	2,241	2,930,778	2,204	3,139,651	2,199	3,181,264	2,527	4,274,672
GRAND TOTAL ..	5,837	14,672,239	5,769	12,554,865	5,445	12,641,263	6,283	15,070,725

The following figures prove that the economic conditions existing in Victoria during the last forty-five years have led to a wide and growing diffusion of wealth amongst the people :—

Period.	Percentage of Adults who died leaving Estates which went through the Probate Office.
	Yearly Average.
1879-83	22·6
1884-88	25·9
1889-93	30·3
1894-98	33·3
1899-1903	36·7
1904-1908	37·5
1909-1913	37·9
1914-1918	38·0
1919	39·4
1920	45·0
1921	45·9
1922	43·5
1923	42·9

ROYAL MINT.

The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1872, the date of opening being the 12th June. The following table shows for the period 1872 to 1919 and for each of the last four years the quantity of gold received at the Mint, where the same was raised, and its coinage value; also the gold coin and bullion issued during the same periods :—

GOLD RECEIVED AND ISSUED AT ROYAL MINT, 1872 TO 1923.

Gold Received.	1872 to 1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Gross Weight.</i>					
Raised in Victoria ... oz.	27,917,216	173,537	115,863	115,432	109,823
" New Zealand	3,823,947	38	...	...	2
" Western Australia	2,940,966	15	13	...	210
" elsewhere	4,318,217	41,959	31,298	30,462	55,993
Total	39,000,346	215,549	147,174	145,894	166,028
Coinage Value ... £	152,985,674	799,573	525,866	513,722	613,641
<i>Gold Issued.</i>					
Coin—					
Sovereigns ... No.	140,297,250	530,266	240,121	608,306	510,870
Half-Sovereigns	1,893,559	...	...	...	...
Bullion—Quantity ... oz.	2,829,850	69,376	21,614	23,504	27,277
" Value ... £	11,742,547	305,837	84,162	91,521	106,209
Total value, Coin and Bullion	152,986,576	836,103	324,283	699,827	617,079

Since the opening of the Mint 39,674,991 ounces of gold have been received thereat, the coinage value at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce standard being £155,438,476, thus averaging about £3 18s. 4½d. per ounce gross. Of the total quantity of gold received at the Mint, 28,431,871 ounces were raised in Victoria, 3,823,987 ounces in New Zealand, 2,941,204 ounces in Western Australia, and 1,308,436 ounces in Tasmania. The number of deposits received during 1923 was 1,098, of a gross weight of 166,028 ounces. The average composition of these deposits was gold 870, silver 78, and base 52 in every 1,000 parts. The average value of Victorian gold received at the Mint during the year 1923 was £3 17s. 11d. per ounce gross, £3 17s. 9d. being the value of the gold and 2d. the value of the silver contained therein. The output of the Mint since its establishment has consisted of 142,186,813 sovereigns, 1,893,559 half-sovereigns, and 2,971,621 ounces of gold bullion; the total value of coin and bullion being £155,463,868.

The coinages of silver and bronze pence for the requirements of the Commonwealth Treasury were begun on 10th January, 1916, and 6th June, 1919, respectively. The number of pennies issued by the Mint was 7,291,200 in 1921, 7,646,400 in 1922, and 5,289,600 in 1923. In the following table particulars of the issue of silver coins are given for each of the last five years:—

COINAGE OF SILVER AT ROYAL MINT, 1919 TO 1923.

Denomination.	Number of Pieces Issued to Commonwealth Treasury.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
2s. ..	1,677,000	..	1,247,000	2,057,000	1,038,000
1s. ..	..	520,000	1,122,000	1,644,000	396,000
6d. ..	1,520,000	1,476,000	2,636,000	..	208,000
3d. ..	3,200,000	4,196,000	7,216,000	5,704,000	816,000
Total Pieces ..	6,397,000	6,192,000	12,221,000	9,405,000	2,458,000
Value	£245,700	£115,350	£336,900	£359,200	£139,000

The next table shows the quantity and value of silver extracted from gold at the Mint and the quantities of silver and gold issued for industrial purposes in each of the last five years :—

ROYAL MINT—EXTRACTIONS OF SILVER AND ISSUE OF
SILVER AND GOLD FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES,
1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Silver extracted from Gold at Mint.		Silver extracted from Victorian Gold at Mint.		Silver issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.	Gold issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	Standard oz.
1919	20,275	5,322	6,121	1,607	30,192	61,598
1920	13,963	3,840	6,231	1,714	32,188	69,376
1921	12,843	2,127	5,204	862	28,410	21,614
1922	16,807	2,601	6,978	1,080	24,373	23,504
1923	12,409	1,897	6,304	963	19,174	27,276

BANKING.

Including the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, there were on 31st December, 1923, sixteen institutions, having 849 branches or agencies, which were engaged in the ordinary business of banking in Victoria. These are referred to in the succeeding tables as cheque-paying banks.

The following return shows the assets and liabilities *within Victoria* of all the banks (including the figures of the Commonwealth Bank) and the capital and profits of the ordinary banks, i.e., the banks other than the Commonwealth Bank, at 31st December in each of the years 1919 to 1923. The particulars of the Commonwealth Bank

include the balances of the Savings Bank department of that institution, as it issues one general statement only of assets and liabilities.

VICTORIAN BANKING RETURNS, 1919 TO 1923.

(Cheque-paying Banks only).

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
LIABILITIES WITHIN VICTORIA.					
Deposits bearing interest ¹	£ 41,533,941	£ 47,565,334	£ 48,729,908	£ 54,307,996	£ 61,096,159
Deposits not bearing interest	36,984,246	38,520,089	33,519,521	35,525,396	34,992,954
Notes in circulation ...	93,621	92,719	88,665	88,268	87,524
Other ...	1,417,153	1,871,608	1,402,928	1,446,498	1,416,513
Total ...	80,028,961	88,049,750	83,741,022	91,368,158	97,593,150
ASSETS WITHIN VICTORIA.					
Coin, Bullion, &c. ...	5,185,730	5,214,505	5,282,862	5,579,434	5,675,455
Australian Notes ...	11,031,512	9,752,051	11,646,665	9,384,413	8,841,107
Debts due to Banks ²	50,983,836	69,700,739	62,235,105	66,418,565	73,580,640
Property ...	1,436,559	1,513,551	1,512,303	1,673,831	1,933,391
Other ...	2,265,601	2,356,047	3,356,830	2,857,929	6,546,797
Total ...	70,903,238	88,536,893	84,033,765	85,914,172	96,577,390
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.					
Capital stock paid up	28,155,048	35,915,745	36,001,087	37,786,681	40,256,301
Reserved Profits (ex Dividend)	16,589,381	18,337,759	19,259,457	21,286,274	23,006,251
Dividend for year—					
Amount ...	2,493,148	3,098,534	3,654,145	3,945,521	4,059,322
Rate per cent. on paid-up capital	8·86	8·63	10·15	10·44	10·61

¹ Including perpetual inscribed stocks, which in 1923 amounted to £1,039,322, also Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits.—² Including notes, bills of exchange, municipal securities, and all stock and funded debts of every description, but excluding notes, bills, and balances due to the banks from other banks.

The Victorian liabilities of the banks to the general public (excluding shareholders), in 1923, were greater by £6,224,992 than the corresponding liabilities in 1922. During the period 1919–23 the Victorian assets increased by £25,674,152. There have been considerable fluctuations in recent years in the relation of assets to liabilities, the assets having been in excess of the liabilities in 1920 and 1921, and the liabilities having exceeded the assets in 1919, 1922, and

1923. It must be borne in mind that the figures given above represent only the assets and liabilities *within* the State.

Shareholders' capital, which represents the capital of the shareholders without as well as within Victoria, amounted to 40 millions on 31st December, 1923. The reserves at the end of 1923 exceeded those of the previous year by £1,719,977 and amounted to 57 per cent. of the paid-up capital.

The principal item in each case of the liabilities and assets of all the banks is shown for a series of years in the next statement.

DEPOSITS IN AND ADVANCES BY CHEQUE-PAYING BANKS, 1914 TO 1923.

(Average of the last quarter of each year.)

Year.	Deposits.			Advances (including Government and Municipal Securities).	Excess of Deposits over Advances.
	Bearing Interest.	Not bearing Interest.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1914	32,668,387	18,228,149	50,896,536	38,267,480	12,629,056
1915	32,859,239	21,180,863	54,040,102	41,245,334	12,794,768
1916	33,639,033	25,563,798	59,202,831	45,141,466	14,061,365
1917	35,665,492	28,377,165	64,042,657	40,993,959	23,048,698
1918	40,107,372	36,283,131	76,390,503	54,102,886	22,287,617
1919	41,533,941	36,984,246	78,518,187	50,983,836	27,534,351
1920	47,565,334	38,520,089	86,085,423	69,700,739	16,384,684
1921	48,729,908	33,519,521	82,249,429	62,235,105	20,014,324
1922	54,307,996	35,525,396	89,833,392	66,418,565	23,414,827
1923	61,096,159	34,992,954	96,089,113	73,580,640	22,508,473

The Victorian advances of the ordinary banks showed an increase of £19,212,642 during the past five years, and those of the Commonwealth Bank an increase of £265,112. These advances include Government and municipal securities. As compared with five years ago, deposits in the ordinary banks have increased by £24,238,354, and those in the Commonwealth Bank (excluding Savings Bank deposits) have decreased by £6,571,547. Deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank showed an increase of £2,031,803 during the period mentioned.

Rates of exchange. The average rates of exchange for bank bills in 1923 and in the first year of each of the two preceding five-year periods are given below. The bills drawn on London are payable at 60 days' sight, and those drawn on Australian States and New Zealand on demand.

RATES OF EXCHANGE, 1913, 1918, AND 1923.

Places on which Bills were Drawn.	Average Rates of Exchange.		
	1913.	1918.	1923.
London	13s. 1½d. per cent. discount	7s. 6d. per cent. discount	17s. 6d. per cent. discount
New South Wales	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	5s. per cent. premium
Queensland ...	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium
South Australia ...	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	5s. per cent. premium
Western Australia	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	10s. per cent. premium
Tasmania ...	2s 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	2s. 6d. to 5s. per cent. premium	5s. per cent. premium
New Zealand ...	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. to 10s. per cent. premium	5s. per cent. premium

Rates of discount. The average rates of discount on local bills in the same years are given in the next statement. It will be seen that there are only slight differences in the rates for the three years.

RATES OF DISCOUNT ON LOCAL BILLS, 1913, 1918, AND 1923.

Currency of Bills.	Average Rates of Discount per annum.		
	1913.	1918.	1923.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Under 65 days	5 to 6½	5 to 6½	5½ to 7
65 to 95 ,,	5 to 7	5 to 7	6 to 7
95 to 125 ,,	5½ to 7	5½ to 7	6 to 7
Over 125 ,,	5½ to 7	5½ to 7	6 to 7

Rates of
interest.

The succeeding statement shows the range for ten years of the average rates of interest per annum paid by the ordinary banks to depositors for twelve months :—

Year.				Average rates of Interest per annum allowed to depositors for 12 months.
				Per cent.
1914	...	...	...	3½ to 4
1915	...	...	...	3½ to 4
1916	...	...	...	3½ to 4
1917	...	...	...	4
1918	...	...	...	4
1919	...	...	...	4 to 4½
1920	...	...	...	4½ to 4½
1921	...	...	...	4½
1922	...	...	...	4½
1923	...	...	...	4½

NOTE.—The average rate of interest paid by the Commonwealth Bank in 1923 was 4 per cent.

An analysis of the banks' liabilities and assets *within* the State for the years 1913, 1918, and 1923 gives the following results :—

Analysis of
bank returns.

For every £100 of assets the liabilities were	the	{	£97·85 in	...	...	1913
	...		£103·72 „	...	...	1918
	...		£101·05 „	...	...	1923
Coin and bullion* formed	..	{	57·67 per cent. of the liabilities at call in	...	...	1913
			46·81 „ „	„	„	1918
			41·38 „ „	„	„	1923
Of the moneys deposited	...	{	64·87 per cent. bore interest in	1913		
			52·50 „ „	1918		
			62·60 „ „	1923		

* Including Australian notes.

The foregoing statements relate to all banks in Victoria including the Commonwealth Bank. The assets and liabilities of that bank *within Victoria* at 31st December in each of the last five years were as follows:—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE COMMONWEALTH BANK
IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1919 TO 1923.

	December Quarter—				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
Liabilities—					
Bills in circulation ..	48,323	57,509	39,403	59,871	108,955
Balances due to other banks	739	349,352	..	27,840	23,705
Deposits not bearing interest ..	6,091,042	3,613,752	3,750,527	4,423,025	3,322,797
Deposits bearing interest	1,567,025	1,931,581	1,918,261	2,173,051	5,169,811
Savings Bank deposits	4,243,129	4,873,313	5,073,967	5,427,536	5,575,273
Total ..	11,950,258	10,825,507	10,782,158	12,111,323	14,200,541
Assets—					
Coin and bullion ..	290,231	437,980	440,079	434,595	399,187
Australian notes ..	2,501,072	644,104	2,513,462	773,691	1,150,761
Government and Municipal securities	3,792,478	3,611,045	3,283,117	3,336,756	3,602,415
Landed property ..	90,308	82,192	91,636	162,446	273,160
Notes and bills of other banks ..	323,273	163,449	1,177,462	310,795	163,445
Balances due from other banks ..	567,496	674,898	639,632	622,801	1,574,530
Advances ..	2,012,967	2,375,769	1,772,250	2,726,129	2,777,424
Total ..	9,577,825	7,989,437	9,917,638	8,367,213	9,940,922

Melbourne
Clearing
House.

The following table contains particulars in regard to the clearances through the Melbourne Clearing House in each of the last ten years :—

MELBOURNE CLEARING HOUSE TRANSACTIONS,
1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Clearances.		Average Weekly Clearances.
	By exchange of Cheques, Bills, &c.	By payments in Australian Notes, balances, &c.	
	£	£	£
1914 ..	299,668,000	36,669,000	5,762,800
1915 ..	299,295,000	37,524,000	5,755,700
1916 ..	357,788,000	48,441,000	6,880,500
1917 ..	377,301,000	56,120,000	7,255,800
1918 ..	493,769,000	97,305,000	9,548,400
1919 ..	544,211,000	98,466,000	10,465,600
1920 ..	725,006,000	122,290,000	13,942,400
1921 ..	609,336,000	105,682,000	11,718,000
1922 ..	623,789,000	92,073,000	11,995,000
1923 ..	697,051,000	105,197,000	13,405,000

In this table the two sides of the clearance are considered as one transaction. The amount passed through the Melbourne Clearing House during 1923 was larger than in any other year with the exception of 1920, when the aggregate of the clearances by cheques, bills, &c., was £725,006,000, thus exceeding the total for 1923 by £27,955,000.

State Savings
Bank of
Victoria.

The subjoined table shows the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit in the State Savings Bank at various dates since the year 1875. Particulars of depositors and deposits in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock, and

in the Penny Bank Department of the State Savings Bank are excluded.

STATE SAVINGS BANK : DEPOSITORS AND DEPOSITS, 1875 TO 1923.

(Exclusive of Penny Bank Accounts and Savings Bank Deposit Stock.)

On 30th June—	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s d.
1875	65,837	81	1,469,849	22 6 6
1880	92,115	108	1,661,409	18 0 9
1885	170,014	174	3,337,018	19 12 7
1890	281,509	252	5,262,105	18 13 10
1895	338,480	286	7,316,129	21 12 3
1900	375,070	314	9,110,793	24 5 10
1905	447,382	369	10,896,741	24 7 2
1910	560,515	429	15,417,887	27 10 2
1915	721,936	506	24,874,811	34 9 1
1920	886,344	589	37,232,543	42 0 2
1921	928,009	604	42,956,461	46 5 9
1922	970,431	619	45,968,222	47 7 5
1923	1,015,346	632	49,540,039	48 15 10

On 30th June, 1923, sixty-three persons out of every hundred in the State (including children under 15 years of age, who represent 30 per cent of the population) were depositors with an average balance of £48 15s, 10d. The figures given in the above table include each year a large number of inoperative accounts, that is to say, of small sums under £1 upon which the depositors had ceased to operate. On 30th June, 1923, these inoperative accounts numbered 222,880; omitting these, the balance of 792,466 accounts averaged

£62 9s. 5d. each, as compared with an average of £61 0s. 2d. in the previous year.

The following statement shows the transactions in connexion with the ordinary accounts for each of the last five years:—

SAVINGS BANK TRANSACTIONS, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.*
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1919	30,335,221	28,065,731	131,687	94,232	850,486	34,104,110
1920	38,920,981	36,971,307	155,675	119,817	886,344	37,232,543
1921	43,747,702	39,462,795	157,805	116,140	928,009	42,956,461
1922	40,780,185	39,377,122	153,043	110,621	970,431	45,968,222
1923	44,729,496	42,890,382	161,286	116,371	1,015,346	49,540,039

* Excluding Penny Bank and Deposit Stock Accounts.

The State Savings Bank on 30th June, 1923, had 1,047,446 depositors with £50,359,477 to their credit, of whom 32,100 depositors in the Penny Bank Department with £30,520 to their credit have been excluded from the preceding table, a sum of £788,918 in the Saving Bank Deposit Stock account being also excluded. From 1st February, 1923, to 31st March, 1924, the rate of interest allowed to depositors in this bank was 4 per cent. on all sums from £1 to £500, and 3 per cent. on any excess over £500 up to £750. From 1st April, 1924, interest has been allowed on the excess over £500 up to £1,000 at the rate of 3½ per cent. The last mentioned sum is the maximum which is received as an ordinary deposit. Depositors are permitted, however, to place an additional sum, not exceeding £1,000, in Deposit Stock account, which is a form of fixed deposit withdrawable at short notice—one week for every £10 up to £40, one month for sums of from £50 to £100, and longer periods for larger amounts with a maximum of six months for sums of from £910 to £1,000. Interest is allowed on this stock at the same rate as on ordinary deposits, viz.:—4 per cent. Of the amount (£49,540,039) on ordinary current account deposit in the State Bank on 30th June, 1923, about 21 per cent. belonged to depositors with accounts up to £100 each, 33 per cent. to those with accounts over £100 and up to £300, 24 per cent. to those with accounts over £300 and up to £500, and 17 per cent. to those with accounts over £500 and up to £750. At 30th June, 1923, the aggregate of the excess over £750 was £2,104,727; on this amount no interest was allowed.

The next statement shows the assets and liabilities of the State Savings Bank as at 30th June, 1923, the former indicating the manner in which deposits are invested or held :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES,
30TH JUNE, 1923.

<i>Assets.</i>	£
Government Debentures, Stock and Bonds	23,696,796
Fixed Deposits with eight Banks	9,197,000
Crédit Foncier Debentures	7,749,220
Municipal Debentures	2,047,291
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Stock and Debentures	1,862,210
Commonwealth Inscribed Stock, Treasury Bonds, War Savings Certificates, etc.	2,504,029
English, Scottish and Australian Bank Stock	36,454
Mortgage Securities	1,078,424
Accrued Interest, &c., on Investments	704,444
Bank premises	560,000
Current Accounts with Bankers, Deposits at short notice	1,244,897
Cash at Head Office, Branches, Agencies, and in transit	812,966
Other Assets	20,947
Total	£51,514,678
 <i>Liabilities.</i> 	
Depositors' balances, with Interest to date	50,359,478
Other liabilities	136,886
Surplus Funds allotted as follows :—	
Reserve Fund	£800,000
Fidelity Guarantee Fund	8,099
Profit and Loss Account	210,215
Total Surplus Funds	1,018,314
Total	£51,514,678

The amount of the funds held in a liquid state (cash on hand and deposits with eight other banks) was £11,438,748, or 22.2 per cent. of the total funds, which amount is readily available, if required.

State Savings
Bank—
Advances
department.

The "Crédit Foncier" or advances department of the State Savings Bank was established by Act of Parliament in 1896 for the purpose of making advances on farm properties in sums ranging from £50 to £2,000, and in 1910, under the authority of Act No. 2280, the system was extended to house and shop securities, permission being given to make advances of from £50 to £1,000. Funds for the purpose were obtained at the initiation of the system by the sale of mortgage bonds redeemable by half-yearly ballots; but since 1901 by the sale of debentures in denominations of £100 and over, redeemable at fixed dates not more than twenty years from date of issue. The *Savings Banks Act* 1915 gives power to substitute stock for debentures on the application of any debenture-holder or any person offering to purchase debentures. The balance of debentures and stock current on 30th June, 1923, was £10,850,830. Of this amount, £3,101,610 is held by the public, and the balance by the Commissioners themselves because of money having been invested by them out of Savings Bank funds. The sum advanced during the year 1922-23 was £2,457,326, making with the amounts previously advanced a total of £16,560,052, of which £6,737,306 had been repaid by 30th June, 1923; leaving outstanding on that date an amount of £9,822,746, representing 4,111 loans to farmers for £2,498,525, which thus averaged £608, and 18,520 loans to owners of houses or shops for a total of £7,324,221, or an average per borrower of £396. Under the provisions of Act No. 3007 the Commissioners were empowered to extend the "Crédit Foncier" loan facilities granted by the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act* 1917. In the first mentioned Act provision is made for advances to soldiers and sailors and their dependants, also to Red Cross and transport workers, at a lower rate of interest and on longer terms than are allowed to others, to assist them to acquire farms or to purchase or erect dwellings. The total amount advanced on these conditions to 30th June, 1923, was £2,926,636 (including £110,871 transferred from ordinary loans). Of this sum £449,969 had been repaid, leaving outstanding at that date £2,476,667, which is included in the total of £9,822,746 shown above. As a measure of the safety with which the advances department has been conducted, it may be mentioned that the instalments of principal in arrear amounted on 30th June, 1923, to £637, and the interest in arrear to £1,391.

The transactions in the "Crédit Foncier" department are shown below :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK—TRANSACTIONS IN ADVANCES DEPARTMENT.

		At 30th June, 1922.	During 1922-23.	At 30th June, 1923.
Stock and debentures issued ...	£	16,758,600	4,250,000	21,008,600
" " redeemed	£	7,812,170	2,345,600	10,157,770
" " outstanding	£	8,946,430	..	10,850,830
<i>Pastoral or Agricultural Property.</i>				
Applications received ...	No.	21,187	796	21,983
" " amount ...	£	11,943,150	627,245	12,570,395
Applications granted ...	No.	12,974	491	*13,465
" " amount ...	£	6,754,645	352,920	*7,107,565
Amount advanced ...	£	5,360,936	310,389	5,671,325
" repaid ...	£	2,978,935	193,865	3,172,800
" outstanding ...	£	2,382,001	...	2,498,525
<i>House or Shop Property.</i>				
Applications received ...	No.	33,528	6,560	40,088
" " amount ...	£	12,820,185	3,378,225	16,198,410
Applications granted ...	No.	27,599	5,146	†32,745
" " amount ...	£	10,074,172	2,561,265	†12,635,437
Amount advanced ...	£	8,741,790	2,146,937	10,888,727
" repaid ...	£	2,733,911	830,595	3,564,506
" outstanding ...	£	6,007,879	...	7,324,221

* Including £901,805 offered to, but not accepted by 1,531 applicants.

† Including £866,347 offered to, but not accepted by 2,427 applicants.

The net profit for the year in the advances department was £28,941 on ordinary funds, and £10,167 on reserve fund investments, making a total profit of £39,108. This amount will be transferred to the Reserve Fund, and will make the total of that fund £269,394, which is held, in accordance with Act No. 2729, for the purpose of meeting any loss or deficiency that may occur in the department.

Housing and Reclamation Act. The *Housing and Reclamation Act* 1920 authorizes the Commissioners of the Savings Bank to purchase and build houses for persons who have an income of not more than £400 per annum, and who do not own a house. Applicants are required to pay a deposit of 10 per cent. of the total cost of house and land (which is limited to £850 if the house is of wood, and to £950 if of brick, stone, or concrete). The rate of repayment is now 8½ per cent. per annum, including interest at 6¼ per cent., this amount repaying the loan in 21½ years. The funds for this branch of the Bank's operations are raised by the issue of Crédit Foncier debentures, guaranteed by the Government of Victoria. The amount expended and remaining at debit of borrowers and purchasers at 30th June, 1923, was £962,097. This represented 394 houses purchased and 1,625 erected or in course

of erection, also the amount of deposits paid on the purchase of land on which houses were to be erected. The purchase of dwellings ceased from 31st July, 1921, since which date the policy of the Bank has been to build and not to purchase houses.

The Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Savings Bank commenced business on 15th July, 1912. The following table shows the business transacted in Victoria during each of the last five years :—

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK IN VICTORIA, 1918-19
TO 1922 23.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1919 ..	5,137,528	4,535,147	34,198	17,918	104,039	4,260,456
1920 ..	6,571,812	6,431,865	38,591	27,046	115,584	4,572,636
1921 ..	7,276,259	6,739,330	35,771	23,966	127,389	5,305,597
1922 ..	5,795,036	5,995,362	24,805	18,180	134,014	5,404,114
1923 ..	6,227,476	6,207,762	23,671	16,694	140,991	5,741,782

PRICES OF VICTORIAN STOCK.

The highest and lowest London prices of Victorian representative stocks are shown for each of the last five years in the following statement :—

QUOTATIONS OF VICTORIAN STOCK IN LONDON.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)		3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)		4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)		5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)		5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
1919 ..	£ 67 ³ / ₄	£ 59	£ 76 ¹ / ₂	£ 66	£ 84 ¹ / ₂	£ 76 ³ / ₄	£ 101 ¹ / ₂	£ 99 ⁵ / ₈	..	..
1920 ..	£ 60 ³ / ₄	£ 54	£ 68	£ 58 ¹ / ₂	£ 78 ³ / ₄	£ 66 ¹ / ₂	£ 100 ³ / ₄	£ 92 ¹ / ₂	..	..
1921 ..	£ 58	£ 54	£ 64 ⁷ / ₈	£ 61	£ 73 ¹ / ₄	£ 67 ¹ / ₄	£ 95	£ 91	..	..
1922 ..	£ 73	£ 57 ³ / ₈	£ 79	£ 64 ¹ / ₂	£ 88	£ 74 ¹ / ₄	£ 104	£ 94	£ 105 ¹ / ₄	£ 99 ¹ / ₄
1923 ..	£ 76	£ 69 ¹ / ₂	£ 81 ³ / ₄	£ 76 ¹ / ₄	£ 92	£ 85 ¹ / ₂	£ 103	£ 99 ³ / ₈	£ 104	£ 101 ¹ / ₄

The annual interest return to investors in the above Victorian stocks, based on the mean between the highest and lowest quotations during the year, is shown hereunder. Allowance is made for an average of

three months' accrued interest, which is deducted from the market price before the computation is made, and the gain by redemption at par at maturity is taken into account.

INVESTORS' ANNUAL INTEREST RETURN FROM VICTORIAN STOCKS.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)	3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)	4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)	5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)	5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1919	5 11 7	5 10 11	5 4 2	5 11 7	..
1920	6 5 5	6 7 2	5 17 1	6 0 2	..
1921	6 9 8	6 8 10	6 1 4	6 8 9	..
1922	5 11 2	5 12 2	5 4 1	5 15 7	5 8 0
1923	4 18 4	5 0 4	4 14 0	5 9 10	5 7 9

NOTE.—The latest date of redemption in each case was adopted in the calculation.

The amount of Victorian Government stock and debentures under certain loans repayable in Melbourne, which were outstanding on 30th June, the price in January, and the annual return to the investor per cent. for each year since 1919 are shown in the statement which follows—

PRICES OF STOCK AND DEBENTURES IN MELBOURNE, 1920 TO 1924.

Year.	Amount Outstanding on 30th June.	Price in January.	Annual Return to Investor per cent.
	£	£	£ s. d.
3 PER CENT. STOCK, DUE 1917 OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER.			
1920	3,012,491	60½	4 19 2
1921	2,930,869	60	5 0 0
1922	2,827,736	57	5 5 3
1923	2,804,630	60-63	4 17 7
1924 .. ..	..	57½-59	5 3 0
3 PER CENT. DEBENTURES, DUE 1921-30.			
1920	962,450	74	6 11 10
1921	959,650	72	7 6 0
1922	959,650	74½	7 5 2
1923	959,650	79	6 11 11
1924 .. ..	..	87½-89	5 3 0

The prices quoted in the above table do not include an allowance for accrued interest, the practice on the Melbourne Stock Exchange

differing from that on the London Exchange, where accrued interest is included in prices quoted. The 3 per cent. stock has been regarded as interminable, as the Government has the option of redeeming it at any time after giving twelve months' notice. In the case of the 3 per cent. debentures it has been assumed that redemption will be made at the latest optional date, viz., 1930.

INSURANCE.

There were thirty-one companies transacting life assurance business in Victoria during 1923. Eight of these companies have their head offices in Victoria, fourteen in New South Wales, one in Queensland, one in New Zealand, two in America, and five in the United Kingdom. The following table shows the number and amount of policies in force in Victoria with companies whose head offices are within, and with those whose head offices are outside Australasia, for the years 1914 to 1923 :—

LIFE POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Companies with Head Offices in—			Total
	Australasia.	United Kingdom.	America.	
NUMBER.				
1914	363,691	645	4,145	368,481
1915	376,588	609	3,909	381,106
1916	397,304	574	3,713	401,591
1917	421,423	552	3,506	425,481
1918	449,954	516	3,254	453,724
1919	481,490	435	3,040	484,965
1920	521,293	435	2,792	524,520
1921	559,330	427	2,575	562,332
1922	605,093	427	2,320	607,840
1923	648,479	402	1,551	650,432
AMOUNT.				
	£	£	£	£
1914	41,512,853	298,186	1,494,336	43,305,375
1915	42,741,257	282,693	1,378,139	44,402,089
1916	44,565,105	267,423	1,313,045	46,145,573
1917	46,881,320	259,157	1,248,869	48,389,346
1918	50,145,800	241,572	1,176,262	51,563,634
1919	54,364,714	171,226	1,120,676	55,656,616
1920	60,179,831	155,085	1,070,989	61,405,905
1921	64,939,475	148,966	1,014,189	66,102,630
1922	71,209,529	146,122	991,571	72,347,222
1923	77,727,017	134,743	828,859	78,690,619

The figures in the preceding table relate to simple life assurance, endowment assurance, and pure endowment policies, in both the ordinary and industrial classes.

In addition to the 31 companies included in the above table there is one which is registered as a life assurance company with its head office in Victoria but has not transacted ordinary life assurance business. It contracts for medical, sick and funeral benefits, and its premium income for the year ended 31st December, 1923, was £13,227.

Of the total amount assured at the end of 1923, viz., £78,690,619, 98·78 per cent. was in Australasian, 17 per cent. in British, and 1·05 per cent. in American offices. The corresponding percentages at the end of 1913 were 95·50, 17, and 3·75.

The business transacted by the different offices comprises many varieties of assurance, but these may be grouped into three large classes—(1) simple assurance payable only at death; (2) endowment assurance, payable at the end of a specified term or at previous death; (3) endowments payable only should a person named survive a specified term. An endeavour has been made to obtain direct from each office the business under each of these classes; but in the case of five of the offices the separation between simple assurance and endowment assurance cannot be effected.

Industrial Assurance policies are usually for small amounts, and the premiums are collected at weekly or fortnightly intervals by agents of the insurance company who call at the homes of the assured. Many of these policies are on the lives of children. The Commonwealth *Life Assurance Companies Act* 1905 places a limitation on the amount which may be assured on the life of a child under the age of ten years, the amount varying from £5 in the first to £45 in the tenth year.

The next table contains particulars of life assurance policies in force in the Ordinary and Industrial departments of companies in each of the last five years:—

**Classification
of assurance
policies.**

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE, 1919 TO 1923.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance ..	210,588	225,136	234,326	246,161	257,410
Endowment Assurance ..	11,696	13,278	12,915	13,342	13,806
Pure Endowment ..					
Total	222,284	238,414	247,241	259,503	271,216
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance ..	47,479,895	51,714,473	54,814,045	59,231,002	63,769,366
Endowment Assurance ..	1,322,540	1,572,427	1,529,844	1,586,356	1,689,842
Pure Endowment ..					
Total	48,802,435	53,286,900	56,343,889	60,817,358	65,459,208
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance ..	1,642,497	1,795,827	1,892,059	2,039,230	2,196,554
Endowment Assurance ..	54,486	63,763	60,704	63,320	67,884
Pure Endowment ..					
Total	1,696,983	1,859,590	1,952,763	2,102,550	2,264,438
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance ..	53,560	54,032	54,084	54,658	54,165
Endowment Assurance ..	192,326	216,458	243,958	273,890	303,586
Pure Endowment ..	16,795	15,616	17,049	19,789	21,465
Total	262,681	286,106	315,091	348,337	379,216
Amount Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance ..	999,175	1,068,777	1,104,292	1,145,328	1,162,881
Endowment Assurance ..	5,465,499	6,677,990	8,181,188	9,726,499	11,287,221
Pure Endowment ..	389,507	372,238	473,261	658,037	781,309
Total	6,854,181	8,119,005	9,758,741	11,529,864	13,231,411
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance ..	54,585	57,846	59,645	62,365	63,197
Endowment Assurance ..	371,307	444,651	529,072	621,432	707,988
Pure Endowment ..	27,323	26,122	31,940	42,209	49,367
Total	453,220	528,619	621,566	726,006	820,552

There has been an increase of 11,713 ordinary and 30,879 industrial policies since 1922, the increase in the total sum assured by the ordinary policies being £4,641,850 and in that by the industrial policies £1,701,547. The average amount of policy in the former category for 1923 was £241, and—calculated from the returns of those societies which distinguish between simple assurance and endowment assurance—the average amount of the simple assurance policy in the ordinary branch was £420, and that of the endowment assurance policy £173.

the total amounts of the policies in the two forms of assurance being £22,888,489 for simple assurance, and £24,961,970 for endowment assurance. The amount secured under pure endowment policies was £1,689,842, or an average of £122 under each policy. In the industrial branch of the business the average amount of policy was £34·9, the average amounts in the three classes being :—simple assurance, £21·5 ; endowment assurance, £37·2 ; and pure endowment, £36·4. The total amounts assured in the three classes were £1,162,881, £11,287,221, and £781,309 respectively. Taking these figures in conjunction with those relating to the ordinary business (with the restriction before mentioned) a preference in favour of endowment assurance is shown. A better test of popularity is furnished by the number of policies in the respective classes. In the ordinary branch of the business of the companies where the distinction is made there were 54,501 simple assurance, and 144,271 endowment assurance policies, and, in the industrial branch, 54,165 and 303,586 policies respectively. Judging by these figures, endowment assurance must be regarded as the popular form.

The following statement shows for each of the last ten years the average amount of policy held in the Ordinary and Industrial branches of the business respectively, also the amount assured and the premium payable per head of population in both branches combined :—

**AVERAGE AMOUNTS OF ORDINARY AND INDUSTRIAL
POLICIES, AND BUSINESS PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1914 TO 1923.**

Year.	Average Amount of Policy.		Ordinary and Industrial Business per head of Population.	
	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premium Payable.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1914	210	21·5	30 3 5	1 2 2
1915	209	21·8	31 3 4	1 3 2
1916	210	22·9	32 17 0	1 5 0
1917	211	23·2	34 2 10	1 6 5
1918	215	24·4	35 17 5	1 7 7
1919	220	26·1	37 0 6	1 8 7
1920	223	28·4	40 3 8	1 11 3
1921	228	30·9	42 12 5	1 13 2
1922	234	33·1	45 9 9	1 15 7
1923	241	34·9	48 8 3	1 18 0

Annuity policies. The following are the number and amount of annuity policies which were in force in Victoria at the end of each of the last ten years, a distinction being made between those in force in companies whose head offices are inside, and those in companies whose head offices are outside Victoria :—

ANNUITY POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA,
1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Head Offices in Victoria.		Head Offices outside Victoria.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.
		£		£		£
1914 ..	179	12,310	441	21,454	620	33,764
1915 ..	188	11,208	429	20,195	617	31,403
1916 ..	192	11,541	419	19,836	611	31,377
1917 ..	194	11,598	437	20,427	631	32,025
1918 ..	196	11,934	415	19,364	611	31,298
1919 ..	201	12,464	396	18,875	597	31,339
1920 ..	204	12,584	388	18,484	592	31,068
1921 ..	203	12,880	376	17,846	579	30,726
1922 ..	206	13,633	363	17,627	569	31,260
1923 ..	242	16,072	319	16,067	561	32,139

Of the 319 annuities held in 1923 in companies whose head offices were outside Victoria, 297 for £14,465 per annum were in New South Wales offices, 7 for £1,049 in English offices, and 15 for £553 in American offices. The figures in the above table include annuities granted by industrial departments of life assurance companies, of which there was one for £49 in force on 31st December, 1923.

Life assurance—new business. The preceding tables relate to policies in force. The succeeding table contains summarized information in relation to the new business written by all life assurance companies during each of the last five years, the number of policies, sum assured, and premium income being given.

LIFE ASSURANCE—NEW POLICIES ISSUED, 1919 TO 1923.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	5,692	6,572	5,758	7,542	8,385
Endowment Assurance	16,513	19,636	18,764	17,171	20,211
Pure Endowment	1,869	3,255	1,993	2,001	2,077
Total	24,074	29,463	26,515	26,714	30,673
Annuities	23	23	22	23	57
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	2,816,363	2,953,065	2,960,958	3,925,308	4,490,334
Endowment Assurance	3,056,997	3,904,365	3,662,190	3,695,133	4,273,358
Pure Endowment	261,465	456,866	325,416	301,481	321,488
Total	6,134,825	7,314,296	6,948,564	7,921,922	9,085,180
Annuities	1,442	1,127	1,131	2,414	3,786
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	2,798	1,539	932	11,399	5,356
Endowment Assurance	1,936	2,047	1,538	428	2,565
Pure Endowment	212	466	115	503	1,307
Total	4,946	4,052	2,585	12,330	9,228
Annuities	10,066	9,284	11,037	17,998	32,322
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	94,915	97,199	96,566	127,918	141,329
Endowment Assurance	124,175	155,844	144,813	140,952	170,151
Pure Endowment	11,057	17,953	13,018	12,116	13,193
Total	230,147	270,996	254,397	280,986	324,673
Annuities	113	37	17	72	178
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	4,098	4,366	3,987	4,065	3,576
Endowment Assurance	48,041	51,501	54,882	60,137	64,291
Pure Endowment	2,411	2,999	4,694	6,607	7,982
Total	54,550	58,866	63,563	70,809	75,849
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	128,721	178,490	142,744	161,225	148,143
Endowment Assurance	1,720,990	2,159,445	2,566,352	2,849,401	3,021,393
Pure Endowment	104,470	123,390	215,507	314,865	397,008
Total	1,954,181	2,461,325	2,924,603	3,325,491	3,566,544
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	9	9	11	23	113
Endowment Assurance	6	..	..	..	107
Pure Endowment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	113
Total	15	9	11	23	333
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	7,989	9,617	8,754	10,059	9,304
Endowment Assurance	120,090	140,076	155,158	173,009	186,750
Pure Endowment	7,465	9,080	13,354	19,458	23,503
Total	135,544	158,773	177,266	202,526	219,566

The new business for 1923 includes 30,673 ordinary assurance policies for £9,085,180 and 75,849 industrial policies for £3,566,544,

the former averaging £296 and the latter £47 in amount. The policies in force in the two sections of the business increased in the year by 11,713 for £4,641,850 and 30,879 for £1,701,547 respectively. Those which became claims by death or maturity or were discontinued during 1923 must therefore, after deduction of revivals, have numbered 18,960 for £4,443,330 in ordinary, and 44,970 for £1,864,997 in industrial assurance business.

There were 107 companies transacting general insurance (other than life) business in Victoria during 1923. The revenue and expenditure relating to the principal classes of insurance are shown in detail for that year in the following statement:—

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS IN VICTORIA, 1923.

Nature of Insurance.	Revenue in Victoria.			Expenditure in Victoria.			
	Premiums less Reinsur- ances and Returns.	Other Revenue.	Total.	Losses, less Reinsur- ances.	Expenses of Management.		Total.
					Commis- sion and Agents' Charges.	Other.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire	1,600,514	75,716	1,676,230	589,613	251,688	451,842	1,293,143
Marine	326,955	12,017	338,972	134,637	28,805	71,643	235,085
Guarantee	16,279	732	17,011	2,758	2,002	4,402	9,162
Live Stock	13,376	259	13,635	5,194	2,154	2,942	10,290
Plate Glass	35,131	907	36,038	12,640	6,293	7,980	26,913
Motor Car	236,213	5,623	241,836	123,021	29,814	51,518	204,353
Accident (personal) ..	57,520	1,196	58,716	22,292	12,631	10,324	45,247
Workers' Compensation	313,912	17,375	331,287	176,701	28,448	69,976	275,125
Other	102,181	4,170	106,351	40,540	15,407	28,150	84,097
Total	2,702,081	117,995	2,820,076	1,107,396	377,242	698,777	2,183,415

The following table shows the transactions of insurance companies doing other than life business which operated in Victoria during the period 1919 to 1923 :—

INSURANCE—OTHER THAN LIFE, 1919 TO 1923.

Nature of Insurance.	Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
		Premiums.	Other.	Total.	Losses.	Other.*	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire ..	1919	1,224,824	51,354	1,276,178	540,706	523,740	1,064,446
	1920	1,455,671	58,986	1,514,657	341,809	633,117	974,926
	1921	1,539,167	73,256	1,612,423	463,854	708,346	1,172,200
	1922	1,521,868	82,812	1,604,680	438,127	692,491	1,130,618
	1923	1,600,514	75,716	1,676,230	589,613	703,530	1,293,143
Marine ..	1919	315,869	13,189	329,058	61,903	84,967	146,870
	1920	380,194	14,800	394,994	98,532	109,625	208,157
	1921	403,027	20,474	423,501	157,239	119,817	277,056
	1922	342,544	18,923	361,467	84,820	111,434	196,254
	1923	326,955	12,017	338,972	134,637	100,448	235,085
Guarantee ..	1919	14,488	858	15,346	871	5,705	6,576
	1920	13,520	776	14,296	1,044	5,030	6,074
	1921	13,281	786	14,067	1,399	5,319	6,718
	1922	14,163	799	14,962	1,321	5,932	7,253
	1923	16,279	732	17,011	2,758	6,404	9,162
Live Stock ..	1919	10,661	269	11,230	5,650	4,530	10,180
	1920	11,952	262	12,214	4,683	4,737	9,420
	1921	10,200	158	10,358	4,790	4,054	8,844
	1922	13,745	208	13,953	7,340	5,844	13,184
	1923	13,376	259	13,635	5,194	5,096	10,290
Plate Glass ..	1919	22,591	522	23,113	8,219	8,379	16,598
	1920	26,399	584	26,983	11,214	10,312	21,526
	1921	29,917	796	30,713	12,174	12,768	24,942
	1922	31,344	966	32,310	10,821	13,028	23,849
	1923	35,131	907	36,038	12,640	14,278	26,918
Motor Car ..	1919	60,246	1,700	61,946	27,451	21,214	48,665
	1920	82,946	2,867	85,813	35,763	30,393	66,156
	1921	106,569	3,303	109,872	60,118	37,835	97,953
	1922	156,839	3,996	160,835	85,718	59,791	145,509
	1923	236,213	5,623	241,836	123,021	81,332	204,353
Accident (Personal)	1919	44,525	967	45,492	22,646	17,503	40,149
	1920	52,269	873	53,142	18,279	20,422	38,701
	1921	48,672	1,133	49,805	18,732	20,797	39,529
	1922	56,686	1,521	58,207	20,714	25,235	45,949
	1923	57,520	1,196	58,716	22,292	22,965	45,247
Workers' Compensation ..	1919	209,036	9,699	218,735	110,829	70,050	180,879
	1920	233,129	9,876	243,005	127,693	74,895	202,588
	1921	268,181	13,369	281,550	133,759	88,089	221,848
	1922	288,060	16,875	304,935	149,036	97,156	246,192
	1923	313,912	17,375	331,287	176,701	98,424	275,125
Other ..	1919	37,545	7,566	45,111	16,224	17,824	34,048
	1920	68,620	12,186	80,806	37,469	28,274	65,743
	1921	82,186	7,329	89,515	39,508	37,852	77,360
	1922	87,181	4,395	91,576	35,679	38,248	73,927
	1923	102,181	4,170	106,351	40,540	43,557	84,097
Totals ..	1919	1,940,085	86,124	2,026,209	794,499	753,912	1,548,411
	1920	2,324,700	101,210	2,425,910	676,486	916,805	1,593,291
	1921	2,501,200	120,604	2,621,804	891,573	1,034,877	1,926,460
	1922	2,512,430	130,495	2,642,925	833,576	1,049,159	1,882,735
	1923	2,702,081	117,995	2,820,076	1,107,396	1,076,019	2,183,415

* Including Commission and Agents' Charges.

The particulars given in the above tables relate to Victorian risks, that is, to all business written on the Victorian registers of the companies represented in the returns. The figures are net, being, in

the case of premiums, the amount thereof after deduction of premiums paid to reinsuring offices in Australasia and returns; the losses are reduced by the amounts recovered from Australasian reinsuring offices, but include losses on Victorian risks wherever paid. Premiums paid and losses recovered under re-insurances of Victorian business effected outside Australasia have not been deducted in compiling the figures.

The total amount at risk is not available, but it is obvious, from the extent of the premiums, that the amount covered must be very large. The total losses on all classes of insurance for the five years given in the table represent 35·9 per cent. of the premiums.

COMPANIES.

Trading
companies
registered.

A statement of the number and the nature of the business of trading companies floated and registered in Victoria during the year 1923 is appended:—

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1923.

Nature of Business.	No. Registered.	Nature of Business.	No. Registered.
MANUFACTURING—		MANUFACTURING—continued.	
Tanneries	3	Brass, copper	3
Fellmongering	3	Other metal working	6
Oil, grease	1	Milk products	9
Soap	1	Flour milling	3
Brick, pottery, tile	9	Preserves	1
Concrete	5	Confectionery	6
Fibro-plaster	1	Salt	1
Monumental	1	Cordials	4
Glass	1	Biscuit	1
Sawmilling, timber merchants, &c.	27	Ice Cream	2
Engineering, ironfoundry, and machinery	47	Other Foodstuffs	3
Stove	1	Woolens and Knitting	11
		Clothing, dressmaking, &c.	21
		Millinery	2

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1923—*continued.*

Nature of Business.	No. Registered.	Nature of Business.	No. Registered.
MANUFACTURING—<i>continued.</i>		FINANCIAL—	
Boot, shoe, heel	15	Land and property investment	65
Printing and publishing	12	Auctioneering, Estate agents	24
Manufacturing stationers	2	Indenting, agency, importers &c.	29
Cardboard box, &c.	3	Insurance, brokers, and underwriters	11
Motor bodies &c.	9	Financiers	12
Furniture	6	TRANSPORT—	
Drugs, Chemicals	2	Motor garage, taxi-cab	9
Manufacturing chemists	6	Motor bus, char-a-banc	4
Paint, varnish, whitelead	2	Carriers	4
Surgical appliances	1	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Opticians	1	Hotels, restaurants, &c.	19
Jewellery, Electroplating	3	Builders and contractors	20
Leather	1	Clubs	3
Rope	1	Educational	5
Rubber goods	9	Caterers for amusement	21
Gas coke	5	Grocers, storekeepers	11
Miscellaneous	15	Drapers	10
PRIMARY PRODUCTION—		Advertising	6
Plantations	5	Weighbridge	4
Pastoralists	8	Butchers	2
Farmers	3	Newspaper	5
Mining and prospecting	18	Laundry	3
Orchardists	3	Baker	4
Dairymen	1	Chemist	4
Quarries	7	Ambulance	1
TRADING—		Tobacconist	2
Warehousemen, merchants, dealers, &c.	120	Jewellers	2
		Fruit storage	4
		Accountants	2
		Other	15

The figures in the above table refer only to companies floated and registered in Victoria under Part I. of the *Companies Act* 1915, and are exclusive of 59 foreign companies registered during the year. Sixty-five ordinary mining companies were registered during 1923 under Part II. of the Act. These, as well as insurance companies doing life

business only, and building societies, are also excluded from the table. Of the 732 companies registered during 1923 as shown above, 651, or about 89 per cent., were registered as proprietary companies.

Particulars relating to companies registered under Parts I. and II. of the *Companies Act* 1915, in so far as these are recorded in the Registrar-General's office, are shown for the last five and a half years in the following statement:—

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1919 TO 30TH
JUNE, 1924.

(Parts I. and II. of *Companies Act* 1915.)

Year ended 31st December—	New Companies.						Number of existing Trading Companies.		Increase in Year in Nominal Capital of Existing Companies.*	
	Number Registered.				Nominal Capital.		Victorian.	Foreign.	Victorian Trading.	Mining.
	Victorian Trading.	Foreign.	Mining.	Total.	Victorian Trading (excluding Foreign).	Mining.				
1919	253	21	28	302	£ 9,324,499	£ 525,250	1,941	466	£ (No record)	£ (No record)
1920	542	58	76	676	47,165,357	2,173,750	2,379	505	11,150,562	„
1921	496	64	50	610	48,287,648	1,218,375	2,202	698	3,572,632	304,750
1922	601	45	68	714	26,438,980	1,684,350	2,709	709	2,490,250	315,225
1923	732	59	65	856	27,397,945	1,419,500	3,221	753	3,692,347	490,417
1924 (to 30th June)	384	19	24	427	12,646,273	495,600	3,529	765	7,785,440	131,250

* Increase in nominal capital subsequent to first registration.

The subscribed capital of the mining companies registered during 1923 was £1,183,253, and of those registered during the first six months of 1924, £426,895.

Building Societies.

Since the *Building Societies Act* 1874 came into operation, 158 societies have been registered in accordance with its provisions. The business of the societies was extensive up to the year 1892, but it has since declined. The number of

companies still carrying on business is 27, of which 6 were established on the Starr-Bowkett principle. The following table gives particulars of the principal items of business for the last five years:—

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Number of societies ...	31	30	30	29	27
" shareholders	7,400	7,551	7,893	8,329	8,919
" borrowers ...	9,402	9,537	9,520	9,298	9,673
Transactions during the Year—					
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from loans and investments	176,842	205,329	214,392	235,261	262,421
Loans granted ...	739,772	963,211	834,992	840,398	1,094,994
Repayments ...	649,299	985,779	770,114	831,610	962,390
Deposits received	626,732	961,029	925,533	1,013,665	1,268,266
Working expenses, including interest on deposits, &c.	73,458	74,583	81,529	96,075	106,740
Assets—					
Loans on mortgage	2,264,083	2,452,168	2,661,272	2,870,430	3,277,145
Properties in possession or surrendered	380,391	203,899	181,625	170,288	93,491
Other advances ...	13,084	18,791	16,075	11,619	12,648
Cash in hand, &c. ...	47,407	48,894	56,914	43,099	43,039
Other assets* ...	68,217	84,909	76,321	86,701	68,474
Total ...	2,773,182	2,808,661	2,992,207	3,182,137	3,494,797
Liabilities—					
To shareholders ...	1,334,075	1,272,203	1,358,458	1,455,837	1,530,426
" depositors ...	848,787	900,656	959,206	1,002,550	1,170,352
Bank overdraft ...	41,041	38,252	51,343	55,814	65,483
Other ...	83,003	82,694	92,069	94,449	67,501
Total ...	2,306,906	2,293,805	2,461,076	2,608,650	2,833,762
Reserve Funds ...	387,867	399,734	429,478	492,388	549,427

* Including Commonwealth War Loans Stock, £66,800 in 1918-19, £81,100 in 1919-20, £70,225 in 1920-21, £72,108 in 1921-22, and £56,188 in 1922-23.

The appended table contains particulars for the last five years of societies registered under the Provident Societies Act. The particulars given do not represent complete information regarding co-operative societies, since it is optional whether such societies register as provident societies or as trading companies. It is known that there is a large number of co-operative butter factories and other co-operative societies which are registered as trading companies under the Companies Act and are not represented in the table here given.

PROVIDENT (CO-OPERATIVE) SOCIETIES, 1919 TO 1923.

—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Number of Societies	76	75	74	77	74
Number of Shareholders ..	20,697	18,592	19,338	21,902	20,162
Total Sales during Year ..	£ 1,244,416	£ 1,718,301	£ 1,619,420	£ 5,861,153	£ 6,476,107
Other Revenue	49,333	88,602	87,052	96,647	73,389
Wages and Salaries for Year ..	91,391	119,912	132,133	155,417	148,814
Other Working Expenses ..	102,164	131,282	107,153	782,578	746,824
Net Trading Profit	38,987	62,733	28,980	28,560	42,335
Liabilities at end of Year—					
Paid-up Capital	173,088	216,689	253,469	293,872	251,822
Reserves	61,310	75,139	76,531	83,456	95,521
Bank Overdraft	127,648	143,972	139,188	363,798	138,689
Sundry Creditors*	175,229	262,490	272,470	795,901	515,964
Other Liabilities	72,382	93,149	90,572	187,584	57,280
Total Liabilities	609,657	791,439	832,230	1,724,611	1,059,276
Assets at end of Year—					
Real Estate	148,582	212,768	239,705	303,785	259,810
Stock	235,281	293,430	246,859	927,317	225,004
Fittings, Plant, and Machinery	51,104	60,568	77,323	100,803	79,830
Sundry Debtors	186,965	245,656	254,180	394,917	236,542
Cash in Hand and on Deposit	20,336	25,529	21,062	19,825	312,790
Other Assets	12,785	20,957	37,283	17,454	12,525
Total Assets	655,053	858,908	876,421	1,764,101	1,126,501

* Includes Government Advances.

The figures for 1922 and 1923 show a large increase as compared with those for the preceding years. This is due to the inclusion of the Victorian Wheatgrowers Corporation Ltd., which was incorporated for the purpose of marketing Victorian wheat.

The number of societies which were registered under the Provident Societies Act up to 31st December, 1923, was 195; of these 150 had been registered subsequently to the year 1900. The nature of the business carried on by the 74 societies in existence in 1923 is shown in the subjoined statement:—

EXISTING PROVIDENT SOCIETIES, 1923.

Nature of Business.	No. transacting Business.
General merchants	16
Farmers' associations acting as general merchants and commission agents, &c.	10
Fruitpackers, merchants, and salesmen	8
Cool storage	8
General store, bakery	10
Supplying fruitgrowers' requisites	3
Purchase of real and personal property	2
Printing and publishing	2
Co-operative credit banking	1
Fish selling	1
Eucalyptus oil distilling	1
Storage of wheat	1
Erection of building	1
Supplying butchers' requisites	1
„ farriers' requisites	1
Egg-laying competition	1
Egg selling	1
Employees' general store	1
Importers and indentors	1
Leather and grindery store	1
Marketing and selling of wheat	1
Weighbridge	1
Building Trades Guild	1
Total	74

The co-operative cool stores societies have been formed chiefly to provide cool storage accommodation for the fruit grown by their members, who are orchardists. Several of these societies have availed themselves of the provisions of Part I. of the *Fruit Act* 1917, which empowers the Government to make advances to companies for the purpose of constructing fruit-works.

Trustees, Executors, and Agency Companies. There are eight trustee companies transacting business in Victoria. From their published balance-sheets the following particulars for 1922-23 have been obtained:—Paid-up capital, £406,780; reserve funds, &c., £283,998; other liabilities, £200,018; total liabilities, £890,796. The assets were:—Deposits with Government, £122,404; other investments in public securities, &c.,

£223,085; loans on mortgage, £31,811; property, £314,077; other assets, £199,419. The net profits for the year were £65,754, and the amount of dividends and bonuses was £48,619. The net profits are equivalent to 9·52 per cent. on the shareholders' funds, as represented by paid-up capital, reserves, and undivided profits.

LAND TRANSFERS, MORTGAGES, LIENS, ETC.

A summary of land transactions under the Transfer of Land Acts in the Titles Office for each of the last ten years is given hereunder.

DEALINGS LODGED AT THE TITLES OFFICE (UNDER THE TRANSFER OF LAND ACTS), 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Transfers.	Mortgages.		Leases.	Plans of Sub-division.	Other Dealings.	Total Dealings.
		Number.	Amount.*				
	No.		£	No.	No.	No.	No.
1914 ..	34,332	13,923	9,005,939	282	392	18,435	67,364
1915 ..	27,129	13,283	8,780,619	159	243	16,652	57,466
1916 ..	26,059	10,840	7,485,247	134	281	16,115	53,429
1917 ..	26,796	9,487	5,327,391	122	244	16,426	53,075
1918 ..	33,771	10,627	5,956,609	100	264	19,075	63,837
1919 ..	45,555	13,581	7,815,209	136	368	23,051	82,691
1920 ..	64,555	19,373	12,489,329	136	663	31,191	115,918
1921 ..	48,670	19,822	14,588,121	112	522	26,462	95,588
1922 ..	57,772	20,704	15,046,025	150	594	27,798	107,018
1923 ..	62,225	24,513	17,268,625	113	922	30,117	117,890

* Excluding the amounts lent by building societies which are secured by transfers and the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts or current accounts.

TITLES ISSUED, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Certificates of Title.		Crown Grants.	Crown Leases.	Total Titles.
	No.	No.			
1914 ..	18,037	2,682	2,903	23,622	
1915 ..	14,358	2,180	2,103	18,641	
1916 ..	13,795	2,080	2,147	18,022	
1917 ..	13,148	2,108	1,618	16,874	
1918 ..	15,426	2,057	1,504	18,987	
1919 ..	19,120	1,762	1,117	21,999	
1920 ..	25,583	2,186	1,437	29,206	
1921 ..	21,027	1,759	1,410	24,196	
1922 ..	26,041	1,879	2,597	30,517	
1923 ..	27,781	2,086	2,378	32,245	

Dealings
under the
Real Property
Act.

A statement of mortgages registered and reconveyances under the *Real Property Act 1915* (commonly known as the General Law) is also appended :—

DEALINGS UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Mortgages Registered.		Reconveyances.	
	Number.	Amount.*	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
1914	916	863,159	667	395,344
1915	780	696,355	567	293,350
1916	672	529,819	599	329,537
1917	529	434,464	509	193,204
1918	548	721,888	646	281,265
1919	635	471,870	741	343,500
1920	970	840,050	1,057	524,242
1921	983	881,325	933	404,685
1922	950	915,443	889	379,880
1923	1,043	1,409,242	869	434,548

* Excluding the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts or current accounts.

The number and amount of stock mortgages, liens on wool, and liens on crops registered during each of the last five years were as shown below. Releases are not shown, as releases of liens are not required to be registered, the liens being removed from the register after the expiration of twelve months, with the exception of some liens to the Closer Settlement Board which cover a period of two or three years. Very few of the mortgagors of stock trouble to secure themselves by a registered release.

STOCK MORTGAGES AND LIENS ON WOOL AND CROPS,
1919 TO 1923.

Security.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Stock Mortgages—					
Number ..	384	258	2,736	2,253	2,053
Amount £	89,002	69,415	640,841	404,803	385,080
Liens on Wool—					
Number ..	38	32	35	25	16
Amount £	31,613	27,667	55,899	18,935	10,420
Liens on Crops—					
Number ..	874	3,114	2,795	3,758	4,069
Amount £	223,300	586,632	590,675	839,709	1,347,004
Total—					
Number ..	1,296	3,404	5,566	6,036	6,138
Amount £	343,915	683,714	1,287,415	1,263,447	1,742,504

**Bills and
contracts of
sale.**

Two forms of security are taken by lenders over personal chattels, viz., a bill of sale (absolute or conditional), or a contract of sale for letting and hiring. The former is a simple mortgage of the chattels, whilst the latter purports to be an absolute sale of the chattels to the lender, with an agreement by the lender to hire the goods back to the borrower at a certain rental, which takes the place of interest. Before filing a bill of sale fourteen days' notice of intention to file must be lodged with the Registrar-General, within which period any creditor may lodge a "caveat" to prevent the filing of the bill without the payment by the borrower of his claim. The following are the numbers and amounts of bills and contracts of sale which have been filed in each of the last five years:—

BILLS AND CONTRACTS OF SALE, 1919 TO 1923.

Security.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Bills of Sale—					
Number ..	1,043	1,122	1,235	1,470	1,429
Amount £	192,777	160,694	430,475	801,298	526,940
Contracts of Sale—					
Number ..	29	18	19	27	23
Amount £	2,320	1,384	2,008	2,865	3,275

LAW, CRIME, ETC.**THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.**

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and, in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851 the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

Supreme
Court civil
business.

The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act of 1883."

There were in 1924 seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910, and the last five years :—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1923.

Year	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
1870 ..	5,583	£ 154,296	237	165	133	29	£ 29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1919 ..	629	90,818	116	61	24	14	6,151
1920 ..	632	74,288	132	80	39	17	9,036
1921 ..	822	164,898	198	82	46	17	13,623
1922 ..	726	155,329	187	67	31	23	13,063
1923 ..	779	178,542	201	62	43	12	17,543

Decline in Litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1923 the writs issued were nearly one-ninth; the amount sued for was about one-fourth; and the causes which actually came to trial were about one-fifth of the corresponding numbers in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

County Court business. County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1923 there were 102 sessions lasting 472 days and held in 36 places. Particulars of litigation in the last

year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.	Costs Awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1870 ..	11,866	277,236	102,822	13,815	4,268
1880 ..	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890 ..	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900 ..	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1910 ..	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1919 ..	600	206,164	94,049	*	*
1920 ..	680	283,238	113,804	*	*
1921 ..	824	399,801	213,113	*	*
1922 ..	796	385,074	200,534	*	*
1923 ..	934	428,153	219,602	*	*

* No record.

The number of cases tried in 1923 was above the average of recent years, but was only about 7 per cent. of the number in 1890. The amounts sued for and awarded were, however, greater than the amounts for that year. The decline in the number of cases would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

The number of requests for arbitration under the **Workers' Compensation—Arbitration** Act during the year 1923 was 191. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £38,346, and the amount awarded, £35,058. These figures are not included in the above table.

Petty Sessions civil business. Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 228 places in Victoria in 1923 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what

may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1923.

Year.			Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
				£	£
1870	..	..	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	..	..	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	..	..	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	..	..	17,577	95,890	80,960
1910	..	..	29,902	186,538	146,284
1919	..	..	34,841	213,418	155,009
1920	..	..	38,300	218,408	158,198
1921	..	..	45,319	271,634	202,606
1922	..	..	47,140	384,441	295,697
1923	..	..	58,502	528,968	413,417

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1923, 593 appeals against municipal ratings, 1,485 maintenance cases, 1,081 fraud summonses against debtors, 14,004 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,132 garnishee cases, 788 ejection cases, 107 prohibition cases, 190 Children's Maintenance Act cases, and 743 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 279 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and the last five years, from which it will be seen that the decrease since 1890 is very considerable :—

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1923.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1870	35	75	2,146	2,256
1880	35	58	1,944	2,037
1890	13	21	2,282	2,316
1900	4	3	199	206
1910	...	4	166	170
1919	3	6	109	118
1920	...	3	124	127
1921	...	9	186	195
1922	3	3	187	193
1923	6	1	237	244

High Court of Australia.

A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

Intestate Estates.

The rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are by law distributed are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 437.

INSOLVENCIES.

Insolvencies, &c.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended 1910 and in each of the last five years were as follows :—

**INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT,
1870 TO 1923.**

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870 ..	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880 ..	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890 ..	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900 ..	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1910 ..	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1919 ..	207	184,041	130,328	68	108,181	91,689
1920 ..	186	154,658	53,229	69	82,692	73,591
1921 ..	300	180,044	92,048	100	186,305	140,430
1922 ..	322	349,118	189,016	99	178,986	127,657
1923 ..	414	323,540	152,602	133	199,074	139,757

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1923 was higher than in each of the preceding seven years. The average yearly number during the ten years 1909 to 1918 was 358, and the average declared liabilities, £226,517. During the ten years 1899 to 1908 the average yearly number was 445, with declared liabilities of £244,538, whereas, during the ten years 1889 to 1898, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis of that period swelled the returns, the average yearly number was 833, with declared liabilities of £2,213,592. During the ten years 1879 to 1888 the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory. The following table shows the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years :—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1919 ... ..	... 185	22	207
1920 ... ..	... 165	21	186
1921 ... ..	... 270	30	300
1922 ... ..	... 289	33	322
1923 ... ..	... 376	38	414

Occupations of Insolvents. In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1921, and the proportion of the former to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 61 whose occupations were not stated :—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1919 TO 1923.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1921.	Average Yearly Number of Insolvents, 1919 to 1923.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	60,585	15	2·48
Domestic	58,225	9	1·55
Commercial	108,011	113	10·46
Transport and Communication	53,332	19	3·56
Industrial	234,245	156	6·66
Primary Producers	147,438	55	3·73
Total	661,836*	367	5·55

* Exclusive of 7,617 persons of independent means.

The number of breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes who became insolvent was smaller, in proportion to their numbers in the community, than those of any other class, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

A table showing the occupations of insolvents in detail for the years 1912 to 1916 appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 444.

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act* 1915, and a summary thereof is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The Act of 1915 was amended by Acts passed in 1919, 1921, and 1923, but the amendments relate to minor matters and do not affect the main features of the principal Act. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

Number of Divorces.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 6,216 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 111 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 5,868 and 40 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 for judicial separation were issued, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890, no fewer than 178 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

Divorces, Sex.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1923:—

DIVORCES, 1923.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	236	292	528	193	233	426
Judicial Separation ...	...	3	3	...	2	2
Nullity of Marriage ...	1	4	5	1	2	3
Total ...	237	299	536	194	237	431

Grounds of divorce.

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1923 were as follows:—

Grounds on which Granted.	Divorce.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	64	64	...	1	...	...
Assaults (violent) ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Bigamy ...	1	3	...	...	1	1
Consanguinity ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of ...	...	2	...	1	...	...
Desertion ...	118	142	...	...	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	4	7	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness (habitual) and cruelty ...	1	9	...	...	...	...
Insanity ...	5	2	...	...	...	...
Sentences for crime ...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Total ...	193	233	...	2	1	2

Divorces, 1881 to 1923.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the last year of each of the four decennial periods ended 1911 and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

**DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA,
1881 TO 1923.**

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1881	18	10	9	..	7
1891	153	1	99	..	57
1901	148	2	83	..	46
1911	262	2	211	..	99
1919	481	9	345	2	129
1920	510	8	370	2	134
1921	446	4	380	1	136
1922	478	2	370	2	129
1923	528	3	426	2	145

The extension of the grounds upon which divorce might be obtained had the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1923, 901 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 220. The average annual number for the five-year period 1919-23, in proportion to a like number of married couples, was 186, as compared with an average of 135 for the same period in Victoria.

CRIME.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation, and, if they are satisfied that

a *prima facie* case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information; or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General also has the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing; and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury, which consists of 23 men, investigates the charge, and, if it is of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. Its principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Its present members are:—The Hon. S. Mauger (chairman), Dr. C. S. Godfrey, and Mr. W. R. Anderson, I.S.O., P.M., formerly Secretary to the Crown Law Department. The secretary is Mr. G. F. Dicker, Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries

as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and submit recommendations accordingly to the Chief Secretary; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Other important powers were vested in the Board under the provisions of the Amending Indeterminate Sentences Act of 1915, chief among which are:—

- (a) To parole a prisoner temporarily for the purpose of testing his reform;
- (b) To impose conditions of release;
- (c) To transfer prisoners from one reformatory prison to another;
- (d) To hear charges of misconduct and impose punishment at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals, the power formerly conferred on visiting justices in this regard being cancelled;
- (e) To control the disbursement of a prisoner's earnings upon release; and
- (f) To recommend to the Minister that he make an order permitting a prisoner detained in a reformatory prison to leave such prison temporarily—
 - (1) for the purpose of being treated in a hospital; or
 - (2) to visit a relative believed to be dying; or
 - (3) for any other reason which appears to the Board to be sufficient.

An important alteration under the Amending Act is the substitution of "Minister" for "Governor in Council" as the authority by whose direction a prisoner may be released on probation on the Board's recommendation. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison, are now in operation.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17 the Board was enabled to bring into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons, by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island. The equipment of the Castlemaine Reformatory was further improved in 1917 by the addition of the necessary plant and tools for imparting technical instruction to the inmates, this being given by an expert of the local technical school. The lads are now receiving practical training in the use of tools, framing, jointing, &c., and they have turned out much useful work. This instruction, coupled with the experience they are gaining in farming operations, is of value to them

in gaining suitable employment in the country on release. The improvements carried out on the farm have added considerably to the value of the property, and include clearing, fencing, ploughing, the enlargement of dams for water supply, and the erection of poultry pens, and of a building containing a dining room and ten sleeping rooms for inmates who are allowed to sleep at the farm.

The Afforestation camp at French Island has yielded good results, and the industry of the prisoners has received the commendation of the officers of the Forests Department. In addition to the work of afforestation, considerable improvements have been effected about the camp and additional buildings erected. The tree-planting season usually extends from May to September in each year. During other months the men are occupied in cutting fire breaks, clearing, and preparing for the next planting season. The experiment is of value, as it provides strenuous work for the men, who are drawn from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge, and enables the "Honor" system to be carried out. At no time are the men under lock and key, and they are given a considerable amount of freedom, yet with few exceptions they have responded loyally to the trust placed in them. Any who fail to rise to the standard required of them are immediately returned to Pentridge. From time to time several prisoners have escaped, but with two exceptions they have been recaptured. Both here and at Castlemaine the open air life and work have had a beneficial effect upon the health of the prisoners, and the privileges and freedom they enjoy have not made them less amenable to discipline.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	55	54	39	31	41
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	51	47	42	39	60
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	1	2	2	..	..
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	28	30	31	35	31
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	..	..	..	..	6
Total	135	133	114	105	138

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act 1915* are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. The number of such officers who have been appointed to date is 243.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1923 :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1923.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	4	...	...	1	...	1	2
Manslaughter ...	7	...	...	1	...	6	...
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	32	2	...	11	1	17	1
Assaults ...	1,429	755	45	545	84	...	...
Others ...	215	28	3	56	9	116	3
Total ...	1,687	785	48	614	94	140	6
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	331	56	2	48	8	206	11
Larceny and similar offences ...	2,176	1,363	129	426	54	192	12
Wilful damage ...	481	340	19	109	9	3	1
Others ...	617	421	25	131	24	15	1
Total ...	3,605	2,180	175	714	95	416	25
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	19	...	...	2	...	15	2
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness ...	10,131	5,492	715	3,450	474	...	...
Others ...	9,709	7,330	649	1,488	235	7	...
Total ...	19,840	12,822	1,364	4,938	709	7	...
Other Offences—							
Perjury ...	6	...	...	...	...	3	3
Breaches of—							
Defence Act ...	2,129	1,806	3	320	...	...	...
Education Act ...	12,485	9,403	1,721	1,122	239	...	...
Electoral Act ...	965	616	160	119	70	...	...
Licensing Act ...	4,117	2,673	379	860	205	...	...
Pure Food Act ...	518	378	46	85	9	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	21,741	17,402	1,222	2,886	214	16	1
Total ...	41,961	32,278	3,531	5,392	737	19	4
Grand Total ...	67,112	48,065	5,118	11,660	1,635	597	37

These particulars include the arrests and summonses disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in the next table, other than arrests of neglected children.

Of the persons dealt with in the 49,889 summons cases, 41,976 were summarily convicted, 7,849 were discharged, and 64 were com-

mitted for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (67,112) 53,183 were summarily convicted, 13,295 were discharged, and 634 were committed for trial.

The table which follows shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1923 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1923.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Against the Person—								
Assaults	14	..	48	2	..	..	62	2
Others	2	..	5	..	..	..	7	..
Total	16	..	53	2	..	..	69	2
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c.	437	2	679	20	..	..	1,116	22
Wilful Damage	14	2	219	5	..	..	233	7
Others	3	..	29	..	..	..	32	..
Total	454	4	927	25	..	..	1,381	29
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness	3	..	2	..	..	..	5	..
Others	34	2	491	11	..	..	525	13
Total	37	2	493	11	..	..	530	13
Other Offences—								
Breaches of Defence Act ..	..	..	7	..	..	..	7	..
„ Licensing Act .. ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	230	96	1,053	6	46	23	1,329	125
Total	230	96	1,060	8	46	23	1,336	127
Grand Total	737	102	2,533	46	46	23	3,316	171

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1923 numbered 98, viz., 70 males and 28 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the past five years, 24 per cent. were arrested, and 76 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence

**Arrests and
summons
cases.**

Acts, and is also partially accounted for by more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. Particulars for the last year of each of the four decennial periods ended with 1911, and for each of the last five years, are given in the subjoined table :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1881 TO 1923.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1881	22,640	19,384	42,024
1891	31,971	24,525	56,496
1901	27,855	21,130	48,985
1911	19,398	25,128	44,526
1919	11,993	46,477	58,470
1920	14,582	42,116	56,698
1921	15,249	47,153	62,402
1922	16,163	47,550	63,713
1923	17,223	49,889	67,112

Neglected children arrested.

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 1,190 in 1919, 193 in 1920, 112 in 1921, 115 in 1922, and 98 in 1923.

The principal reason for the great falling off in the last four years is that children boarded out with their own mothers by the Children's Welfare Department are not now arrested by the police.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1919	58,470	44,623	13,272	575	347
1920	56,698	43,088	12,815	795	461
1921	62,402	46,924	14,702	776	520
1922	63,713	49,464	13,516	733	463
1923	67,112	53,183	13,295	634	400
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1919	396·9	302·9	90·1	3·9	2·4
1920	374·9	284·9	84·7	5·3	3·0
1921	405·9	305·2	95·6	5·1	3·4
1922	405·5	314·8	86·0	4·7	2·9
1923	412·9	327·2	81·8	3·9	2·5

In regard to persons arrested, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case was most prominent is taken account of; but, in summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case, and the number of convictions, discharges, &c., is, therefore, greater than the number of persons concerned.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

Offences and drunkenness.

The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1919	1,542	4,034	6,237	46,657	58,470
1920	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1921	1,840	4,321	7,621	48,620	62,402
1922	1,570	3,639	8,773	49,731	63,713
1923	1,687	3,605	10,131	51,689	67,112
Number per 1,000 of the Population.					
1890	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1919	1·05	2·74	4·23	31·67	39·69
1920	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1921	1·20	2·81	4·96	31·62	40·59
1922	1·00	2·32	5·58	31·66	40·56
1923	1·04	2·28	6·17	31·80	41·29

Drunkenness. The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last five years as compared with earlier years.

Offences against the person and property. Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences. Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1923 only 26 of such crimes out of a total of 51,639 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These considerations must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

SENTENCES PASSED.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1923 were as follows :—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1923.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	5,455	681	6,136
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	2,592	494	3,086
1 and under 6 months	937	105	1,042
6 and under 12 months	189	22	211
1 to 2 years	1	...	1
2 years	1	...	1
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	285	35	320
Admonished	273	10	283
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools	66	2	68
Otherwise dealt with	45	14	59
Total sentenced	9,844	1,363	11,207
Discharged	4,748	698	5,446
Total summarily disposed of	14,592	2,061	16,653
Sentenced per 10,000 of population	123·4	16·8	69·7

Sentences in superior courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1923 :—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1923.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	2	...	2
Imprisonment for—			
1 and under 6 months	38	4	42
6 " 12 " 	128	5	133
1 " 4 years 	77	2	79
4 " 7 " 	5	...	5
Death recorded	1	...	1
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	70	8	78
Sent to Reformatory Prison	18	...	18
" Reformatory Schools	1	1	2
" Lunatic Asylum	1	...	1
Total convicted	341	20	361
Acquitted	181	12	193
Not prosecuted	20	3	23
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4·28	·25	2·25

In addition to being sent to gaol, nine prisoners were ordered one whipping each with a birch or a cat-o'-nine-tails.

Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

In compiling the criminal statistics of the State each year a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect of each arrest. It is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison

Arrests of distinct individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1923.

Sex and Age of Persons Arrested.		Number of Arrests.	Number of Distinct Individuals Arrested.	Number of Times on which Distinct Individuals were Arrested.																		
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	21
SEX.																						
Males	.. ..	15,128	11,786	9,889	1,256	350	135	48	39	18	15	11	9	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1
Females	.. ..	2,095	1,320	1,003	152	70	32	19	15	11	6	5	1	1	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Total	.. ..	17,223	13,106	10,892	1,408	420	167	67	54	29	21	16	10	5	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	1
AGE.																						
Under 10 years	.. ..	7	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 to 15	.. ..	76	69	63	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20	.. ..	955	883	822	51	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 to 25	.. ..	2,306	1,940	1,688	182	45	13	8	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 to 30	.. ..	2,431	1,982	1,707	190	44	22	9	5	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
30 to 40	.. ..	4,125	3,162	2,620	347	106	41	15	11	10	3	5	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
40 to 50	.. ..	3,470	2,425	1,926	290	104	33	19	19	12	8	3	4	1	2	..	1	2	..	1	..	..
50 to 60	.. ..	2,441	1,650	1,275	222	70	38	11	10	2	8	4	3	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
60 to 70	.. ..	1,137	817	652	98	37	14	3	7	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
70 to 80	.. ..	237	154	120	21	3	5	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
80 years and over	.. ..	38	20	17	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..

of names, ages, birth-places, religions, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This has been done for 1923, in so far as sex and age of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table:—

Individuals arrested more than once. Of the total number of arrests, 17,223, only 13,106, or 76 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 10,892, or 83 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,408, or 11 per cent., twice; 420, or 3 per cent., three times; 167, or 1 per cent., four times; and 219, or 2 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested twenty-one times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1923 with 1907—a year in which an important Act relating to the obtaining and holding of licences came into force. From this it will be seen that there was a large decrease in the later year in the number of distinct persons arrested:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1907 AND 1923.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1907 ...	14,519	2,297	16,816	2,410	369	1,372	83	10	3	2	2
1923 ...	11,786	1,320	13,106	1,478	163	815	83	11	3	1	2

Sexes of those arrested more than once. The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 16 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once in 1923, as many as 24 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness. The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1923 numbered 7,438, and, of these, 1,361, or 18 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 852 twice; 255 thrice; 110 four times; 49 five times; and 95 more than five times, of whom 1 was arrested twenty-one times.

Drunkenness, 1907 and 1923. The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,944 in the year 1907, and 7,438 in 1923. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 8.93 and 4.63 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 48 per cent.

Drunkards charged with other offences. Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness in 1923 was 7,438, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 10,029; these persons were also charged with 1,468 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 11,497. Fifty-eight per cent. of the arrests during 1923 consisted of persons who were charged with drunkenness.

Drunkenness, 1919 to 1923. The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder:—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS,
1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Number of Persons —			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1919 ...	6,161	76	6,237	4·23
1920 ...	7,090	64	7,154	4·73
1921 ...	7,542	79	7,621	4·96
1922 ...	8,684	89	8,773	5·58
1923 ...	10,029	102	10,131	6·17

Drunkenness — Comparison with previous years. The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement:—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1915	64
1879-85	88	1916	55
1886-92	106	1917	37
1893-97	65	1918	29
1898-1902 ..	84	1919	29
1903-07	77	1920	32
1908-12	68	1921	34
1913	72	1922	38
1914	69	1923	42

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further limitation was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last eight years. The index numbers for that period are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number per 100,000 of the population under that age from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence :—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1923.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1919	138	24·45
1920	140	24·15
1921	110	18·72
1922	118	19·58
1923	143	23·07

Offences by Juveniles. The crimes for which juvenile offenders were arrested in 1923, and their ages are given in the subjoined statement:—

**OFFENCES CHARGED AGAINST JUVENILES ARRESTED
DURING 1923.**

Nature of Offence.	Ages.										Total.	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
1. Against the Person—												
Manslaughter									1		1	
Others						1		1	3		5	
2. Against Property with Violence—												
Housebreaking		2	2	1	3	2	2	7	8	8	35	
Others										3	3	
3. Against Property without Violence—												
Larceny, &c.			2	3	8	5	15	15	21	28	97	
Others			1		2		2	2	1	5	13	
4. Against Good Order—												
Drunk and disorderly									1	2	3	
Offensive behaviour, &c.						1		2	1	7	11	
Others						1		1	4	6	12	
5. Miscellaneous—												
Railway Act									4	1	5	
Escaping from legal custody							1		5	3	9	
Others						1				2	3	
Total		2	5	4	13	11	20	28	49	65	197	

Education of persons arrested. One per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1923 were entirely illiterate, 98 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

Consumption of intoxicating liquor. The next table shows for a period of years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand. It is not possible to give the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909, as the Commonwealth Government discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade in the following year.

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE
IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed, 1st July, 1918, to 30th June, 1923.			Consumption per Head		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	2,080,900	65,301,000	2,154,800	·38	12·14	·39
*Dominion of New Zealand ..	725,400	13,770,900	182,600	·60	11·35	·15

* Average for five years ended 31st December, 1923.

The quantities consumed per head in Australia during the quinquennium 1909-13 were : spirits, ·82, beer, 12·40, and wine, ·42 gallons ; and for New Zealand : spirits, ·79, beer, 9·69, and wine, ·14 gallons.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia and New Zealand, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows the average yearly consumption over a period of years :—

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DRINK BILL.—
YEARLY AVERAGE.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Commonwealth of Australia ..	7,706,700	14,679,700	1,615,900	24,002,300	4 8 9	7 13 7
†Dominion of New Zealand ..	2,669,200	3,083,400	137,000	5,889,600	4 17 2	8 6 4

* Average for five years ended 30th June, 1923.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1923.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the five years ended 30th June, 1923, was £24,002,300, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium 1919 to 1923 it was £5,889,600. The expenditure per head for the Commonwealth was £4 8s. 9d., and for New Zealand, £4 17s. 2d. The corresponding expenditures for the quinquennium 1909-13 were £3 10s. 2d., and £2 18s. 2d. per head.

LOCAL OPTION.

Local Option Act of 1920. At the general elections for the State Legislative Assembly, held on 21st October, 1920, the provision in the *Licensing Act 1906* (incorporated in the Act of 1915), which required a poll of the electors to be taken on the question of the number (if any) of liquor licences to be held in the various licensing districts of the State, was submitted to the electors. The resolutions were:—

- A. That the number of licences existing in this district continue.
- B. That the number of licences existing in this district be reduced.
- C. That no licences be granted in this district.

If resolution C had been previously carried and was in force in the district, the following was to be submitted instead of the resolutions mentioned above:—

- D. That licences be restored in this district.

Resolution A or B was carried if a majority of the votes given was in favour of such resolution. Resolution C was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution, it being provided that, where less than such number was given, the votes recorded in favour of resolution C should be added to the votes given for resolution B. Resolution D was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution. Resolutions C and D could not be carried unless 30 per cent. or more of the number of electors on the electoral rolls for the district voted for the resolution.

In two licensing districts in the State, viz., Boroondara and Nunawading, resolution C was carried. Seven hotels in the former district and three in the latter had therefore to be closed. The amount of compensation awarded by the Licences Reduction Board was £12,100, or an average of £1,210 for each hotel.

Act of 1922. By an amending Licensing Act (No. 3259) assented to on 21st December, 1922, it is provided that a vote of the electors for the Legislative Assembly be taken on the licensing question once in every eighth year on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council, published in the *Government Gazette*, not being a day within three months before or after the day for a general election, the first of such polls to be taken in the year 1930.

At the first of such votes and at any subsequent vote, whenever licences exist, the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors:—

Abolition.—That licences shall be abolished (Resolution I.).

If at any vote Resolution I. is carried the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors at each subsequent vote until carried:—

Restoration.—That licences shall be restored (Resolution II.).

**Hotels Closed,
1885-1905.**

During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

**Restricting the
hours for the
sale of
intoxicants.**

In the year 1915 an Act was passed (No. 2584) which fixed the hours during which alcoholic liquors might be sold in hotels during the period of the war at from 9 o'clock in the morning until half-past 9 at night. By an Act passed in 1916 (No. 2827) the closing hour was fixed at 6 o'clock instead of 9.30. The latter provision was made permanent by Act No. 3028, passed on 19th December, 1919.

LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

**Licences
Reduction
Board.**

The Licences Reduction Board, provided for by the *Licensing Act* 1906, was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time a Compensation Fund was instituted, which was raised by means of a percentage fee of £3 for every £100 of purchases of liquor, the owner of the premises being chargeable with two-thirds and the tenant with one-third of the fee. The duties of the Board are referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476. Just before the close of the year 1916 an amending Licensing Act (No. 2855) was passed, by which the members of the Licences Reduction Board were constituted a Licensing Court for the whole State. The taking of a local option poll was postponed to the second general election after January, 1917, and the court was authorized in the meantime to close hotels to the extent of the Compensation Fund available, as if reduction had been carried in every Licensing District. No alteration was made in the provisions abolishing the statutory number of hotels for a district, so that the number existing on 1st January, 1917, is now the maximum number, a similar provision applying to spirit merchants' licences, grocers' licences, Australian wine licences, and club licences. The Mallee area was made the subject of special legislation, under which it is possible after a petition and a poll to obtain victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas containing at least 500 electors. These victuallers' licences are to be 12 miles apart, except at Mildura, where there can be three hotels. The whole system of licence-fees was re-cast, fixed fees in the retail liquor trade being abolished and percentage fees substituted. In the wholesale section there are now percentage fees for the sales to private customers, and fixed fees in respect of the balance of the trade. The percentage fee in the case of hotels has been fixed at 6 per cent. of the annual liquor purchases, the owner paying three-eighths, and the licensee five-eighths. This combines and takes the place of the old fixed fees, the 3 per cent. compensation fee, and the assessments for lost licence fees arising out of the closing of hotels. Spirit merchants and holders of grocers' licences and Australian wine licences pay 4 per cent. of the cost of liquors sold to non-licensed purchasers.

Provision was made by Act No. 2776 for an adjustment of rents owing to the reduction effected by the "9.30 Closing Act" in the number of hours allowed for selling liquor, and this provision was extended by Act No. 2855 so as to provide for adjustments by reason of the further restrictions imposed by Act No. 2827—the "6 o'clock Closing Act." The work of adjustment was intrusted to the Board. Under the provisions of these Acts over 700 applications were received from licensees for adjustment of rent and licence-fee rebates.

Up to 30th June, 1924, 1,532 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £907,701, or an average of £592 each. Four hundred and fifty-two of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district; the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £440,097, making an average of £974 each. There were 1,080 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £467,604, or an average of £433 for each hotel.

Particulars of the hotels closed and compensation awarded in metropolitan and country districts in each year since the constitution of the Board are set forth in the following table:—

Hotels closed,
1907 to 1924.

NUMBER OF HOTELS CLOSED AND COMPENSATION AWARDED, 1907 TO 1924.

Year Ended—	Number of Hotels Closed.			Amounts Awarded Owners and Licensees.		
	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.
31st December—				£	£	£
1907 ..	26	37	63	26,471	6,125	32,596
1908 ..	43	90	133	33,764	32,817	66,581
1909 ..	30	78	108	20,021	21,648	41,669
1910 ..	28	78	106	27,636	26,507	54,143
1911 ..	17	85	102	15,501	32,953	48,454
1912 ..	24	72	96	20,511	30,877	51,388
1913 ..	26	76	102	24,775	25,346	50,121
1914 ..	19	70	89	20,040	30,033	50,073
1915 ..	30	82	112	25,800	35,883	61,683
1916 ..	40	103	143	35,485	48,658	84,143
1917 ..	23	60	83	19,193	30,415	49,608
30th June—						
1918 ..	10	34	44	7,475	15,802	23,277
(six months)						
30th June—						
1919 ..	22	57	79	19,825	29,635	49,460
1920 ..	39	36	75	39,080	21,595	60,675
1921 ..	35*	57	92*	43,355	34,230	77,585
1922 ..	7	41	48	9,070	35,915	44,985
1923 ..	22	13	35	33,825	6,140	39,965
1924 ..	11	11	22	18,270	3,025	21,295
Total ..	452	1,080	1,532	440,097	467,604	907,701

* Including ten hotels closed as the result of a Local Option poll held on 21st October, 1920.

A table showing the number of hotels closed in each licensing district to 30th June, 1921, appears in the *Year-Book* 1920-21, pages 296 to 299.

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1924, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected, because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws :—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1924.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	969,200	4,339	223
1906	1,244,474	3,520	354
1924 (30th June)	1,639,704	1,959	837
Increase, 1885 to 1924	670,504	...	614
Decrease, ,, ,, ... ..	...	2,380	...

* Including Roadside Licences.

While the population has increased by 69 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 55 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 275 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885-1924, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,522 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 631 were closed voluntarily.

The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act* 1906 (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act* 1915) provides that all race-courses shall be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. It is stipulated that, in addition to this fee, there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent. of the revenue, and where the gross revenue is £600 or less no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on receipts during the past ten years were as follows :—

REVENUE FROM RACE-COURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1915 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount.	Year ended 30th June.	Amount.
	£		£
1915	13,611	1920	13,416
1916	11,758	1921	17,731
1917	13,380	1922	17,578
1918	11,346	1923	20,124
1919	11,557	1924	20,516

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners. There are seven gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and four reformatory prisons, also four police gaols which are used as receiving stations; the figures given below show that there is accommodation in the gaols for about two and a half times the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement contains information for the year 1923 in regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year:—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1923.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.23.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	669	..	409	..	999	..	473	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	68	..	33	..	65	..	31	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	16	..	201	6	11	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	22	..	243	13	15	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison	84	..	42	..	62	..	37	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	156	..	46	..	177	..	37
Jika Reformatory Female Prison ..	..	10	..	1	..	..	..	..
Geelong ..	187	29	69	..	331	4	65	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	45	..	35	..	50	..	29	..
Melbourne ..	222	70	99	13	3,448	612	99	11
Sale ..	30	5	5	..	75	6	6	..
Police Gaols ..	92	18	5	..	127	7	6	..
Total ..	1,575	334	735	60	5,601	825	772	48

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1923—decrease. A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 'o 1911 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1923, 21 per cent. less than in 1911, 51 per cent.

less than in 1901, 72 per cent. less than in 1891, 77 per cent. less than in 1881, and 82 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1923.

Year.	Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1919 ...	576	59	635	11·63	1·10	6·14
1920 ...	706	50	756	13·68	·92	7·12
1921 ...	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1922 ...	752	54	806	14·36	·98	7·31
1923 ...	735	60	795	13·38	1·04	7·05

Birthplaces,
religions,
and ages of
prisoners.

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1921 and for 1923:—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1881 TO 1923.

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1923.
Total	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	795	795
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	584	845	689	595	660	637
England and Wales	401	420	149	87	64	67
Scotland	105	129	56	26	18	28
Ireland	378	336	160	62	23	33
China	27	14	18	4	1	1
Others	103	156	79	39	29	29
Religion—						
Protestants	888	1,098	651	476	479	464
Roman Catholics	671	729	465	317	293	300
Jews	7	14	8	4	4	4
Buddhists, Confucians, &c..	27	14	12	1	..	1
Others	5	45	15	15	19	26
Age—						
Under 20 years	229	129	75	54	85	59
20 to 30 years	473	669	316	205	287	265
30 to 40 years	312	457	337	211	190	195
40 to 50 years	294	279	234	193	126	130
50 to 60 years	166	193	102	96	68	92
60 years and over	124	173	87	54	39	54

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS
CONSTANTLY DETAINED, PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
1881 TO 1923.*

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1923.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	4·92	4·52
England and Wales ..	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	} 6·53	7·57
Scotland ..	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78		
Ireland ..	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95		
China ..	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	3·54	3·46
Others ..	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	11·13	10·61
Religion—						
Protestants ..	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·12	3·83
Roman Catholics ..	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	9·08	8·86
Jews ..	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	5·21	4·97
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	24·20	20·75	21·95	6·18	..	6·90
Others ..	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·05	4·97	5·25
Age—						
Under 20 years ..	35·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·45	·96
20 to 30 years ..	34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	10·93	9·61
30 to 40 years ..	34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	8·35	8·16
40 to 50 years ..	20·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	7·20	7·07
50 to 60 years ..	34·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	4·50	5·78
60 years and over ..	30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	3·07	4·05

* The ratios refer to 10,000 persons in the community whose birthplaces, religions, or ages were as stated above.

POLICE PROTECTION.

The following table shows the numbers in the various
strength of police force in grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December,
Victoria. 1923 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner ..	1	..	1
Superintendents ..	3	8	11
Inspectors ..	8	2	10
Sub-Inspectors ..	12	5	17
Sergeants, First class ..	41	10	51
„ Second class ..	32	18	50
Senior Constables ..	138	73	211
Constables ..	402	230	632
Detectives ..	23	2	25
Others ..	..	..	..
Total ..	660	348	1,008

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1923—continued.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, Second class ... ..	...	...	...
Senior Constables	2	1	3
Constables	27	213	240
Total	29	214	243
Grand Total	689	562	1,251

The number of police in Victoria per 100,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States, at the end of 1923, were as follows:—Victoria, 76·9; New South Wales, 127·9; Queensland, 134·13; South Australia, 113·7; Western Australia, 143·3; Tasmania, 109·1; and Northern Territory, 787·6.

The figures given for Victoria are below normal, owing to the temporary reduction in the Force consequent on the Police Strike of November, 1923. At the end of 1922 there were in Victoria 109·5 police per 100,000 of the population.

The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in the year 1871-2 and every tenth year thereafter until 1911-12 inclusive, also in each of the five years ended with 1922-23:—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1922-23.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Establishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1872 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1882 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1892 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1902 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1912 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8
1919 ..	363,189	51,543	2,890	2,725	420,347	5 10
1920 ..	459,425	60,561	2,878	1,386	524,250	7 0
1921 ..	528,168	73,902	5,752	2,079	609,901	8 0
1922 ..	527,305	71,825	6,681	2,336	608,147	7 10
1923 ..	531,440	75,732	8,597	4,631	620,400	7 10

The police perform a number of duties in addition to those connected with the maintenance of law and order. The actual cost to the community of the police protection afforded is, therefore, less than the expenditure shown in the above table for maintenance of the police force.

Executions. During the nineteen years ended with 1923 there were only seven executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, and one in 1922. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 175 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 490 a table showing the offences for which criminals were executed, also their birthplaces and religions, for the years 1842 to 1916.

Inquests. The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during each of the last five years is given below:—

INQUESTS, 1919 TO 1923.

Cause of Death found to be due to—	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
External Causes—					
Accident	385	466	509	461	524
Homicide	12	12	8	10	11
Suicide	129	143	165	123	125
Execution .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..
Doubtful	28	24	20	17	18
Disease or Natural Causes ..	720	697	645	556	714
Intemperance	1	1	1	..	6
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes ..	10	7	7	5	3
Being "Still Born" .. .. .	..	..	2	1	..
Total	1,285	1,350	1,357	1,174	1,401
Number per 10,000 of Population ..	8·72	8·93	8·83	7·47	8·71

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 74 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 2 per cent. to homicide, and 21 per cent. to suicide; in 3 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton. Under the provisions of Act No. 3285 assented to on 23rd October, 1923, the University is to consist of a Council and Convocation. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. There is no religious test for admission.

The Council is composed of 31 members, as follows :—

Eight to be appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom one shall be a member of the Legislative Council, two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly, one shall represent manufacturing and commercial interests, one shall represent agricultural interests, two shall represent industrial interests, and one shall be elected by the councils of the technical schools.

Ten to be elected by the Convocation, none of whom shall be a member of the teaching staff or other officer of the University or the head of an affiliated college.

Three (being professors or deans of faculties) to be elected by the professors.

One (a member of the teaching staff) to be elected by the teaching staff other than the professors.

Two to be elected by the undergraduates, but not to include any member of the teaching staff or any person under the full age of 21 years.

Two to be heads of affiliated colleges, and to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Two to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Three—the Director of Education, the Chairman of the Council of Agricultural Education, and the President of the Professorial Board—to be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The tenure of office of members of the Council is four years, but one-half of the number elected at the first election by the Convocation must retire at the end of two years, the Council determining by lot which of the members are to retire.

The Convocation consists of all graduates. It elects a Warden annually, or whenever a vacancy occurs, from its own members.

Power is given to the Convocation to submit suggestions to the Council with respect to the affairs of the University. Provision is made for the constitution of a standing committee of Convocation, consisting of the Warden of Convocation *ex officio* and not less than 40 other persons who are members of Convocation.

A University Students Loan Fund has been established to which a payment of £10,000 has been made from the Assurance Fund under the Transfer of Land Acts and a grant of £2,000 is to be made annually from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ten years from 1st July, 1923. In addition, all moneys received in repayment with interest of loans to University students and all moneys standing to the credit of any trust fund in the Treasury in respect of loans to students made by the Treasurer of Victoria before the passing of Act No. 3285 are to be credited to the Fund. Out of this Fund loans may be made to students who are nominated by a committee of three members of the Council appointed for the purpose.

The Act of 1923 provides for an endowment of £45,000 annually from 1st July, 1923. An additional grant of £8,500 is to be made for each of the ten financial years commencing 1st July, 1923. The amount of this grant is to be expended on the maintenance within the University of a school (including a faculty) of commerce for the teaching of and conducting research in commerce and the granting of degrees or diplomas in commerce; also for teaching and conducting research in science, and the establishment and maintenance within the University of a University Extension Department.

By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognised as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons the Melbourne University does not compare favorably with other Universities. Still, the investments at present held as the result of private benefactions, together with donations which have been expended

on buildings and equipment, amount to about £288,000. Since 1853 the amount received from the Government has been £1,567,955—£403,836 for building and apparatus, £794,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Acts" 16 Vic. 34 and 13 George 3285, and £369,619 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition to grants from the Government the Council derives income from the fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas.

Examinations. The system of junior and senior public and commercial examinations was superseded in December, 1917, by examinations for Intermediate and School Leaving Certificates. Under the regulations the rights of all candidates who have passed any subject of the junior or senior public examinations are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1923 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1923.

	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Examination—			
Intermediate	4,275	1,974	46·2
Leaving	2,422	1,016	41·9

In addition, under certain conditions, pupils of approved schools who produce Headmasters' Certificates are granted the Intermediate Certificate without further examination. In 1923, 693 candidates were granted the Intermediate Certificate under this regulation.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1923 was 573, all of which were direct, as against a total of 1,780 for the preceding five years, or an average of 356 per annum for that period. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 8,974 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 1,257 have been conferred on women, 1,251 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows :—582 Bachelor of Arts, 224 Master of Arts, 130 Bachelor of Medicine, 7 Doctor of Medicine, 128 Bachelor of Surgery, 19 Bachelor of Laws, 2 Master of Laws, 5 Doctor of Science, 94 Bachelor of Science, 30 Master of Science, 26 Bachelor of Music, 9 Bachelor of Dental Science, and 1 Bachelor of Agricultural Science. The following

table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1923—the particulars for the years 1922 and 1923 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees.	Prior to 1922.			During 1922.			During 1923.			Total.		
	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ..	1652	118	1770	102	..	102	133	..	133	1887	118	2005
Master of Arts ..	764	184	948	39	..	39	38	..	38	841	184	1025
Doctor of Letters	10	1	11	2	..	2	2	..	2	14	1	15
Bachelor of Medicine	1474	15	1489	91	..	91	107	..	107	1672	15	1687
Doctor of Medicine	243	107	350	14	..	14	5	..	5	262	107	369
Bachelor of Surgery	1404	4	1408	92	..	92	107	..	107	1603	4	1607
Master of Surgery	35	..	35	..	..	..	1	..	1	36	..	36
Bachelor of Laws	567	12	579	51	..	51	39	..	39	657	12	669
Master of Laws ..	108	3	111	6	..	6	10	..	10	124	3	127
Doctor of Laws ..	21	23	44	..	..	..	1	..	1	22	23	45
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ..	237	2	239	13	..	13	10	..	10	260	2	262
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ..	49	1	50	1	..	1	5	..	5	55	1	56
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering	8	..	8	4	..	4	1	..	1	13	..	13
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering	13	..	13	6	..	6	8	..	8	27	..	27
Master of Engineering ..	87	..	87	..	..	..	5	..	5	92	..	92
Doctor of Engineering ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bachelor of Science	245	5	250	35	..	35	52	..	52	332	5	337
Master of Science	96	2	98	10	..	10	5	..	5	111	2	113
Doctor of Science	27	20	47	*1	..	1	1	..	*1	29	20	49
Bachelor of Music	30	2	32	2	..	2	4	..	4	36	2	38
Doctor of Music ..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	3
Bachelor of Dental Science ..	188	..	188	34	..	34	29	..	29	251	..	251
Doctor of Dental Science ..	18	..	18	2	..	2	1	..	1	21	..	21
Bachelor of Veterinary Science ..	69	..	69	6	..	6	6	..	6	81	..	81
Master of Veterinary Science ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Doctor of Veterinary Science ..	10	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	10
Bachelor of Agricultural Science	29	..	29	3	..	3	1	..	1	33	..	33
Master of Agricultural Science ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1
Total ..	7386	501	7887	514	..	514	573	..	573	8473	501	8974

* Degree by special grace.

† One of these degrees was by special grace.

NOTE.—*Ad eundem* degrees have been abolished.

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted.

The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1923 having been 2,484 as compared with 1,330 in 1913, thus showing an advance of 91 per cent. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates, the number having increased by 73 per cent. in the period mentioned. Details for the last five years are given in the following statement :—

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1919 to 1923.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1919 ..	495	141	636	1,415	572	1,987
1920 ..	591	155	746	1,910	620	2,530
1921 ..	460	150	610	2,003	651	2,654
1922 ..	422	126	548	1,973	672	2,645
1923 ..	348	148	496	1,848	636	2,484

Of the number attending lectures in 1923—2,484—667 were students in Arts and Education, 285 in Laws, 193 in Engineering, 648 in Medicine, 251 in Science, 200 in Music, 119 in Dentistry, 29 in Agriculture, 14 in Veterinary Science, 4 in Public Health, and 62 in Architecture, and 12 were doing Science Research Work.

University Finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1923 is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1923.

—	General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
	£	£	£
Receipts—			
Government Grants ..	46,875	15,662	62,537
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..	59,409	45,587	104,996
Other sources	6,467	10,099	16,566
Total	112,751	71,348	184,099
Expenditure	115,791	39,297	155,088

In addition to the amounts shown above, the University received £27,379 from private benefactors, to be held in trust for scholarships and other purposes.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

**The
affiliated
colleges.**

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose in the northern portion of the University grounds fronting Sydney-road and College-crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, maintain efficient staffs of tutors and lecturers for the teaching of the principal subjects in each of the University courses. They also provide training for the ministers of their respective denominations. In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control, and in return undertook to recognise the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's Colleges is given in the *Year-Book* for 1917-18 on pages 319 to 321.

**Trinity
College.**

This college, which was established by the Anglican Church, is open to students of all religious denominations, and the same remark applies to Janet Clarke Hall. The latter was established for the benefit of women students, and is an integral part of Trinity College. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-rooms, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to apartments for the Warden, tutors, and students.

The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.D. (Melb.), M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)—first Rhodes Scholar for the State of Victoria, formerly Stowell Civil Law Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford—who is assisted by a staff of tutors and lecturers. The college holds annually, in the month of November, an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to the Warden.

**Ormond
College.**

This college, which was established by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is a residential college for students of the University of Melbourne (without restriction as to religious denomination). It has a staff of lecturers and tutors from whom the students receive the assistance they require in their University work; non-resident students are also admitted to the college classes. The work of the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is carried on in the Victoria Wing; there is an independent staff of professors and lecturers for this work. Theological students may reside in the college if they are matriculated students of the University.

The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contained a statement of the nature of the college buildings, and reference was made to recent additions and alterations. This information was amplified in subsequent issues.

During the past year two additional lawn-tennis courts have been constructed—the cost being defrayed mainly by contributions from Old Students of the College.

Two notable academic distinctions have come to the College in 1924, viz., (1) The Jacksonian Prize of the Royal College of Surgeons (England) for the best dissertation on a set problem of Surgical Science, has been won by Dr. H. R. Dew, F.R.C.S., Senior Medical Tutor of the College. This prize has never before come to Australia. (2) One of the Smith's Prizes, in Mathematics, of the University of Cambridge, has been won by Dr. T. M. Cherry, M.A.

The Master of the College is D. K. Picken, M.A. (Camb., Glasg., Melb.) formerly Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z. All inquiries as to admission, scholarships, &c., should be made to him.

Queen's College. This college was founded by the Methodist Church of Victoria, and its lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students. It is capable of accommodating about 90 students in residence. The building comprises fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the Master, tutors, and students. It has been enlarged at a cost of some £50,000, and includes a central tower, a memorial chapel to soldiers who were connected with the Methodist Church, a new common room, a large library, and additional lecture rooms; as well as some 40 additional students' rooms. The new portion of the building was opened in March, 1923. The Master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D., and the Vice-Master, Mr. K. H. Bailey, B.C.L. (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford).

Newman College. Newman College is built in the section of the University Reserve granted by the Government of Victoria to the Roman Catholic Church in the Act of Incorporation of 2nd October, 1882. The foundation-stone was laid by the late Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D.), on 11th June, 1916. It was founded by the generosity of the Roman Catholic people of the State of Victoria, and cost nearly £70,000. The Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel, to be erected at a cost of £20,000, will be a striking addition to the College. A separate study and a bedroom are provided for each student. There is also provision of hot and cold shower and plunge baths, a large covered-in swimming bath, a gymnasium, and billiard and recreation rooms. The library consists of more than 10,000 volumes. Lectures, demonstrations, and private tuition are given in the College with the special object of assisting students in their University work. Women students as well as men extern students are admitted to all college lectures. Students of the college enjoy the advantage of residence, instruction in the doctrine and

discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and tuition supplementary to University lectures.

All applications for information, &c., should be made to the Rector. The present Rector is the Very Rev. J. M. Murphy, S.J., M.A. He is assisted by the Rev. Dominic Kelly, S.J., M.A., the Rev. Wilfrid Ryan, S.J., M.A., F.G.S., and a staff of competent lecturers and tutors.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University extension.

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted by the University Extension Board. The personnel of the Board, numbering 22, appointed by the University, comprises an equal number of representatives from the Workers' Educational Association and the teaching staff of the University and other persons representing the public. The Government grants a sum annually (now £2,250) for the development of Tutorial Class work. In addition to these classes, which are in operation in the city, suburbs, and country, the University Extension Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence for the benefit of country students. This advice is confined to social and cultural subjects, and is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the more social functions of his daily life and citizenship. In this connexion and also for the arranging of Extension Lectures and Vacation Schools, the Government grant is £1,500.

Professor J. A. Gunn, M.A., Ph.D., is Director of Tutorial Classes and Chairman of the University Extension Board. The Secretary to the Board is Mr. S. D. Thompson, Education Department, Melbourne.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The educational system of Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year. Subsequently, this Act and two amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889 were consolidated in the *Education Act* 1890, which in turn was amended by Act No. 1777 passed in December, 1901, Act No. 2205 passed in December, 1905, Act No. 2301 passed in December, 1910, and Act No. 2330 passed in October, 1911, and is now, with its amendments, incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644.

Under the Act of 1872 education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that, whether they attend or do not attend State schools, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any

State school building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of the parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State. Power is given in this Act for the establishment of higher elementary schools, and of secondary and technical schools of various types, the aim being to create a co-ordinated system of public education, leading through elementary schools and evening continuation classes to trade and technical schools on the one hand, or through elementary schools and high schools to the University or to higher technical schools on the other. Provision is also made for evening continuation classes, in which the education of children who have left the day school at fourteen years of age may be continued till they are seventeen years of age. Power is given to make attendance at evening continuation classes compulsory in any district proclaimed for that purpose. Education is made compulsory in the case of deaf and dumb, blind, and physically or mentally defective children between seven and sixteen years of age.

In order to provide for the due co-ordination of all branches of public education a Council of Public Education has been created, representative of the various educational and industrial interests of the State. This body, which consists of 20 members presided over by the Director of Education, reports annually to Parliament on the development of public education in Victoria and elsewhere.

Parents and custodians of children not less than six
Compulsory nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause
Clauses. such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse")
 to attend a State school on every school half-day in each week. Non-attendance may be excused for any of the five following reasons:—
 (1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner, and is complying with the prescribed conditions as to regularity of attendance; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, reasonable fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) is at least thirteen years of age, and has obtained a certificate of merit as prescribed; or (5) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven years of age respectively. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined not

less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

Conveyance allowance.

In cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where, though there is no school, the number of children would warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over six and under eleven who reside between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 miles from the nearest school, and 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from such school or, where schools have been closed, 3 miles therefrom.

School Committees.

Under Act No. 2301 (now incorporated in the *Education Act 1915*, No. 2644) Boards of Advice were abolished and a School Committee for each school consisting of not more than seven persons was substituted therefor. The members of School Committees are nominated by the parents of children attending the school for which the Committee is to be appointed. The main duties of such Committees are :—(a) to exercise a general oversight over the buildings and grounds, and to report to the Minister on their condition when necessary ; (b) to carry out any necessary work referred to the Committee in connexion with maintenance or repair of or additions to buildings ; (c) to promote the beautifying and improvement of school grounds, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots, the decoration of the schoolroom, and the formation of a school library and museum ; (d) to provide for the necessary cleansing and the sanitary services of the school ; (e) to visit the school from time to time ; (f) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school ; and (g) to arrange, where necessary, for suitable board and lodging at reasonable rates for teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects.

The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free :—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), nature knowledge (geography, science, nature-study), hygiene, history and civics, manual work (drawing, needlework, woodwork, and other occupations such as modelling in clay or plasticine, or brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), singing, physical training, and, where practicable, agriculture for boys, cookery and domestic economy for girls, gymnastics, and swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features.

The course of study (issued February, 1920) contains provisions to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from teachers of infants are also such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for their work. During the past few years a large number of teachers have taken the course at the Teachers' College and the Melbourne University, and, in addition, hundreds have been instructed (especially in those subjects the method of teaching which has undergone modification recently) in special classes held in the evenings and on Saturdays at centres of population, and, on a larger scale still, during the Christmas vacations at what are called "Summer Schools." The Education Department, in collaboration with the Extension Board of the Melbourne University, held a vacation school at the University in May, 1924. It was attended by teachers and by members of the general public, and lasted for a fortnight. Probably further schools of a like nature will be held. The vacation school appears to have established itself as a successful educational experiment in Victoria. Much attention has been given to the beautifying and improvement of school grounds by the planting of trees and shrubs, and by the establishment of school gardens. One day in each year—termed Arbor Day—is specially set apart for tree-planting, and for the giving of lessons on the value of trees. The teaching of elementary agriculture is warmly encouraged by both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, and the subject is being dealt with in a very practical way.

Drill, swimming, school gardens, &c.

There were, on 30th June, 1923, 80 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 10,110 boys; and 61 cookery centres, with an attendance of 5,805 girls, also two laundry centres, with 278 girls in attendance. Five Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by 921 girls, have been established. In these schools girls over twelve years of age are given, during the last two years of their school life, a training in the subjects of a comprehensive domestic arts course. At the same time their general education is continued. In addition to the instruction given in the woodwork centres woodwork is being taught to 612 boys in 46 country schools by the head teachers as one of the ordinary subjects. Swimming is taught in schools that have the necessary facilities, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at various centres. Drill is taught in all schools. During 1912 the system of physical training approved of by the Commonwealth military authorities was introduced. Nearly every State school now has its garden and some of the school gardens are among the beauty spots

of their districts. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, assists teachers in obtaining the best seeds, seedlings, ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs. It has a nursery of its own at Oakleigh, maintained partly by members' subscriptions (5s. yearly), and partly by a Government grant. Most of the State schools are affiliated with the Society, which sent out in 1923 to its members, at reduced rates, 18,000 packets of seeds, 122,000 seedlings, 4,000 rooted roses, 14,000 shrubs, 2,000 herbaceous plants, 1,500 climbers, 6,000 indoor pot-plants, 2,500 dahlias, and 2,000 chrysanthemums.

Fifty years of tree education. The year 1922 marked the attainment of the jubilee of free and compulsory education in Victoria. The occasion was fittingly commemorated by an exhibition of the work of all types of schools in the State, from the remote "bush school" to the largest high school and technical school in the metropolis. There can be no doubt that the display of the output of the schools was a revelation to the general public. It furnished an assurance that national education in Victoria is being directed with efficiency and foresight. The opportunity was taken to issue a comprehensive survey of the development of education in the State. The book, in which Professor John Smyth, Dr. Edward Sweatman, and Mr. C. R. Long collaborated, is entitled "A History of State Education in Victoria."

Special days. In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), other special days—Anzac Day, Discovery Day, Pioneers' Day, Shakespeare Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, on Anzac Day, by the holding of a special service, consisting of hymns and addresses together with the saluting of the flag. The schools of Victoria held a celebration of Empire Day in 1905, being among the first of the oversea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. The first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook in April, 1770, is commemorated on Discovery Day, though this is merging into Pioneers' Day, when honour is paid not only to explorers and discoverers but also to the early settlers—the path-finders in general. The date chosen for Pioneers' Day was the 19th of November, the day on which Edward Henty landed on the shores of Portland Bay to establish a pastoral and agricultural settlement in 1834. On Shakespeare Day, the teachers and children commemorate the birth of Shakespeare by readings from his works, and the recital and acting of selected passages. Bird Day has for its object the protection of native birds and their eggs. On that day lessons are given on bird life, and, where possible, bird-observing excursions are made. Over 61,000 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

Patriotic Fund.

During the Great War the teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, were instrumental in raising a sum of £440,000 for the Department's War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the executive committee of the fund transferred the balance of £84,910 to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered by the deed of trust to expend the money, as occasion arose, for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. The sum of £40,000 was invested to form an old-age fund; £25,000 was set aside as a housing fund, and the remaining £20,000 is being used from time to time for the cases that stand in need of immediate assistance.

Schools have taken up the Junior Red Cross movement in order to continue the training afforded by the Young

Social Service. Workers' Patriotic Guild, in which pupils earned money during the war period and gave it to the War Relief Fund. Members of the Junior Red Cross branches are assisting their local charities or helping local cases of indigence in their neighbourhood.

League of Young Gardeners.

A widespread movement is being fostered for the carrying out of "home projects," as has been done in the United States of America. The idea is to link school, home, and farm in one common interest. The growing of sugar-beet, the culture of the potato, the selection of wheat, and the rearing of poultry and stock have engaged the united attention of children, teachers, and parents in various Victorian school districts.

School Forestry.

A scheme for the utilization of waste lands by the establishment of school plantations of hardwood and softwood trees was inaugurated in 1923. Areas up to 50 acres in extent in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. These are vested in local trustees, are fenced by voluntary local effort, and are planted by the children at the rate of about two acres per year. When the trees reach maturity, the revenue derived from the sale of the timber will be used by the trust for the benefit of the school concerned. Monetary gains will accrue, and further gains also—a training in practical forestry, and a training in unselfish social service. By the end of June, 1924, there had been established 25 of these school plantations, and applications were being considered for 27 more.

Medical Inspection.

The need for the medical inspection of school children has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing four medical inspectors. The medical officers devote their whole time to investigating the hygienic condition of school premises and the physical and mental condition of the pupils, and to giving instruction to teachers.

Dental Clinic. A dental clinic has been established and is under the charge of four dental officers. Great service is being rendered by this clinic.

Teachers' remuneration and classification.

Under the provisions of Act No. 3059, assented to on 14th September, 1920, male teachers are divided into five and female teachers into four classes, there being no female teachers in the first class. The salaries of males, excluding junior teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those of females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, range from £120 to £420. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are three classes of junior teachers, with salaries ranging for males from £60 to £84 and for females from £50 to £70. An annual allowance of £12 (in addition to salary) is paid to junior teachers who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the University of Melbourne, and of £24 to those who have passed the Leaving Examination. Sewing mistresses receive £60 yearly.

State schools, teachers, and scholars, 1872 to 1922.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June for all years to 1921, and to 31st December for the year 1922. Those relating to the number of scholars refer to the financial year ended 30th June, for the eight years ended 1916-17; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for returns for years prior to 1901-2 and for the years 1917 to 1922:—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1922.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of year.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In average Attendance.	Distinct Children (estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1910-11	2,059	5,087	234,766	146,464	204,086
1911-12	2,093	5,533	238,111	151,247	205,695
1912-13	2,127	5,683	241,042	152,600	209,172
1913-14	2,175	5,710	246,447	158,213	214,986
1914-15	2,227	6,085	250,264	160,885	218,427
1915-16	2,225	6,194	257,726	161,632	221,777
1916-17	2,202	6,275	254,033	161,034	221,202
1917 (31st Dec.) ...	2,236	6,455	†214,048	†161,574	†186,523
1918 ,,	2,272	6,570	240,664	164,350	208,861
1919 ,,	2,280	6,518	235,292	160,345	207,633
1920 ,,	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1921 ,,	2,334	6,784	247,204	167,154	216,037
1922 ,,	2,405	*6,789	248,882	171,129	216,329

* In addition to these teachers, 372 were temporarily employed on 31st December, 1922.

† These are the figures for the six months ended 31st December, 1917; hence the apparent falling off in "number enrolled" as compared with the number for the preceding year. Had the figures been compiled to June, 1918, probably the new number would have been greater, not less than that of the previous year. An increase in the same ratio as the increase in average attendance would fix the number at 255,280.

Ages of State school scholars. The following table shows the number and percentage of children attending State schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year ended 31st December, 1922 :—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1922.

Ages.	Net Enrolment of Children Attending—					
	Day Schools.		Night Schools.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Under 6 years ...	13,251	6·1	...	...	13,251	6·1
6 to 14 ,, ...	190,002	87·9	2	3·2	190,004	87·8
14 years and upwards ...	13,014	6·0	60	96·8	13,074	6·1
Total ...	216,267	100·0	62	100·0	216,329	100·0

Children of school age receiving instruction.

The estimated number of children in the State at school age (6 to 14 years) on 31st December, 1922,* was 250,500, and of these 238,260 were being instructed in State and private schools. The number of children not being instructed in schools was, therefore, 12,240. If allowance be made for those being taught at home, for others who, having obtained certificates of exemption, have left school, and for those bodily or mentally afflicted, it will be apparent that the number of children whose education is being wholly neglected is very small.

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Registration of teachers and schools.

By Act No. 2013, passed in 1905, all private schools and teachers of private schools had to be registered by the Teachers and Schools Registration Board. This Board consisted of three representatives of the Education Department, four of non-State schools, two of the University, and one of State-aided technical schools. Its chief functions were to see (1) that only qualified persons were employed in private schools; and (2) that private schools met requirements in hygienic matters. Under the provisions of Act No. 2301, passed in December, 1910, the Teachers and Schools Registration Board was abolished, and its duties were taken over by the Council of Public Education.

* The latest statistics published by the Education Department of Victoria (*vide* "Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1922-23") are for the period ended 31st December, 1922.

**Registered
schools, 1872
to 1923.**

The appended statement shows the number of registered schools, of instructors in same, and of individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption of the present secular system, and in a number of subsequent years, including the latest year for which particulars are available :—

**REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE,
1872 TO 1923.**

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872	888	1,841	24,781
1880	643	1,516	28,134
1890	791	2,037	40,181
1900	884	2,348	48,483
1909-10	641	2,067	49,964
1914-15	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17	495	1,970	56,193
1917-18	499	2,002	58,366
1918 (31st December)	493	1,903	56,996
1919	486	1,991	56,684
1920	489	1,950	59,314
1921	486	2,063	59,922
1922	486	2,109	60,105
1923	489	2,154	64,195

**Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.**

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 22 per cent. of the scholars during 1922 attended registered schools, and that the balance, 78 per cent., attended State primary and secondary schools.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

**Teachers'
College.**

In recent years the training of teachers for the State Department has been much modified and altered. Formerly, young people who had completed the State School course of education were employed as pupil teachers to teach the whole of each day, and during their three or four years' course they received

instruction, usually in the mornings or in the late afternoons, from the head masters and other qualified teachers of the staff. Now such young persons enter one or other of the High Schools throughout the State, where they stay for at least two years, receiving the groundwork of a good secondary education, also instruction in certain subjects which are considered essential for a teacher. The rules relating to entrance into the Service as junior teachers provide that candidates must be not less than 16 years of age and must hold the School Intermediate Certificate or an approved equivalent or higher qualification. Where a vacancy for a junior teacher exists, and there is no candidate qualified in accordance with the foregoing conditions, the Director may appoint the best qualified candidate, if necessary by competitive examination. Teachers can, in the course of a few years after being appointed, possess second class and first class certificates, and be enrolled as fully qualified teachers. The more ambitious of the intending teachers remain at the High Schools for at least three years, when they pass the Leaving Certificate examination. In some cases they remain a year longer in order to qualify themselves to enter for the course of training for Secondary Teachers. Intending teachers who wish to get higher certificates and to receive the best course of training available enter the Teachers' College. This is situated in a corner of the University Grounds, Carlton, and is at the present time in close connexion with the University.

There are three full courses of training at the Teachers' College. The first of these is for Kindergarten or Infant Teachers, the second for Primary Teachers, and the third for Secondary Teachers. In the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 338 to 340, particulars are given of the nature of the work carried on at the College, the qualifications which must be possessed by students desiring admission thereto, the fees payable, &c.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

District High Schools. The Education Act of 1910 authorized the establishment of these schools in order to open a broad highway, at little or no cost to the parents of the pupils, leading from the elementary schools to the technical schools and the University. A further important function of these institutions is to give the necessary preliminary education to boys and girls intending to take up teaching. Under the scheme of training now in operation aspirants for the teaching profession are expected during the period spent at a district high school to complete their preliminary studies. Any pupil who has satisfactorily completed the work of Grade VI. in an elementary school is qualified for admission to a district high school. The course of study lasts for six years in the case of pupils who enter from the sixth grade of the elementary school after obtaining the qualifying certificate, or for four or five years in the case of those who enter from the eighth grade after completing the course of the elementary school. Winners of Government scholarships are also trained at these schools, but parents are at

liberty to select an approved secondary school for the education of their boys and girls. Besides the day classes there are formed at a few of the district high schools evening classes for the instruction of teachers living in the vicinity, and correspondence classes for those residing at a distance. Eight of the District High Schools are specially equipped for the teaching of agriculture in addition to providing other courses of secondary education. There are district high schools at Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat,* Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Colac,* Dandenong, Echuca, Essendon, Frankston, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Leon-gatha,* Mansfield, Maryborough, Melbourne, Mildura,* Mordialloc, Sale,* Shepparton,* St. Arnaud, Stawell, University (Carlton), Wangaratta,* Warracknabeal, Warragul,* Warrnambool, and Williams-town. The schools the names of which are asterisked are equipped with farms.

During the term ended 31st December, 1922, there were in attendance at these schools 7,054 pupils, of whom 3,628 were boys and 3,426 were girls. Education is free up to the age of fourteen years, after which a fee of £6 per annum is charged. Travelling expenses (up to £5 per annum) are provided for children living beyond four miles from the school, if the parents' income does not exceed £150 per annum. In special cases the Department has power to make grants in aid of school requisites up to £2 per annum, and of the cost of maintenance up to £26 per annum, to enable pupils to continue their studies at district high schools and higher elementary schools.

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School was opened in a State building in 1910, and the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools. The practical training in teaching received at this school is part of what is prescribed for the course for the Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University. In its management of the school the Department is aided by an advisory committee from the Faculty of Arts of the University.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

**Higher
Elementary
Schools and
Classes.**

On 31st December, 1923, there were forty-two higher elementary schools—at Beechworth, Birchip, Boort, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Charlton, Chiltern, Clunes, Corryong, Daylesford, Dimboola, Donald, Euroa, Foster, Hampton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lilydale, Maffra, Mirboo North, Murtoa, Nathalia, Nhill, Orbost, Portarlington, Portland, Rainbow, Rochester, Rushworth, Rutherglen, Sea Lake, Seymour, Swan Hill, Traralgon, Warracknabeal, Werribee, Yarram, Yarrowonga, and Yea. During the term ended 31st December, 1922, there were in attendance at these schools 3,802 pupils, of whom 1,929 were boys and 1,873 were girls. Education in the higher elementary

schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There were also twenty-two schools, twelve in the metropolitan area and four in urban and six in country centres—known as “Central” schools—in which a preparatory course of secondary education was provided. These were attended by 2,878 pupils in 1922.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools, and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their several careers in life. These schools thus form a link between the elementary school and technical institutions, or the University, or vocations that may be followed by pupils upon the completion of the course of study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1924 as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior scholarships open to candidates attending state and registered schools	Under 14½ years	4 years	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or up to £5 for transit.
44 Senior scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	£40 towards expense of a course at the University.
60 Teaching scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	14-17 years	3 years	As for Junior scholarships.
50 Junior technical scholarships open to candidates attending state and registered schools	Under 14 years	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or £5 for transit.
55 Senior technical scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	16-18 years	3-5 years	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at technical schools; also £30 for day students and £10 for evening students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS—*continued.*

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
20 Free Places in agriculture, mining, or veterinary science at University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	4-5 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University; also, in special cases, an allowance for maintenance.
50 Free Places in any course at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	
5 Free Places in any course at the University open to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria	..	3-4 years	
15 Free Places in the course for Diploma of Education at the University open to certificated teachers of the Education Department	..	3 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University, and the necessary leave of absence.

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special aptitude and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, technical schools, &c. Free tuition is allowed also to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers attending district high schools or technical schools.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

**Religious
Instruction in
State Schools.**

At the request of the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in Day Schools, Victoria, the Education Department recently sent out circulars to all the head teachers, and,

as a result, the Council has been able to tabulate the following information from the answers received :—

Number of schools which returned answers to circular	2,400
Number of schools receiving religious instruction ..	873
Number of schools not receiving religious instruction	1,527
(These are chiefly outlying schools of low attendance. The large technical schools are also included.)	
Number of instructors engaged	2,095
Number of scholars enrolled for religious instruction	118,721
Net enrolment for the 2,400 schools	212,248

Information relating to Melbourne and suburbs and the rest of Victoria is given below. The area included in Melbourne and suburbs is a radius of ten miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, and includes a few schools outside that radius, as far as Croydon and Mordialloc.

MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	158
Number of instructors engaged	827
Number of pupils receiving religious instruction ..	64,322
Net number in attendance	96,814

There are, therefore, in the metropolitan area, 32,492 pupils who are not receiving religious instruction.

REST OF VICTORIA.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	715
Number of instructors engaged	1,268
Pupils receiving religious instruction	54,399
Net number in attendance	115,434

In the country, therefore, there are 61,035 pupils not receiving instruction.

It will be seen from the above that the number of pupils in the State schools in the whole State who are not receiving religious instruction is 93,527.

The objective of the Joint Council is to obtain more instructors for those schools in the metropolis where the staffs are weak, and for the country schools where religious instruction is not given.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

Signing with marks. The number of marriages celebrated in 1923 was 13,126, and there were only 13 men and 12 women who showed their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing. This indicates a very high elementary standard of education in this State, which, in this respect, occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical schools. The whole of the technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local councils. Act No. 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being brought under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Education Department, in all cases, retains the general direction of technical education. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 31st December, 1923, was 26.

The former lack of organized method in preparing pupils for courses in technical schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in these institutions. In order to overcome this difficulty, junior or preparatory technical schools have been established in connexion with all the higher technical schools. These schools offer a course of two or three years' instruction for boys between the ages of twelve and a half and fifteen years. Instruction in English subjects is carried on in conjunction with mathematics and the more technical subjects. The curriculum is designed to qualify for entrance to the senior schools. A large majority of the students doing full day diploma courses come from the junior technical schools, while nearly all the effective trade students attending evening classes are drawn from that source.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects, and, as far as possible, to provide for the training of the expert technologist. The various branches of engineering and its subdivisions, mining, metallurgy, technical and agricultural chemistry, subjects connected with the building trades (including architecture) and with other trades, applied art, commercial subjects and those connected with household economy are included in their syllabuses. Trade courses correspond to the period of apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The larger technical schools, such as the Working Men's College, the Swinburne Technical College, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. Of the smaller schools, some in country districts have courses in mining,

metallurgy, and engineering subjects as well as courses in drawing and applied art work, while in a few schools the subjects taught are mainly drawing and art work. The only technical schools for women's industries are the College of Domestic Economy and the girls' junior technical departments in the Swinburne, Ballarat, Prahran, Box Hill, and Brighton Schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject per annum to £35 per course of subjects per annum.

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during the five years ended 1922-23 :—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND
TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Name.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat .. .. .	..	..	143	154	130
Bairnsdale	2,757	2,561	4,750	4,237	3,246
Ballarat	11,668	11,923	18,943	18,463	17,883
Beechworth	778	797	1,106	1,119	1,079
Bendigo	7,442	7,317	9,982	11,217	11,398
Brighton	23	833	5,967	10,558	16,883
Brunswick	4,116	5,603	13,405	13,100	8,367
Castlemaine	3,239	3,249	4,902	4,823	5,060
Caulfield .. .. .	..	..	4,173	13,232	11,911
College of Domestic Economy ..	1,389	1,655	2,356	2,581	2,461
Collingwood	6,017	6,291	7,264	8,378	9,578
Daylesford	1,122	1,549	1,997	2,041	2,083
Echuca	2,755	1,697	2,650	2,411	2,586
Footscray	4,500	6,438	9,740	10,698	12,037
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	6,109	5,116	7,259	11,133	8,725
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	16,160	10,216	13,963	15,122	16,675
Horsham	600	700	926	1,199	511
Maryborough	1,736	2,964	3,275	4,919	5,233
Melbourne (Working Men's Col.)	21,514	19,258	26,782	29,013	33,956
Prahran	4,492	5,272	6,474	6,778	8,073
Sale	831	1,690	2,405	2,712	2,909
South Melbourne	1,898	5,053	7,533	8,734	9,020
Stawell	1,724	2,010	2,742	2,835	2,895
Sunshine	1,819	1,940	3,341	2,189	2,726
Warrnambool	2,861	2,646	3,842	4,661	4,806
West Melbourne	7,743	8,226	10,243	11,463	12,055
Wonthaggi	629	932	3,164	10,262	5,027
Other votes for technical schools	7,783	9,860	10,579	12,604	3,695
Miscellaneous	1,761	1,698	2,309	2,625	2,970
Total	123,466	127,494	192,215	229,261	223,978

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

Particulars relating to the Australian College of
Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given
in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Working
Men's
College,
Melbourne.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies the higher technical instruction.

Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed.

Fees.

Examinations are held in November, and entrance to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances, and completed sufficient Laboratory Work.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.	
					£	s.
Preparatory School for Diploma Courses—						
First year	...	...	...	...	2	15 per term
Second year	...	...	...	...	3	5 "
Diploma Courses—Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—						
First year	...	...	...	...	4	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	5	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	6	0 "
Diploma Course—Metallurgy—						
First year	...	...	...	...	4	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	5	0 "
Third year	...	...	...	...	6	0 "
Diploma Courses—Applied Chemistry—						
First year	...	...	...	...	4	0 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	5	0 "
Third year (Inorganic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	6	0 "
Fourth year (Organic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	6	0 "
Carpentry Apprenticeship Course	...	...	...	...	2	15 "
Motor Mechanics Course—						
First year	...	...	...	...	5	5 "
Second year	...	...	...	...	5	5 "
Woolsorting	...	...	...	...	6	0 "
Art Course, Full Time	...	...	...	...	2	10 "
„ „ Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	2	0 "
Dressmaking, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	2	0 "
Millinery, Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	2	0 "

Evening Classes.				Fee.	
Arithmetic	}	Various amounts ranging from 7s. 6d. upwards per term.
Algebra	...	...	...
Geometry	...	...	...
Trigonometry	...	...	...
Graphical Algebra and Analytical Geometry	...	...	...
Differential and Integral Calculus	...	...	...
Practical Geometry	...	...	...
Dressmaking	...	...	...
Millinery	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics	...	...	...
Applied Electricity	...	...	...
Heat Engines	...	...	...
Architecture	...	...	...
Building Construction	...	...	...
Surveying	...	...	...
Civil Engineering	...	...	...
Hydraulics	...	...	...
Chemistry	...	...	...
Assaying	...	...	...
Metallurgy	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, Mining, and numerous other Subjects	...	...	...
Evening Art and Applied Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling, &c.)	20s. per term.	
Preliminary Year for Courses for Experts' Certificates	25s. per term.	
Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 30s. per term.	

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. There is a prize to the best student in each year of the day courses, and to the best student in each of the evening classes. The Magee prize, of the annual value of £3, is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Sir George Verdon prize, which is of an annual value equal to the interest on the amount of the donor's endowment of £210, is awarded for excellence of design and workmanship in the technical or trade subject selected by the council at the beginning of each year. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, the Green Field Tap and Die Corporation gives a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning, and Messrs Brown and Sharp give a set of fitter's tools to the best student in the second grade fitting and turning class.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are thirty of the value of £8 10s., are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover five years' free instruction in the day courses:—The Danks (2), The Arnot, and The Colin Thompson. Twenty entrance scholarships, value £24 each, are awarded annually to the preparatory school for Day Courses; five, value £11 each, are awarded to the carpentry apprenticeship course of one year, and twenty-five, value £4 to £8, to the commercial day classes. There are three scholarships available to students in the Preparatory School and tenable at the Diploma Courses, value £60 each. There are also numerous Government Scholarships available to students and tenable at the College or the University.

The receipts from the Government in 1923 amounted to £33,659.

About 180 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering and Science, Architecture, Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Art and Applied Art, Rural Industries, and Trade Courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day school students are prepared for the higher positions of industrial life in the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, (4) Marine Engineering, (5) Mining Engineering, (6) Metallurgy, and (7) Applied Chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued.

In the Applied Art School classes are held in the following subjects:—Drawing, Design, Modelling, Architecture, Building Construction, Geometrical Drawing, Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Perspective, Blackboard Drawing, Still Life Painting, Anatomy, Figure Drawing, Figure Composition, Book Illustration, Lettering, Illuminating, Stencilling, Leather Embossing, Decorative Metalwork, Silver-smithing, Jewellery, Engraving, Die Sinking, Lead Glazing, Stained Glass, Plaster Casting, Signwriting, Ticket Writing, Lithography, Process Engraving, Textile Design and Weaving, Dress-making, Millinery, and Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electrical engineers, civil engineers (municipal and hydraulic), mechanical and marine engineers, land surveyors, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, signwriters and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. The following figures give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1919 to 1923:—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1919 TO 1923.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,640*	2,634*	2,604*	2,465*	2,370
Males over 21	488	449	586	533	577
" under 21—Apprentices	772	778	601	634	592
" " Others	1,049	1,095	1,109	1,025	946
Females	331	312	308	273	255
Fees received during the year ..	£8,033†	£16,300†	£11,015†	£12,151†	£11,514†
Average fee per student	60s. 10d.	124s. 0d.	96s. 3d.	99s. 7d.	99s. 2d.
Number of classes	173	173	180	176	175
" instructors	102	97	115	117	116
Salaries paid instructors	£17,666	£20,027	£24,390	£25,629	£25,764

* In addition, over 400 students were receiving vocational training for the Repatriation Department during 1918 and 1919, 370 in 1920, 230 in 1921, and 200 in 1922.

† This does not include fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £2,120 in 1919, £4,461 in 1920, £1,752 in 1921, £797 in 1922, and £539 in 1923. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

**Public
Library of
Victoria.**

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £326,946. The funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance (including salaries) and amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £1,677,978 at the end of 1923. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :— the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 5,521 volumes were purchased, 1,933 volumes presented, 198 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 44,552 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1923. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 298,439 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 117,151 volumes during 1923, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 8,068. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 40,860, of which 1,648 were added during the year.

**National
Gallery.**

The National Gallery at the end of 1923 contained 20,379 works of art, viz., 662 oil paintings, 5,231 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 14,486 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion with the institution was attended during the year by 26 students, and the school of drawing by 119 students. The income from the Felton bequest amounted to £24,000, which is available for expenditure on paintings, statuary, and other works of art.

**Industrial
Museum.**

The Industrial and Technological Museum occupies the whole of the first floor front of the institution. At the end of 1923 it contained more than 9,200 exhibits.

**National
Museum.**

The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Thursdays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. In 1923 the expenditure on specimens, furniture, materials, &c., was £500.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

Patent Office Library. There is a free library attached to the Commonwealth Department of Patents, which contains over 10,000 volumes, including the Patents Acts, official Gazettes and patents specifications of the principal countries of the world, and a comprehensive selection of technical works. The library is open to the public on each week day, except Saturday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

Supreme Court Library. The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has nineteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and Rules of Court for the admission of barristers and solicitors.

OTHER LIBRARIES.

Free Libraries. Most of the suburban and country libraries receive Government aid—the amount granted in 1922-1923 having been £3,000. Of these libraries 486 furnished returns in 1923, which show that they possessed 903,566 volumes, and received £89,514 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £74,305—£10,464 on books, &c., and £63,841 on maintenance—and that 2,280,635 visits were paid to the 397 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

Exhibition Buildings, Aquarium, and Museum. The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened for the purpose of an exhibition in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure, temporary annexes, &c., was £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On that occasion a further sum of £262,954 was expended. At the close of the exhibition there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904.

The receipts for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1923, amounted to £8,708, consisting of rents, £5,271, aquarium receipts, £2,598, and other receipts, £839. The expenditure totalled £7,451, viz. :— £2,849, expenses of the aquarium; and £4,602 for general maintenance, improvements to buildings, insurance and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust at 30th June, 1923, amounted to £2,132.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic Garden. The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established over 70 years ago, is situated on the south side of the Yarra, at a distance of about one mile from the city. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Associated with the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Domain, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The Botanic Garden and the Domain are administered by the Lands Department, the Government House Grounds temporarily by the Federal Government, and Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens solely by the Melbourne City Council. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres, and, in addition to the divisions mentioned above, includes the grounds and buildings of the Observatory and the National Herbarium.

Records of the commencement of the Gardens and their progress until 1908 are to be found in the *Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens*, published by the Government Printer in that year, and obtainable at a price of 6d. A reference to some of the principal features appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 525 to 527.

The Gardens are open to the public daily from 7 a.m. in summer and 7.30 a.m. in winter, and are closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Gardens. The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, nearly 2 miles distant from the Elizabeth Street Post Office, and can be reached by tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by electric train to Royal Park Station. When the electric

tramway from West Brunswick, at present being constructed through Royal Park, is completed, it will provide another facility for reaching the Gardens.

The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks. Most of the large animals of the world, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., are exhibited there, as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. A. Wilkie.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

A brief statement of the history of this society and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529. The membership subscription is 10s. per annum. Two shows are held each year, one in the autumn and one in spring. The members' monthly meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, four vice-presidents (two amateur and two professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the secretary, Mr. A. J. Whitcher, "Hiawatha," 6 Pine-street, Hawthorn.

Other societies.

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

Public reserves.

Greater Melbourne is amply supplied with public reserves and parks, the total area devoted to such purposes having been 6,212½ acres in 1923. A list of the public reserves in 1917, together with a statement of their respective areas, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 529 to 533.

A further statement showing the number and area of reserves in 17 of the largest towns outside Melbourne was given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1923 there were in the State, according to Ministers and Churches. returns received, 3,434 regular churches and chapels, and 1,634 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 5,068 places of public worship—and these were attended by 2,252 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations :—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1923.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ...	411	725	550	1,275
Presbyterian Church of Victoria ...	299	614	327	941
Free Presbyterian ...	4	6	2	8
Methodist ...	343	987	378	1,365
Independent or Congregational ...	75	84	47	131
Baptist ...	89	100	...	100
Lutheran ...	24	51	21	72
Salvation Army ...	524	166	34	200
Church of Christ ...	80	96	18	114
Church for Deaf Mutes ...	2	1	...	1
Other Protestant ...	25	38	24	62
Roman Catholic Church ...	365	554	226	780
New Church (or Swedenborgian) ...	1	2	...	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ...	2	1	...	1
Jews ...	5	6	3	9
Re-organized Church of Latter-Day Saints ...	3	3	4	7
Total ...	2,252	3,434	1,634	5,068

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 3,137, and the teachers 23,999; the number of scholars on the rolls was 235,928—102,413 males and 133,515 females.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies seem to have been established in Victoria very soon after the first settlement of the territory, but it was not until after the passing of the 1855 Act that any steps were taken for their registration as institutions recognised by law. That statute consolidated and amended the laws then in force relating to friendly societies, and was the first Act passed in this connexion by the Victorian Legislature after the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851. It was assented to on 12th June, 1855, and provided for the appointment of a registrar, and also a certifying barrister, to whom the rules of a society had to be submitted for examination, and whose certificate, that these rules were in accordance with the law, was necessary before registration could be effected. It also provided that the tables of contributions should be certified by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the rules of the society could be registered.

Registration was not, however, made compulsory, and the actuarial certificate, given by the actuary appointed by the registrar under the provisions of the Act for this purpose, was only of a provisional nature, issued subject to the condition that the tables were to be submitted to him for approval after a certain period had elapsed. This temporary certificate was given because there were no data then available in Australia on which to calculate the amount necessary to provide the sickness benefits. As there was no power under the Act to compel a society to apply to the actuary for a renewal of the provisional certificate when the time covered by that certificate had expired, the registration of these institutions was unfortunately permanently effected with rates of contribution which afterwards proved to be, in almost every instance, inadequate. The control exercised over friendly societies as a result of this legislation was very slight.

No further serious attention was given by the Government to friendly societies until 1875, when a Commission was appointed to inquire into "the working of the Friendly Societies Statute, the position and operations of the societies registered under it, and what amendment, if any, is desirable in the existing law." The outcome of this Commission was the 1877 Act, which provided (*inter alia*) for the appointment of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as registrar, and also that each society should furnish returns annually to the Government Statist, and once at least in every five years should either have its assets and liabilities valued by a valuer appointed by the society or send such particulars to the Government Statist as would enable him to have the valuation made. The fees for valuation were purposely fixed at a low rate, and average less than two-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers, should they so desire, as a matter of fact they have rarely done so, and nearly all the valuations

have been made by the Government Actuary. The passing of this Act had the effect of considerably increasing the control exercised by the Government over the operations of friendly societies.

In accordance with its provisions, an actuary was appointed under the Government Statist in 1881, whose chief duty was to make periodical valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies, and the result of these valuations disclosed the fact that, in almost every instance, the rates then being paid by the members were insufficient to provide the benefits which the societies had by their rules agreed to pay. The Act gave no power to enforce payment of adequate rates of contribution, and the actuary could not therefore compel a society to take such steps as would enable it to meet its liabilities, but could only give advice as to the best means to be adopted to secure that end. It is only just to the managing bodies of these institutions, however, to state that most of the principal societies made a serious effort to carry out the suggestions of the actuary. Several of them passed rules requiring future members to pay adequate rates of contribution, and in nearly every case some effort was made to improve the financial position.

It was not until 1907 that registration of societies was made compulsory, and that they were required to adopt adequate rates of contribution in respect of all members, existing as well as new members. An Act which was passed in that year embodied these provisions, the penalty for failure to adopt adequate rates of contribution being cancellation of registration. The operation of the Act, in so far as it related to the scale of contributions payable, was, however, limited to a period of eighteen months. This was a serious defect, as contributions which are sufficient at one time may at a future date become inadequate, owing to fluctuations in interest, sickness, or mortality rates or faulty management. To remedy this defect an amending Act was passed in the year 1911. This Act provides that, if a society receives two successive notifications from the Government Statist that its rates are inadequate, it must adopt adequate rates within twelve months of the second notification, otherwise its registration will be cancelled. There must be an interval of at least three years between the two notifications. It is expected that a society on receiving the first notification will take such steps to improve its position as will obviate the necessity for the second being issued.

The legislation which has been referred to has had a very beneficial effect on societies. Of fifteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, thirteen have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates to, 20s. in the £, and of all the Victorian societies only one has a lower ratio than 18s. in the £. In Victoria the societies have received no subvention from the State.

If, on an actuarial valuation being made, a surplus is found to exist in any one fund of a society, the Government Statist may authorize the utilization of the whole or a portion of such surplus for the purposes of the same or any other fund.

Central bodies of societies are empowered by statute to appoint auditors to audit and inspect the accounts and securities of branches at such time as the central body may direct. Every trustee, treasurer, secretary, chairman or member of the committee of management who takes any money or valuable thing in consideration of any benefit received or to be received by any member of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty of £50. Trade unions are exempted from registration. The investment of funds on leasehold property is now illegal, but the power to invest is extended to any securities on which a trustee is under any Act authorized to invest any trust funds in his hands. All loans on freehold property must be on first mortgage only, and are not to exceed three-fifths of the value as certified by a practical surveyor or valuer. The trustees are prohibited from investing on mortgage if the fee-simple of the property has been in the possession of a trustee or his wife during the previous five years. An Act passed in 1910 created a new stock for the special benefit of friendly societies, investment in which is optional and on which interest is payable at 4 per cent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of 1922 was £333,236. Prior to the year 1907 it was not lawful for a friendly societies' dispensary to sell patent or other medicines to members of friendly societies or their relatives, but this restriction has been amended, so that all benefit members, who have paid the full subscription to the dispensary and the full amount payable to their society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 consolidates all Acts passed up to 1914 inclusive. An Act passed in 1915—the *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 (No. 2)—gave power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who were engaged on naval or military service in connexion with the war. The number of societies which took advantage of the scheme was twelve, and the number of their enlisted members was about 15,120. The sum paid by them in sickness and mortality benefits on account of those members under the contracts which were reinsured was about £232,000, and of this sum £46,500 was reimbursed to the societies by the Government in accordance with the arrangement made with it.

The amounts of the sickness and mortality benefits paid by all societies on account of members who took part in the war was about £286,000. In addition, the societies paid the contributions of enlisted members during their absence from Australia. The amount of these contributions was about £152,000.

An Act was passed in 1922 in relation to Dividing Societies, *i.e.*, friendly societies which divide the whole or a portion of their funds each year. Its principal provisions are (1) that no dividing society shall be established in future unless it limits its membership to the employees of a particular Government department, municipality, company, or other

body, firm or person; and (2) that every existing dividing society, the operations of which are not limited in the manner indicated, shall re-register every year, and, as a precedent to such re-registration, shall forward to the Registrar an actuarial certificate that its rates of contribution are adequate to provide the benefits specified in its rules.

Under the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, which was assented to on 2nd October, 1923, societies may provide for the payment of sums of money on the deaths of members, their husbands, wives, widows, children, or kindred up to an aggregate of £100 instead of sums for defraying the expenses of burial of members and the other persons mentioned. Societies are also permitted to contract with a person for the payment of a maximum amount of sick pay of £3 per week. Previously the periodical payment was limited to £2 per week. Another important provision of the Act is that the Government Statist may make or cause to be made such inspection and examination of the books of a society or branch as he deems necessary.

The societies perform a function which cannot be carried out with the same success by other means—that of providing for the loss which would otherwise be sustained by the wage-earners of the community and those dependent on them, through illness or death. Their organization enables them to keep in touch with their members, to guard against malingering, and to perform satisfactorily a work which, on account of its peculiar nature, could not be attended to satisfactorily by institutions organized on the lines of the ordinary insurance company. Their main objects are to afford relief in sickness, and to provide a moderate payment on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits are 20s. per week during the first six months of sickness, 10s. per week during the second six months, and 5s. per week thereafter so long as the sickness continues. The member has also the benefit of medical attendance and medicine for himself and his near relatives. A sum of £20 is usually payable on the death of the member, and of £10 on the death of his wife should she predecease him. In pursuance of the provisions of the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, referred to in a previous paragraph, members of some of the societies are now being given the opportunity to contribute for larger sickness and death benefits than those which have hitherto been provided. The benefits coming under the heading of medical attendance and medicine extend usually to the whole family, embracing in the general case member, wife, and children up to the age of 16 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females, widowed mother of unmarried member, and also widow and family after death of member on payment of medical fees.

The funds of the societies are divided into two or more portions. Of these the most important are the sick and funeral fund, out of which are payable the sickness and death benefits, and the medical and management fund, from which are taken the payments for

medical attendance, medicines, and management expenses. The weekly contribution to the sick and funeral fund varies with the age at entry, and for the benefits above mentioned usually ranges from 6d. to 1s. per week. The contribution to the other fund generally remains uniform throughout life, the usual charge being from 8d. to 10d. per week. The total sum payable by each member thus ranges from about 1s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

Progress of friendly societies.

The total membership of Victorian friendly societies decreased from 153,921 in 1912 to 146,688 at the close of 1922 — a decrease during the ten years of 7,233 members.

There was a slight decline in the membership between the ends of the years 1914 and 1917 due to deaths of members while on active service and to the absence from Victoria of many young men who might otherwise have joined the societies. A marked decrease in the membership of nearly all societies occurred in 1918 and 1919—the decrease in the earlier year being 7,004 in male and 1,619 in female members, and in the later year 3,918 in male and 1,360 in female members. In 1920 there was a further decline of 757 male and 502 female members, making a total loss for the three years of 11,679 males and 3,481 females. This numerical decrease was principally due to a dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies which led to the resignation of nearly all the medical officers as from 1st February, 1918. A settlement of the dispute has now been arrived at between the Association and all the societies. In 1921 numerical recovery set in, there being an increase during that year of 618 male and 181 female members, and a further increase in 1922 of 2,448 and 420 male and female members respectively.

The funds increased during the ten-year period 1912–22 from £2,361,464 to £3,549,798, there being an addition of £1,188,334. They are well invested, the return from the sick and funeral fund for the year 1922 averaging 4.96 per cent. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of 1922 these had a membership of 10,295 and funds amounting to £82,837.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the years 1918–1922 :—

Year.	Membership (end of year).	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
		£	£	£
1918	149,558	658,435	602,855	3,073,083
1919	144,280	664,526	680,943	3,056,666
1920	143,021	681,232	564,220	3,173,678
1921	143,820	763,031	561,659	3,375,050
1922	146,688	790,788	616,040	3,549,798

The statement which follows contains further information in regard to the societies for the five years, 1918 to 1922 :—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1918 TO 1922.

(Including Female Societies.)

—	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Number of societies ..	46	49	55	56	57
Number of branches ..	1,496	1,489	1,475	1,464	1,467
Average number of members ..	153,870	146,919	143,651	143,421	145,254
Number of members sick ..	28,326	46,612	29,063	27,342	26,275
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed ..	306,054	406,817	294,818	258,540	258,851
Deaths of members ..	2,525	2,211	1,381	1,302	1,299
Deaths of registered wives ..	473	751	471	526	476
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund ..	352,973	367,878	358,726	408,193	370,568
Income of incidental fund ..	275,022	265,672	289,367	319,957	385,821
Other Income ..	30,440	30,976	33,139	34,881	34,399
Total Income ..	658,435	664,526	681,232	763,031	790,788
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund ..	308,804	375,733	250,589	235,593	286,631
Expenditure of incidental fund ..	265,954	276,442	232,592	295,447	296,980
Other Expenditure ..	28,097	28,768	31,039	30,619	32,429
Total Expenditure ..	602,855	680,943	564,220	561,659	616,040
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund ..	2,884,718	2,876,863	2,985,000	3,157,600	3,241,528
Amount to credit of incidental fund ..	113,898	103,128	109,903	134,413	223,223
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund ..	2,808,057	2,783,425	2,889,409	3,046,251	3,155,993
Amount invested—incidental fund ..	105,329	103,128	109,871	134,413	221,174
Amounted invested—other funds ..	71,047	71,268	76,680	80,144	81,898
Total invested ..	2,984,433	2,957,821	3,075,960	3,260,808	3,459,065
„ funds ..	3,073,083	3,056,666	3,173,678	3,375,050	3,549,798

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above table.

Societies lost through secessions 6.5 per cent. of their members in 1922, 7.8 per cent. in 1921, 8.2 per cent. in 1920, 8.5 per cent. in 1919, 7.5 per cent. in 1918, and 6.0 per cent. in 1917. The higher secession rates in the four years 1918-1921 were due mainly to the dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies, which is referred to in a previous paragraph. They were due, in part, to a number of members who had

Secessions and expenses.

been on active service and whose contributions had been paid for them while absent from Australia having failed to resume payment of contributions on their return. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. Expenses of management absorbed slightly less than $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the contributions to all funds during 1922. This ratio is considerably below the usual rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the benefits and contributions are generally payable fortnightly and that this entails a great deal of administrative work, it will be seen that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and mortality experience, 1903-07. An investigation was made into the sickness and mortality experience of three of the largest Victorian friendly societies for the period 1903-07. This relates to male lives only. Tables containing rates of sickness and mortality obtained by the investigation are given in the *Year-Book* for 1913-14.

Sickness and mortality, 1914-22. The following statement shows the number of weeks' sickness experienced by male members of ordinary friendly societies, and the number per effective member, in respect of which claims for sick pay were received in 1914 (the last year unaffected by the war), 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, and 1922; also the number of deaths of male members of such societies in those years and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.		Deaths.		
		Number.	Number per Effective Member.		Number.	Number per 1,000 Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks.	Days.		
1914..	125,952	216,520	1	4	1,263	10·03
1917..	128,989	257,847	2	0	2,409	18·68
1918..	125,667	288,088	2	2	2,457	19·55
1919..	119,308	382,247	3	1	2,080	17·43
1920..	114,797	278,401	2	3	1,313	11·44
1921..	113,666	240,207	2	1	1,224	10·77
1922..	115,426	241,021	2	1	1,221	10·58

The large increase in the sickness rate of 1919 was due chiefly to members who had been on active service having deferred until their return to the Commonwealth their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

Mortality compared with Australian Population Rates. In the following table the mortality rates of three of the largest Victorian Friendly Societies in recent years are compared with the Australian population mortality rates according to the mortality table known as the "Australian Life Table (males) 1901-1910." This table is based upon the mortality experience of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years mentioned. No table has been published showing the Australian experience for a later period. The rates given are averages for five-yearly age groups which have as their centres the ages shown in the table. Those relating to friendly societies apply only to members who did not take part in the war.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY MORTALITY RATES COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION.

Age next Birthday. (1).	Mortality Rates per 100 Lives of—		Ratio of Col. (2) to Col. (3). (4).
	Three large Friendly Societies, 1914-21. (2).	Australian Population, 1911. (3).	
18	·21	·32	Per cent. 66
23	·34	·41	83
28	·32	·48	67
33	·40	·57	70
38	·53	·72	74
43	·70	·94	74
48	·88	1·23	72
53	1·11	1·59	70
58	1·77	2·16	82
63	2·51	3·15	80
68	4·15	4·87	85
73	7·13	7·69	93
78	8·94	11·40	78
83	16·23	16·12	101
88	24·52	22·61	108
93	28·57	31·15	92
98	66·67	41·42	161

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Labour legislation. The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female for more than eight hours in any day in a factory. The

same Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working.

This small provision was administered by the Board of Public Health, and was followed, in 1885, by a much larger statute, providing for the registration of factories, their sanitation, fire escape, and guarding of machinery, and regulating the conditions of work generally to a much greater extent than formerly, besides providing for the closing of shops at fixed hours. These latter provisions were designed to give some relief to the employees, who could previously be kept at work in shops as long as their employers chose.

From that time onwards further legislative provisions were introduced at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognise the necessity of securing the health, comfort, and reasonable ease of the workers. The opposition, which was at first very strong, has gradually disappeared, until now it is safe to say that all sections of the community realize the humanitarian aspects of the movement, and have accepted the principle that the rights of work-people shall be conserved by law.

The interests of the factory worker as regards wages, personal safety, and health now receive a large amount of attention. Government inspectors prosecute employers wherever underpayment is found. They take proceedings also to carry out all the provisions of the factory laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted and ventilated, has ample means of escape in case of fire, has all its machinery fenced and guarded, and has proper sanitary arrangements provided for both sexes. The Minister may now require the occupier of any factory, shop, or place to provide for the use of the employees a dining-room and a bath-room, and, for the use of the female employees, suitable sitting accommodation and a rest-room. The closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are restricted, and they must be given a half-holiday every week.

**Wages
Boards.**

The Wages Board method of fixing wages and settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria. It was introduced into an Act of Parliament in 1896 by Sir Alexander Peacock. The principle embodied in the British jury system that a man can only be tried by his peers is the essence of the Victorian Wages Board system. The Boards are composed of equal numbers of employers and employees. The representatives are carefully chosen, so that every shade of interest in the trade shall be represented as fully as possible on the Board. The Board thus

becomes a jury of trade experts, all of whom are versed in the requirements and intricacies of the trade they are dealing with.

An application for a Board in any trade which has not been brought under the Wages Board system can be made either by a Union or by a meeting of employees. Upon receipt of such an application the Minister usually orders the collection of figures to show the rates of wages, the average number of hours worked, the number of persons employed in the trade, and so on. If he finds that there is good reason therefor, the Governor in Council may appoint a Wages Board and define the scope of its operations. The Board consists of from six to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employees), who nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Minister appoints the chairman. The Board may fix the rates of payment either by piece-work or wages, or both; the maximum number of hours per week or per day for which such rates shall be paid; a higher rate for work done in excess of such maximum number of hours; the times of beginning and ending work, including the hours of each shift; a higher rate for work done outside such times; special rates for casual work in the case of any trade not usually carried on in a factory or shop, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the day and latest hour when payment of wages is to be made, also what notice of termination of employment shall be given by either employer or worker; and the number of and the rates of pay to apprentices and improvers who may be employed. Casual work is now defined in the Act as work or labour during any week for not more than one-half of the maximum number of hours fixed by the Wages Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

By an amendment of the law made in 1922 the Boards are given power to provide that in trades carried on in factories or shops a person working fewer hours than those fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid from 33 to 50 per cent. above ordinary wages' rate for the first half of such week's work. For each hour worked beyond the aforesaid first half ordinary rates are payable up to but *not exceeding* the wage fixed by the Board for the full week's work.

By this provision the wages of an employee are stabilized as far as possible. Previously he could be employed on a systematic short time principle each week, and be paid only *pro ratâ* for the hours worked. As a safeguard against imposition on the part of the worker, he is not entitled to any wages if he refuses to complete the full number of hours fixed as a week's work.

NEW BOARDS AND ALTERATION OF POWERS.

The powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1920 to appoint Wages Boards without reference to Parliament were, during the year 1923, exercised in the following three cases :—

Dental Mechanics Board.
Law Clerks Board.

Sand Pit Board.

Powers were adjusted in one case, viz. :—

The Storemen, Packers and Sorters Board was deprived of the power to fix rates for assemblers of ordered goods (other than goods kept in a bulk store or iron-yard) and such power was conferred exclusively on the Shops Board No. 16 (Hardware).

Powers were varied in three cases, viz. :—

Commercial Clerks Board.
Motor Drivers Board.
Shops Board No. 21 (Booksellers and Newsagents).

On 31st December, 1923, there were 177 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 189,500 employees.

A Wages Board, having been constituted, meets (until the first Determination is made) as often as it chooses, usually once a week, at the Factories Office. An officer of the Department of Labour acts as secretary. The chairmen and members of Boards are paid as follows :—

Three hours' attendance or less—Chairman, 15s. ; member, 7s. 6d.

Over three hours' attendance—Chairman, 30s. ; member, 15s.

Any member residing 10 miles or more from Melbourne is paid, in addition, train fares and 15s. per day expenses.

Provided that members are not to be paid fees, fares, or expenses for more than—

- (a) Ten meetings in the first twelve months after the constitution of the Board.
- (b) Six meetings in any subsequent year.

When computing the time occupied in attendance, intervals for meals are not to be counted.

After a Determination has been arrived at it is sent to the Minister of Labour and gazetted, and it thereupon becomes law. It is then the duty of the officers of the Department of Labour to enforce it. Where the Minister considers that any breach of the law is trivial, or has occurred through a mistake, he administers a warning; in more serious cases he orders a prosecution. The prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the Department of Labour, without expense to the worker, and on a conviction being obtained the Court may make an order for arrears of wages, that may be due for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employer within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him.

Provision has been made in the law for the constitution of a Court of Industrial Appeals for deciding all appeals against a Determination of a Wages Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Special Board referred to the Court by the Minister. The Court has been asked to make or alter sixty-one Determinations. Since 1st January, 1915, it has consisted of a President and two other persons. The President, who must be a Judge of the Supreme Court, holds such office for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit, and must sit in every Court of Industrial Appeals. Mr. Justice S. McArthur has been appointed President. The other members can only act in the Court for which they are appointed, and one must be a representative of employers and the other a representative of employees. Each must be nominated in writing by the side which he represents, and must have been *bonâ fide* and actually engaged in the trade concerned for at least six months during the three years immediately preceding his nomination. Subject to the Act a majority decision decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 it has dealt with forty-three cases. The determination of the Court may now be altered by the Wages Boards without the leave of the Court if twelve months has elapsed since the date of the last Determination of the Court.

Rise in earnings. During the year 1923 Determinations made by 167 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The following statement shows the average weekly wage paid to employees in certain trades (1) before the first Determination was

made, (2) in 1914, and (3) in 1923, the figures for the two last mentioned years being the amounts paid to the employees under the Determinations of Wages Boards:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		
	Before First Determination was made.	In 1914.	In 1923.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	1 17 8	3 16 6
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 10 1	4 19 9
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 13 8	4 10 4
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 9 6	4 3 8
Boot	1 3 2	2 1 7	3 8 1
Bread	1 12 6	3 2 7	5 8 2
Brewers	1 14 4	2 10 2	4 13 8
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 4 9	3 14 0
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 4 2	4 3 3
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 3 10	5 13 8
Clothing	1 0 0	1 6 9	2 13 6
„ Waterproof	1 2 3	1 17 4	2 13 2
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 9 6	3 10 1
Coopers	1 15 7	3 6 3	6 0 5
Engravers	1 16 11	2 5 11	3 17 0
Farriers	1 15 2	2 4 5	4 16 11
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making &c.)	1 9 1	2 5 10	3 19 9
(b) European (Mantelpieces) ..	1 13 6	2 9 7	4 13 10
Glassworkers	1 14 11	2 7 3	4 19 2
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 2 7	3 8 2
Ice	2 10 3	3 4 7	5 10 2
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 9 8	4 2 1
Lift Attendants	1 5 0	2 7 8	3 17 8
Malt	2 1 1	2 17 1	4 16 10
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 5 0	4 2 11
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 2 9	3 19 3
Painters	2 0 9	2 14 11	4 16 4
Picture Frame	1 3 11	1 19 9	3 15 0
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 5 11	4 9 10
Plumbers	1 12 8	2 14 4	4 16 3
Pottery	1 8 1	2 0 8	3 15 7
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 2 11	4 7 1
„ Country	1 10 7	1 16 11	3 2 3
Shops Board No. 1—(Boot Dealers)	1 6 11	2 0 11	2 16 3
Shops Board No. 3—(Butchers) ..	1 17 8	3 1 2	4 5 3
Shops Board No. 15—(Grocers) ..	1 7 4	2 6 8	3 12 5
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 7 3	4 15 7
Starch	1 0 9	2 0 6	3 19 11
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 0	5 3 10
Tanners	1 11 9	2 10 6	4 6 3
Watchmakers	1 14 2	2 19 2	4 8 8
Wicker	1 2 11	2 2 4	3 10 4
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 11 9	4 16 10
„ Country	2 9 0	2 14 11	4 15 0

Apprentices. The wages of apprentices in Victoria are fixed by the Wages Boards in each trade. These Boards also prescribe the form of indenture and the term of apprenticeship. Once a boy is indentured, it becomes the duty of the Department of Labour on the one hand to see that he is taught his trade properly, and on the other to enforce his proper attendance at his work, and generally to protect both parties and see that they carry out the agreement.

Factories. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons, other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale, or in which electricity is generated for the supply of heat or light, or power, or in which coal gas is made; and also any clay pit or quarry worked in connexion with and occupied by the occupier of any pottery or brickyard. The expression "handicraft" includes any work done in a laundry or in dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories, and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to insure that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. The employment of males under 14 and females under 15 years of age is debarred, but provision is made by which a girl of 14 can receive permission to work in a factory if it be shown that the parents are poor, and that the best interests of the girl will be served. A strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment of all females and of males under sixteen. There are special provisions to guard against accidents, and persons in charge of engines and boilers must hold certificates of competency of service. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, with the object of preventing or lessening unfair competition. Every employee in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week, this provision being, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers. All earnings must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories, with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1923 the figures were 9,797 factories, with 128,915 employees.

Factory legislation. The Factories and Shops Acts were consolidated during the year 1915 by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, No. 2650. No changes were effected in the law by this measure. The existing Acts were merely consolidated.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1919 (No. 3048), passed at the close of the year 1919, made some important changes in the law, but it consists mainly of machinery clauses designed in the interests of the smooth working of the law.

Two short Amending Acts passed at the close of the year 1920 made important alterations in the law.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3093, altered the procedure regarding the appointment of Wages Boards. Prior to that Act coming into operation these Boards could only be created whilst Parliament was in session. The Governor in Council now has the power to appoint a Wages Board whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, and to alter the scope of any existing Wages Board.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3112, introduced a new principle into the legislation. For many years the closing hour of shops has been fixed by law. This Act for the first time fixed a legal opening hour which affects butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1922, No. 3252, made some important alterations, the principal of which are as follows :—

A new scale of fees was fixed for registration of factories and shops, which resulted in an increase in revenue nearly sufficient to cover the whole cost of the administration of the Department of Labour.

The powers of Wages Boards were simplified and consolidated.

Rates for casual workers in factories and shops were put upon a different basis with a view to the stabilizing of the weekly wage.

The appointment of members of Wages Boards was simplified. Members had previously been appointed for three years, and much trouble was caused in getting new nominations at the date of expiry of each Board. Now Boards are appointed for one year, and every Board expires on the 30th September of each year, but will be automatically re-appointed unless objection is lodged. Very few objections are anticipated, and much time and expense will be saved.

The Minister now makes all appointments to fill vacancies instead of the Governor in Council.

The Governor in Council has now power to exempt new industries from the provisions of Wages Boards for six months, to enable operatives to learn their work.

Bread may now be sold at any hour of the day or night.

The provisions of the Act relating to the guarding of dangerous machinery have been extended so that chaffcutting machines on farms or elsewhere may be guarded for the protection of the workers.

Boards are empowered to fix what notice shall be given by either side of the termination of employment, also to fix the day and latest hour on which wages shall be paid.

Shops, Metropolitan District. Shortly stated, in the Metropolitan District, as defined in the *Factories and Shops Act 1915*, the hours for closing shops are as follows:—Hairdressers' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., on Friday at 9 p.m., and on Saturday at 1 p.m. Tobacconists' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; if the shop be closed on Saturday at 1 p.m., it must be closed on Wednesday at 8 p.m., and may be kept open until 9 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open until 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday. Until a choice is made the shop must be closed on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. They are required to be closed till 6 a.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. on other week days. All other shops (except Fourth Schedule shops) must be closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday the closing hour is 9 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are:—

- Bread shops.
- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Confectionery and pastry shops.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.
- Fish and oyster shops.
- Flower shops.
- Fruit and vegetable shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but the Governor in Council is given power to make Regulations for their closing. Section 2 of Act No. 3181, which came into force on 29th August, 1922, provides that such Regulations shall not apply to fruit shops in the area enclosed by Flinders, Spencer, Latrobe, Victoria, and Spring streets, Melbourne.

The following are the only cases where these Regulations have been made. The hour of closing on each day of the week is given:—

—	Regulation Gazetted.	Sun.	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	F.	Saturday.
		P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)..	27th October, 1920	..	6	6	6	6	9	1
Fruit and Vegetable (May to September inclusive only. See previous paragraph re exempted area)..	16th October. 1918	..	7	7	7	7	..	..

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act 1915* the Minister can grant permission to keepers of certain shops known as "small shops," who would ordinarily be required to close their shops at 6 p.m., to keep open till 8 p.m. Such permission can only be granted to widows and old people, or in cases of great hardship, and applies only to the Metropolitan District.

Provision is also made under the Acts for overtime and tea money for shop employees.

Shops outside the Metropolitan District. The shops provisions of the Acts now apply to the whole State. Previous to 1st January, 1915, they did not apply to shires or portions of shires unless the shopkeepers therein had petitioned for them to be extended, and there was little uniformity throughout the Country Districts either as to the hours of closing shops or the observance of a weekly half-holiday. A universal Saturday half-holiday was legalized by Act No. 2558, passed in November, 1914, the shops being allowed to remain open till 10 p.m. (now altered to 9 p.m.) on Fridays, and the Country Districts were thus brought into line with the Metropolitan District, in which the Saturday half-holiday had been observed for years. In certain cases an exemption may be petitioned for and the half-holiday fixed for a day other than Saturday.

The hours of closing *on other days* outside the Metropolitan District are fixed at 7 p.m., but, if a petition be received from a majority of any class of shopkeepers, they may be fixed earlier or later. The hours have been altered in accordance with this provision in a few municipalities. Hairdressers and tobacconists outside the Metropolitan Districts may choose either Wednesday or Saturday as the day on which they will observe the half-holiday, but, if they choose Wednesday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. If they choose Saturday, or do not make a choice of half-holiday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Fourth Schedule shops are not affected by these provisions. Petrol may be sold at any hour to travellers to enable them to continue their journey.

Registration of Shops. Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. The registration fee formerly ranged from 2s. 6d. to 63s., according to the number of persons employed, but from 1st March, 1923, it has varied from 2s. 6d. to £10 (Act 3252, Sec. 4). During the year 1923, 32,301 shops, employing 33,133 persons, were registered, as compared with 31,192 shops, employing 32,166 persons, in 1922.

Registered shops are divided into 27 classes. There was an increase for the year 1923 as compared with 1922 of 1,109 shops, and

967 employees. Particulars of the increases and decreases in shops registered are given below:—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SHOPS REGISTERED, 1923.

	Metropolitan and Provincial Cities.		Country.		Whole State.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bread	150	..	40	..	190	..
Confectionery and Pastry	83	..	14	..	97	..
Booksellers, News Agents						
Fancy Goods Dealers						
Boot Dealers	4	..	13	..	17	..
Boot Repairers	45	..	37	..	82	..
Butchers	24	..	..	17	7	..
Chemists	18	..	7	..	25	..
Crockery .. .. .	..	7	2	..	..	5
Cycle and Motor	38	..	14	..	52	..
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	37	..	..	4	33	..
Drapery	121	..	69	..	181	..
Fish	13	..	11	..	24	..
Florists	8	..	6	..	14	..
Fruit and Vegetable	109	..	..	28	81	..
Fuel and Fodder .. .. .	..	45	9	..	..	36
Furniture	4	..	..	..	4	..
Grocers	170	..	170	..	340	..
Hairdressers .. .. .	..	4	13	..	9	..
Hardware	46	..	42	..	88	..
Jewellery .. .. .	..	22	4	..	..	18
Leather Goods .. .. .	..	6	..	11	..	17
Men's Clothing	24	..	4	..	28	..
Musical Instruments	23	..	9	..	32	..
Tobacconists	42	..	13	..	55	..
Mixed .. .. .	..	54	..	73	..	127
Shops not classified .. .. .	..	59	12	..	..	47
Totals	959	197	480	133	1,359	250

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Government Labour Exchange. Prior to 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaus were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by an exchange under the control of the Labour Department, where applicants are registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied, when work is available, according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. The Exchange also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to

deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would otherwise be unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the Exchange for the year 1923 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Year and Month.	Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the end of each Month in the Metropolis.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1923—January	1,143	201
February	830	163
March	646	131
April	686	105
May	640	90
June	910	103
July	1,928	196
August	1,513	165
September	702	303
October	762	181
November	853	204
December	620	262

In the next table particulars are given of the operations of the Exchange during the last five years :—

Year.	Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
	In the City.	In the Country.	
1919	11,792	1,400	6,656
1920	11,798	1,357	4,457
1921	15,376	1,274	1,913
1922	12,361	1,065	1,703
1923	11,233	718	2,104

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the Exchange states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the Exchange is very considerable, especially amongst unskilled labourers, and consequently a large allowance must be made for duplication of registrations. It would probably be safe to say that the number of distinct individuals applying in any one year would be represented by about half the registrations effected. Also in connexion with the engagements effected in the course of a year allowance must be made for the fact that the same applicants may be

employed more than once during the year, and this further employment, it is considered, would represent about one-sixth to one-eighth of the engagements made.

During the year 1923 the number of railway tickets advanced was 5,284, valued at £4,670, of which £2,932 has been refunded. During the past twenty-three years 58,587 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £47,646, of which £31,919 has been refunded.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the great war. On that date the Commonwealth Government established the Department of Repatriation, with (the late) Senator the Hon. E. D. Millen as first Minister. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment for disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

Organization of Department. A description of this is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, page 369.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants.

Activities of Department. The activities of the Department include the administration of a wide variety of benefits, such as employment, vocational training, medical treatment, children's education, land settlement and assistance. Under "assistance" establishment in small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants, equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised, whereby the Federal Government loans the States money to provide the required holdings and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful operation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available an average grant of £625 per settler. This will afford every ex-soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia, all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement scheme to persons who were munition or war workers, and the Commonwealth Government's advance of £625 will be available for such persons.

Summary of Work of Department. The following is a summary of the work of the Department in Victoria from its inauguration, 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1924 :—

Employment—				
	Number of applications received	..	..	83,659
	Number of positions filled	..	..	47,599
Assistance other than vocational training and employment—				
	Number of applications received	..	..	195,125
	Number of applications approved	..	..	176,890
Assistance granted—				
	Gifts	..	..	£3,014,572
	Loans	..	..	505,855
	General	..	..	1,062,587
	Total	..	..	£4,583,014

Vocational training statistics from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1924 :—

	Number of applications received	..	..	16,524
	Number of applications approved	..	..	11,714
	Completed training	..	..	5,166
	In training at 30th June, 1924	..	..	643

N.B.—The above figures relate to day training only.

Workers' Compensation Act. The principal provisions of this Act are outlined in the *Year-Book* for 1916–17, pages 552 to 558. It was amended by an Act (No. 3,217) passed in December, 1922.

The latter Act made the following alterations :—

- (1.) The maximum weekly compensation was increased from £1 10s. to £2.
- (2.) The maximum compensation for total disability or on death (with total dependency) was increased from £500 to £600.
- (3.) The payment for funeral expenses was increased from £50 to £75.
- (4.) The minimum weekly payment to an adult worker was fixed at £1.
- (5.) Various anomalies in the Fourth Schedule were corrected, and
- (6.) Men who contract to fell trees and deliver timber were included in the definition "worker."

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

A State Accident Insurance Office was established shortly after the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of enabling employers to obtain from the State policies of insurance indemnifying them against their liability in relation to workers' compensation. It commenced business on the day on which the Act came into operation—7th November, 1914.

The following table contains a statement of the premium income, the claims paid, and the accumulated funds for each year since the establishment of the office :—

PREMIUMS RECEIVED, CLAIMS PAID, AND ACCUMULATED FUNDS OF THE STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE, 1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Premiums received, less Reinsurances, Rebates, &c.	Claims (including those outstanding).	Accumulated Funds.	
			General Reserve.	Bonus Reserve.
	£	£	£	£
1914-15* ..	27,502	3,006	2,750	1,494
1915-16 ..	25,647	12,370	9,750	5,459
1916-17 ..	26,249	13,977	14,750	†7,506
1917-18 ..	27,426	14,250	19,000	3,824
1918-19 ..	28,650	17,567	23,000	6,986
1919-20 ..	32,473	21,412	26,000	†10,080
1920-21 ..	39,363	26,863	28,500	2,702
1921-22 ..	42,475	26,765	32,000	6,747
1922-23 ..	50,222	26,752	38,500	†14,552
1923-24 ..	57,748	38,664	42,500	6,093

* Refers to a period of eight months only (7th November, 1914, to 30th June, 1915). Insurance was not compulsory until 7th May, 1915.

† Bonus distributed amongst policy holders in the year.

The expense rate of the year 1923-24—12.9 per cent.—shows a reduction of 1.9 per cent. as compared with the previous year's rate. This satisfactory figure is the result of careful regard to economy, and is the lowest expense rate of any insurance office in Australasia transacting Workers' Compensation Insurance business. The number of claims settled in the year mentioned and in course of settlement at the end of the year was 2,918.

It is obligatory on every employer to obtain from the **Compulsory Insurance.** State Accident Insurance Office or from an insurance company approved by the Governor in Council a policy of accident insurance for the full amount of his liability to pay compensation under the Act.

The number of insurance companies approved by the Governor in Council as at 30th June, 1924, was 57. One of the conditions of approval was that the company should deposit with the Treasurer a sum of not less than £6,000 (except in the case of subsidiary or acquired companies, where provision has been made for a smaller deposit), which sum was to be held in trust to insure the due fulfilment of policy obligations. The total amount lodged by all the companies which had been approved at the date mentioned was £320,000.

Up to the present (November, 1924) one scheme of **Schemes of Compensation.** compensation has been certified by a Judge of County Courts in accordance with Section 13 of the Act.

The Revenue Account and Profit and Loss Account for **Accounts.** the year ended 30th June, 1924, and the Balance-sheet as at the end of that year are appended :—

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Claims				38,258	7	3			
Less claims recovered	558	11	4						
Provision for unadjusted claims as at 30th June, 1923	8,200	0	0						
				8,758	11	4			
							29,499	15	11
Provision for unearned premiums							25,986	15	0
Provision for unadjusted claims							9,165	0	0
Net Revenue, carried down							15,696	16	2
				£80,348	7	1			
							59,602	12	1
Premiums for year							1,854	5	0
Less reinsurances and rebates									
Provision for unearned premiums, 1923									
							57,748	7	1
							22,600	0	0
							£80,348	7	1

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Administration Expenses, Acts Nos. 2750-3217				200	0	0
Agents' Expenses and Commission				2,255	12	7
Expenses of Management, including Salaries				5,042	15	1
Net Profit				10,093	19	6
				£17,592	7	2
Net Revenue, brought down				15,696	16	2
Interest on Investments and Funds at Treasury				1,895	11	0
				£17,592	7	2

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Liabilities.</i>						
Unearned Premiums				25,986	15	0
Outstanding Claims				9,165	0	0
Sundry Accounts unpaid—						
On account Agents		247	7	10		
Others		49	13	7		
				297	1	5
Bonus Distribution Account, 1923 (amounts unclaimed)				1,281	11	9
General Reserve				38,500	0	0
Profit for year 1923-24 to be appropriated—						
To General Reserve		4,000	0	0		
Bonus Reserve		6,093	19	6		
				10,093	19	6
				£85,324	7	8
<i>Assets.</i>						
Amount of Fund at Treasury				44,841	17	1
Premiums due				195	13	1
Treasury Interest Accrued				466	6	8
Stamps on Hand				38	19	1
General Reserve Fund				38,500	0	0
Bonus Distribution Fund, 1923—						
Balance at Bank				1,256	11	9
Cash on hand				25	0	0
				1,281	11	9
				£85,324	7	8

Social Condition.

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

The total number of organizations throughout the State which administered relief to persons in necessitous circumstances or were of a reformatory character, and which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1923, was 229. The total receipts of all the organizations were £3,240,266, of which £2,464,431 was contributed by the Government and £775,835 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £3,157,673. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 15,923, and there were no less than 182,119 distinct cases of out-door relief. With regard to the out-door relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; in these latter cases, unfortunately, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some, in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of the institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

The following table gives in summarized form full particulars in relation to all these charitable and reformatory institutions, and shows the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in the institutions, and the total number of distinct cases receiving out-door relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1922-23.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals	53	2,160·4	63,982	74,994	366,252	441,247	381,150
Women's Hospital	1	184·8	5,153	4,000	23,358	27,358	29,544
Children's Hospital	1	190·0	17,708	4,359	35,503	39,862	33,844
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1	55·2	5,636	600	14,296	14,896	19,396
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	1	150·0	..	6,038	455	6,493	6,493
Heatherton Sanatorium	1	112·6	..	4,375	4,998	9,373	8,900
Convalescent Homes	2	38·0	..	290	2,121	2,411	2,539
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions	4	383·2	13,738	4,571	33,448	38,019	45,392
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving Houses	12	6,092·5	..	322,074	44,094	366,168	366,168
Foundling Hospitals	2	186·5	..	4,279	5,973	10,252	11,428
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	1	360·0	..	27,381	32,250	59,640	53,066
Total	79	9,913·2	106,217	452,961	562,758	1,015,719	957,920

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1922-23—*continued.*

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.				£	£	£	£
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	1,943·6	349	19,991	54,455	74,446	61,456
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	74·0	..	..	7,676	7,676	3,799
Benevolent Societies ..	84	..	13,257	8,712	30,040	38,752	35,501
Orphan Asylums	10	1,677·9	..	4,600	45,372	49,972	47,921
Total	103	3,695·5	13,606	33,303	137,543	170,846	148,677
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Children's Welfare Department	12	541·0	13,369	301,503	14,589	316,092	316,092
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	33·0	..	3,049	1,044	4,093	4,093
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	1	20·0	..	243	1,416	1,659	1,651
Female Refuges	10	666·5	..	2,228	39,321	41,549	40,955
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	3	142·0	..	339	7,703	8,042	7,905
Prison Association of Victoria	1	..	600	380	1,406	1,786	1,098
Gaols and Penal Establishments	15	795·0	..	80,363	..	80,363	80,363
Total	43	2,197·5	13,969	388,103	65,479	453,584	452,157
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners ..	..	..	42,955	1,589,362	..	1,589,362	1,589,362
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	116·8	..	650	6,261	6,911	5,769
Charity Organization Society	1	..	476	..	2,844	2,844	2,799
Free Dispensaries	2	..	4,896	50	950	1,000	989
Total	4	116·8	48,327	1,590,062	10,055	1,600,117	1,598,919
Grand Total ..	229	15,923·0	182,119	2,464,431	775,835	3,240,266	3,157,673

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.**

The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1922-23 amounted to £1,569,949, of which £794,706, or 51 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £1,488,058. Of the Government contribution, £637,039 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Children's Welfare Department, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

**Charitable
Institutions—
receipts and
expenditure,
1914-1923.**

The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1914 it was £866,862, and it had increased to £1,488,058 in 1923. This is equivalent to an advance of about 72 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 64 per cent., and that from other sources by 123 per cent. in the period mentioned. Information in regard to the receipts and expenditure in each year of the period is given in the accompanying table :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1914 TO 1923.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Government aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extra-ordinary Repairs.	Main-tenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1914 ..	485,018	347,053	832,071	154,565	705,768	6,529	866,862
1915 ..	541,668	349,421	891,089	137,589	774,873	6,685	919,147
1916 ..	525,682	418,050	943,732	89,904	846,339	8,863	945,106
1917 ..	543,225	502,598	1,045,823	132,601	850,357	10,619	993,577
1918 ..	541,817	465,809	1,007,626	67,254	895,919	8,968	972,141
1919 ..	578,055	497,945	1,076,000	62,144	963,647	16,504	1,042,295
1920 ..	681,626	638,356	1,319,982	66,191	1,155,558	8,817	1,230,566
1921 ..	818,766	709,011	1,527,777	95,153	1,351,856	12,154	1,459,163
1922 ..	815,816	753,757	1,569,073	166,145	1,339,982	15,151	1,521,278
1923 ..	794,706	775,243	1,569,949	119,520	1,351,949	16,589	1,488,058

Charitable
Institutions
—average
cost per
inmate.

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost for the year of each inmate :—

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1922-23.

Description of Institution.	Daily average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average cost of each Inmate.		
			£	£	s. d.
General Hospitals	2,160	325,397	150	12	11
Women's Hospital	185	28,443	153	14	11
Children's Hospital	190	30,608	161	1	11
Eye and Ear Hospital	70	10,863	155	3	8
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	55	9,224	167	14	2
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	360	48,720	135	6	8
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	125	2,675	21	8	0
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	179	6,279	35	1	7
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	65	5,650	86	18	6
Heatherton Sanatorium	112	8,900	79	9	3
Receiving Houses for the Insane	6,092	347,287	57	0	2
Hospitals for the Insane					
Idiot Asylum	1,944	59,528	30	12	5
Benevolent Asylums					
Convalescent Homes	38	2,406	63	6	4
Blind Asylums	194	8,695	44	16	5
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	120	5,808	48	8	0
Orphan Asylums	1,678	34,961	20	16	8
Children's Welfare Department	13,910*	314,045	22	11	6
Female Refuges	666	40,402	60	13	3
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	142	7,537	53	1	7
Old Colonists' Association	74	3,652	49	7	0
Lara Inebriates' Institution	33	3,911	118	10	4
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	20	1,651	82	11	0
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	117	4,810	41	2	3
Total	28,529	1,311,452	45	19	5

* Including children boarded out with their own mothers.

In calculating the average cost of each inmate the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Orphan Asylums, the Children's Welfare Department, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Children's Welfare Department

cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is not a correct indication of the burden on the public. The true cost per head of those supported by the State is somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospitals, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospitals, and for infants in the other institutions mentioned.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1922-23 more than half was contributed by the Government, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was collected from patients. The receipts of hospitals and other charitable institutions in the State under various headings are shown hereunder :—

**SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS
IN VICTORIA, 1922-23.**

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Government Aid	74,994	4,000	4,359	2,000	27,381	4,879	677,093	794,706
Municipal Grants	13,947	407	447	317	27,962	382	8,114	51,576
Private Contributions ..	71,263	2,980	6,431	1,942	..	3,599	65,344	151,559
Proceeds of Entertainments ..	21,191	162	892	343	..	1,105	4,047	27,740
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates	148,239	4,471	4,541	1,324	..	8,840	38,291	205,706
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	18,838	1,825	2,762	778	..	624	2,522	27,349
Contributions of Indoor Patients	53,536	7,935	2,818	1,648	685	2,746	90,111	159,479
Out-patients' Fees	14,703	631	2,220	2,314	..	1,408	..	21,276
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,068	41,068
Interest or Rent	17,096	1,633	1,472	695	50	963	12,526	34,440
Other Sources	7,440	3,309	13,920	159	3,562	602	26,058	55,050
Total	441,247	27,353	39,862	11,520	59,640	25,148	965,174	1,569,949

Particulars relating to the accommodation in the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are given below. The information relates to the year ended 30th June, 1923, except in the case of the

Charitable Institutions—accommodation.

Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Children's Welfare Department, where it relates to the calendar year 1923. Of the general hospitals, six are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns, seven of the latter being also benevolent asylums. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows:—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1922-23.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ..	53	439	4,837,220	3,682	1,314
Women's Hospital ..	1	27	229,970	209	1,100
Children's Hospital ..	1	22	178,900	190	942
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	14	59,021	66	894
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	16	89,248	94	949
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	50	499,098	514	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ..	1	6	70,076	171	410
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home ..	1	8	124,000	110	1,127
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	13	58,582	90	651
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	14	133,660	120	1,114
Receiving Houses for the Insane ..	2	22	63,782	93	686
Hospitals for the Insane ..	9	1,338	3,576,579	5,130	697
Idiot Asylum ..	1	20	114,288	353	324
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	184	2,565,385	2,305	1,113
Convalescent Homes ..	2	22	68,790	59	1,166
Blind Asylums ..	2	11	97,200	93	1,045
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ..	1	4	87,604	100	876
Orphan Asylums ..	10	85	866,991	1,687	514
Children's Welfare Department ..	12	71	661,472	980	675
Female Refuges ..	10	175	632,067	805	785
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ..	3	16	84,418	173	488
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ..	1	13	25,407	33	770
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	23	73,669	116	635
Total ..	125	2,604	15,244,223	17,223	885

Charitable
Institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

The next statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions :—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1922-23.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				per cent.
General Hospitals	34,179	2,160·4	2,903	8·5
Women's Hospital	5,589	184·8	91	1·6
Children's Hospital	3,283	190·0	491	15·0
Eye and Ear Hospital	1,648	69·7	9	·5
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	781	55·2	29	3·7
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	3,995	360·0	72	1·8
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	237	125·5	23	9·7
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	251	179·0	3	1·2
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	253	65·0	7	2·8
Heatherton Sanatorium	333	112·6	91	27·3
Receiving Houses for the Insane	891	81·0	21	2·4
Hospitals for the Insane	6,844	5,631·0	438	6·4
Idiot Asylum	429	380·5	37	8·6
Benevolent Asylums	3,661	1,943·6	440	12·0
Convalescent Homes	842	38·0	..	..
Blind Asylums	235	193·8	8	3·4
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	134	119·7	..	..
Orphan Asylums	2,202	1,677·9	4	·2
Children's Welfare Department	14,712	13,910·0	61	·4
Female Refuges	1,247	666·5	20	1·6
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	481	142·0	3	·6
Old Colonists' Association	82	74·0	9	11·0
Lara Inebriates' Institution	192	33·0	..	..
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	62	20·0	..	..
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	146	116·8	1	·7
Total	82,709	28,530·0	4,761	5·8

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 41 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 68 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 297 infants in the Female Refuges, and 211 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

The following statement contains particulars as to the number of beds, the number of patients treated, and the deaths which occurred in general hospitals during the year 1922-23. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the

Patients
treated, etc.,
in hospitals.

Government and from other sources, and the expenditure per head for maintenance (based on the average number of indoor patients) are also shown :—

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS ;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1922-23.

Hospital.	Number of Beds.	Total Indoor Patients treated during Year.	Average Daily Number of Indoor Patients treated.	Number of Deaths.	Receipts.			Expenditure per Head for Maintenance.
					From Government.	Other.	Total.	
					£	£	£	£ s. d.
Amherst ..	100	327	64.5	15	3,219	811	4,030	61 17 10
Ararat ..	70	621	30.5	38	850	2,282	3,132	104 9 10
Ballarat ..	192	1,361	83.0	124	2,630	8,991	11,621	101 14 5
Beechworth ..	95	255	15.9	16	570	3,221	3,791	140 2 6
Bendigo ..	222	1,598	91.0	131	3,669	10,714	14,383	175 1 6
Castlemaine ..	93	362	27.0	35	1,000	4,131	5,131	102 17 0
Daylesford ..	52	180	16.8	12	460	2,262	2,722	121 19 3
Geelong ..	217	1,195	84.2	89	1,500	11,561	13,061	130 7 4
Hamilton ..	91	563	39.1	21	1,475	4,148	5,623	110 12 3
Kyneton ..	54	288	19.2	26	450	2,195	2,645	130 4 2
Maryborough ..	95	405	26.4	21	800	1,949	2,749	100 10 7
Melbourne ..	358	7,181	377.0	942	21,377	88,679	110,056	208 17 6
Alfred ..	168	3,660	157.0	321	10,483	53,162	63,645	232 1 6
Austin ..	290	507	260.0	193	5,800	28,445	34,245	102 10 7
Homoeopathic ..	98	1,379	62.3	66	2,000	20,922	22,922	202 4 4
St. Vincent's ..	126	2,481	128.0	162	5,500	35,637	41,137	191 15 11
Mooroopna ..	104	1,132	79.4	86	1,290	5,948	7,238	90 10 10
Sale ..	68	883	54.4	46	810	4,647	5,457	88 12 1
Stawell ..	66	231	15.5	15	390	2,057	2,447	150 15 6
Swan Hill ..	52	405	27.2	22	500	2,296	2,796	124 5 4
Wangaratta ..	65	587	36.9	23	1,000	2,952	3,952	94 14 10
Warrnambool ..	92	486	38.2	39	850	8,783	9,633	113 16 5
*Other Hospitals	914	8,092	426.9	460	8,371	60,460	68,831	144 14 1
Total ..	3,682	34,179	2,160.4	2,903	74,994	366,253	441,247	150 12 5

* 31 in number.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1922.

An Act (No. 3260) to amend the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria was passed by the State Parliament in the year 1922. Its principal provisions are as follows :—

Part I. provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of a Board to be called the Charities Board of Victoria and to consist of 14 members, which is to be constituted as under :—

- (a) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;

- (b) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (e) Two other persons, one of whom is to be appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and the other as a member of the Country Standing Committee to be provided for under the Act.

The duties of the Board are from time to time to make such inquiries as it thinks fit and to report to the Minister as to :—

- (a) What charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor, or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients) ;
- (b) What institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized ;
- (c) What sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund, and for what purposes, to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year ; and
- (d) Any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in the Act, and in particular for improvement in and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions and benevolent societies.

Special powers of the Board include the closing of any subsidized institution including a benevolent society (not being a separate institution) and the amalgamation of any two or more subsidized institutions (not being separate institutions). Before the Board can exercise the power of closing an institution it must be satisfied that the institution or benevolent society is seriously mismanaged or that the funds thereof are substantially applied otherwise than for affording the relief for which the institution or benevolent society exists, or that the accommodation provided is defective, insanitary, or unsuitable, or that relief can be provided more effectively and economically by some other institution or benevolent society. All institutions existing before the commencement of the Act must be registered within six months of a date to be

fixed by the Board, and every institution established subsequently must register in order to participate in any grant or aid of any kind from the Consolidated Revenue or from any municipality. A non-registered charity will not be allowed to appeal or apply to any person or body of persons for any contributions towards its funds.

A fund to be called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" is to be kept in the Treasury. To this fund the Government contributed a sum of £143,851 for the financial year 1922-23. The salary of an Inspector of Charities, who has been appointed under the Act, together with the remuneration of other necessary officers and expenses, will be paid out of the fund. Subject to these payments the fund may be applied to the establishment or maintenance of subsidized institutions or benevolent societies, the cost of the erection of new buildings or of repairs, additions, alterations, or equipment of existing buildings used for the purposes of any subsidized institution or for any other prescribed purposes. Matters to be considered in making payments out of the fund are the financial position of each institution or benevolent society, and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the next financial year otherwise than from the fund, the probable net receipts and expenditure of that financial year, also the actual number of persons relieved by it, the average number of beds (if any) occupied, the average length of stay of patients, and the average cost per bed during the preceding financial year.

Other sections relate to restrictions on certain means of raising money for institutions, the incorporation and government of hospitals and philanthropic institutions generally, the liability of patients to contribute for the relief afforded them according to their means, and the power to resume land required for institutions in the manner provided by the *Lands Compensation Act 1915*.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in recent years.

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 358 beds. The number of in-patients treated in 1922-23 was 7,181, the daily average number being 377. In the out-patients' and casualty departments 40,651 persons were treated in that year. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 193,884.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated

to 30th June, 1923, numbered 292,069, and the out-patients, 1,265,805.

In 1922-23 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £21,377; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £946; private contributions amounted to £15,457; revenue from entertainments in aid to £331; bequests to £42,634; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,436; payments and contributions by indoor patients to £8,687; and out-patients' fees to £5,790; interest yielded a revenue of £6,084; and £3,314 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £110,056, and the expenditure was £82,876.

The Melbourne Hospital is also a Training School for Nurses, and has a nursing staff of 165. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute is proving of valuable assistance in the many lines of research which are being conducted by an efficient and highly-trained staff.

**Alfred
Hospital.**

The circumstances associated with the foundation of this hospital are referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 568. It was decided in the year 1868 that it should be erected, as the necessity for having a second general hospital in Melbourne had long been recognized. A site comprising 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone was laid in March, 1869. In May, 1871, the hospital was opened and additions were made in 1885. In 1888 a fire occurred which entirely destroyed a portion of the original buildings. This portion was replaced, and, since the date of replacement, additions have been made on several occasions, the expansion in late years having been remarkable. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and includes within the sphere of its operations a training school for nurses. On 30th June, 1924, there were 320 beds in the institution. The total number of in-patients who received treatment during the year 1922-23 was 3,660, and during 1923-24, 4,002. In the out-patients and casualty departments, 23,577 persons were treated in the earlier of those years and 27,534 in the later year. The attendances of these patients numbered 78,603 and 95,415 respectively in each year. The total of the receipts for the year 1923-24 in all the accounts was £66,575. The principal items of receipt were Government grants, £9,800; municipal grants, £1,069; private contributions, £5,767; revenue from entertainments in aid, £5,929; Hospital Saturday and Sunday collections, £2,740; Lord Mayor's Fund, £238; indoor patients' fees, £3,591; out-door patients' fees, £5,061; interest, £1,012; visitors' contributions, £2,362; special donations and bequests, £25,675; and miscellaneous, £3,331. The total expenditure was £77,603, included in which was £33,004 for buildings, furniture, fittings, &c.

Other Hospitals, &c. Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

Greenville Sanatorium. The Greenvale Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient and early stage cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. It was established by the Government, and is under the control of the Public Health Department. Females only are now admitted to the institution, and provision is made for 90 patients. During the year ended 31st December, 1923, 252 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 61 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 39 did very well and were discharged apparently cured or greatly benefited, 78 were discharged benefited but with the disease not arrested, and 46 were discharged not benefited or incurable. The last-mentioned cases include patients who were discharged either at their own request after a brief stay, or for disciplinary reasons, and some who were sent in for a short period for educational purposes. Eight deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 81 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that the institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 5,146 patients. Of these, 3,214 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 989 were not benefited or were incurable; 103 died; 759 left of their own accord; and 81 remained at the end of 1923. A most important function of the institution is the teaching of patients how to avoid communicating the disease to others. Immediately after the admission of a patient to the sanatorium the house or room vacated is disinfected under the supervision of the municipal council of the district, a centre of infection being thus removed.

Amherst and Heatherton Sanatoria. The Amherst Sanatorium, for early-stage cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is now reserved for the treatment of males only, and there is accommodation at the institution for 60 patients. During the year 1923, 160 patients were treated, of whom 85 were discharged

with their condition much improved; 11 left of their own accord; 6 left, not benefited; 5 died; and 53 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 2,101 patients. Of these, 1,728 were discharged cured or relieved; 77 left of their own accord; 188 were incurable; 55 died; and 53 remained on 31st December, 1923.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases at Heatherton, near Cheltenham Benevolent Asylum, which now contains 124 beds. There were on 1st January, 1923, 107 persons in the institution, and the number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 214, making a total of 321 who received treatment during the year 1923. Of these, 124 were discharged, 77 died, and 120 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 158 beds are provided at the Austin Hospital.

St. John Ambulance Association. The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and the injured. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 1370.)

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 10,751 calls, of which 970 were accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1924; the mileage travelled was 95,769. In 1,176 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 740 (4 of over 200 miles and 1 of over 300 miles), were undertaken during the year. The registered office and head dépôt is situated at 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 121.)

Charity Organization Society. A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, page 583.

The income and outgo for the year ended 30th June, 1924, were—Administration Account (for payment of all general expenses of management as well as all charges connected with the administration of the trust and relief funds)—Receipts, £2,179; expenditure, £1,607; Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £1,128; expenditure, £958; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £125; expenditure, £134. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 1,526, of which 607 were new cases investigated. During the year under review 62 men and women obtained temporary or permanent employment through the Society's assistance, and about 400 men were provided with work at the Society's wood-yard. The records of the Society now contain more than 32,000 social histories of distressed families and individuals.

**Royal
Humane
Society.**

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures; (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia; (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful; (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1924, 105 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 32 certificates, 27 bronze medals, and 6 silver medals were granted. The receipts during 1923-24 amounted to £471, and the expenditure to £451. The institution has placed and maintains 343 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. The society has 156 honorary correspondents, residing as follows:—54 in Victoria, 35 in New South Wales, 25 in New Zealand, 28 in Queensland, 8 in Tasmania, 3 in South Australia, and 3 in Western Australia.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning. The society makes a special feature of the development of swimming and life saving proficiency.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." Its objects are:—(1) To promote technical education in life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned; (2) To stimulate public opinion in favour of the general adoption of swimming and life saving as a branch of instruction in schools, colleges, &c.; (3) To encourage floating, diving, plunging, and such other swimming arts as would be of assistance to a person endeavouring to save life; (4) To arrange and promote public lectures, demonstrations and competitions, and to form classes of instruction, so as to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of natation; (5) To arrange and promote lectures, motion picture exhibitions, demonstrations and competitions, and compile and disseminate propaganda literature for the purpose of educating the members of the community in the principles of avoiding and preventing accidents of all kinds.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1923-24 the awards granted totalled 963. This number

is smaller than in 1922-23, when the awards totalled 1,425, but the decrease is partly accounted for by the fact that the report of the society for 1923-24 deals with the operations for a period of only ten months, instead of twelve months as in previous years. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is expected that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

Society for the Protection of Animals. The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1923, 3,092 cases were dealt with by it, of which 2,607 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 256 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £4,512, and the expenditure to £9,042.

Lord Mayor's Fund. The initiation of the movement to assist in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, which resulted in the inauguration of the Lord Mayor's Fund, is credited to the late Sir J. W. Swanson, K.B., a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The first definite step to make the fund a permanent one was taken in April, 1923, when a chief executive officer and organizing secretary was appointed. An important feature of the first year's work was the merging of the Hospital Saturday Fund in the Lord Mayor's Fund. No change was made in regard to the constitution or administrative functions of the Hospital Sunday committee. The receipts and disbursements of the Lord Mayor's Fund from 4th April, 1923, to 30th June, 1924, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 4TH APRIL, 1923, TO 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Receipts	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Hospital Saturday (1923) ..	9,800	Distributions made to	
General donations	3,716	Institutions from General	
Police Carnival	2,479	Fund	15,006
Recital, massed bands of		Distributions to specified	
British Fleet	806	donees	7,217
Donations for specified in-		Salaries of secretary and staff	1,358
stitutions	7,217	Miscellaneous	641
Other	824	Surplus	620
Total	24,842		24,842

The amounts allocated to the various charitable institutions in 1923-24 from the Lord Mayor's Fund, including Hospital Saturday receipts, and from the Hospital Sunday Fund were as follows:—

Institution.	From Lord Mayor's Fund.	From Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	5,633	2,521	8,154
Alfred Hospital	2,336	1,272	3,608
Children's Hospital	1,856	1,237	3,093
Women's Hospital	1,615	883	2,498
Austin Hospital	1,397	733	2,130
St. Vincent's Hospital	1,394	824	2,218
Melbourne Benevolent Asylum	780	553	1,333
Queen Victoria Hospital	718	394	1,112
Homœopathic Hospital	701	490	1,191
Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society	550	..	550
Eye and Ear Hospital	600	432	1,032
Williamstown Hospital	164	110	274
Melbourne District Nursing Society	499	405	904
Salvation Army	246	..	246
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	284	138	422
St. John Ambulance Association	1	405	406
Other institutions	3,296	485	3,781
Total distributed	22,070*	10,882	32,952

* Including £12,379 from the Hospital Saturday section of the Lord Mayor's Fund.

In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections for the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds. The following amounts were collected in each of the last eight years:—1916, £18,525; 1917, £19,020; 1918, £22,447; 1919, £18,586; 1920, £19,750; 1921, £29,723; 1922, £20,368 (including a bequest of £2,461 from the estate of a deceased person); and 1923, £24,013. The amount distributed in 1923 was £23,261.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £519,331.

Wattle Day. On a day fixed, about the middle of August in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are allotted to charities for children. The sums which have been raised each year during the last ten years are as follows:—1914, £2,115; 1915, £2,553; 1916, £8,604; 1917, £7,000; 1918, £7,238; 1919, £5,393; 1920,

£4,304; 1921, £5,951; 1922, £5,293; and 1923, £6,674. From 1915 to 1920 the Wattle Day collection was organized and controlled by the Commonwealth Button Fund, and emblematic "buttons" and badges were sold in addition to wattle blossom. The Commonwealth Button Fund was wound up in January, 1921, and the organization of the annual Wattle Day appeal is now undertaken by the Children's Welfare Association, 149 Swanston-street, Melbourne. This association consists of all the societies participating in the appeal, and its work is carried out by a body of voluntary assistants.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

**Federal
Invalid and
Old-age
Pensions Act.**

These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an Act passed in 1908 and Amending Acts. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the amounts of pensions payable and the persons entitled to receive them. The amounts have since been increased.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is 17s. 6d. per week, and the commencing age for old-age pensions is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1924, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 12,260; women, 20,343; total, 32,603. Invalid pensioners—men, 5,722; women, 6,498; total, 12,220.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 30 per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1924.

**Pensioners,
1901 to
1923-24.**

The State system of old-age pensions came into force on 18th January, 1901, and the highest number of pensioners was reached in November, 1901, when 16,300 were on the register. Alterations in the Act in the direction of compelling relatives, when in a position to do so, to support applicants for pensions had the effect of reducing the number to 10,732 in 1907. On 1st July, 1909, when the Federal Act came into operation, there were 12,368 old-age pensioners in Victoria. Thereafter the number rapidly increased, and on 30th June, 1924, it had reached a total of 32,603 (exclusive of invalid pensioners). The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year from the inception of

the system and the amount expended each year are shown in the following statement:—

OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS IN VICTORIA,
1901 TO 1924.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
13th January to 30th June, 1901 (under State Act)	16,275	...	16,275	£ 129,338
1901-2	14,570	...	14,570	292,432
1902-3	12,417	...	12,417	215,973
1903-4	11,609	...	11,609	205,150
1904-5	11,209	...	11,209	200,464
1905-6	10,990	...	10,990	189,127
1906-7	10,732	...	10,732	187,793
1907-8	11,288	...	11,288	233,573
1908-9	12,368	...	12,368	270,827
1909-10 (under Federal Act)...	20,218	...	20,218	470,656
1910-11	23,722	2,272	25,994	573,699
1911-12	24,449	3,162	27,611	672,593
1912-13	25,434	3,918	29,352	715,924
1913-14	27,150	4,844	31,994	795,449
1914-15	28,365	6,054	34,419	839,718
1915-16	28,446	6,869	35,315	908,159
1916-17	29,064	7,921	36,985	1,070,386
1917-18	29,159	8,901	38,060	1,168,498
1918-19	29,179	9,337	38,516	1,199,787
1919-20	29,565	10,277	39,842	1,348,100*
1920-21	30,385	11,171	41,559	1,533,430*
1921-22	30,958	11,444	42,402	1,581,898*
1922-23	31,248	11,707	42,955	1,589,362*
1923-24	32,603	12,220	44,823	1,947,069*

* This includes payments of pensions of 2s. per week (increased to 3s. per week from 13th September, 1923) to inmates of Benevolent Asylums. There were 1,168 such pensions in force on 30th June, 1924.

Maternity Allowance. An Act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of every child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912. The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1924, was 406,148, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £2,030,740.

For the year ended 30th June, 1924, the number of claims granted was 35,721, and the amount paid in allowances, £178,605.

War Pensions. The number of war pensions in force in Victoria on 30th June, 1924, was 79,558, and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith

was £2,047,942. Of the total number of pensioners, 24,214 were incapacitated members of the Forces, and 55,344 were dependants of deceased and incapacitated members.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.

Lunacy Department. The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1922 and 1923 :—

INSANE PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE LUNACY DEPARTMENT, 31ST DECEMBER, 1922 AND 1923.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).
	1922.	1923.	
In State Hospitals	5,386	5,341	- 45
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	487	551	+ 64
Boarded Out	124	134	+ 10
In Licensed Houses	82	81	- 1
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	22	16	- 6
Total Number of Registered Insane	6,101	6,123	+ 22
In Receiving Institutions	87	81	- 6
Total	6,188	6,204	+ 16
Voluntary Boarders	50	63	+ 13
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	124	127	+ 3

Whilst there is a reduction of 45 patients in the State Hospitals, owing to the fact that there has been a slightly reduced admission rate and a larger number of discharges and deaths than in the previous year, there has been an increase in the numbers of those on trial leave and boarded out, so that a slight increase (22 only) of the total of the certified insane appears in the Report of the Lunacy Department of 1923.

The number of first admissions is the lowest for some years, and the ratio of insane to population is still improving and is now 1 to 265.

Military mental cases have increased by three, and during the year 1923 patients were received as Voluntary Boarders in the various State Institutions.

The number of admissions to Hospitals for Insane for each of the years 1919 to 1923 is given below :—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1919	353	317	670	31	44	75	745
1920	421	354	775	44	45	89	864
1921	341	335	676	42	84	126	802
1922	388	330	718	46	74	120	838
1923	379	284	663	91	73	164	827

The voluntary boarders are not included in the above figures. The number of such boarders admitted during the last seven years was as follows :—140 in 1917, 163 in 1918, 167 in 1919, 193 in 1920, 198 in 1921, 176 in 1922, and 173 in 1923.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1923 two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing dépôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1923, numbered 6,360—6,247

neglected and 113 reformatory children—and there were 30 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the last five years :—

**NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN,
1919 TO 1923.**

Year.	NUMBER OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Neglected Children.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals)	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1919 ...	3,989	985	502	472	3	*5,951
1920 ...	4,128	1,021	448	497	...	*6,094
1921 ...	4,281	860	458	498	7	*6,104
1922 ...	4,189	904	434	515	5	*6,047
1923 ...	4,133	1,172	431	510	1	*6,247

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1919 ...	114	33	20	13	...	180
1920 ...	86	30	13	3	...	132
1921 ...	78	13	27	4	...	122
1922 ...	65	23	29	3	1	121
1923 ...	64	22	26	1	...	113

* Under the provisions of section 9 of the *Children's Maintenance Act 1919*, 5,392 children, who had previously been committed as "neglected" children and boarded out to their mothers, were discharged as wards of the State, but payments for their maintenance were continued to the mothers. At the end of 1923 there were 7,641 such children.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by **Children boarded out, &c.** honorary committees, who send to the Department reports as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for children under 18 months, and 8s. per week for those over that age. These rates have been payable since 1st December, 1921. For the previous twelve months the rates were 11s. 6d. per week for children under 12 months, and 8s. per week for those of an

older age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

Children committed to the care of the State, 1923.

The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1923 were as follows:—

Cases in which Parents were held to be—	Number.
Blamable—One Parent—	
Father deserted and mother an invalid	3
“ “ “ dead	24
“ “ “ in hospital	4
“ “ “ poor	282
“ drunkard “ “	3
“ in gaol “ “	12
“ “ “ dead	1
“ unknown “ “	10
“ “ “ poor	19
Mother deserted and father dead	5
“ “ “ poor	15
“ drunkard “ “	3
“ of doubtful character and father poor	3
“ “ “ “ dead	10
Both Parents—	
Father deserted and mother in gaol	2
“ drunkard “ of doubtful character	1
“ unknown “ deserted	10
“ “ “ of doubtful character	19
Parents deserted	27
“ of doubtful character	5
“ unknown	6
Total	464
Blameless—Both Parents—	
Father an invalid and mother dead	16
“ “ “ poor	6
“ dead and mother poor	74
“ “ “ in asylum	3
“ “ “ hospital	1
“ in asylum; and mother poor	3
“ hospital “ “	6
“ “ “ dead	3
“ poor “ “	32
“ “ “ in asylum	4
“ “ “ an invalid	4
Parents poor	129
“ dead	85
Total	366
Total number of children placed under control during the year..	830

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE ACT 1919, No. 3001.

A statement of the principal provisions of this Act is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 395 and 396. For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1923, assistance was granted under the Children's Maintenance Act in respect of 1,787 children, and 7,641 children were boarded out to their mothers at the end of the year, a decrease of 10 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 7,651.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1911 to 1923 inclusive :—

WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1911 TO 1923.

Year.	Number boarded out to Foster Mothers at end of Year.	Number boarded out with Mothers at end of Year.	Total number boarded out at end of Year.	Total Cost of maintenance of boarded out Children.	Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children† boarded out with Mothers.
				£		
1911 ..	2,958	2,358	5,316	74,719	1,865	7,181
1912 ..	2,991	2,978	5,969	83,327	1,815	7,784
1913 ..	3,090	3,696	6,786	93,509	1,767	8,553
1914 ..	3,342	4,144	7,486	102,051	1,853	9,339
1915 ..	3,359	4,681	8,040	127,898*	2,136	10,176
1916 ..	3,817	4,984	8,801	140,752	1,979	10,780
1917 ..	3,979	5,151	9,130	147,794	2,013	11,143
1918 ..	3,981	5,324	9,305	153,350	2,042	11,347
1919 ..	3,989	6,206†	10,195	161,044*	2,142	12,337
1920 ..	4,128	6,928†	11,056	210,457*	2,098	13,154
1921 ..	4,231	7,534†	11,815	240,555*	1,945	13,760
1922 ..	4,189	7,651†	11,840	264,257	1,979	13,819
1923 ..	4,133	7,641†	11,774	281,344	2,227	14,001

* Payment for children over the age of two years was increased from 5s. to 6s. per week from 1st April, 1915, and from 6s. to 7s. per week from 1st December, 1919. On 1st November, 1920, payment was increased from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per week for children under the age of 12 months, and from 7s. to 8s. per week for all over that age. From 1st December, 1921, the rate of pay for children under the age of 12 months was increased from 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week, and for those between 12 and 18 months from 8s. to 12s. 6d. per week.

† Not wards of State.

‡ These children were wards of State prior to 1919.

Cost of maintenance of neglected and reformatory children. The Governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1923 to £299,018, and that for reformatory school children to £2,698; the expenses of administration amounted to £12,329, making a total gross expenditure of £314,045. A sum of £14,458 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £131 from other sources, making the net expenditure £299,456. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1923, was 6,247; of this total, 4,133 were maintained in foster homes, 224 were in Government receiving dépôts, 31 were in private industrial schools, 237 were in other institutions, 431 were at service earning their own living, 17 were in hospitals, 1 was in gaol, and 1,173 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1923, was 113. Of this number 64 were maintained in private schools, 26 were in service earning their own living, 1 was in hospital, and 22 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children has increased greatly during the past ten years, as is shown by the statement which follows:—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1914	..	..	122,564	1919	..	..	181,385
1915	..	..	149,324	1920	..	..	238,448
1916	..	..	159,929	1921	..	..	282,380
1917	..	..	167,214	1922	..	..	295,440
1918	..	..	171,474	1923	..	..	299,456

Neglected children maintained by societies or private persons. Part VIII. of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1915 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference, if there be sufficient cause, to the control of the Children's Welfare Department. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the

provisions of this part of the Act, and gives particulars respecting the children under their care during 1923 :—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER
PART VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.22.	Admissions during 1923.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.23.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Melbourne Orphan Asylum* ..	..	..	..	38	228
Burwood Boys' Home ..	39	3	..	41	36
Church of England Neglected Children's Aid Society ..	130	4	3	43	129
Gordon Institute, Melbourne..	87	6	3	22	86
Methodist Boys' Training Farm, Burwood East ..	72	3	..	37	83
Methodist Homes for Children ..	263	5	8	13	289
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Children's Aid Society ..	303	7	5	5	301
Presbyterian Rescue Home, Elsternwick ..	37	1	4	2	37
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	303	..	121	138	320
Try Society, Surrey-road, Hawksburn ..	62	36	1	25	65
Victorian Children's Aid Society ..	130	..	4	130	135
Sutherland Home ..	180	6	6	91	182
Ragged Boys' Home, Latrobe-street, Melbourne ..	70	7	..	53	72
Church of England Boys' Home, Auburn ..	42	..	5	2	47
Total	1,724	78	160	640	2,010

* Approved under Part VIII. of Children's Welfare Act for first time in 1923.

The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1923, reached the large total of 17,756, viz., 6,390 (6,360 State wards and 30 incapacitated) under the control of the Children's Welfare Department, 7,641 boarded out with mothers, 2,010 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, 296 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,419 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act. With the view generally of exercising more efficient supervision over unprotected child life, and of lessening the excessive mortality amongst boarded-out children, the State Legislature passed an Act, No. 2102 (which came into force on 31st December, 1907), to amend the Infant Life Protection Act of

1890. These Acts are now incorporated in the Infant Life Protection Act 1915 (No. 2670).

On 31st December, 1923, there were 434 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The deaths during the year numbered 27. In addition, 89 children became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 15, and 1 under section 17 of the Act. Forty-four cases of adoption of children were notified during the year. Six female inspectors are engaged in the work of inspection.

RELIEF FUNDS.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND.

**Victorian
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.**

In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on this disaster 79 persons, comprising 18 widows and 61 children, were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and a fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances. On 31st December, 1923, there remained five widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each, and one disabled miner who was receiving 25s. per week. The amount at credit of the fund on that date was £17,616, of which £12,000 was the estimated value of freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £5,607 was in Government inscribed stock and debentures, and £9 was cash in hand.

VICTORIAN COAL MINERS' ACCIDENTS RELIEF FUND.

**Victorian
Coal Miners'
Accidents
Relief Fund.**

A provision of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act 1909* (No. 2240)—now the *Coal Mines Regulation Act 1915* (No. 2630)—relates to the constitution of a Fund called the Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund, to which every person employed in a coal mine is compelled to contribute 4½d. per week, the mine-owners paying an amount equal to one-half of that deducted from the miners' wages, and the Government of Victoria a sum equal to the payment by the owners. The Board held its first meeting on 4th April, 1910, and decided that the employers' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 11 in 1923), their principal functions being to collect contributions and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1923 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,453, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £759. For the year ended 31st December, 1923, the total revenue was £3,123—remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £819, and interest to £813, and the balance being contributed by the mine-owners (£745) and the Government (£746). The expenditure included £1,128 paid in allowances in addition to the amounts paid at the mines, and £407 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £18,935—£8,700 invested in Victorian Government 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, £10,000 in Commonwealth inscribed stock, and £235 bank balance. Relief was given in 318 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents, there are 19 persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being 14. Two fatal accidents occurred during the year. There are 11 widows, 2 mothers, and 25 children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities during 1923 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

**The Watson
Sustentation
Fund.**

This fund was inaugurated as the result of an offer made by the late Mr. J. B. Watson to the Bendigo Miners' Association about the year 1889. Information in relation to its establishment is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 612. Payments to beneficiaries were first made in 1891 at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made as necessity arose.

The following are the particulars of members of the Fund relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure:—From the inception of the Fund in 1891 to the end of 1923 the total expenditure was £37,895, of which £34,016 represented sick pay and £3,155 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1923, 66 members were relieved and 15 died, and 51 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £820. Sick pay for 1923 amounted to £693, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £14, and expenses of administration to £36; the total expenditure being £743. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1922 was £557, and at the end of 1923, £634.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund. This fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is arranged that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number

of women relieved during 1923-24 was 56, to whom £651 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £133. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1924, was £16,076. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund for the year 1923-24 (£763) an amount of £329 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust for distribution to governesses, nurses, and ladies in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £329 was distributed in this manner, £2 was expended on management, and £17 remained in the bank at the date of balancing.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

Patriotic Funds. The *Year-Book* for 1918-19 contains, on pages 391 and 392, a statement of the collections in money and the value of the goods contributed in the State of Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds from the outbreak of hostilities to the 31st December, 1918. The total amount for the State, including contributions received after the last-mentioned date, is estimated to have been well over £4,000,000.

IMMIGRATION BUREAU.

Immigration Bureau. The Immigration Bureau, which is a branch of the Lands Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration to Victoria.

On 1st March, 1921, a joint Commonwealth and State Scheme of Immigration came into operation, and from that date the Government of the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the booking of passages for nominated and other settlers proceeding to Australia, and took over all administrative work in London, including advertising and the medical inspection of prospective settlers.

Approval of nominations is dealt with by the State Authorities, who also indicate the classes and numbers of persons who it is considered may be absorbed in the population without detriment to local artisans and other residents, and for whom it is desired that passages be arranged. To the States is also intrusted the matter of settling on the land or providing employment for new arrivals.

The Government, through this Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to take up land or to obtain employment. In the cases of private purchases of land by new arrivals, valuations on their behalf will, if desired, be made by expert officers free of charge. Nominated passages may be arranged

from Great Britain and certain European countries, also under special conditions from Canada and the United States of America. The Commonwealth Government contributes, towards the fares of approved nominees from Great Britain, £11 per adult, and a further sum of £16 10s. for each child aged from 3 to 16 years.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Bureau, 17 Russell-street, Melbourne, with whom nominations should be lodged. Inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Director, Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, Strand, London.

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was assented to on 16th September, 1902, and was made retrospective to 8th October, 1901. Since then various amendments have been made. The present Tariff was assented to on 16th December, 1921, but it has been operative as from 25th March, 1920. It contains three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports. The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. The value of goods is taken to be the fair market value in the principal markets of the country whence the goods were exported, plus 10 per cent. to cover the cost of insurance, freight and other charges. The value of goods exported is the value in the principal markets of the State.

Oversea
Imports and
Exports.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to oversea countries for the ten years 1914-15 to 1923-24 are set forth hereunder:—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1914-15	20,657,539	392,771	21,050,310	14 15 5
1915-16	26,485,281	276,641	26,761,922	18 15 9
1916-17	25,427,527	47,312	25,474,839	18 2 8
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23	46,724,379	4,721	46,729,100	29 7 8
1923-24†	49,566,253	26,424	49,592,677	30 10 3
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
1914-15	11,883,465	466,197	12,349,662	8 12 1
1915-16	14,418,652	330,078	14,748,730	10 7 1
1916-17	19,024,830	5,316	19,030,146	13 10 11
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23	33,766,820	1,881	33,768,701	21 4 8
1923-24†	29,611,209	776	29,611,985	18 4 5

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1924 (£79,204,662) represents an increase in imports of £2,863,577, and a decrease in exports of £4,156,716, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten years is shown in the table which follows :—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1914-15 ..	64,431,837	60,592,576	125,024,413	32·7	20·4	26·7
1915-16 ..	77,744,566	74,778,321	152,522,887	34·4	19·7	27·2
1916-17 ..	76,228,679	97,955,482	174,184,161	33·4	19·4	25·6
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23 ..	131,757,835	117,870,147	249,627,982	35·5	28·6	32·2
1923-24* ..	140,569,853	119,567,407	260,137,260	35·3	24·8	30·4

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

Principal
Imports.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification. The number of divisions in this classification has been reduced from 23 to 21 since 1st July, 1922.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEAS COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1920-21 TO 1923-24.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	2,100	16,020	156,217	63,171
Cheese	3,044	3,632	11,243	18,729
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins	191,304	290,308	256,514	317,182
All other	69,114	82,076	80,602	91,046
Meats	94,671	90,957	111,529	114,001
All other Animal Foodstuffs	15,997	9,003	9,014	13,560
Total, Class I.	376,230	491,996	625,119	617,689

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.	£	£	£	£
Caramel, Caramel Paste, &c. ..	58,756	109,101	2,236	3,219
Cocoa and Chocolate	209,590	94,236	218,781	208,773
Coffee and Chicory	34,106	43,863	53,681	52,716
Confectionery	16,527	6,156	17,702	19,150
Fruits, Dried	45,734	36,320	55,157	46,676
Fruits, Fresh	64,581	3,379	2,523	7,054
Fruits &c., Preserved	7,193	7,013	17,509	20,942
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice	81,246	165,037	46,749	110,909
All other	44,759	16,601	75,951	73,473
Hops	85,499	21,671	17,796	6,942
Mustard	38,375	21,106	28,048	45,379
Nuts, Edible	66,120	123,020	126,778	133,008
Pickles and Sauces	14,385	8,853	12,899	12,699
Sago and Tapioca	30,968	30,024	32,431	40,484
Spices	59,843	57,020	59,013	52,632
Sugar (Cane)	2,163,097	9,008	23,565	42
Tea	486,640	643,115	903,814	1,197,546
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	106,294	59,748	71,683	102,686
Total, Class II.	3,613,713	1,455,271	1,765,716	2,134,330
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c. ..	39,201	52,859	62,088	70,931
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy	97,646	43,846	42,669	47,332
Gin	44,025	26,521	34,039	36,095
Whisky	219,203	160,390	251,411	246,370
Other	15,501	7,845	12,677	14,070
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling	43,000	7,957	12,843	23,353
Other	13,377	4,458	8,634	11,839
Total, Class III.	471,953	303,876	424,361	449,990
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured	16,967	79,760	17,604	20,309
Unmanufactured	851,998	672,444	613,146	909,543
Cigars	33,780	19,193	28,739	34,008
Cigarettes	34,442	27,435	46,943	59,930
Snuff	783	316	285	775
Total, Class IV.	937,970	799,148	706,717	1,024,565

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	14,975	20,213	28,521	98,256
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	16,440	14,094	21,422	18,254
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	322,541	310,214	330,322	347,471
Other	56,546	85,400	78,519	87,975
Wool .. .. .	..	2,454	36,707	288,476
All other Animal Substances ..	17,103	17,923	49,641	48,236
Total, Class VI. ..	412,630	430,085	516,611	790,412
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Bark, Tanning	11,920	9,435	21,104	8,520
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	332,004	220,106	147,470	185,450
All other	138,696	146,217	212,167	203,016
Gums and Resins	133,525	77,648	105,011	75,827
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	95,033	50,124	81,567	72,760
Pulp for Papermaking ..	39,262	39,310	38,140	24,790
Seeds	120,445	59,031	77,676	130,410
All other Vegetable Substances	38,331	18,516	65,527	71,611
Total, Class VII. ..	909,216	620,387	748,662	772,384
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) Apparel.				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	62,877	61,206	104,235	129,227
Boots and Shoes	106,277	47,552	136,357	154,278
Corsets	179,419	116,086	178,129	80,921
Furs and other Skins—Dressed	84,915	68,624	128,790	205,422
Gloves	340,440	276,588	357,582	274,831
Hats and Caps	119,401	98,925	177,201	180,839
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	1,221,552	598,671	913,258	700,730
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	49,590	4,694	31,301	58,415
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	69,373	33,299	62,783	38,973
Trimnings	602,417	541,629	603,745	479,487
Other	623,021	420,696	467,575	403,550

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES—continued.	£	£	£	£
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	1,199,172	295,190	512,699	367,628
Cotton and Linen	5,587,223	3,538,400	4,705,743	3,845,601
Silk	1,472,941	1,696,906	1,643,684	2,053,096
Woollen	2,538,405	1,355,607	2,033,674	1,554,839
Other	1,542,409	972,949	1,005,886	1,001,465
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Linoleums, Mats, &c.	817,248	689,525	1,100,722	1,142,906
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	575,423	386,165	554,057	480,031
All other Textiles	322,052	265,235	509,349	493,894
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	494,716	124,060	250,818	261,581
Corn and Flour	1,634,633	715,129	583,118	569,403
All other	89,282	74,341	120,084	93,969
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	64,913	41,594	58,378	83,202
Yarns—				
Cotton	199,853	162,231	193,643	273,347
Wool	971,471	583,121	1,002,516	458,946
Other	149,691	78,006	153,299	111,106
Total, Class VIII.	21,118,714	13,246,429	17,588,426	15,497,687
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	438,578	195,544	223,840	233,881
Lubricating (Mineral)	485,579	160,488	216,670	238,375
Petroleum Spirit	1,103,800	1,027,802	1,076,118	1,461,014
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	524,474	261,418	386,171	524,734
Total, Class IX.	2,552,431	1,645,252	1,902,799	2,458,004
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	206,954	150,382	227,489	239,872
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	53,896	38,180	121,863	195,006

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
<i>(a) Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	469,397	344,501	436,983	364,683
N.E.I.	1,384,775	1,403,718	1,574,304	1,242,884
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural)	376,483	170,574	179,182	235,994
All other Machines and Machinery	2,289,867	1,783,789	2,066,932	2,305,107
<i>(b) Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	32,216	33,154	98,409	118,132
Gas Appliances	29,779	14,462	16,308	24,659
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	471,109	389,858	538,936	393,543
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	181,654	84,625	107,333	111,585
Pig and Scrap	14,999	49,853	106,892	70,389
Pipes and Tubes	656,014	192,276	371,931	401,886
Plate and Sheet	2,905,383	855,287	1,473,913	1,665,443
Rails, Fishplates, &c. ..	1,966	10,691	138,278	87,787
Wire	496,391	222,280	390,535	298,057
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	408,597	214,867	273,133	391,235
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	60,807	47,254	118,091	243,875
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	27,501	26,870	143,912	366,996
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	1,198,808	986,408	2,012,257	3,172,567
Other, and Parts	493,599	300,685	471,381	684,870
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	2,382,546	1,602,401	1,937,680	2,188,562
Total, Class XII. ..	13,881,891	8,733,553	12,456,390	14,368,254

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
<i>(a) Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	412,409	130,931	127,365	275,307
Rubber Manufactures ..	523,033	298,772	509,851	700,607
<i>(b) Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	255,526	53,217	129,498	87,605
All other	190,523	164,836	186,487	117,424
Total, Class XIII. ..	1,381,491	647,756	953,201	1,180,943
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	930,399	278,046	890,897	917,646
Undressed	1,132,098	590,227	1,056,153	1,511,625
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture ..	307,409	132,040	184,638	229,252
Total, Class XIV. ..	2,369,906	1,000,313	2,131,688	2,658,523
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONEWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	132,273	62,669	42,770	11,533
Earthenware, China, &c. ..	295,693	252,048	224,714	275,206
Glass and Glassware	592,421	256,698	365,208	384,640
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	40,905	35,689	69,780	97,422
Total, Class XV. ..	1,061,292	607,104	702,472	768,801

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£*	£	£	£
(a) Paper—				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	113,665	57,349	71,883	72,068
Printing	1,378,634	763,703	794,612	916,165
Wrapping of all Colours ..	298,407	101,563	144,934	137,804
Writing and Typewriting ..	389,851	131,196	270,497	176,875
All other	493,807	246,209	176,648	215,513
(b) Stationery and Paper Manufactures—				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	357,269	297,465	337,080	342,391
All other	263,998	195,881	384,870	435,334
Total, Class XVI. ..	3,295,631	1,793,366	2,180,524	2,296,150
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	336,428	261,855	437,431	407,027
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c.	323,106	176,001	274,294	274,354
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	158,890	110,590	138,473	225,507
Total, Class XVII.	818,424	548,446	850,198	906,888
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	102,923	75,121	101,449	99,998
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	29,605	24,423	48,106	95,239
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	123,392	83,775	124,312	141,501
Total, Class XVIII. ..	255,920	183,319	273,867	336,738
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	142,448	78,742	84,219	55,809
Dyes	345,274	144,771	132,923	110,493
Fertilizers	397,233	214,986	288,600	339,858
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituous) ..	43,421	25,957	31,597	28,604

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS— <i>continued.</i>	• £	£	£	£
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	100,408	78,375	78,975	78,785
Proprietary Medicines	48,329	29,448	37,922	59,613
Sodium Salts	216,844	122,327	179,646	130,224
Sulphur (Brimstone)	157,110	60,643	74,325	116,806
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	627,329	480,879	465,978	467,987
Total, Class XIX.	2,078,396	1,236,128	1,374,185	1,388,179
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Arms, ammunition, and explosives	496,686	146,471	270,285	239,443
Brushware	99,270	58,975	99,574	113,296
Matches and Vestas	98,200	22,339	71,024	82,138
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	195,071	70,509	168,159	389,324
Other and Parts	98,431	71,631	62,582	76,230
Soap	28,600	14,656	24,513	20,617
All other Articles	779,907	2,007,276	449,433	462,534
Total, Class XX.	1,796,165	2,391,857	1,145,570	1,383,582
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	389	312	393	4,999
Silver	590	8,660	3,442	21,397
Bronze—Specie .. ..	..	23	886	28
Total, Class XXI.	979	8,995	4,721	26,424
Grand Total	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,677

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 60 per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Compared with the previous year the imports for 1924 showed an increase of £2,863,577. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Vehicles, £1,722,667; oils, fats, and waxes, £555,205; timber, £482,221; rubber and rubber manufactures, £338,698; tobacco, £299,102; tea, £293,732; and wool, £251,769. The chief decreases were in the following:—Textiles, £1,126,154; yarns, £506,059; and apparel, £454,283.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1920-21 TO 1923-24.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.	£	£	£	£
Butter	4,027,256	3,026,447	3,190,805	2,751,312
Cheese	48,251	39,900	22,955	31,071
Meats—				
Bacon and Hams	63,846	36,068	23,491	22,352
Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	42,803	33,046	41,890	22,944
Lamb	483,359	751,077	1,493,156	656,438
Mutton	362,296	306,199	880,472	13,757
Rabbits and Hares	131,130	35,385	10,176	8,477
Preserved in Tins	50,789	16,331	48,750	9,409
Other	113,405	129,042	125,022	28,267
Milk and Cream	1,123,352	1,530,172	1,198,708	1,040,183
All other Animal Foodstuffs	14,110	19,963	6,315	3,323
Total, Class I.	6,460,597	5,923,630	7,041,740	4,587,533
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	110,609	62,243	52,036	59,413
Fruits, Dried	472,304	564,065	810,103	826,028
Fruits, Fresh	81,240	164,452	182,414	131,323
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved	110,235	602,623	80,988	254,469
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	10,086,400	9,182,731	2,498,066	3,922,823
Other	282,155	198,956	93,607	84,127
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	1,900,888	2,157,754	2,024,921	2,175,854
Other	97,274	38,479	32,144	43,245
Jams and Fruit Jellies	202,654	72,531	26,968	24,467
Tea	6,634	37,223	58,365	47,328
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	298,448	355,234	95,490	198,873
Total, Class II.	13,648,841	13,436,291	5,955,102	7,767,950

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 222,422	£ 48,039	£ 39,726	£ 48,862
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	273,319	346,697	528,616	286,581
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	134,186	20,316	38,351	22,244
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	8,521	31,530	46,781	78,915
Rabbit and Hare	326,681	201,921	237,853	282,266
Sheep	382,711	517,934	1,241,533	1,214,069
Other	66,508	16,625	36,405	129,607
Wool—				
Greasy	6,906,633	9,640,670	12,231,285	11,578,094
Scoured and Washed ..	1,567,455	1,154,290	3,469,056	1,255,769
Tops	434,916	390,866	415,630	233,838
All other Animal Substances ..	30,639	14,624	19,253	20,786
Total, Class VI. ..	9,724,064	11,968,460	17,697,796	14,793,344
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	55,592	32,269	47,511	45,079
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	377,320	67,781	6,656	3,662
All other Apparel	178,681	250,921	75,257	36,053
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	224,275	220,956	173,285	91,042
Total, Class VIII. ..	780,276	539,658	255,198	130,757
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	282,306	336,869	451,405	188,767
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	93,256	110,862	40,264	77,687
Total, Class IX. ..	375,562	447,731	491,669	266,454

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 10,124	£ 6,763	£ 6,550	£ 4,999
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	70,172	67,616	77,300	24,374
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY. (a) <i>Machines and Machinery</i> — Machines and Machinery	264,468	276,719	148,574	239,580
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery</i> — Iron and Steel—Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, &c.	57,837	14,588	16,613	9,624
Lead—Pig and in Matte	3,298	380	1,295	450
Tin Ingots	219,767	121,651	137,531	68,944
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c.	25,643	400	50,689	51,965
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	319,153	168,601	95,970	122,644
Total, Class XII.	890,166	582,339	450,672	493,207
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR. Indiarubber and Manufactures	508,341	156,427	120,673	123,476
Leather and Manufactures	410,050	320,701	305,744	295,350
Total, Class XIII.	918,391	477,128	426,417	418,826
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED	56,401	37,816	29,867	19,236
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONWARE	59,416	24,168	14,356	14,705
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY. Paper	18,275	13,154	11,389	20,224
Stationery	85,398	77,613	67,368	113,450
Total, Class XVI.	103,673	90,767	78,757	133,674

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1920-21 TO 1923-24—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.	£	£	£	£
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c.	37,966	10,600	6,029	4,401
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods ..	68,502	34,088	17,161	15,298
Total, Class XVII. ..	156,468	44,688	23,190	19,699
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS..	53,057	38,591	36,218	49,987
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate	51,310	35,373	28,395	4,971
Superphosphates	29,645	250	..	..
Other	6,436	6,726	9,434	6,160
Oil—Eucalyptus	54,589	19,348	26,083	53,836
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	155,715	113,563	155,722	108,228
Total, Class XIX. ..	297,695	175,260	219,634	173,195
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	170,848	181,623	208,957	189,866
Vessels transferred abroad	215,042	..	..	..
All other Articles	192,559	143,628	99,193	120,637
Total, Class XX. ..	578,449	325,251	308,150	310,503
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	624	7,882	805	276
Silver	1,966	2,822	1,076	500
Bronze Specie	500	..	..	..
Total, Class XXI. ..	3,090	10,704	1,881	776
Grand Total	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,611,985

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 69 per cent. of the total exports for that period. There was a decrease of £4,156,716 in the exports of 1924, as compared with the previous year. The following articles accounted for the largest decreases:—Wool, £3,048,270; meats, £1,861,313; butter, £439,493; tallow, £262,638; and tobacco, etc., £242,035. The items showing the greatest increases were as follows:—Wheat, £1,424,757; flour, £150,933; hides and skins, £142,285; and fruits (all kinds), £138,315.

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various oversea countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1924, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued recording the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES,
1923-24.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Victorian excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
BRITISH.			
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	22,925,761	12,834,890	- 10,090,871
Canada	1,543,862	74,558	- 1,469,304
Ceylon	414,921	121,456	- 293,465
Egypt	9,746	778,492	+ 768,746
Hong Kong	464	204,803	+ 204,339
India	1,593,912	190,878	- 1,403,034
Malaya (British)	240,870	817,368	+ 576,498
Mauritius .. .. .	..	94,799	+ 94,799
New Zealand	1,202,576	1,405,594	+ 203,018
Pacific Islands	318,625	84,600	- 234,025
South African Union	192,659	621,908	+ 429,249
West Indies	53,189	382	- 52,807
Other British Possessions	108,672	45,295	- 63,377
FOREIGN.			
Africa, Portuguese East .. .. .	..	52,231	+ 52,231
Belgium	331,092	692,233	+ 361,141
Brazil	58,154	..	- 58,154
Chile	37,357	..	- 37,357
China	293,412	362,174	+ 68,762
Czecho-Slovakia	125,930	..	- 125,930
Finland	47,309	28,082	- 19,227
France	1,860,469	2,801,079	+ 940,610
Germany	582,651	652,787	+ 70,136
Italy	543,930	1,357,588	+ 813,658
Japan	1,145,486	2,821,205	+ 1,675,719
Netherlands	205,451	248,018	+ 42,567
Netherlands East Indies	1,581,618	914,318	- 667,300
Norway	682,207	31,321	- 650,886
Persia	60,939	354	- 60,585
Philippine Islands	75,631	53,146	- 22,485
Spain	55,393	67,973	+ 12,580
Sweden	793,847	72,936	- 720,911
Switzerland	1,035,756	3,348	- 1,032,408
United States of America	11,218,231	2,086,626	- 9,131,605
West Indies	56,879	..	- 56,879
Other Foreign Countries	195,678	91,543	- 104,135
Total	49,592,677	29,611,935	-19,980,692

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder :—

IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERE TO, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Imports of Products or Manufactures of—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	21,657,303	22,925,761
Canada	874,045	1,642,315	1,219,609	1,741,814	1,543,862
Egypt	18,008	12,140	12,188	10,251	9,746
India and Ceylon	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,833
Malaya (British)	172,683	155,112	412,976	124,171	240,870
New Zealand	655,628	961,338	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,576
South African Union	242,998	143,286	161,169	213,987	192,659
Other British Possessions	514,943	636,843	399,534	411,771	480,950
Belgium	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,092
China	363,746	397,396	320,121	313,178	293,412
France	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,366,191	1,860,469
Germany	646	46,107	66,296	295,126	582,651
Italy	281,117	354,277	423,742	516,158	543,930
Japan	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,486
Netherlands	62,819	261,774	205,662	220,132	205,451
Netherlands East Indies	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,087	1,581,618
Norway	335,691	1,144,328	336,566	850,698	682,207
Philippine Islands	91,784	97,756	72,696	66,796	75,631
Sweden	303,589	868,232	372,347	625,236	793,847
Switzerland	408,772	890,516	808,288	946,232	1,035,756
United States of America	7,037,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,218,231
Other Foreign Countries	462,557	705,488	378,431	557,481	637,639
Total	33,788,287	57,608,777	36,352,056	46,729,100	49,592,677
Exports to—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,834,890
Canada	113,975	27,721	93,341	94,286	74,558
Egypt	1,629,315	2,300,653	1,361,936	514,029	778,492
India and Ceylon	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334
Malaya (British)	771,051	453,949	842,251	627,207	817,368
New Zealand	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,405,594
South African Union	1,666,807	1,285,913	680,118	647,742	621,908
Other British Possessions	833,192	443,921	327,372	343,261	429,879
Belgium	804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102	692,233
China	97,318	85,254	125,984	48,643	362,174
France	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079
Germany	591,926	399,635	295,279	652,787	552,787
Italy	686,213	637,647	1,673,832	1,221,882	1,357,588
Japan	1,723,080	623,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,205
Netherlands	549,228	91,150	11,500	14,863	248,018
Netherlands East Indies	1,561,990	975,885	1,117,009	1,127,099	914,318
Norway	246,753	136,428	295,644	42,773	31,321
Philippine Islands	278,112	65,323	96,413	80,239	53,146
Sweden	225,273	37,759	8,351	49,836	72,936
Switzerland	4,862	7,587	4,815	1,691	3,348
United States of America	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626
Other Foreign Countries	927,387	553,089	610,642	181,586	240,183
Total	43,124,940	34,871,961	34,644,182	33,768,701	29,611,985

Forty-three per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1924 were sent to the United Kingdom, whilst 46 per cent. of the imports were the products or manufactures of the United Kingdom. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct to that country in the same period were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Whisky	135,121	210,840	159,782	251,372	245,891
Apparel and Attire	328,025	1,041,681	710,294	1,179,643	895,478
Trimmings and Ornaments	72,703	145,638	121,822	151,093	144,185
Piece Goods—					
Cotton and Linen	2,419,268	4,932,213	2,528,758	4,261,605	3,451,274
Woolen	1,453,306	2,412,813	1,316,445	1,983,368	1,423,628
Silk	87,595	200,228	267,785	213,897	237,915
Canvas and Duck	522,655	885,135	256,418	425,078	328,021
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	296,775	331,915	232,130	209,025	250,168
Other	220,573	600,829	399,445	383,200	335,273
Floor Coverings	259,255	743,528	656,745	1,042,462	1,078,911
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	240,545	508,895	334,250	479,620	407,719
Yarns	533,640	1,254,114	796,881	1,300,772	788,226
Machines and Machinery	986,278	2,490,293	1,984,705	2,436,253	2,164,259
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Iron and Steel	1,715,995	3,300,413	1,366,898	2,703,326	2,723,455
Vehicles and Parts	376,779	672,360	374,056	538,581	839,172
Other	908,597	1,770,791	1,202,051	1,683,200	1,773,682
Rubber and Rubber Goods	87,657	196,856	121,266	187,205	160,164
Paper	116,041	822,188	428,767	690,860	1,001,360
Books	215,103	294,215	260,678	301,330	308,337
Dyes	89,458	224,087	118,514	109,460	99,404
Vessels (Ships) .. .. .	..	207,000	1,516,000	24,136	340
All other Articles	2,433,182	3,872,183	3,771,407	4,101,767	4,268,899
Total	13,498,551	27,118,215	18,835,097	24,657,303	22,925,761
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Butter	1,255,184	3,547,396	2,439,098	2,586,722	2,055,754
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	3,748,720	798,043	1,088,846	2,403,593	679,607
Rabbits and Hares	224,377	130,999	35,210	9,689	8,049
Preserved in tins	827,218	40,364	11,603	26,934	2,979
Milk and Cream	173,113	209,577	420,229	50,025	8,870
Fruits—all Kinds	379,598	433,516	1,146,743	882,536	1,038,037
Wheat and Flour	3,907,258	4,582,943	3,692,630	1,172,682	1,725,689
Jams and Jellies	197,828	74,246	43,863	13	358
Hides and Skins	1,068,577	602,481	443,224	738,385	1,031,611
Wool	10,717,454	6,064,096	6,078,549	10,087,573	5,297,501
Tallow, unrefined	356,771	151,263	130,010	227,968	35,390
Tin Ingots	172,892	216,426	118,621	135,688	63,286
Leather, &c.	471,292	183,591	113,063	140,480	113,422
All other Articles	853,731	790,209	547,210	700,769	774,427
Total	24,354,013	17,825,150	16,308,899	19,163,057	12,834,890

The value of the trade with India and Ceylon was £2,321,167 in 1924, and was greater than in the previous year by £253,083. There was an increase in imports of £193,921, and in exports of £59,162. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria</i>					
<i>(of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Cocoa Beans	16,200	26,133	8,993	8,228	11,608
Coffee	27,892	17,679	19,942	22,400	15,953
Rice	176,456	55,833	129,853	34,714	97,972
Nuts	62,228	14,659	42,667	27,816	38,427
Tea	835,221	352,755	355,716	384,958	522,342
Hides and Skins.. .. .	90,117	23,807	49,786	35,680	17,958
Fibres	67,506	29,750	25,135	32,475	38,590
Gums and Resins	24,663	27,125	28,873	43,163	21,123
Seeds	78	16,438	9,147	2,802	25,193
Hessians	121,416	121,821	98,325	146,736	139,461
Floor Coverings	5,302	12,527	8,631	23,882	14,102
Bags and Sacks	678,106	2,218,121	911,099	952,611	924,498
Oils in Bulk	21,227	7,963	4,394	6,386	6,978
Waxes	57,447	35,371	5,896	2,769	1,816
Rubber, &c.	2,150	30,716	2,216	2,524	12,854
All other Articles	92,555	114,706	81,677	88,202	120,258
Total	2,278,564	3,105,404	1,782,350	1,814,912	2,008,833
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.</i>					
Butter	20,883	24,254	7,107	15,215	17,562
Meats	17,838	12,275	8,137	20,492	5,239
Milk and Cream	29,829	8,685	67,690	45,727	25,488
Biscuits	10,051	7,964	4,594	4,914	4,475
Hay and Chaff	10,434	8,946	4,175	4,248	2,472
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	2,903	13,371	8,425	9,107	1,452
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	270,691	12,633	1,282,040	52,800	81,952
Jams and Jellies.. .. .	12,578	79,156	7,180	3,755	3,656
Horses	19,917	28,569	7,430	19,739	5,606
Wool .. .. .	..	38,737	42,559	11,485	111,817
Tallow	117,883	53,157	23,191	25,966	14,272
Leather, &c.	6,664	9,600	3,610	2,758	2,469
Soap	6,315	4,203	2,740	5,234	5,477
Specie and Bullion	504,619	..	..	453	..
All other Articles	101,637	106,672	66,670	31,279	30,397
Total	1,132,242	408,222	1,535,548	253,172	312,334

The value of the trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £2,608,170. The exports thereto amounted to £1,405,594, and represented 4·7 per cent. of the total oversea exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>					
Butter	6	7	16,020	153,184	61,807
Fish	20,332	27,598	88,940	33,800	33,894
Milk and Cream	31,249	2,377	..	1,782	..
Meats	4,112	6,660	5,961	7,081	24,727
Hops	4,937	1,808	7,430	10,316	4,927
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	2,360	8,454	7,447	11,006	45,882
Hides and Skins	186,823	290,336	262,158	319,660	351,750
Wool .. .. .	..	..	2,454	36,700	284,009
Flax and Hemp	128,497	182,155	106,843	47,459	70,380
Oakum and Tow	21,641	21,301	18,736	22,820	18,523
Seeds	50,382	44,004	29,380	31,558	35,161
Timber	181,337	320,108	278,737	251,715	180,865
All other Articles	53,952	56,431	63,625	78,618	90,561
Total	685,628	961,338	837,731	1,005,708	1,202,576
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Milk and Cream	37,687	16,509	2,118	907	634
Fruits, all kinds	237,391	88,367	142,687	130,071	119,499
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat.. .. .	681,227	165,370	2	..	142,611
Barley.. .. .	39,425	26,146	..	920	4,091
Oats	16,258	10,878	3,142	1,995	32,592
Rice and Rice Meal	5,956	9,784	19,147	9,213	17,826
Tea	77,555	6,225	36,681	57,111	45,869
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors	20,773	23,968	15,752	17,760	14,667
Tobacco manufactured	177,960	265,452	344,850	525,954	281,799
Apparel	499,487	411,376	254,407	47,008	19,611
Piece Goods	107,707	87,614	91,943	97,971	30,771
Oils	22,241	27,755	24,789	11,839	49,707
Machines and Machinery	60,180	69,518	45,721	41,912	42,643
Metal manufactures	64,548	94,567	43,196	57,723	62,179
Rubber manufactures	173,647	464,669	133,614	101,007	121,550
Leather, etc.	109,880	60,195	54,139	40,392	37,840
Books	34,590	38,597	33,137	22,755	23,213
Drugs and Chemicals	76,953	76,057	65,882	69,856	45,667
Fertilizers	42,600	34,828	5,037	8,029	172
All other Articles	537,112	632,492	357,540	254,815	313,193
Total	3,073,267	2,610,367	1,673,784	1,497,238	1,405,594

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and has not yet recovered its pre-war proportion, which was 3 per cent. of the total oversea trade of Victoria. In the year 1923-24 the proportion was 1·3 per cent. The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH BELGIUM, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian Origin).</i>					
Piece Goods	£ 9,129	£ 56,750	£ 23,281	£ 24,275	£ 25,552
Copper .. ..	..	1,843	8,556	6,554	6,110
Iron and Steel .. ..	..	119,441	153,361	3,817	13,735
Vehicles	1,160	8,544	9,695	14,432	38,274
Glass and Glassware	68,200	302,820	64,030	115,840	125,575
Paper	124	54,791	29,735	33,153	33,969
Cameos and Precious Stones	38,998	63,788	21,136	41,133	17,044
All other Articles	16,387	80,224	82,752	85,246	70,833
Total	133,998	688,201	393,146	324,480	331,092
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Milk and Cream	31,654	395,336	..	..	..
Wheat .. ..	..	948,175	81,905	..	22,177
Hides and Skins	7,411	4,034	42,673	53,683	102,276
Wool	580,671	333,684	316,178	248,366	501,125
Ores	5,500	22,094	11,674	140	525
Tallow	83,028	5,125	10,657	18,536	4,990
Leather, &c.	10,440	164	6,848	5,330	..
Cameos and Precious Stones .. ..	..	8,458	114	463	957
All other Articles	85,873	102,364	120,303	31,584	60,183
Total	804,577	1,819,434	590,352	358,102	692,233

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for about 3 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1924. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH,
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee and Chicory	35,725	10,326	13,073	16,500	21,083
Sago and Tapioca	19,709	11,404	11,856	3,878	18,057
Spices	29,069	10,058	7,025	5,692	8,665
Sugar	2,216,242	2,163,733	8,969	23,391	22
Tea	468,456	118,894	263,771	487,542	608,300
Tobacco—unmanufactured	22,922	71,172	36,454	50,395	50,330
Hides and Skins	58,897	16,837	5,892	3,959	1,037
Fibres	83,187	60,208	96,481	144,426	126,270
Seeds	31,538	9,039	3,276	16,569	8,038
Oils	509,985	914,545	427,692	614,414	678,669
Waxes	15,098	3,919	1,069	2,455	3,957
Rubber, crude	9,667	104,751	20,159	21,403	18,178
Drugs and Chemicals	13,711	4,258	3,329	1,555	1,196
All other Articles	35,398	45,478	27,995	34,908	37,816
Total	3,549,604	3,544,622	927,041	1,427,087	1,581,618
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	531,511	335,361	411,388	459,032	413,620
Meats	21,039	30,653	19,348	16,185	18,803
Milk and Cream	143,365	68,785	155,206	137,666	90,624
Biscuits	63,968	43,621	27,180	26,626	29,806
Fruits, all kinds	14,083	10,438	9,214	25,234	25,114
Grain and Pulse	370,949	211,266	335,458	343,103	248,496
Machines and Machinery	23,271	10,716	8,551	2,004	15,561
Leather, etc.	108,367	60,843	50,977	46,139	48,631
Ammonium Sulphate	46,331	49,416	7,178	..	..
All other Articles	234,056	154,776	92,509	71,109	23,663
Total	1,561,990	975,885	1,117,003	1,127,099	914,318

Trade with
France.

In 1924 the value of the trade with France was £4,661,548 or 5·9 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the

exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH FRANCE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Brandy	49,773	79,007	41,515	42,287	47,189
Wine	49,382	44,369	9,071	15,375	27,753
Apparel—					
Trimmings and Ornaments	133,691	197,187	136,059	192,548	161,899
Gloves	14,631	13,520	25,554	23,152	27,525
Other	47,905	71,480	79,448	100,942	152,771
Piece Goods	506,051	576,397	462,112	466,907	781,405
Oils	17,066	33,028	6,933	9,739	14,181
Motor Cars and Parts	4,834	64,936	92,529	130,906	136,912
Rubber Manufactures	28,852	46,149	41,118	56,814	57,114
Pipes (smoking)	38,589	41,683	17,136	24,935	23,418
Cream of Tartar	70,557	90,312	39,851	39,816	24,029
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	29,331	28,331	16,492	13,429	19,626
All other Articles	145,490	254,454	171,805	269,341	336,667
Total	1,141,152	1,545,833	1,140,223	1,396,191	1,860,469
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Butter			59,961	16,863	26,172
Wheat and Flour	933,247	1,162,663	433,992		108,473
Hides and Skins		32,581	186,783	372,034	408,672
Wool	479,810	230,398	1,252,317	1,809,489	2,148,671
Zinc Bars, &c.				36,600	21,300
Tallow (unrefined)	953		8,027	3,188	999
Leather, &c.	17,120	32		5	
All other Articles	8,079	20,679	23,924	136,182	86,792
Total	1,439,209	1,446,353	1,965,004	2,374,421	2,801,079

Trade with Germany.

The trade with Germany, which amounted to 8·4 per cent. of the total with oversea countries in 1913, was discontinued early in the year 1914-15 owing to the outbreak of war and the passing of the *Trading with the Enemy Act* 1914. The provisions of this Act automatically ceased to operate on the ratification of peace, but the Commonwealth authorities issued a proclamation on 14th January, 1920, under the Customs Act, prohibiting exports to and imports from Germany without the written consent of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs. On 2nd December, 1920, the embargo against exports was removed. The exportation of goods to Germany was thereafter allowed upon the same conditions as apply to all other countries, which means that it is only necessary to obtain permission from the Government when it is desired to export to Germany goods which are specifically prohibited from exportation, e.g., metals.

The proclamation of 14th January, 1920, which prohibited the importation of goods from Germany, was revoked as from 1st August, 1922, by special proclamation dated 12th January, 1922. There are, therefore, no restrictions on the importation of goods from that

country, except as regards those specified in the *Customs Tariff (Industries Preservation) Act 1921-22*. The principal sections of this Act, in so far as German goods are concerned, are Nos. 8 and 9. Section 8 is designed to protect Australian industries from the competition of goods imported from countries having a depreciated currency, whilst section 9 protects British manufacturers from competition with goods manufactured in other countries having a depreciated currency in comparison with the currency of the United Kingdom.

Victorian imports of German origin were valued at £46,107 in 1920-21, £66,296 in 1921-22, £295,126 in 1922-23, and £582,651 in 1923-24, whilst the exports to Germany in the same years amounted in value to £591,926, £399,635, £295,279, and £652,787 respectively.

The value of Japanese goods received has steadily declined since the termination of the war, and represented only 2·3 per cent. of the total oversea imports in 1923-24, as compared with 8·8 per cent. in 1918-19. The exports to Japan during 1923-24 were the highest ever recorded, owing chiefly to the large shipments of wool, wheat, and milk and cream. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Grass Straw, &c.	48,652	26,223	310	15,765	15,497
Hosiery and Knitted Articles	7,828	28,928	25,976	27,021	19,629
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c.	3,959	4,883	943	1,818	2,039
Socks and Stockings	28,637	37,917	4,574	5,194	12,235
Buttons, Buckles, &c.	27,937	33,345	12,665	21,048	12,761
Cosies, Cushions, &c.	10,280	2,499	1,100	1,331	1,557
Piece Goods	651,196	887,606	690,178	788,842	843,546
Oils	12,534	21,637	13,685	14,344	4,168
Electrical Machinery and Appliances	28,124	45,736	3,847	6,951	6,798
Timber	13,288	21,816	7,409	18,653	13,162
Chinaware	49,725	55,605	26,433	26,701	20,622
Glass and Glassware	41,334	87,486	28,733	26,949	21,895
Fancy Goods	37,281	41,022	20,879	46,328	29,668
Sulphur—Brimstone	17,078	6,078	1,833	..	..
All other Articles	332,374	436,330	222,673	202,396	142,509
Total	1,310,027	1,737,111	1,061,238	1,203,346	1,145,486
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Butter	22,549	4,357	4,734	2,197	3,644
Milk and Cream	13,520	60	72,443	481,161	328,343
Grain and Pulse	1,110,379	26,251	1,522,437	519,919	958,554
Wool	229,993	443,940	636,404	1,050,369	1,416,989
Tallow (unrefined)	145,165	30,500	56,015	40,525	55,933
Fertilizers	44,838	2,314	20,034	26,495	5,412
All other Articles	156,636	121,226	187,367	33,295	52,390
Total	1,728,080	628,648	2,499,434	2,153,961	2,821,205

The value of the trade with the United States in 1924 was £13,304,857, or 16·8 per cent. of the value of the Victorian oversea trade. As compared with the year 1923 the value of this trade had increased by £2,619,542, there having been an increase in imports of United States origin of £3,211,270 and a decrease in exports of £591,728. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Sausage Casings	39,458	67,269	59,794	76,851	49,150
Tobacco, &c.	612,987	716,674	672,857	555,589	834,916
Gums and Resins	65,646	63,095	15,202	12,296	13,662
Apparel—					
Socks and Stockings	247,751	464,181	146,950	171,004	131,411
Gloves	85,332	142,998	61,559	65,336	48,754
Other	244,393	329,040	155,736	267,147	240,032
Textiles—					
Piece Goods	431,894	736,013	231,426	307,954	244,158
Other	82,992	111,751	56,559	82,667	88,811
Manufactured Fibres and Yarns	12,992	38,483	11,333	28,324	61,869
Oils	592,669	1,389,584	790,096	1,025,939	1,435,465
Machines and Machinery	691,871	1,344,129	1,186,239	1,338,136	1,525,766
Metals and metal manufactures—					
Vehicles and parts	649,043	843,173	474,371	1,095,199	2,550,731
Iron and Steel	511,376	1,062,952	188,598	266,554	177,819
Tools of Trade	114,717	193,041	96,095	127,021	213,312
Other	370,107	565,370	346,444	354,493	520,553
Rubber, &c.	114,018	219,821	70,584	158,889	344,156
Leather, &c.	308,826	285,989	121,825	222,271	118,581
Timber	197,422	672,815	264,011	698,791	1,169,650
Paper	354,054	319,198	108,081	95,971	99,826
Machinery	111,075	137,107	65,556	111,315	126,360
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	81,369	98,043	75,553	87,610	117,102
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	125,839	136,465	85,186	133,469	142,570
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	102,940	82,079	12,328	28,441	33,010
Instruments—Musical	97,265	219,517	95,441	116,850	256,625
All other Articles	811,329	1,313,696	743,641	578,844	673,952
Total	7,057,365	11,552,483	6,135,555	8,006,961	11,218,231
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Sausage Casings	160,952	61,770	95,105	78,672	16,537
Fruits, dried	5,474	87,093	4,984	6	106
Wheat	24,554				
Hides and Skins	787,914	117,285	76,485	351,732	90,259
Wool	310,376	1,422,716	1,969,796	2,154,892	1,906,917
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c.	24,419	51,678	21,639	374	4,911
All other Articles	242,615	240,957	174,619	92,678	67,896
Total	1,556,304	1,981,499	2,342,628	2,678,354	2,086,626

Wool, wheat and flour, butter, hides and skins, fruits (all kinds), and milk and cream were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1924—their value being equal to about 87 per cent. of the total exports. The countries which received these products are shown in the following statement:—

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED
IN 1923-24.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Hides and Skins.	Fruits (all kinds).	Milk and Cream.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ..	5,297,501	1,725,689	2,055,754	1,031,611	1,038,037	8,870
Canada	63,687	..	90	5,552	995	..
Egypt .. ..	..	1,000,130	18,853	279	2,198	1,232
Hong Kong .. ..	..	117,771	4,420	120	1,905	35,251
India and Ceylon ..	111,817	81,896	17,562	..	6,301	25,488
Malaya (British) ..	..	81,427	58,094	..	2,234	485,760
Mauritius .. ..	..	79,998	9,900	86	102	..
New Zealand	7,747	143,106	..	1,693	119,499	694
South African Union ..	1,454	401,335	103,827	..	5,528	34,983
Other British Countries	..	39,662	784	..	1,714	278
Africa, Portuguese East	..	30,927	..	..	172	17,390
Belgium	501,125	22,177	..	102,276	..	..
Canary Islands .. ..	..	108,077	..	..	..	..
Cape Verde Islands ..	..	66,914	..	..	..	..
China	243	266,725	31,719	588	2,873	10,211
Finland	28,082	..	..	..	..	..
France	2,148,671	108,473	26,172	408,672	..	..
French Indo-China ..	..	11,498	277	..	..	..
Germany	544,020	10,930	17	39,569	3,662	4
Greece .. ..	..	26,784	119	..	..	..
Italy	787,977	465,892	..	16,674	..	..
Japan	1,416,989	951,479	3,644	285	548	328,343
Netherlands	216,466	19,696	..	5,185	..	13
Netherlands East Indies	..	245,628	413,620	..	25,114	90,624
Norway	4,656	24,387	..	..	..	..
Pacific Islands .. ..	..	3,846	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	3,152	14,226	1,696	..	166	557
Sweden	26,804	44,324	..	..	..	..
United States of America	1,906,917	..	..	90,259	106	480
Other Foreign Countries	393	5,680	4,764	2,008	636	5
Total	13,067,701	6,098,677	2,751,312	1,704,857	1,211,820	1,040,183

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and oversea countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration, except in the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 420) and at the port of Melbourne (page 422) where coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, their total tonnage, and the number of men forming their crews in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	1,792	2,246	2,442	2,634	2,666
Tons	3,987,262	4,663,126	5,506,127	6,611,352	6,782,495
Average tonnage ..	2,225	2,076	2,255	2,510	2,544
Crews	116,873	134,671	148,879	*	*
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	1,809	2,248	2,436	2,634	2,676
Tons	4,021,188	4,651,818	5,518,393	6,618,968	6,749,873
Average tonnage ..	2,223	2,069	2,265	2,513	2,522
Crews	117,352	132,728	148,644	*	*

* Not available.

The figures in the above table for the year 1924 show an increase in the tonnage of vessels as compared with each of the preceding four years. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, steamers numbered 2,614 of the vessels entered, and 2,607 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 6,739,560 and 6,699,521 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1924 included 36 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 98,168, whilst the outward shipping included 408 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 796,769.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1923-24 are set out in the following statement:—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1923-24.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Ton-nage.
Australian States	1,889	3,721,519	31	2,754	2,113	4,562,322	57	26,196
United Kingdom	216	1,351,032	..	..	196	1,236,297	5	12,227
New Zealand	58	114,653	1	166	42	90,507	..	..
India	19	69,566	..	..	2	6,599	..	..
Straits Settlements	44	131,892	..	..	35	102,090	..	..
Other British	96	260,867	4	9,827	65	157,008	1	1,513
Total British Countries	2,322	5,649,529	36	12,747	2,453	6,154,823	63	39,936
Japan	46	149,049	..	..	67	215,759	..	..
Dutch East Indies	11	35,767	..	..	7	24,870	..	..
United States	156	599,600	4	7,462	23	87,371	2	3,197
Other Foreign	79	305,615	12	22,726	57	216,698	4	7,219
Total Foreign Countries	292	1,090,031	16	30,188	154	544,698	6	10,416
Total	2,614	6,739,560	52	42,935	2,607	6,699,521	69	50,352

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1923-24 was as shown hereunder:—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1923-24.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,731	2,581,670	1,741	2,574,296
United Kingdom	597	3,113,564	594	3,082,013
Canadian	26	91,551	27	94,931
New Zealand	36	65,589	35	62,401
South African	8	12,819	9	15,402
Other British	20	37,754	19	35,281
Total British	2,418	5,902,947	2,425	5,864,324
Foreign—				
Dutch	31	123,750	30	120,605
French	13	57,791	13	57,791
German	20	71,125	20	71,125
Italian	28	112,618	28	112,468
Japanese	40	138,509	42	144,778
Norwegian	37	113,613	37	110,943
Swedish	29	86,067	29	83,836
United States	39	141,604	41	149,532
Other Foreign	11	34,471	11	34,471
Total Foreign	248	879,548	251	885,549
Total	2,666	6,782,495	2,676	6,749,873

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coast-wise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1923-24.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warrnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
Oversea—										
Steam ..	703	2,945,771	..	..	18	58,656	4	13,614	..	..
Sailing ..	21	40,181	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam ..	1,752	3,475,547	..	..	124	235,438	1	475	12	10,059
Sailing ..	31	2,754	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oversea <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	15	54,841	..	..	5	17,103	1	4,250	..	..
Inter-State <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	38	83,770	..	..	5	12,017	2	4,646	1	1,261
Local (within the State)—										
Steam ..	1,345	310,089	41	8,070	579	272,612	92	65,236	146	44,182
Sailing ..	150	5,148	2	152	4	6,992	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam ..	3,853	6,870,018	41	8,070	731	595,826	100	88,221	159	55,502
Sailing ..	202	45,083	2	152	4	6,992	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	4,055	6,918,101	43	8,222	735	602,818	100	88,221	159	55,502

NOTE.—“Ports” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1923, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows.

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1923.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne	208	140,501	132	30,970	340	171,471
Geelong	2	419	1	16	3	435
Port Fairy	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total	213	141,541	133	30,986	346	172,527

During 1923 there were added to the register 7 steamers with net tonnage of 6,771, and 1 sailing vessel with a tonnage of 1,318; whilst 9 steamers having net tonnage of 8,306, and 3 sailing vessels having a tonnage of 2,406, were taken off the register.

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne. The port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbor Trust, which has 10·8 miles of wharfs, piers, and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock, and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharfs is 68 acres, of which 26 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics." The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contains, on page 430, a statement of works recently undertaken by the Trust in the river and Victoria Dock, and information relating to that dock and the Coode Canal.

Port Improvement. A new railway pier at Port Melbourne (called Prince's Pier) was completed in 1915, its length being 1,902 feet, and its width 186 feet. The total cost of the pier and superstructures was £214,666. Dredging has been completed to 37 feet, to provide for four berths for vessels drawing 35 feet. Two shelter sheds are provided, which are connected with vessels by movable gangways bridging the railway lines. Passengers are thus enabled to board and disembark from vessels clear of the railway traffic.

Another modern pier is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, to be called "Station Pier." This new structure will be similar in design to the Prince's Pier, and will have a length of 2,110 feet, and a width of 191 feet which will allow of the installation of electric travelling cranes on both sides of the pier when required. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea steamers with a depth of 37 feet below low water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £492,800. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, has been completed.

The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The first stage of providing a depth of 34 feet has been completed, and a channel with this depth is now open for the full width of 600 feet.

The construction of the new Central Pier at the Victoria Dock was completed in 1916. A bed for the centre roadway on this pier was formed by the insertion of reinforced concrete plates on which wood blocks have been laid. The expenditure on the pier to 31st December, 1923, including the erection of six cargo sheds, was £201,202.

The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river, and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 4,480 feet, is being widened by 100 feet; 1,930 feet has been completed, leaving 2,550 feet still to be put in hand. The works being carried out in this connexion are:—Construction of reinforced concrete sheet piling, erection of wharf in front of sheet piling, demolition of the old wharf and sheet piling, and dredging to a depth of 27 feet. The swinging basin has been dredged to 27 feet O.L.W. The cost of these works to 31st December, 1923, was £222,580; the estimated total cost is £341,158.

The material dredged and disposed of during 1923

Dredging. amounted to 3,796,205 cubic yards, viz., 2,508,800 cubic yards from the Bay within the Harbor Trust boundary, and 1,287,405 cubic yards from the River Yarra and Victoria Dock. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 40,488,427, and the Bay dredgings to 37,306,926 cubic yards, making a total of 77,795,353 cubic yards. Of the dredgings 61,436,078 cubic yards were deposited in deep water and 16,359,275 cubic yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1923 was 10·03d. per cubic yard.

There is a berthing space of 50,065 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of water—8,050 feet at Williamstown, 6,250 feet at Port Melbourne, 24,605 feet in the River Yarra, and 11,160 feet in the Victoria Dock.

Berthing Accommodation.

In the year 1923 vessels to the number of 4,472, comprising 3,854 steamers, 7 ships, 15 barques, 1 barquentine, 192 ketches, 113 schooners, and 290 lighters, with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,815,615, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1923 was 3,382,323, and that of exports, 1,254,067. These figures include New Zealand and Inter-State tonnage, which amounted to 1,865,944 in the case of imports, and 698,257 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Inter-State imports. Exclusive of transshipments, 1,101,231 tons of coal were imported in 1923.

Trade of the Port.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923:—

Letters .. .. .	..	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards .. .. .	..	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia .. .. .	..	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia ..	each	1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed .. .. .	..	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia	each	1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia	each	1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 2s. 6d. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. 3d. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 5½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9s. 7d. per message. A new service *via* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Postal Returns. The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries.

The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given:—

POSTAL RETURNS: 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Service.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
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LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	153,562,848	139,011,219	149,921,631	157,552,117	169,736,677
Outside the Commonwealth	5,911,404	5,308,217	4,743,414	5,246,566	7,253,801
Total	159,474,252	144,319,436	154,665,045	162,798,683	176,990,478
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	15,323,262	14,064,345	13,946,384	14,102,942	16,263,751

REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,444,537	1,527,973	1,529,748	1,566,130	1,683,094
Outside the Commonwealth	68,775	77,330	77,182	81,966	91,757
Total	1,513,312	1,605,303	1,606,930	1,648,096	1,780,851
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	118,383	126,591	119,567	132,574	131,560

NEWSPAPERS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	26,543,271	26,554,335	27,631,937	33,120,157	35,042,439
Outside the Commonwealth	1,334,776	1,336,918	1,264,932	1,368,343	1,413,324
Total	27,878,047	27,891,253	28,896,869	34,488,500	36,455,763
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	1,446,886	1,550,950	2,396,421	2,775,606	3,785,421

PACKETS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	8,219,981	8,507,077	10,386,880	11,947,310	12,831,486
Outside the Commonwealth	364,029	364,962	344,987	310,219	333,661
Total	8,584,010	8,872,039	10,731,867	12,257,529	13,165,087
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	414,335	433,090	642,793	588,805	796,493

PARCELS.

Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,102,601	1,454,853	1,909,355	2,072,153	2,007,259
Outside the Commonwealth	47,586	56,610	48,211	53,504	69,783
Total	1,150,187	1,511,463	1,957,566	2,125,657	2,077,042
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	92,865	97,956	90,154	122,929	122,566

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during each of the last two years was as follows :—

DEAD LETTERS, ETC., 1922-23 AND 1923-24.

How dealt with.	1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.	Letters and Post Cards.	Packets and Newspapers.
<i>Inland.</i>				
Returned to writers or delivered	311,866	157,958	324,965	152,886
Destroyed in accordance with Act	40,538	200,685	45,479	204,999
<i>Inter-State.</i>				
Originally addressed to other States—				
Returned to writers ..	26,412	63,542	32,047	48,737
Destroyed in accordance with Act	7,803	102,790	9,268	101,988
Returned to other States as unclaimed	36,516	8,481	39,510	16,207
<i>International.</i>				
Originally addressed to other Countries—				
Returned to writers ..	14,529	13,866	16,991	11,914
Destroyed in accordance with Act	2,965	142,163	3,971	159,530
Returned to other Countries as unclaimed	24,516	14,779	28,356	38,091
Total	465,145	704,264	500,587	734,352

The above return includes for 1923-24 letters containing money to the amount of £49,739 ; letters containing other articles of value to the number of 399 ; and letters, &c., irregularly posted, 36,499. In the figures for that year are also included 15,912 registered letters, viz. :—13,714 inland, 902 interstate, and 1,296 international.

Money Orders
and Postal
Notes.

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years :—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Number of Money Order Offices open	536	554	573	582	616
Money Orders issued—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 323,175 Amount £ 2,021,270	{ Number .. 350,958 Amount £ 2,211,109	{ Number .. 389,926 Amount £ 2,103,788	{ Number .. 422,505 Amount £ 2,119,437	{ Number .. 426,716 Amount £ 2,238,532
Inter-State ..	{ Number .. 58,120 Amount £ 322,610	{ Number .. 64,520 Amount £ 363,681	{ Number .. 65,461 Amount £ 370,498	{ Number .. 74,021 Amount £ 429,524	{ Number .. 78,676 Amount £ 464,133
International ..	{ Number .. 48,428 Amount £ 192,146	{ Number .. 57,776 Amount £ 258,158	{ Number .. 59,046 Amount £ 210,161	{ Number .. 65,560 Amount £ 222,570	{ Number .. 73,537 Amount £ 260,011
Total ..	{ Number .. 429,723 Amount £ 2,536,026	{ Number .. 473,254 Amount £ 2,832,948	{ Number .. 514,433 Amount £ 2,684,447	{ Number .. 562,086 Amount £ 2,771,531	{ Number .. 578,929 Amount £ 2,962,676
Money Orders Paid—					
Inland ..	{ Number .. 319,808 Amount £ 1,996,139	{ Number .. 356,891 Amount £ 2,212,045	{ Number .. 388,795 Amount £ 2,110,891	{ Number .. 400,109 Amount £ 2,118,513	{ Number .. 417,165 Amount £ 2,236,254
Inter-State ..	{ Number .. 116,361 Amount £ 611,509	{ Number .. 122,188 Amount £ 676,755	{ Number .. 124,343 Amount £ 663,754	{ Number .. 125,960 Amount £ 666,065	{ Number .. 132,281 Amount £ 673,527
International ..	{ Number .. 34,653 Amount £ 147,375	{ Number .. 34,567 Amount £ 146,004	{ Number .. 32,465 Amount £ 123,089	{ Number .. 32,322 Amount £ 124,938	{ Number .. 35,660 Amount £ 144,850
Total ..	{ Number .. 470,822 Amount £ 2,755,023	{ Number .. 513,646 Amount £ 3,034,804	{ Number .. 545,603 Amount £ 2,897,734	{ Number .. 558,421 Amount £ 2,909,516	{ Number .. 585,106 Amount £ 3,054,631
Postal Notes—					
Sold ..	{ Number .. 2,992,955 Amount £ 923,269	{ Number .. 3,275,352 Amount £ 1,044,786	{ Number .. 3,774,184 Amount £ 1,180,819	{ Number .. 4,013,977 Amount £ 1,240,935	{ Number .. 4,448,002 Amount £ 1,388,015
Inland, Issued and Paid ..	{ Number .. 2,138,623 Amount £ 737,698	{ Number .. 2,198,170 Amount £ 777,706	{ Number .. 2,340,742 Amount £ 834,474	{ Number .. 2,456,462 Amount £ 879,054	{ Number .. 2,618,976 Amount £ 930,079
Victorian—Paid in ..	{ Number .. 844,108 Amount £ 215,206	{ Number .. 1,075,914 Amount £ 268,329	{ Number .. 1,433,442 Amount £ 346,345	{ Number .. 1,531,548 Amount £ 357,147	{ Number .. 1,804,695 Amount £ 420,519
Of other States— ..	{ Number .. 322,697 Amount £ 117,859	{ Number .. 330,274 Amount £ 125,800	{ Number .. 338,118 Amount £ 129,707	{ Number .. 353,203 Amount £ 134,432	{ Number .. 363,350 Amount £ 135,889

Of the orders issued in 1923-24, 6,635 for £30,678 were payable in New Zealand, and 54,945 for £165,585 were payable in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 19,623 for £73,710 issued in New Zealand, and 10,875 for £51,134 issued in the United Kingdom.

Telegraphs
and
telegrams.

There are 2,040 telegraph offices in the State, 132 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number

received from outside the State, in each of the last five years, were as follows:—

TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1919-20
TO 1923-24.

—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland ..	2,977,725	2,703,781	2,593,954	2,687,030	2,813,300
Inter-State ..	1,359,122	1,240,840	1,177,108	1,227,522	1,297,652
International ..	153,809	152,222	169,105	180,311	197,290
Total ..	4,490,656	4,096,843	3,940,167	4,094,863	4,308,242
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ..	1,405,875	1,277,836	1,215,826	1,228,851	1,302,006
International ..	154,858	150,207	161,345	175,429	205,568
Total ..	1,560,733	1,428,043	1,377,171	1,404,280	1,507,574

Telephones. There were 1,062 telephone exchanges in Victoria on 30th June, 1924. Formerly, the connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constituted an exchange, but the rule now followed is that at least two subscribers must be connected before an office becomes an exchange. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 71,138, with 98,128 telephones connected which represented 5·98 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post-offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1924, was 1,670.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian Railways, length and cost. All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are, with the two exceptions referred to on pages 436 and 437, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The operations of the tramways mentioned are also shown separately on page 434. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines (with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the 7½ miles of tramways referred to above. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·8 miles of single lines, of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 2·41 miles (2·21

miles double and 20 mile single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years :—

RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	330·41	330·41	332·04	336·25	338·35
Single Lines (miles)	3,939·12	3,991·70	4,040·35	4,052·46	4,151·69
Total	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04
Cost of Construction	£ 39,148,873	£ 39,681,760	£ 40,408,014	£ 40,743,821	£ 41,409,905
Average Cost per mile	9,169	9,181	9,242	9,284	9,223

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1924 :—

	Miles.
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Hopetoun to Patchewollock	28
Werrimul to the Hut	15
Moama to Balranald	120
Merbein to Abbotsford	6
Kerang to Gonn Crossing	17
Total	186

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

4 ft. 8½ in. Gauge.	Miles.
Black Rock to Beaumaris (electric street tramway) ..	2·20
5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	
Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	38·00
Euston Extension	30·00
Mildura to Murray River	2·00
Gol Gol Extension	20·00
Goroke to Morea	9·00
Kanagulk to Edenhope	37·75
Kooloonong to West Narrung	7·00
Bowser to Peechelba	11·00
Marnoo to Wallaloo	6·50
Total	163·45

**Electrification
of suburban
lines.**

Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between Ashburton and Deepdene). Since electric traction was commenced in May, 1919, there has been a large development in the suburban passenger traffic—the number of passenger journeys having increased from 97,000,000 in 1917-18 to 158,000,000 in 1923-24, an increase of 63 per cent.

The high speed of the electric trains, together with the greater frequency of the service as compared with steam traction, has, in effect, brought the outlying districts closer to the city. It has thus given a considerable impetus to their development, while also benefiting the inner suburbs.

The original project of establishing an electrification scheme has developed in another highly important direction, viz., the supply of power for industrial purposes. The revenue from this source in 1923-24 was £225,452.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1924, was £6,495,033.

**Cost of
railways and
equipment.**

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows:—

**CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT,
1920 TO 1924.**

30th June—	£
1920	58,496,357
1921	60,012,250
1922	63,186,759
1923	64,938,085
1924	66,212,984

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1924, £3,999,733 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£62,213,251) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £64,370,000, on which the annual interest payable is £2,915,500, or at the average rate of 4·529 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £2,156,749—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1924, was 4·529 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·686 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1924, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £383,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £399,662. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1919, are given in the following table :—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Miles Constructed ..	4,269·53	4,322·11	4,372·39	4,388·71	4,490·04
„ Dismantled ..	36·13	36·13	36·13	36·14	36·14
„ Closed to Traffic	11·83	11·83	11·83	11·62	11·62
„ Open for Traffic	4,221·57	4,274·15	4,324·43	4,340·95	4,442·28
Train Mileage ..	15,687,177	16,583,638	16,522,658	17,023,611	17,729,597
Passenger Journeys..	143,251,216	140,850,933	149,223,529	163,120,037	175,030,787
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	7,770,694	7,572,993	7,491,031	7,517,216	8,309,543

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1924, was 4,809·30 miles of main tracks, and 943·64 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1923-24 constituted a record, and exceeded the best total previously recorded by 9 per cent. Of the passenger journeys in 1923-24, 165,138,590 were made by metropolitan-suburban, and 9,892,197 by country passengers, the former being an increase of 12,065,611, and the latter a decrease of 154,861, as compared with the corresponding journeys for the previous year. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 792,327 more than in 1922-23. The items of goods carried in 1923-24 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,457,574 tons; wheat, 1,077,858 tons; and firewood, 740,159 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 489,012 tons, and comprised 45,310 horses, 501,399 cattle, 5,733,780 sheep, and 379,887 pigs.

**Flinders-street
Station
Traffic.**

A barrier tally of passengers leaving and entering the three metropolitan stations was taken under normal conditions early in December, 1924. The average daily number of passengers who travelled to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—was 282,851, while the highest daily figure recorded for both stations combined was 299,019. In the following table is given an approximation to the average number of passengers who travelled daily to and

from the three metropolitan stations in certain specified years from 1909 to 1924 :—

Year.	Average Number of Passengers per Week-day at Stations—				
	Flinders-street.	Prince's-bridge.	Total for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge.	Spencer-street.	Total for Three Stations.
1909 ..	129,449	20,099	149,548	14,546	164,094
1911 ..	145,257	20,740	165,997	20,670	186,667
1914 ..	182,870	27,403	210,273	21,636	231,909
1918 ..	161,363	26,033	187,396	21,836	209,232
1922 ..	209,181	31,958	241,139	44,469	285,608
1924 ..	238,303	44,548	282,851	42,564	325,415

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is approximately 2,800, and at Prince's-bridge 400.

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Receipts—	£	£	£	£	£
Passenger, &c., Business—					
Passenger Fares	3,841,844	4,453,408	4,880,595	5,160,256	5,396,088
Parcels, &c. ..	343,186	415,675	458,914	473,007	486,397
Other ..	56,512	83,459	102,886	97,136	97,548
Goods, &c., Business—					
Goods ..	2,930,598	3,789,080	4,164,645	4,178,192	4,534,931
Live Stock ..	600,217	492,096	528,836	653,229	523,406
Minerals ..	190,307	130,100	121,575	121,771	146,189
Miscellaneous—					
Dining Car and Refreshment Services ..	131,090	284,124	294,046	308,116	345,161
Sale of Electrical Power ..	..	..	92,540	179,033	225,452
Rentals ..	85,643	85,736	103,744	117,673	119,300
Other ..	107,666	118,230	110,072	125,369	151,515
Total ..	8,287,063	9,851,908	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20
TO 1923-24—continued.

	Year ended 30th June—				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Working Expenses—	£	£	£	£	£
Way and Works ..	1,296,418	1,599,761	1,718,955	1,770,997	1,873,563
Rolling-stock ..	2,721,091	3,418,674	3,183,084	3,093,780	3,231,168
Transportation ..	1,839,998	2,508,790	2,664,486	2,685,068	2,880,700
Electrical Engineer- ing Branch ..	85,963	146,698	264,825	406,870	538,547
Pensions and Gratuities ..	152,932	182,036	194,581	203,470	206,366
Other ..	169,352	237,910	261,215	282,029	252,536
Total ..	6,265,754	8,093,869	8,287,146	8,442,214	8,982,880
Net Receipts ..	2,021,309	1,758,039	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107
Percentage of Ex- penses to Receipts.	75·61	82·16	76·32	73·97	74·70

The railway receipts of 1923-24 were the highest recorded for any year, and exceeded those of 1922-23, which were the best previously recorded, by 5.4 per cent. In every item except one there was an increase, the chief increases being—passenger fares £235,832, and goods receipts £356,739. Live stock showed a decrease of £129,823, which was due to the much smaller number of sheep carried.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement:—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET
REVENUE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.	Surplus (+) or Deficit(-)
	£	£	£
1919-20	2,234,202	2,021,309	- 212,893
1920-21	2,409,674	1,758,039	- 651,635
1921-22	2,589,816	2,570,707	- 19,109
1922-23	2,951,385	2,971,568	+ 20,183
1923-24	3,015,455	3,043,107	+ 27,652*

* This is subject to a deduction of £136,417, which has been written off. After making this deduction there is a deficit of £108,765. The former amount (£136,417) represents the losses on non-paying lines for which credit was taken in revenue accounts of previous years, but which was not paid by the Government to the Railways Commissioners.

Railway earnings and expenses per mile.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE WORKED, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,202	4,244	4,287	4,304	4,377
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Earnings per Mile	1,972	2,321	2,533	2,652	2,747
Expenses per Mile	1,491	1,907	1,933	1,961	2,052
Net Profits per Mile	481	414	600	691	695

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

Railway Rolling-stock.

Particulars of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1924, are shown in the next statement:—

RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK AT 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Vehicles.	Broad-Gauge.	Narrow-Gauge.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Locomotives—			
Steam	728	17	745
Electric	2	..	2
Steam Cranes	15	..	15
Rail Motors	14	..	14
Steam Coaching Stock	1,839	55	1,894
Electric Coaching Stock	766	..	766
Electric Tramway Stock	36	..	36
Goods Waggons	18,993	242	19,235
Service Stock	728	1	729

The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £12,107,155, of the narrow-gauge stock £109,520, and of the electric street tramway stock £91,216.

Railway staff.

The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding

travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below :—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
1919-20 ..	12,580	12,117	24,697	£ 4,683,707
1920-21 ..	12,094	15,139	27,233	5,895,347
1921-22 ..	19,273	7,688	26,961	6,388,508
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	6,293,720
1923-24 ..	19,057	8,562	27,619	6,651,251

The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Tramways for 1923-24 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1923-24.

	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham- Black Rock Electric Tramway
Average Mileage of Tramway Worked	5· 18	2· 41
Car Mileage	523,950	126,436
Number of Passengers Carried	5,709,684	1,459,239
	£	£
Gross Revenue	54,381	12,971
Working Expenses	45,497	12,623
Interest Charges	8,937	5,148
Net Result	Loss 53	Loss 4,800
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1924—		
Construction of Line	120,912	72,763
Rolling-stock	69,589	21,627

PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED ON VICTORIAN RAILWAYS AND AMOUNTS PAID IN
COMPENSATION, DAMAGES, ETC., 1914-15 TO 1923-24.

Railway
accidents.

Year ended 30th June.	Passengers.				Employees whilst in the execution of their duty.				Employees proceeding to or from duty; Persons at Crossings; Trespassers, and Others.		Total.		Amount paid on account of Compensation, Damages, &c.
	Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Due to Causes beyond their own Control.		Due wholly or partly to their own Action or Negligence.		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.					
1915	40	6	185	2	36	8	253	32	44	48	558	£ 14,359
1916	29	11	198	2	28	10	242	31	37	54	534	20,766
1917	46	5	133	1	35	4	225	22	26	32	465	15,556
1918	33	4	197	2	46	9	246	29	39	44	561	18,221
1919	41	6	174	1	31	7	222	38	42	52	510	18,303
1920	32	8	174	..	33	8	164	22	48	38	451	18,161
1921	18	3	187	2	46	7	282	29	64	41	597	14,803
1922	10	10	135	1	35	13	191	34	37	58	408	17,848
1923	5	6	140	1	33	9	150	35	44	51	372	14,887
1924	3	8	116	..	29	10	182	33	32	51	362	17,063
Yearly Average	25·7	6·7	163·9	1·2	35·2	8·5	215·7	30·5	41·3	46·9	481·8	16,997

With regard to the payments referred to in the above table, it should be pointed out that they not only cover cases of passengers where the accidents causing death or injury were "due to causes beyond their own control"; but they also include compensation paid on account of injuries sustained by employees whilst on duty, such payments having been £7,008 in 1914-15, £17,143 in 1915-16, £12,925 in 1916-17, £11,480 in 1917-18, £13,035 in 1918-19, £10,815 in 1919-20, £10,468 in 1920-21, £13,387 in 1921-22, £10,739 in 1922-23, and £11,469 in 1923-24.

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in each of the last ten years in railway accidents, the amounts paid in compensation, damages, &c., and the yearly averages for the period:—

Interchange.

**Freights on
Victorian
railways.**

A statement of freights, operative on 1st October, 1924, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50	100	150	200	250	300	350
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Rate per Ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	6	9	11	12	13	14	15
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed), and Eggs†	12	22	30	38	43	48	54
Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton)	13	25	33	42	48	54	60
Milk, in 4-ton lots	10	19	25	31	35	39	44
Fresh Fruit†	8	14	18	23	26	30	33
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons	11	21	28	34	39	44	49
Poultry (living)†	16	30	42	52	60	67	75
Wool (greasy)†	24	47	61	70	79	88	97
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine†	26	51	76	94	113	126	138
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	16	32	46	57	69	74	79
Wire Netting, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	6	10	15	17	20	22	24
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	3	5	6	7	9	10	11
Rate per Truck.							
Live Stock (other than pigs)	57	111	0130	0171	0213	0254	0296
Pigs	51	110	1117	2154	1191	1228	1266

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Pig Feed, and Malt; also Wine and Fruit, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

	Per 10 or 12-ton Truck.	Per 15-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	6	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

† These commodities are subject to the Tariff for "Smalls," and, when consigned in lots up to 3 cwt., the charges are slightly higher than *pro rata* of the tonnage rates.

• A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1923, cost £37,144 for construction and equipment. For the year 1923 the gross receipts were £9,554, and the working expenses, £7,865. The train mileage for the same year was 10,066, the number of passengers was 18,539, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 31,752.

**Municipal
railway.**

Private railway.

Another railway in Victoria, not belonging to the State system, is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1924, the cost of construction was £62,727, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £15,040 and £9,808 respectively. The above construction cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of steel tramway continuation beyond Powelltown. This tramway is used for haulage of the logs of the company to which the line belongs and of sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on the extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 23,500, and the passengers carried numbered 39,000.

Fares on Victorian railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1924, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
50	9 9	6 6	16 3	10 10
100	18 11	12 7	31 7	21 1
150	28 0	18 8	46 11	31 3
200	37 9	25 2	63 2	42 1
250	47 2	31 6	78 9	52 6
300	52 9	35 2	88 3	58 9
350	58 5	38 11	97 4	64 11

* Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile for first class return and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 15th October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

TRAMWAYS.

The various tramway systems in the State comprise 45·576 miles of cable lines, double track, and 101·283 miles of electric lines, of which 59·784 miles are double, and 41·499 miles single track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Black Rock, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 434.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria (with the above exceptions) for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways).

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	100·46	40·188	20,368,507	204,807,815	£ 1,572,176	£ 1,099,272	1,392	4,193
1920-21	99·46	40·188	21,494,747	221,908,333	1,730,521	1,305,727	1,426	4,417
1921-22	100·016	44·148	22,369,483	226,738,318	1,943,805	1,472,296	1,470	4,586
1922-23	105·791	41·340	22,775,563	234,588,628	1,999,633	1,492,031	1,465	5,070
1923-24	105·360	41·499	22,948,267	229,771,075	1,956,904	1,641,339	1,502	5,887

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Acts.

On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Chairman holds office for a period of five years and the remaining members for a period of three years. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways and the Royal Park Horse Tramway on 1st November, 1919. Information in regard to the control of these tramways prior to that date is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, page 569.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahran and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote Council. The Essendon Electric Tramways were taken over on 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £3,000,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £200,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £500,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority has, however, been given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1924, amounted to about £93,000.) The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 28 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1923, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1923-24.

Tramway.	Miles of Track Open—		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers Carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling Stock.	Number of Persons Employed.
	Double.	Single.						
Cable—					£	£		
Melbourne	43·353	..	14,313,362	142,584,879	1,146,449	956,907	1,159	3,200
Northcote	2·223	..	400,491	5,165,407	37,351	33,289	30	92
Horse (now closed) ..	..	..	3,066	50,220	• 209	373	..	..
Total Cable and Horse ..	45·576	..	14,716,919	147,800,506	1,184,009	990,569	1,189	3,292
Electric—								
Prahran and Malvern ..	34·361	1·397	4,029,338	45,345,880	407,423	325,642	132	1,054
Hawthorn	6·826	4·351	1,085,212	10,591,100	115,330	87,707	44	304
Coburg	5·744	1·770	884,721	7,333,615	67,955	59,795	26	228
Preston	1·947	3·925	413,151	2,830,421	26,320	27,924	10	85
Footscray	1·590	2·877	278,930	3,042,407	24,832	24,334	9	142
Essendon	3·921	3·481	576,614	4,948,141	44,419	51,025	23	279
Total Electric	54·389	17·801	7,267,966	74,091,564	686,279	576,427	244	2,092
Grand Total	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673*

* Including 289 persons employed at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways.
The following table contains detailed particulars of the operations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board for the year 1923-24.—

In addition to traffic receipts (£1,870,288), there was revenue from advertising, rents, &c., of £6,826 from cable tramways and £5,941 from electric tramways, making a gross revenue for the year of £1,883,055.

The gross surplus on the year's operations was £316,058. Out of this had to be paid interest on loans, rates, &c., leaving available for appropriation an amount of £158,709. As this sum was insufficient to meet the statutory payments to Consolidated Revenue and Tramway Reserves required by Acts of Parliament, the sum of £125,464 had to be transferred from the General Reserve Account to meet the deficit. After this had been done the following appropriations were made:—Consolidated Revenue, £92,998; General Reserve Account, £158,000; Fire Insurance Reserve Account, £4,000; Public Risk Insurance Reserve Account, £5,000; and Loans Redemption and Sinking Fund Accounts, £24,175.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £5,102,982, of which £2,393,655 was expended on cable and £2,709,327 on electric tramways.

In the next statement interesting comparisons are made between the cable and electric systems, the receipts per mile, the cost of working, &c., being shown for the year 1923-24:—

System.	Average Traffic Receipts.			Percentage of Working Expenses to Total Revenue.	Working Expenses per Tram Mile including Power Cost.	Average Distance per Penny.
	Per Tram Mile.	Per Mile of Single Track.	Per Passenger.			
	d.	£	d.		d.	Miles.
Cable ..	19·309	12,989	1·923	83·18	16·154	1·44
Electric ..	22·662	5,422	2·22	83·27	19·034	1·136

**Metropolitan
Tramways
Traffic, last
five years.**

Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement :—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	95·475	17·31	19,253,929	197,708,685	£ 1,501,381	£ 1,050,707	1,815	3,997
1920-21	95·475	17·31	20,333,033	213,872,064	1,648,058	1,246,973	1,358	4,228
1921-22	96·021	21·26	21,208,879	218,450,712	1,857,469	1,406,127	1,402	4,399
1922-23	100·396	17·642	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	4,875
1923-24	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673

* Including employees at Head Office, Holden-street, &c.

**Country
Tramways.** The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are :—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·425 double and 12·425 single track); Bendigo, with 8·113 miles of electric lines (1·8 double and 6·313 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.		Tram Mileage.	Number of Passengers carried.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1919-20	4·985	22·878	1,114,578	7,099,130	£ 70,795	£ 48,565	77	196
1920-21	3·985	22·878	1,161,714	8,036,269	82,463	58,754	68	189
1921-22	3·995	22·888	1,160,604	8,287,606	86,336	66,169	68	187
1922-23	5·395	23·698	1,190,911	7,957,082	88,355	64,076	68	195
1923-24	5·395	23·698	963,382	7,879,005	86,616	74,343	69	214

LICENSED VEHICLES.

Licensed vehicles in Melbourne. The licensing of vehicles plying, kept, or let out for hire within the city of Melbourne or for a distance of 8 miles beyond the city boundaries is controlled by the Melbourne City Council. The appended statement contains details of vehicles and drivers licensed annually during the last five years:—

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1919 TO 1923.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Cabs, Drags (4 wheel)	464	472	470	423	391
„ (Hansoms)	166	165	157	135	114
Tram Cars	458	—	—	—	—
„ Dummies	447	—	—	—	—
Motor Cars	337	401	480	483	644
„ Omnibuses .. .. .	..	..	..	3	19
„ Chars-a-bancs	24	23	37	60	109
Total	1,896	1,061	1,144	1,104	1,277
<i>For Conveyance of Goods.</i>					
Drivers licensed	2,911	3,151	3,253	3,322	3,257

NOTE.—Tram cars and dummies under the control of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board have not since 1919 been included in the vehicles which require to be licensed.

Motor vehicles licensed. The Melbourne City Council issues only one kind of licence for all motor vehicles plying for hire. In the above table motor cars embrace all motor vehicles registered with a seating capacity of under 12 seats. The particulars of all motor vehicles licensed for hire for the period 1st January to 31st July, 1924, are as follows:—943 motor vehicles with a seating capacity of 8,478 seats, of which 195 vehicles had a seating capacity of 12 seats and over, and 748 of under 12 seats. Information regarding passenger traffic of motor vehicles is not readily available. It is expected, however, that legislation which has recently been passed (Act No. 3378, assented to on 30th December, 1924) will have the effect of considerably increasing the facilities for obtaining this information.

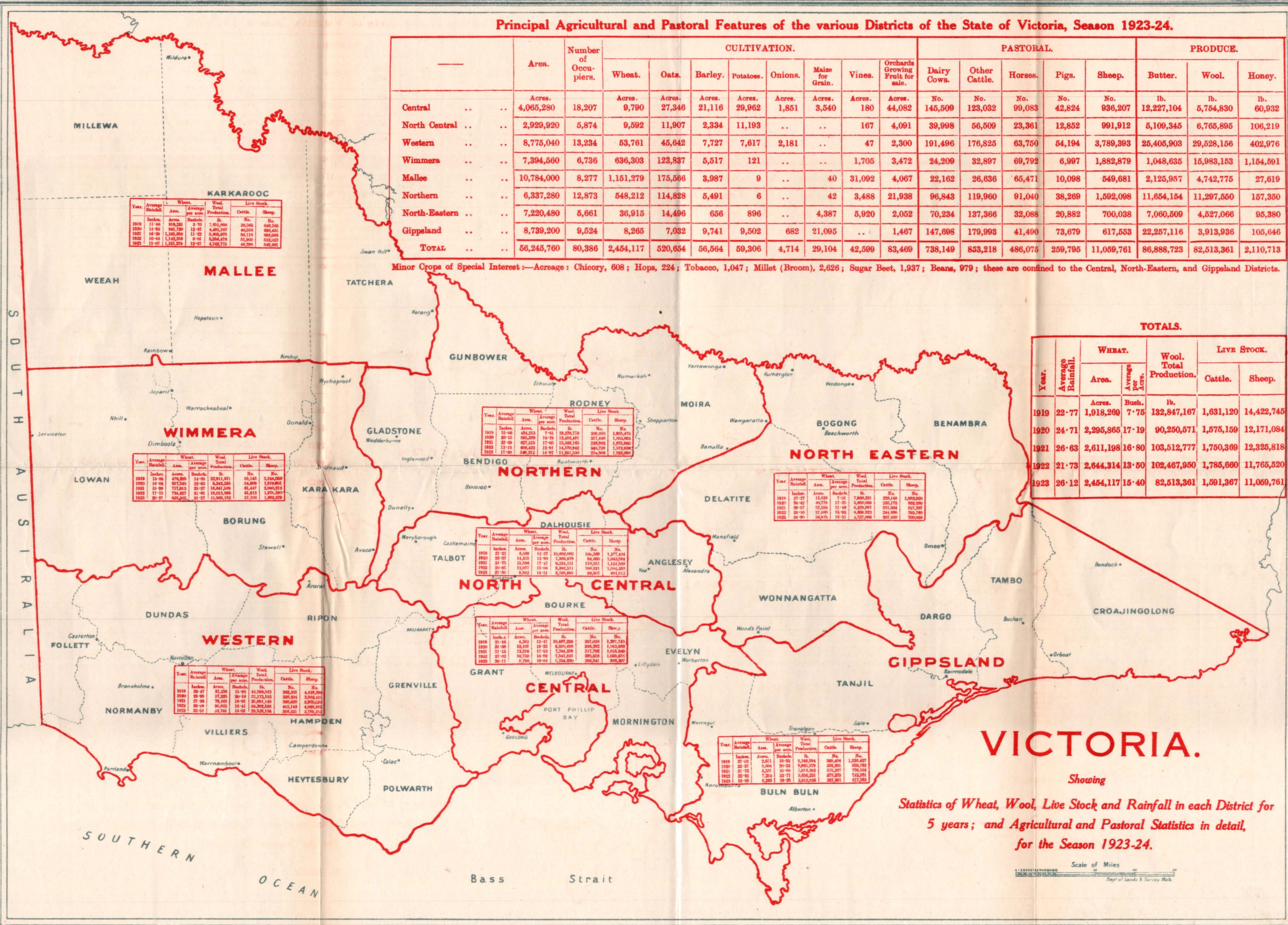
Motor vehicle Registrations. The use of motor cars and motor cycles in Victoria is regulated by Act No. 2702, under the provisions of which every motor car and motor cycle must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registration renewed annually. On

31st December, 1923, the number of motor cars registered was 44,462, on which fees were payable at the following annual rates:—336 at six guineas each, 3,732 at five guineas each, 30,015 at four guineas each, 7,709 at three guineas each, 2,506 at two guineas each, and 164 at one guinea each. On the same date, 15,504 motor cycles, which are subject to an annual fee of 5s. each, and 291 traction engines were registered. No person may drive a motor car or motor cycle upon any public highway without having been licensed for that purpose. On 31st December, 1923, the number of drivers of motor cars and motor cycles licensed by the Chief Commissioner was 65,518. There were also 116 dealers registered. The revenue received during 1923 from motor vehicle registrations, &c., was £184,730, and from drivers' and riders' licences, £8,190.

Principal Agricultural and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1923-24.

District	Area.	Number of Occupiers.	CULTIVATION.							PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.			
			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Maize for Grain.	Vines.	Oorchards Growing Fruit for sale.	Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.
	Acres.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	lb.	lb.	lb.	
Central	4,065,280	18,207	9,790	27,346	21,116	29,962	1,851	3,540	180	44,082	145,509	123,032	99,083	42,824	936,207	12,227,104	5,754,830	60,932
North Central	2,929,920	5,874	9,592	11,907	2,334	11,193	..	..	167	4,091	39,998	56,509	23,361	12,852	991,912	5,109,345	6,765,895	106,219
Western	8,775,040	13,234	53,761	45,642	7,727	7,617	2,181	..	47	2,300	101,496	176,825	63,750	54,194	3,789,393	25,405,903	29,528,156	402,976
Wimmera	7,394,560	6,736	636,303	123,837	5,517	121	..	..	1,705	3,472	24,209	32,897	69,792	6,997	1,882,879	1,048,635	15,983,153	1,154,591
Mallee	10,784,000	8,277	1,151,279	175,566	3,987	9	..	40	31,092	4,067	22,162	26,636	65,471	10,098	549,681	2,125,957	4,742,775	27,619
Northern	6,337,280	12,873	548,212	114,828	5,491	6	..	42	3,488	21,938	96,843	119,960	91,040	38,269	1,592,098	11,654,154	11,297,550	157,350
North-Eastern	7,220,480	5,661	36,915	14,496	656	896	..	4,387	5,920	2,052	70,234	137,366	32,088	20,882	700,038	7,060,509	4,527,066	95,380
Gippsland	8,739,200	9,524	8,265	7,032	9,741	9,502	682	21,095	..	1,467	147,698	179,993	41,490	73,679	617,553	22,257,116	3,913,936	105,646
TOTAL	56,245,760	80,386	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	59,306	4,714	29,104	42,599	83,469	738,149	853,218	486,075	259,795	11,059,761	86,888,723	82,513,361	2,110,713

Minor Crops of Special Interest:—Acreage: Chicory, 608; Hops, 224; Tobacco, 1,047; Millet (Broom), 2,626; Sugar Beet, 1,937; Beans, 979; these are confined to the Central, North-Eastern, and Gippsland Districts.



KARKAROOOC

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	11-46	919,281	3-70	7,001,900	35,565	648,240
1920	14-90	945,730	12-07	6,491,747	40,556	626,451
1921	16-29	1,165,656	11-22	5,360,279	50,116	601,605
1922	16-44	1,142,259	10-01	5,066,478	51,202	522,023
1923	15-07	1,161,279	12-27	4,748,773	45,798	549,081

WIMMERA

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	13-06	674,205	14-59	22,911,071	52,145	5,264,009
1920	16-04	617,545	22-95	5,362,085	54,009	1,319,901
1921	16-99	717,613	22-27	16,641,249	61,447	3,960,213
1922	17-15	734,027	21-63	19,613,966	61,013	1,976,380
1923	20-21	639,665	21-27	15,963,135	57,101	1,892,629

RODNEY

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	15-06	484,213	7-51	19,279,776	209,616	1,805,475
1920	20-12	600,379	16-79	12,416,461	217,449	1,503,963
1921	23-09	627,315	17-65	13,260,165	248,992	1,675,860
1922	12-15	696,423	22-91	14,270,942	249,726	1,972,000
1923	17-09	646,212	14-97	11,297,230	215,003	1,529,092

NORTH EASTERN

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	27-27	12,626	7-51	7,960,231	229,169	1,003,920
1920	24-42	10,779	17-25	5,890,000	235,172	802,020
1921	20-27	17,216	11-49	6,229,967	257,604	927,297
1922	26-10	17,200	15-93	6,620,253	344,696	795,769
1923	24-09	16,615	16-21	4,527,696	267,222	700,028

NORTHERN

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	21-21	6,599	12-57	10,692,092	106,369	1,277,434
1920	26-27	14,215	13-90	7,296,879	94,600	1,043,294
1921	24-75	15,566	17-47	9,234,151	119,251	1,211,569
1922	20-05	12,077	15-04	8,292,511	100,021	7,094,001
1923	27-26	9,292	16-51	6,105,686	96,307	991,513

NORTH CENTRAL

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	21-16	4,206	13-47	10,497,259	207,009	1,297,743
1920	21-28	12,197	19-22	6,801,688	248,292	1,943,648
1921	21-13	13,216	17-53	7,294,209	277,700	1,045,240
1922	27-02	16,729	18-59	7,941,641	296,626	1,608,616
1923	20-11	9,795	18-04	5,704,830	203,541	826,297

WESTERN

Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	26-47	37,239	15-98	44,999,073	262,231	4,638,290
1920	25-29	37,225	20-18	52,172,163	328,294	3,992,421
1921	27-26	28,165	18-01	32,001,149	266,620	3,870,223
1922	26-09	30,800	18-41	34,282,238	403,143	4,009,692
1923	22-21	25,793	15-91	29,528,156	309,321	2,709,252

BULN BULN

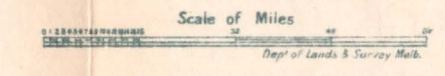
Year	Average Rainfall.	Wheat. Area.	Wheat. Average per acre.	Wool Total Production.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	27-02	2,611	16-52	1,162,094	366,404	1,228,427
1920	23-27	2,094	20-22	9,962,379	256,201	620,780
1921	21-13	2,201	20-60	5,018,922	275,207	799,594
1922	22-32	7,294	23-77	3,056,231	379,279	143,991
1923	18-26	6,285	28-85	2,012,536	297,691	617,263

TOTALS.

Year.	Average Rainfall.	WHEAT.		Wool. Total Production.	LIVE STOCK.	
		Area.	Average per acre.	lb.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1919	22-77	1,918,260	7-75	132,847,167	1,631,120	14,422,745
1920	24-71	2,295,865	17-19	90,250,571	1,575,159	12,171,084
1921	26-63	2,611,198	16-80	103,512,777	1,750,369	12,325,818
1922	21-73	2,644,314	13-50	102,467,950	1,785,660	11,765,520
1923	26-12	2,454,117	15-40	82,513,361	1,591,367	11,059,761

VICTORIA.

Showing Statistics of Wheat, Wool, Live Stock and Rainfall in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1923-24.



PRODUCTION.

LAND SETTLEMENT, ETC.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. This comprises—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee simple	25,152,534
Lands in process of alienation	8,342,846
Crown lands	22,750,380
	<hr/>
Total	56,245,760
	<hr/>

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act) .	3,389,583
Timber reserves (under Forests Act) ..	734,555
State forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act)	329,600
Water reserves	314,616
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c. ..	85,590
Reserves in the Mallee	397,881
Other reserves	302,917
Roads	1,777,319
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; (unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs)	3,000,918
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	108,633
Other leases and licences	88,658
Temporary grazing licences	9,053,128
Unoccupied	3,166,982
	<hr/>
Total	22,750,380
	<hr/>

Alienation
of land.

In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee simple in each year since 1913.

A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years.

ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.		Crown Lands alienated in Fee Simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.*	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1914	3,710	166,026	129,525	145,003
1915	3,287	129,232	117,257	113,167
1916	2,061	140,341	89,203	80,238
1917	2,075	89,164	82,042	79,992
1918	1,760	74,514	76,064	78,235
1919	1,166	70,729	102,294	114,654
1920	3,125	102,534	187,228	192,861
1921	1,800	99,519	110,056	100,890
1922	2,658	186,686	106,485	118,698
1923	3,015	200,517	142,940	167,669

* Exclusive of Mallee selectors.

Amount
realized by
sale of Crown
lands.

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1923 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £34,339,213, which represents an average of £1 0s. 7d. per acre for all lands alienated or in process of alienation. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

Lands remaining for disposal.

The next table shows the whole of the unalienated lands of the Crown remaining for disposal:—

CROWN LANDS REMAINING FOR DISPOSAL ON 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

Location.	Classification.					Total.
	Agricultural and Grazing.				Auri-ferous.	
	First.	Second.	Third.	Un-classed.		
County.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Buln Buln	4,126	29,983	79,769	..	..	113,878
Croajingolong	2,510	4,450	584,975	837,400	13,850	1,443,185
Dargo .. .. .	..	..	105,748	241,100	72,000	418,848
Tambo .. .. .	..	..	218,860	378,850	900	598,610
Tanjil .. .. .	..	..	110,000	361,650	67,000	538,650
Wonnangatta .. .. .	..	39	160,688	879,197	..	1,039,924
Bogong	1,712	14,019	215,043	158,724	106,718	490,216
Benambra .. .. .	..	403	305,770	316,474	90,811	713,458
Delatite	510	18,612	220,353	230,050	61,333	530,858
Moira	546	409	11,116	..	..	12,071
Anglesey .. .. .	..	3,924	81,471	..	3,210	88,605
Bourke .. .. .	..	162	..	..	..	162
Dalhousie .. .. .	..	814	2,673	..	5,427	8,914
Evelyn .. .. .	..	13,237	391	..	1,639	15,267
Mornington .. .. .	..	994	7,378	..	..	8,372
Bendigo	80	735	2,358	..	4,317	7,490
Rodney .. .. .	..	351	..	..	2,420	2,771
Borong .. .. .	..	667	71,915	423	5,729	78,734
Gladstone	450	1,182	2,349	..	16,698	20,079
Lowan .. .. .	..	604	190,566	10,608	..	201,778
Kara Kara	24	126	3,606	..	4,379	8,135
Talbot	50	546	278	..	44,500	45,374
Tatchera .. .. .	..	70	..	..	..	70
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	1,176	166,504	..	..	167,680
Polwarth	13,257	16,707	28,518	..	..	58,482
Grant .. .. .	..	155	25,252	..	14,991	40,398
Grenville	99	321	..	..	12,574	12,994
Ripon .. .. .	..	380	24,466	..	4,495	29,341
Normanby .. .. .	..	267	132,871	8,810	..	141,948
Dundas .. .. .	..	..	53,138	15,754	..	68,892
Villiers .. .. .	..	..	1,893	..	..	1,893
Follett .. .. .	..	1,252	181,660	39,199	..	222,111
Totals	23,364	111,585	2,989,609	3,478,239	532,391	7,135,188
Throughout the State	Swamp or reclaimed lands					1,688
.. .. .	Lands which may be sold by auction					7,646
The north-western portion of the State	Mallee lands (such as are suitable to be eventually classed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class for selection)					5,075,588
Total area remaining for disposal						12,220,110

Much of the land included in the above statement is temporarily leased under grazing licences.

Pastoral occupation of Crown lands. The particulars of Crown lands for which licences had been issued for pastoral occupation on 31st December, 1923, are as follows:—

Number of Licences	6,276
Area (acres)	9,053,128
Annual Rental	£29,016

Persons who may select land. Any person of the age of 18 years or upwards is eligible to apply to select under the Land Acts a prescribed area varying according to the classification of the land—less the area of previous selections.

Concessions to land seekers. The Lands Inquiry Branch gives information to intending applicants and issues concession warrants for half fares on Victorian Railways to persons travelling to make inspection or take possession of land.

Area that may be selected. An applicant may select in the Mallee, under Selection Purchase Lease, 640 acres of first class, 1,000 acres of second class, 1,280 acres of third class, or 1,600 acres of fourth class land, or 4,000 acres of land classed 4A; and, in addition, may acquire privately an area equivalent to that which he selects from the Crown.

Grazing licences. Grazing licences are renewable annually, and are only granted for waste lands of the Crown until required under the principal sections of the Act.

Land Laws. A conspectus of the provisions of the Victorian Land Acts appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17 and previous issues.

Transfer of Land Act. The "Torrens System," whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transferring of land. It gives a title to the transferee free of any latent defect and reduces the cost of dealing in real estate by reason of the simplicity of the procedure. All land parted with by the Crown since 1862 is under the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, and the Crown grant issues through the Titles Office; but, to bring under the Act land that was parted with prior to that year, application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property. During 1923 there were submitted 542 applications to have brought under the Act land amounting to 9,623 acres in extent, and to £673,983 in value; whilst the land actually brought under the Act during the year by application was 12,439 acres valued at £708,410. Up to the end of 1923 there had been brought under the Act 3,097,626 acres valued at £63,599,745.

Assurance Fund. When application is made to have land brought under the Transfer of Land Act, a contribution to the assurance fund of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £1 on the value of the land is levied on the applicant to assure and indemnify the Government in granting a clear title against all the world, as some other person may have a latent interest in the property, and it may be necessary for the Government to recompense such person out of the fund for the loss of his interest. Receipts during 1923-24 comprised contributions £2,086, interest on stock £2,845, and interest on £75,073—advanced under *The Protection of Public Buildings Act 1885*—£3,003. During the year no payment was made out of the fund in settlement of claims, but £6,637 was paid as interest on securities under the *Special Funds Act 1920*, No. 3067, and £10,000 as a contribution to the Students' Loan Fund, under Act No. 3285. The balance at the credit of the assurance fund on 30th June, 1924, was £154,309. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1924, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £7,953.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Closer Settlement. Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act the Closer Settlement Board is empowered to expend at the rate of £500,000 per annum in the purchase—either by voluntary or compulsory acquisition—of lands (whether privately owned or held under lease from the Crown) for subdivision into suitable allotments according to the class of the land, and for disposal by the Board to eligible applicants, as stated hereafter. Lands well adapted for settlement are thus made available in those portions of the State in which railways, water supply and markets are provided, and in which roads and other facilities are good. The areas purchased comprise ordinary farming lands in a more or less improved condition, and lands in irrigated districts with plentiful supplies of water for irrigation.

Every application for a Closer Settlement allotment must be accompanied by the registration fee of 5s., a lease fee of £1, and a deposit (equal to 3 per cent. of the capital value of the land) which is deducted from the purchase money. The applicant is required to give evidence of suitability and fitness, &c., to occupy the land. If successful, a permit giving immediate possession is issued (followed by a lease as soon as practicable), and no further payment is required for six months. If the application be refused, the amount forwarded as a deposit in respect of the purchase money and the lease fee are returned to the unsuccessful applicant, but the registration fee is retained. Only one allotment of the maximum value can be granted to any one person, and the principle of residence for eight months in each year is a condition of the lease.

In addition to the provisions for the purchase of large estates for subdivision, the Closer Settlement Act provides that any one or more persons, who are eligible to acquire a farm allotment under the Closer Settlement Act, may enter into a provisional agreement with the owner of a block of private land for the purchase thereof, and acquire it through the Closer Settlement Board—*vide* section 20, Act 2629. The value of the land must not exceed the maximum allowed under the Act. An application on the proper form must be filled in, and the agreement with full details and the application must be lodged with the Board, together with a valuation fee of £4. Where the agreement is submitted on behalf of more than one applicant, an additional fee of £2 must be lodged in respect of each additional applicant. The fee may be returned if, after a preliminary inspection, the Board does not approve of the application. Should the Board decide to acquire the land, the purchaser is required to deposit an amount not exceeding four half-yearly instalments, and is otherwise subject to all the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act with regard to payments, residence, improvements, &c.

Repurchased lands are disposed of as farm allotments, agricultural labourers' allotments, and workmen's home allotments under conditional purchase lease. The principal terms of these leases, as regards farm allotments, are briefly stated herein. They are given in detail in each title as issued.

Conditional purchase leases are granted to successful applicants under the Closer Settlement Act, and are for such a term not exceeding $36\frac{1}{2}$ years as may be agreed upon between the lessee and the Board. The purchase money is payable by 73 or a less number of half-yearly instalments. In some cases the Board has granted applications for extension of payments under a lease to $46\frac{1}{2}$ years, the payments being by 93 half-yearly instalments. The deposit lodged with the application is credited as part of the principal, and the balance bears interest at 5 per cent. Each instalment includes interest upon the balance of purchase money remaining unpaid, and is 3 per cent. half-yearly (6 per cent. per annum) of the capital value of the allotment (less the amount of the deposit). Payments in advance may be made at any time, at the option of the lessee, and a proportionate reduction of interest secured thereby.

In special cases, when a lessee is unable to meet the instalments of purchase money as they fall due, the Board has power to suspend such payments up to an amount not exceeding 60 per cent. of the value of the improvements effected by him. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is charged on the amount in arrear or on any instalments which may have been suspended.

The lessee must reside on the allotment for eight months during each year. Personal residence by the lessee's wife, or child over 18 years of age, or parent dependent for support, may, with the approval of the Board, be considered personal residence by the lessee. A farm

lessee cannot transfer, assign, mortgage, or sublet the whole or any part of his allotment within the first three years of the lease. The Crown grant may be issued to the lessee at the end of any half-year after the first twelve years have expired, on payment of the balance of purchase money. The residence condition is not carried into the Crown grant.

Farm allotments. Lands for farm allotments are subdivided into suitable areas, of which none must exceed in value £2,500 except in the case of blocks mainly consisting of grazing land, when the value may be increased to £3,500; and no lease of any of these areas can be granted to a person who at the date of application is directly or indirectly the owner of any other land in Victoria (township land excepted) the value of which, together with that of the allotment applied for, exceeds the amount stated. Improvements of a permanent and substantial character must be effected by the lessee of a farm allotment to the value of at least two instalments of the purchase money before the end of the first year from the date of the lease, 10 per cent. of the purchase money before the end of the third year, and a further 10 per cent. before the end of the sixth year. Improvements must thus be made to the value of at least 20 per cent. of the total purchase money payable for the allotment. If an approved deputy is fulfilling the residential condition, the value of the improvements must be at least 30 per cent. of the total purchase money. If they are made in excess of requirements during the first three years, the excess is set off against the expenditure necessary by the end of the sixth year. Where special circumstances warrant action, the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Board, may modify the improvement conditions.

Advances to settlers. The Closer Settlement Act provides for advances by the Closer Settlement Board to settlers who are—

- (a) Lessees under the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915.
- (b) Licensees of an agricultural or grazing allotment under the *Land Act* 1915.
- (c) Licensees under section 86 of the *Land Act* 1915 or corresponding sections of any repealed Act.
- (d) Conditional purchase lessees under the *Land Act* 1915; or
- (e) Conditional purchase lessees under the Murray Settlements Act, now Section 245, *Land Act* 1915.
- (f) Selection purchase lessees under Sections 46 and 50, *Land Act* 1915, during the first six years of the term of the leases.
- (g) Perpetual lessees under Section 54, *Land Act* 1915.

Advances of money to assist in effecting improvements may be granted by the Board up to 80 per cent. of the value of the permanent improvements effected, such advances to be repaid by half-yearly instalments

extending over twenty years, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Advances to acquire stock and for the purchase of seed, manure, and implements can also be made. The total advances for all purposes must not exceed £625.

Advances not exceeding £250 may be made to persons holding approved share-farming or leasing agreements, for the purchase of stock and implements, and for such other purposes as the Board thinks fit, to enable them to carry out the share-farming or leasing agreement.

The period for repaying the advances on improvements is usually limited to twenty years, and for live stock, seed, manure, and implements, to three years, interest at 5 per cent. per annum being charged on the unpaid balance of the amount advanced.

Group Settlement in Mountainous Areas. Land may be acquired by the Board in mountainous areas for disposal to any group of settlers (not being less than five), and provision is made for freedom from payment of instalments for any period not exceeding ten years, subject to certain improvement conditions. Special provision is also made to enable the Board to provide road access to such areas. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the free period fixed by the Minister of Lands will be added to the capital value of the allotment, and will be repaid as part of the instalments of purchase money.

The Board may authorize an advance to be made for the purpose of clearing and improving the land, and may make progress payments to the lessee as the work for which the advance is intended progresses.

The Board will also assist in the erection of the dwelling-house and out-buildings required for the allotment. Advances made by the Board for this purpose are repayable on the same terms as those made to assist in effecting improvements which are referred to above.

Wire netting advances. Advances of wire netting may also be made under the Closer Settlement Acts to owners of land—

- (a) if such land is held under conditions set forth in the Closer Settlement Acts; or
- (b) if such land immediately adjoins any unoccupied Crown land or is not included in any municipality.

The wire netting supplied is No. 17 gauge, $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in. mesh, 42 inches wide, and is supplied in rolls of not less than 100 yards. Each advance is limited to a quantity sufficient for 6 miles of vermin-proof fencing, and the price of the wire netting is deemed to be the amount of the advance, which is repayable by a cash payment or on terms over a period not exceeding ten years, with interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Estates purchased. Apart from the estates purchased for discharged soldiers' settlement (*vide* page 457) the following is a complete statement of all estates acquired by the Closer Settlement Board for the purpose of closer settlement at 30th June, 1924, including

those purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, i.e., estates in irrigable areas :—

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessces.-			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
	acres.	£	£				acres.
Dry Areas.							
Farms—							
Allambee ..	5,025	31,794	35,107	24	..	..	1,083
Allendale ..	1,108	9,728	9,750	7	..	..	..
Balure ..	183	1,463	1,494	..	..	10	..
Bamawm ..	168	1,391	1,390	..	..	..	..
Bellarine ..	204	5,457	7,009	6	..	..	65
Belmont ..	113	3,161	5,766	..	..	17	..
Boisdalé ..	2,521	72,174	74,763	42	..	..	..
Bona Vista ..	2,060	28,832	33,580	23	..	4	..
Boorool ..	2,221	45,810	46,012	4	..	..	1,636
Chester ..	1,069	12,024	12,024	4	..	..	..
Cohuna ..	223	2,215	2,238	1	..	..	..
Colbinabbin ..	19,163	110,198	114,754	87	..	..	..
Condah ..	157	1,725	1,725	..	..	..	..
Cornelia Creek ..	29,567	121,034	125,444	76	..	..	..
Cremona ..	1,292	20,140	21,923	1	..	1	..
Crystal Waters ..	1,036	8,159	8,196	..	..	..	1,036
Daylesford ..	70	2,957	5,312	14	..	..	..
Deepdene ..	2,964	35,742	36,711	13	..	..	..
Doogalook ..	4,640	20,002	29,753	16	..	..	..
Dunrobin ..	18,814	119,779	123,372	56	..	23	..
Dura ..	331	3,200	3,258	7	..	..	..
Edeyrn ..	1,991	10,455	10,501	..	..	..	2,015
Englefield ..	11,242	33,302	33,564	4	..	..	4,709
Ercildoune ..	1,190	12,199	12,214	7	..	..	..
Eumeralla ..	10,034	57,570	61,045	34	..	6	..
Eurack ..	5,109	53,640	57,216	45	..	..	..
Exford ..	8,005	64,039	67,584	43	..	6	..
Gellion's ..	560	21,575	21,660	6	..	..	..
Glenaladale ..	2,110	28,787	29,464	16	..	..	..
Glendenning and Melville Forest..	43,800	153,453	154,576	38	..	..	6,516
Greenvale ..	304	7,298	7,335	4	..	..	..
Heart ..	3,793	56,322	58,567	38	..	..	..
Highton ..	424	11,032	15,467	18	..	..	..
Hogan's ..	444	6,197	6,345	9	..	..	..
Hurstwood ..	6,493	31,311	31,573	14	..	..	..
Inveray ..	1,258	7,548	7,647	26	..	..	..
Keayng ..	1,497	14,966	16,389	12	..	..	..
Kenilworth ..	18,440	55,321	56,286	29	..	12	..
Kilmany Park ..	8,746	106,080	108,496	70	..	..	..
Kongbool ..	32,018	111,148	111,867	28	..	..	1,893
Konongwootong ..	10,180	104,363	106,657	62	..	15	..
Koyuga ..	790	3,914	3,914	2	..	..	..
Laidlaw's ..	1,047	7,325	7,373	3	..	..	..
Lara ..	8,332	45,325	48,082	32	..	7	..
Leslie Manor ..	18,005	121,085	121,813	31	..	..	3,207
Mackey ..	1,078	20,626	20,635	..	..	..	..
Marathon and Willow-grove ..	14,782	58,752	60,550	26	..	..	..
Marbyrnong ..	1,112	10,842	11,068	12	..	2	..
Meadowbank ..	313	9,085	9,608	4	..	..	..
Mesmie ..	10,027	57,159	57,525	45	..	..	..
Moralla ..	17,199	60,197	63,036	26	..	..	..
Mordialloc ..	460	7,850	13,303	31	..	..	..
Morven ..	8,029	39,533	39,944	20	..	..	..
Mount Widderin ..	8,333	48,634	49,878	11	..	..	..
Moyhu ..	2,417	19,581	20,337	22	..	..	..

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924—continued.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessees.			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
	acres.	£	£				acres.
Dry Areas—continued.							
Farms—continued.							
Mundara ..	1,915	16,516	16,589	..	..	..	1,915
Nanneella ..	738	7,767	7,842	6	..	13	..
Narnbool ..	9,198	60,873	61,323	4	..	..	3,295
Nathalia ..	30	361	388	..	..	5	..
Nerrin Nerrin ..	7,740	67,915	69,242	28	..	1	..
Numurkah ..	2,363	18,901	19,004	12	..	1	..
Oaklands ..	8,050	26,309	26,740	10	..	..	..
Overnewton ..	11,485	71,492	73,340	67	..	..	..
Pannoo ..	15,101	98,455	100,609	41	..	..	..
Pirron Yallock ..	1,059	23,796	25,108	21	..	..	..
Restdown ..	17,894	60,391	61,409	52	..	..	..
Richmond Vale ..	1,539	11,000	11,137	10	..	1	..
Romsey ..	285	8,834	8,935	14	..	..	115
Section 20	54,879	386,507	389,426	250	..	2	..
Shepparton (Ascot Park)	488	3,671	3,671	..	..	..	..
Springs ..	398	2,290	2,318	8	..	..	..
Springvale ..	3,396	25,895	26,318	22	..	..	..
Squatleaseamere ..	8,217	54,436	54,676	12	..	..	4,424
Staughton Vale ..	9,847	66,466	68,023	41	..	..	..
Stoneyhurst ..	1,886	33,030	33,261	..	..	..	1,868
Strathkellar ..	10,228	74,150	76,458	60	..	2	..
Tandarra ..	4,558	21,083	21,240	19	..	..	..
Thomastown ..	581	11,230	15,783	26	..	1	..
Tipperary Park ..	657	4,764	4,785	..	..	..	657
Walmer ..	13,769	44,751	46,827	41	..	2	..
Wando Vale ..	10,446	63,985	66,840	67	..	..	..
Wangaratta ..	794	9,659	15,530	29	..	..	..
Warragul ..	98	2,060	3,295	7	..	1	..
Waubra ..	46	1,042	1,164	10	..	3	..
Wein Wein Gurd ..	3,021	8,684	8,964	13	..	..	..
Werneth ..	6,585	31,043	31,778	21	..	..	..
Werribee ..	15,218	148,802	164,332	35	..	..	..
Whitfield ..	4,247	36,096	38,366	34	..	1	..
Willows ..	380	5,131	5,165	3	..	..	..
Woolongoon ..	14,320	100,405	101,003	23	..	..	2,276
Wootong Vale ..	11,560	57,500	57,851	18	..	..	..
Wyuna ..	23,024	120,876	124,640	114	..	10	..
Land purchased for Discharged Soldiers, but granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts ..	62,685	451,787	451,975	241	..	..	..
Land disposed of under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts ..	..	..	..	137	..	..	..
Purchases for Immigration ..	5,920	103,056	103,236	5	..	..	4,822
	697,136	4,464,008	4,599,700	2,651	..	146	41,532
Crown Lands (Farms)—							
Inverloch ..	220	693	693	1	..	..	..
Leongatha ..	53	1,325	1,325	3	..	..	..
Mortlake ..	2,350	10,945	10,945	10	..	17	..
Newtown ..	157	1,955	3,496	4	..	..	..
	2,780	14,918	16,459	18	..	17	..

CLOSER SETTLEMENT ESTATES AT 30TH JUNE, 1924—continued.

Estates.	Area.	Estates.		No. of Lessees.			Areas available for Allotment.
		Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock or Debentures	Total Cost to Date.	Farm Allotments.	Workmen's Home Allotments.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
	acres.	£	£				acres.
Dry Areas—continued.							
Workmen's Homes—							
Brunswick ..	91	2,792	3,349	..	56	..	..
Cadman's ..	18	844	1,627	..	42	..	..
Dal Campbell ..	45	2,358	3,458	..	63	..	..
Footscray ..	31	2,494	3,794	..	85	..	..
Glenhuntly ..	74	7,040	12,049	..	158	..	..
Pender's Grove ..	233	23,337	33,243	..	259	..	..
Phoenix ..	23	968	2,338	..	47	..	..
Tooronga ..	101	17,675	27,601	..	210	..	..
Thornbury ..	11	5,625	7,086	..	47	..	..
	627	63,133	94,545	..	967	..	..
Crown Lands (Workmen's Homes)—							
Dowling Forest ..	225	1,350	1,376	..	15	..	..
Geelong ..	3	300	2,347	..	10	..	..
Maddingley ..	13	1,300	1,300	..	13	..	..
Warrnambool ..	46	1,188	1,188	..	25	..	..
Werribee Police Paddock ..	57	1,680	1,701	..	16	..	..
	344	5,818	7,912	..	79	..	..
Irrigable Areas.							
Farms—							
Bamawm ..	13,362	122,944	134,823	141	..	11	..
Berrys' ..	343	3,426	3,450	10	..	..	..
Cohuna ..	11,543	114,856	121,022	103	..	6	710
Cornelia Creek ..	2,507	16,501	19,823	7	..	..	194
Dingee ..	470	4,160	4,617	5	..	8	..
Echuca ..	3,235	29,142	31,471	26	..	..	..
Koondrook ..	3,422	23,202	23,964	32	..	..	..
Koyuga ..	4,173	36,228	40,422	36	..	14	6
Kyabram ..	3,049	36,091	38,508	18	..	7	115
Nanneella ..	8,565	78,654	84,105	87	..	2	30
Nyah ..	35	120	605	2	..	..	..
Section 20 ..	82	12,719	12,768	10	..	..	..
Shepparton ..	9,242	136,839	152,979	190	..	40	..
Stanhope ..	20,889	228,630	233,270	67	..	11	1,219
Swan Hill ..	6,878	71,817	82,363	123	..	1	..
Tongala ..	15,228	172,395	190,382	153	..	21	146
Werribee ..	7,996	153,871	166,016	104	..	20	434
Land purchased for Discharged Soldiers, but granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts ..	8,592	108,748	108,873	215	..	..	..
Land disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	..	..	..	450	..	..	..
Purchases for Immigration ..	30,598†	476,461	477,332	73	..	..	2,072
	150,956	1,826,804	1,926,903	1,852	..	141	4,926
Crown Lands—							
Swan Hill No. 3 ..	655‡	2,450	2,528	..	..	..	..
Grand Total ..	852,498	6,377,131	6,648,047	4,521	1,046	304	46,458

† Partly subdivided.

‡ Included in Swan Hill Estate.

NOTE.—The total cost to date of estates comprises the following items:—Purchase money, expenses prior to disposal, public works, and interest capitalized.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Board had acquired 164 properties, with a total area of 852,489 acres, of which 46,458 acres were then available for allotment. Of the estates acquired, an area of 16,959 acres had been used at the date mentioned for settlement of migrants from overseas. Portions of estates, amounting in the aggregate to 48,811 acres, have been sold by public competition and for public reserves without any restrictions, and are not under conditional purchase lease.

Up to the end of June, 1924, 587 allotments, containing 53,835 acres, had been sold to discharged soldiers and transferred to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act.

Extent of Closer Settlement. The extent of the settlement effected by the Board up to 30th June, 1924, is given in the next statement.

SUMMARY OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT TO 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Classification of Holdings.	Number.	Average Capital Value.	Average Area.	Total Area.
	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms	3,934	1,224	170	670,081
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	304	136	12	3,675
Workmen's Homes Allotments ..	1,046	90	‡	784
Allotments granted to Discharged Soldiers, and transferred to Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	587	958	92	53,835
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	48,811
Total area of land settled				777,186
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	..	..	..	46,458
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	1,089
Area of land acquired but not yet available				22,749
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..				5,016
Total land acquired to 30th June, 1924				852,498

Closer Settlement Farm Allotments.

The next table shows the extent of operations with regard to Farm Allotments up to 30th June, 1920, and progressive totals for each of the following years:—

FARM ALLOTMENTS—EXTENT OF OPERATIONS TO THE YEARS 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended 30th June.	Number.	Total Area.	Average Area.	Total Capital Value.	Average Capital Value.
		Acres.	Acres.	£	£
1920	3,060	471,239	154	3,418,020	1,117
1921	3,090	470,967	152½	3,429,900	1,110
1922	3,168	478,683	151	3,481,632	1,099
1923	3,403	525,434	151	3,828,375	1,125
1924	3,934	670,081	170	4,815,216	1,224

The sum of £5,193,488 had been repaid to the Closer Settlement Fund up to 30th June, 1924. Of that amount £2,390,673 had been transferred to revenue to meet interest due to stockholders, £90,000 had been invested to replace amounts written off estates re-valued, £100,000 had been placed in securities under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts, and £2,518,716 had been utilized for redemption and cancellation of stock and for capital and working expenditure, the balance to the credit of the fund on 30th June, 1924, being £94,099. The balance of unredeemed securities is now £5,216,390, on which the interest payable amounts to £217,567 per annum. Up to 30th June, 1924, 13,663 applications for advances aggregating £1,394,934 had been approved, and that amount had been advanced to effect improvements, or upon improvements already effected by lessees.

Discharged Soldiers Settlement. By Acts 2916 of 1917, 2988 of 1918, 3039 of 1919, 3061 of 1920, 3130 of 1921, and 3253 of 1922, provision was made for the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and for other matters. The operation of these acts is under the control of the Closer Settlement Board, with the limitation that the closer settlement areas under irrigation conditions, and situated within an Irrigation and Water Supply District within the meaning of the *Water Act* 1915, are managed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Closer Settlement Board and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had specially purchased for the settlement of soldiers 1,744,111 acres at a cost of £13,214,902. The number of soldiers settled up to that date was as follows :—

On land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board	6,282
On land specially purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	1,410
On Closer Settlement old estates—Dry areas	36
On Closer Settlement old estates—Irrigable areas	567
On Crown Lands—Ordinary and Mallee Areas	1,270
On Crown Lands—Merbein and Nyah Irrigation Areas	186
Soldiers receiving assistance from the Closer Settlement Board, on share farming, leasing agreements and freehold land	814
Total	10,565

In addition to the above there were available or in process of being made available 18 allotments, of which 1 was on land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board, and 17 were on Crown land. There were also 952 blocks available under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions, for which returned soldiers could apply.

Up to the end of June, 1924, the amount of assistance rendered by the Board to soldier settlers by way of advances was £6,223,942.

WATERWORKS.

Victorian Waterworks. All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table summarizes those waterworks on which the Government has expended or advanced moneys, and includes practically all waterworks in the State other than minor works constructed by municipalities out of municipal funds:—

WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES
BY STATE TO 30TH JUNE, 1923.

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs.	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—		Gallons.	£
Coliban System ..	Domestic and Mining Stock and Domestic	10,855,000,000	1,290,663
Broken River Works ..		..	14,853
		Acre feet.	
Goulburn-Waranga ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	330,000	1,724,377
North-west (Kerang) Lakes	Stock and Domestic	88,500	18,778
Kow Swamp Works ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	40,860	187,566
Loddon River Works ..	" ..	14,000	167,636
Sugarloaf Reservoir (under construction) ..	" ..	300,000	867,512
Glenmaggie Reservoir ..	" ..	150,000	207,160
		Cubic feet.	
Lake Lonsdale Reservoir	Stock and Domestic	1,981,000,000	49,054
Lower Wimmera Compensation Works ..	" ..	125,000,000	8,558
Long Lake Pumping Works ..	" ..	166,000,000	27,346
Bacchus Marsh and Werribee Scheme ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	Acre feet. 31,850	166,909
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (23)	" ..	..	2,216,892
Waterworks Districts (23)	Stock and Domestic	..	2,093,286
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust ..	Irrigation ..	..	117,018
		Gallons.	
Waterworks Trusts (98) ..	Stock and Domestic	1,180,000,000	1,278,847
Municipal Corporations (29)	" ..	3,110,000,000	785,602
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	Irrigation ..	..	32,724
Miscellaneous Expenditure	" ..	..	178,647
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	Domestic ..	6,460,000,000	5,675,755
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	" ..	2,703,967,000	633,057
Total ..	.. ..	..	17,742,240

Of the expenditure given in the case of the Melbourne waterworks, £3,189,934 represents money borrowed by the State, £2,251,752 of which had been redeemed at 30th June, 1923—£800,000 out of consolidated revenue, and £1,451,752 by payments from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, to which body the waterworks were transferred in 1891. The loan liability to the State of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works on the above date was £938,182. Further particulars relating to this Board will be found on page 223, Part V., of this volume.

The Geelong Waterworks were sold by the Government to the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust in 1908 for £265,000. The expenditure shown in the above table includes, in addition to this amount, the outstanding State loan liability on account of the works, viz., £155,577, and the capital expenditure by the Trust since acquiring the works, viz., £212,480.

The next table summarizes the amounts disbursed on State works and those granted and lent to local bodies by the State on account of waterworks. In addition to their receiving free grants large sums have been written off the liabilities of the local bodies.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND LOANS FOR WATERWORKS.

	Expenditure and Advances by State.	Interest Capitalized.	Free State Grants.	Capital Written Off.	Payments towards Redemption.	Amount standing at Debit, 30th June, 1923.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
State Works	4,730,412	..	2,798*	..	..	4,730,412
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (23)	2,216,892	..	15,406	575,152	19,573	1,622,167
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust	117,018	..	..	..	6,725	110,293
Waterworks Districts (23)	2,093,286	..	46,349	175,055	42,436	1,875,795
Waterworks Trusts (9s)	1,241,433	6,871	37,414	125,861	172,933	949,510
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust	455,812	..	..	..	300,235	155,577
Municipal Corporations (20)	776,059	43,633	..	165,870	147,347	506,475
(9)	9,543	346	..	..	9,889	..
Melbourne and Metropolitan Waterworks System	3,189,934	..	..	..	2,251,752	938,182
Abolished Trusts (8)	31,710	..	243	31,680	30	..
Flood Protection Districts	208,598	..	..	..	..	208,598
Miscellaneous	178,647	..	..	..	..	178,647
Total	15,249,344	50,850	102,210	1,073,618	2,950,920	11,275,656

* Originally grants to Waterworks Trusts, the works on which spent having been taken over by the State.

In addition to the capital written off, as shown above, arrears of interest amounting to £579,786 have been written off certain

liabilities to the State, viz., £342,773 from the liabilities of what were originally Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, £85,556 from the liabilities of Waterworks Trusts, and £151,457 from the liabilities of Municipal Corporations. Thus the amount which has actually been written off the liabilities of the Trusts (Irrigation and Waterworks) and Corporations is £1,653,404. Interest outstanding at 30th June, 1923, amounted to £25,842, viz., £7,511 against the First Mildura Trust, £15,179 against Waterworks Trusts, and £3,152 against Municipal Corporations.

IRRIGATION.

Progress of Irrigation. Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control. In the year mentioned, by the authority of Parliament, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and intrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1915—which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1905 and 1909, of which epitomes have been given in previous issues of this work—and the *Water Acts* 1916 and 1918. The chief difficulties under which the Irrigation Trusts laboured were sparse settlement, and the absence of powers to make compulsory charges on the properties commanded by the irrigation channels. Since the assumption of control by the Commission a policy of closer settlement on the lands served by the irrigation channels has been inaugurated and vigorously pushed on, and a system of compulsory rating enforced, along with which there has been the allotment of water as a right to properties in channelled areas.

An illustration of the influence of closer settlement and the allotment of water rights in extending irrigation is contained in the following table, which shows, for the districts having water rights, most of which are directly affected by the Commission's Closer Settlement policy, the areas irrigated in 1909-10—the year in which these two factors

were first put into operation—and the average areas for the last five years :—

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION IN CLOSER SETTLEMENT
AREAS.

District (having allotted Water Rights).	Area Irrigated.	
	1909-10.	Average for last Five Years.
	Acres.	Acres.
Supplied from the Goulburn—		
Shepparton .. .. .	..	14,344
Rodney	32,356	51,353
Stanhope	2,000	7,662
Tongala	3,000	12,264
Rochester	500	25,612
Echuca North (two years) ..	..	2,279
Dingee .. .. .	..	2,884
Tragowel Plains	20,000	33,233
Supplied from the Murray—		
Cohuna	12,000	17,600
Gannawarra	7,825	19,815
Koondrook	5,029	15,326
Swan Hill	5,410	12,140
Nyah	569	2,472
Merbein	202	7,453
Tresco (two years) .. .. .	..	1,466
Supplied from the Werribee—		
Bacchus Marsh	31	2,581
Werribee .. .. .	..	4,899
Total	88,922	233,383

The area under irrigated culture in the whole State, in 1923-24, for all kinds of crop, was 324,558 acres. Although, owing to unusually heavy falls of rain during the irrigation season, this was 26,169 acres less than the area irrigated in the previous year, which was exceptionally dry, the average of the previous four years was exceeded by 1,454 acres.

Total area irrigated.

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in 1909-10 and each of the last five years, and the purposes for which the land was utilized :—

IRRIGATED AREAS : HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	1909-10.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals	23,715	76,810	26,546	25,039	60,304	32,240
Lucerne	24,124	71,364	72,338	82,226	92,679	94,479
Sorghum and other annual fodders ..	8,094	32,955	25,963	28,112	35,591	33,356
Pastures	50,541	117,263	100,424	88,195	88,787	91,912
Vineyards and orchards	17,524	43,586	50,281	55,601	61,061	64,647
Fallow	4,988	8,502	3,465	4,867	8,850	4,523
Miscellaneous ..	785	2,768	3,517	3,867	3,455	3,401
Details not available (private diversions)	129,771	353,248	282,534	287,907	350,727	324,558
	8,000	18,000	From 1st July, 1920, included in detail areas above			
Total	137,771	371,248	282,534	287,907	350,727	324,558

Of the total area irrigated in 1923-24—324,558 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows :—Pastures, 29 ; cereals, 10 ; lucerne, 29 ; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 20 ; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 10 ; fallow, 1 ; and miscellaneous, 1.

Closer Settlement in Irrigation Districts.

The Commission during 1923-24 provided holdings under ordinary closer settlement conditions for both local—including a few discharged soldiers—and oversea land-seekers. The number of applicants for irrigable blocks

whose applications were granted in the year was 310 ; of these 29 were discharged soldiers, 208 local civilians, and the remaining 73 approved oversea settlers. The area of the new estates subdivided and made available was about 8,300 acres, of which 1,400 acres were purchased during the year.

In the districts supplied by the Goulburn Irrigation System 3,550 acres were made available as follows :—3,000 acres at Shepparton, which were subdivided into 43 holdings, and 550 acres in the Rodney Irrigation District, which provided 9 more holdings. In the districts served by the River Murray schemes 4,500 acres were subdivided at Murrabit (Gonn Crossing) into 69 allotments. A further small section of the Red Cliffs Estate was subdivided to provide blocks for 7 oversea settlers. The subdivided portions of this estate have now provided 706 holdings, practically all of which are occupied by discharged soldiers.

Since the commencement of the repatriation of Victoria's soldiers, the Commission has placed 2,168 qualified soldier settlers on irrigable holdings under Closer Settlement conditions, and has also made advances to some 60 others who had purchased farms without State aid. Some soldiers, whose health was impaired by the war, and others, for various reasons, have transferred their blocks. Notwithstanding this, there are nearly 600 settled in the Goulburn districts, 1,070 in the Murray areas—of whom 623 are at Red Cliffs—and 143 in the Maffra and Werribee districts.

In view of the enhancement in land values that takes place through the construction of irrigation channels, the Commission purchased in advance of works some 43,000 acres, of which 35,000 acres are still in hand.

During the year thirteen properties, comprising in all 3,200 acres, were purchased at Hallam, near Dandenong. Water supplies from the Mornington Peninsula system will be available for these lands, which it is intended to fully drain and subdivide into holdings suitable for market gardens. As the areas adjacent to Melbourne hitherto used for market gardening purposes are being gradually absorbed by extensions of suburban residential areas, the provision of these lands will tend to important developments in the market gardening industry.

The following statement shows the lands purchased for civilians and discharged soldiers by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and the extent of settlement on each estate after subdivision. The subdivided portions are supporting twenty times as many families as were living on them previously. The statement contains also particulars of settlement effected under section 20 of the *Closer Settle-*

ment Act 1915 outside the large estates subdivided by the Commission:—

Closer Settlement Estate.	Area of Lands purchased by the State in Acres.	Properties Subdivided.						
		Area in Acres.	Number.	Number of Families thereon when Purchased.	Subdivided into—		Number of Closer Settlement Blocks now occupied.	Present Increase in Number of Families.
					Number of Closer Settlement Blocks.	Average Area in Acres.		
Shepparton	14,100	14,100	33	29	388	34	365	336
East Goulburn	10,300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rodney	2,800	1,400	5	3	19	73	12	9
Stanhope	21,500	21,500	7	13	330	55	296	283
Kyabram	4,400	3,000	7	10	57	52	54	44
Tongala	18,600	18,200	37	34	305	57	293	259
Koyuga	4,200	4,200	..	..	50	79	48	48
Cornelia Creek	2,500	2,500	..	..	19	161	19	19
Nanneella	9,000	9,000	17	7	119	73	116	109
Echuca	3,600	3,600	8	4	31	101	30	26
Bamawm	13,400	13,400	28	21	180	70	177	156
Dingee	500	500	3	1	17	27	15	14
Callvil	3,300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cohuna	12,000	12,000	29	10	137	83	122	112
Koordrook	8,400	8,400	13	9	123	62	80	71
Swan Hill	12,500	12,500	34	16	303	39	288	272
Nyah	3,800	3,800	8	1	237	15	232	231
Merbein	8,300	8,300	..	..	410	20	410	410
Red Cliffs	33,000	18,000	..	3	706	17	682	679
Bacchus Marsh	70	70	1	..	2	36	2	2
Werribee	10,000	10,000	Pt. 1	11	233	36	229	218
Hallam	3,200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Maffra	7,700	4,900	7	4	107	43	41	37
Properties purchased under Section 20, Closer Settlement Act 1915, outside above Estates, vide page 450	207,170	169,370	240	176	3,773	41	3,511	3,335
	19,544	..	..	..	..	..	211	..
	226,714							

Progress of Irrigated Closer Settled Districts. The good progress in Closer Settlement development has been continued during the past year. The settlers have steadily consolidated their positions by making further improvements, bringing new areas under lucerne and other crops, and increasing the number and improving the quality of their herds. In the dried fruit irrigation areas a high average yield of raisins and currants was experienced, the total yield for Victoria far exceeding previous records. In Red Cliffs, the largest soldier settlement in the State, a number of blocks reached the producing stage, and the harvest returned 570 tons of dried fruit as the result of less than four years' settlement, while this season a further area will become productive, and it is expected that fully 4,000 tons will be produced. At Swan Hill, Kerang, Murrabit, Shepparton, Merbein, Nyah, and other irrigation centres, citrus culture is making great

advances, and, although the year has not been good climatically, growers generally are obtaining satisfactory financial results. In the districts of Stanhope, Rochester, Tongala, and Cohuna, where the settlers favour dairying and sheep raising, pig and poultry raising are fast becoming important adjuncts to the original industries. Remarkable development is evidenced at Stanhope, which area, prior to subdivision, carried about one sheep to the acre, and supported a population of about 60 persons. At the present time, only four years after the greater part of the area has been settled, the district supports over 300 families, comprising a population of approximately 1,200 persons, who possess implements to the value of £28,000, and have made permanent improvements to the value of £130,000.

The Railway from Kerang to Gonn Crossing (Murrabit) is now open for goods traffic, and, adjacent to the site of the new railway station at Gonn Crossing, the Commission has made provision for a township, and has also made two estates available for closer settlement.

At Bacchus Marsh and Werribee lucerne production has been good, although weather conditions militated against successful drying. At Werribee, and to some extent at Bacchus Marsh, fruit and vegetable growing are being introduced with satisfactory results. In the Maffra district water will be available for portion of the area during the coming season, and, with irrigation, a greatly increased yield in the sugar beet crops is anticipated.

The marketing of canned fruit has shown a marked improvement, and the two co-operative canneries, Shepparton and Kyabram, have had a most successful season—over 6,000,000 tins of fruit having been processed. The previous season's production was exceeded by 25 per cent.

The marketing of dried fruits, however, is causing much anxiety owing to unsettled conditions in Europe. Both Commonwealth and State Governments are concentrating on the problem, and success in their efforts is expected.

An advance in the direction of more improved methods and higher yields in irrigation districts should be secured by reason of the recent formation of an Irrigation Research Committee, comprising representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. The function of this Committee is to assist settlers by investigation of various problems of irrigated agriculture and to demonstrate results obtained at several research stations, where attention will be specially devoted to irrigation. During the past year, experimental plots, dealing with the manuring of lucerne, have been established at Swan Hill and Rochester; and it is proposed to further extend this work so as to deal with other problems.

Total Storages in State. In 1902 the total capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre-feet. The present capacity is about 813,500 acre-feet, and, when the Sugarloaf, Wimmera, and Maffra Storages have been completed, the total capacity will exceed 1,264,000 acre-feet. The Hume Reservoir, which is in course of construction, and is not included in the storages referred to, will contain between 1,100,000 and 2,000,000 acre-feet (*vide* page 470), half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria. The construction of storage works by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was continued during the year.

Goulburn Storages. At the Sugarloaf Reservoir, on the Upper Goulburn River, work is well advanced with the main retaining wall, which consists of a diaphragm of concrete, a wall of clayey material on the upstream side of the diaphragm, and supporting masses of rock. The valve tower has been completed for some time, and hydraulic lifters for operating the valves have now been placed in position. A volume of some 60,000 acre-feet of water is already held in store, and this will be increased to 300,000 acre-feet when the present undertaking is completed. It has been ascertained by surveys that the site would admit of a storage basin of a total capacity of 918,000 acre-feet. This result could be obtained by progressive stages. During the year plans were prepared for an emergency or power outlet. In view of the possibility of the outlet being utilized in connexion with the Sugarloaf Hydro-electric Scheme (*vide* page 470), the State Electricity Commission was consulted prior to the final adoption of plans.

At the Waranga Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 333,400 acre-feet, work is proceeding on a wall of reinforced concrete that is being built to remedy certain defects in the present embankment by reason of which water has been allowed to escape. These defects, it is supposed, are caused by yabbies or other boring creatures. In addition, a considerable amount of work has been done on the channel bringing supplies from the Goulburn Weir, and on the two outlet channels.

Wimmera Storages. Progress was made with the works for supplementing the domestic and stock supplies to the districts served by the Wimmera-Mallee system. The embankment at Taylor's Lake has been completed, and the storage filled to its full capacity—30,000 acre-feet. Considerable progress has been made with the construction of the valve tower and outlet structures of Pine Lake Reservoir, and a start has been made with the earthwork of the storage. The lake is now filled to a depth of 37 feet, the volume stored being

21,000 acre-feet, all of which is held within its natural banks. The embankment will be built in two stages, the first of which will enable 34,000 acre-feet of water to be impounded. The ultimate holding capacity of this storage will be 62,000 acre-feet. The new main channel connecting the Wimmera River with Taylor's Lake and Pine Lake Storage is completed and in operation. Its capacity is 1,200 acre-feet per day.

The storage provision of the Wimmera-Mallee Supply Scheme now reaches 149,250 acre-feet as against 69,000 acre-feet a few years ago. Storage works now in course of construction will carry the capacity to no less than 210,250 acre-feet. The water is distributed throughout a total area of about 11,000 square miles by main and distributary channels aggregating over 4,800 miles in length (exclusive of an approximately equal length of farmers' connecting branches). This system also supplies water to 32 towns.

**Northern
Mallee
Water Supply.** In the Walpeup portion of the Northern Mallee, comprising an area of about 1,250,000 acres, which adjoins the Wimmera-Mallee districts but is generally too high for inclusion in the gravitation channel system, the Commission has met the water supply needs of settlers by sinking bores, and excavating large public tanks. There are now 95 successful public bores in this area with an average depth of 460 feet, and 187 tanks with a total storage capacity of 169,045,000 gallons.

**Millewa
Water Supply.** Works are in progress for the supply of water to an area of about 1,000,000 acres in the extreme north-western portion of the State, which will be opened up by the 55 miles of railway from Red Cliffs that is being constructed for the service of that territory. The scheme will comprise two main lifts, of about 125 feet and 150 feet, the first being from Lake Cullulleraine—a depression on the edge of the river flats about 5 miles from the River Murray. Fifty miles of main channels and 162 miles of distributaries have already been constructed; these will serve about 270 Mallee blocks which have been allotted to settlers. The work will be carried out in successive stages to meet the requirements of the gradually extending settlement. In this area and the adjacent Sunset country, 63 tanks have been constructed, with a total storage capacity of 75,000 cubic yards.

**Loddon-Murray
Irrigation
Areas.** In the Cohuna and Kerang districts the completion of the Torumbarry Weir has been responsible for a marked impetus in the development of irrigation, extensive areas now being provided for by gravitation entirely where previously a combined gravitation and pumping system was necessary.

The Kerang North-West Lakes were maintained at full supply level during the irrigation season as a result of supplies from the Torumbarry Weir, and further areas, previously irrigated by pumping, have been brought under the influence of gravitation. An area of about 10,000 acres is now being reticulated by a channel system from Third Lake, and work is proceeding on the first 8 miles of the main channel. Drainage works, the aggregate length of which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, have been completed at Murrabit, and an irrigation system, involving a total length of 16 miles of channels, is nearing completion.

Mornington Peninsula Scheme.

The important scheme of reticulated supply to the Naval Base, the inland towns of Berwick, Beaconsfield, Dandenong, Somerville, Cranbourne, and Bittern, and the bayside towns of Mornington, Frankston, South Frankston, Seaford, Carrum, Chelsea, Edithvale, and Aspendale, is in full working order. The reservoirs at Beaconsfield, Frankston, South Frankston, Mornington, and Bittern were kept fully supplied during the past year. Besides carrying out large extensions of mains in all existing districts, the work of reticulating the highest levels of Berwick town was completed, and a similar scheme was put in hand for giving reticulated supplies to the highest levels at South Frankston.

A reinforced concrete service basin of 250,000 gallons capacity has been constructed on the race-course hill at Cranbourne, and another, of a similar capacity, at Berwick.

The new storage of 36,000,000 gallons capacity, on Heywood's Hill, 2 miles north of Dandenong, proved so satisfactory that, in addition to considerable extensions being effected in the Dandenong reticulation, the main pipe line to Noble Park and Spring Vale, and a great part of the reticulation for those townships, were laid during the year. The new main supply line from Berwick to Heywood's Hill Reservoir should be available early in 1925.

Maffra District Irrigation Scheme.

Good progress was made during the year with the construction of the cyclopean concrete dam on the Macallister River, which, when completed, will impound 150,000 acre-feet of water for the irrigation of 80,000 acres of land. It is expected that, during the summer of 1924-25, the dam will be sufficiently high throughout its whole length, and the construction of the northern main channel far enough advanced, to ensure water being available at the Boisdale Ridge and for irrigating the greater portion of the Boisdale flats and portion of the Newry flats—the areas for the service of which the scheme was originally launched. In the area to be served by the southern main channel, the tributary channels on the Mewburn Park Closer Settlement Estate have been completed, so that a supply can be given to this area also, if urgently required, by pumping from the river pending completion of the main channel.

**Other
Irrigation
Districts.**

At Red Cliffs, the scheme which has been inaugurated, and which ranks first in importance among the pumping systems of the State, supplies water to an area totalling 18,000 acres, including the township and 706 soldier settlement blocks. The plant is capable of delivering 500 acre-feet of water per day, lifted 105 feet. The total length of channels constructed to date is 121 miles. Following considerable progress in the township, which has been proclaimed an Urban Waterworks District, a concrete standpipe, 70 feet high and 26 feet in diameter, has been erected, and reticulation extended to meet requirements.

In the Carwarp district, surveys are now being carried out to determine the line of a main channel to supply about 50 square miles of new country at Carwarp and Colignan. A scheme to supply water to high lands surrounding Carwarp Railway Station is being pushed forward. The necessary channels—12 miles in length—have been excavated, and a pump and rising main are being installed.

**Kooweerup
and Cardinia
Flood
Protection
Scheme.**

In addition to works of water supply, the Commission has under construction a comprehensive scheme of works for the reclamation of the extensive swamps in West Gippsland, known as Kooweerup and Cardinia, and for the protection from periodical flooding of the surrounding low-lying lands, aggregating in all 100,000 acres. These areas have been constituted Flood Protection Districts under the provisions of the Water Acts. The construction of the huge main drains, feeders and subsidiary works has reached the stage that provides the landholders affected with protection from all but abnormal floods, and flood protection charges have been levied accordingly.

**River Murray
Waters.**

The scheme of works provided in the River Murray Waters Acts passed by the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia comprises storages on the Upper River Murray and at Lake Victoria, locks and weirs in the course of the River Murray from its mouth to Echuca, and also locks and weirs on the lower part of the River Darling or the River Murrumbidgee, as may be decided by the Government of New South Wales. The Acts provide that for purposes of construction the Minister for Public Works of New South Wales shall be the Constructing Authority for that State; that, for the State of South Australia, the Commissioner of Public Works shall be the Constructing Authority; and that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission shall be the Constructing Authority for Victoria.

Under the River Murray Agreement of 1914 the estimated total cost of the whole of the works is set down at £4,663,000. It is now clear, from the experience gained in connexion with the works which have been put in hand to date, that the total cost of the works will be fully double that amount. The four contracting Governments

have agreed to share equally in the total cost of the works. The total expenditure incurred up to 31st December, 1923, on the portion of the scheme completed and in course of construction was £2,333,000.

The site of the Hume Reservoir is a little below the junction of the rivers Murray and Mitta Mitta. Originally it was designed to provide for a capacity of 1,100,000 acre-feet, but, at a conference of Ministers representing the four interested Governments, held on the 8th and 9th days of August, 1924, the following proposals raised by the Government of Victoria were agreed to :—

- (a) That the work of construction of the Hume dam, of sufficient dimensions to provide for a reservoir of 2,000,000 acre-feet, proceed for a period not exceeding three years, and that the question of the ultimate capacity and completion of the reservoir be then the subject of a further conference. All waters to be used to meet the present allocation obligations and as a reserve for dry years.
- (b) That provision be made for outlet works at the Hume Reservoir suitable for hydro-electric generation purposes, provided, however, that the use of the reservoir for these purposes does not interfere with the volumes of water required for the purposes set out in the River Murray Agreement. The cost of such additional outlet works, estimated at £40,000, shall be borne in equal shares by the States of New South Wales and Victoria, which Governments should have the sole use of any power generated at the reservoir.

The work is being carried out by the Constructing Authorities for the States of New South Wales and Victoria. On the New South Wales section considerable progress has been made, and work is now being proceeded with on the concrete structure. On the Victorian side the construction of the main embankment is being steadily advanced.

The Torumbarry Weir and Lock (near Echuca) was substantially completed and brought into operation in December, 1923, and water was made available for the remainder of the irrigation season.

Weir and Lock No. 11—situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream from Mildura—will form, when completed, a lock pool for about 40 miles upstream, providing a local reserve storage of great value and reducing the suction lift at the Mildura and Red Cliffs Pumping Stations. Work is proceeding with the excavations. The Constructing Authority for New South Wales is also preparing extensive plant for the construction of No. 10 Weir and Lock at Wentworth ; while, in the South Australian section, Weir and Lock No. 1 at Blanchetown has been completed, No. 3 near Lake Bonney has been nearly completed, and substantial progress has been made with No. 5 near Renmark, and No. 9 near the offtake to Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria Storage Works are also approaching completion.

Artesian Bores.

The following particulars relating to artesian boring have been supplied by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission :—

ARTESIAN AND SUB-ARTESIAN BORING (MALLEE).

Number of Bores Sunk.*		Total Depth of Bores.*	
State.	Private.	State.	Private.
95	252	Feet. 44,050	Feet. 49,000

* As at 31st December, 1923.

Mildura Irrigation Settlement.

The Mildura Irrigation Settlement, on the River Murray, was established in 1887 under the management of the Chaffey Brothers Limited, and in 1895 the control of the water supply was vested in the First Mildura Irrigation Trust. Water is obtained by pumping from the river. The following particulars are an indication of the prosperity of the settlement :—

POPULATION OF MILDURA SHIRE, 1891 TO 1923.*

1891 April (Census)	..	2,321	1921 April (Census)	..	13,183
1901 March (Census)	..	3,325	1922 December	..	13,760
1911 April (Census)	..	6,119	1923	..	13,950

* Including the population of the town of Mildura, which up to 1920 was part of the shire.

The capital value of property in the Shire of Mildura in 1913 was £1,294,160. In 1923 in the same area it had risen to £3,460,000. The receipts and payments of the Mildura Irrigation Trust during the year ended 30th June, 1923, were as follows :—

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF FIRST MILDURA IRRIGATION TRUST, 1922-23.

Receipts.		£	Payments.		£
Horticultural Rates	..	40,784	Wages and Salaries	..	15,461
Special Waterings, &c.	..	7,711	Firewood	..	18,343
Miscellaneous	..	5,722	Interest, Sinking Fund and Depreciation	..	7,331
			Miscellaneous	..	4,910
Total	..	54,217	Total	..	46,045

The extent of watering done represented 22,876 water acres in 1917-18, 39,895 acres in 1918-19, 41,808 acres in 1919-20, 35,632 acres in 1920-21, 44,150 acres in 1921-22, and 42,807 acres in 1922-23.

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each of the years 1921, 1922, and 1923, and the average yearly amount of rainfall deduced from all available records to December, 1923, in each of the 26 river basins or districts constituting the State of Victoria:—

RAINFALL.—YEARLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	Rainfall.			
	During the Year—			Yearly Average to December, 1923.
	1921.	1922.	1923.	
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	24.77	24.42	29.75	25.80
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers	28.89	27.06	32.61	28.38
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek ..	23.63	23.27	29.55	25.13
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite	24.56	23.43	27.00	24.69
Cape Otway Forest ..	39.56	43.74	47.12	38.83
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	25.61	23.17	24.47	24.16
Weiribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	25.21	21.61	19.88	23.55
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	34.77	35.37	34.19	33.81
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	34.47	37.29	37.19	36.01
South Gippsland ..	35.97	38.52	43.48	39.09
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	33.18	35.94	39.12	36.33
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	19.45	24.18	22.73	23.82
Mitchell River ..	22.54	25.09	24.37	26.17
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	23.30	25.62	23.08	27.59
Snowy River ..	27.69	28.64	28.42	34.70
Murray River ..	20.66	11.66	17.17	16.73
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	39.71	26.54	38.22	35.10
Ovens River ..	42.62	25.05	34.60	33.54
Goulburn River ..	30.69	21.25	27.36	26.85
Campaspe River ..	28.07	16.05	22.14	23.00
Loddon River ..	24.53	14.21	20.62	20.30
Avoca River ..	20.74	13.26	17.39	17.16
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	18.80	15.30	17.34	15.97
Eastern Wimmera ..	23.47	21.11	23.70	21.40
Western Wimmera ..	19.97	20.28	23.82	20.04
Mallee ..	14.96	9.09	12.95	12.67
Weighted Averages ..	25.35	21.35	25.34	24.29

The wettest portion of the State is the Cape Otway Forest, which is closely followed by the South Gippsland district and the Latrobe and Thomson Basin. The lowest rainfall occurs in the Mallee district, where it averages 12.67 inches per annum, as compared with 24.29 inches for the whole State.

The actual areas of the State, in square miles, subject to different degrees of rainfall are as shown in the following statement:—

DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Rainfall.						Area.
Inches.						Square Miles.
Under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	19,912
15 to 20 ..	..	..	..	..	..	12,626
20 to 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,070
25 to 30 ..	..	..	..	..	..	15,247
30 to 40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,029
40 to 50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	7,055
50 to 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3,348
Over 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,597

The rainfall recorded for each quarter of 1923 and the quarterly averages up to 1923 deduced from all available records are as follows:—

RAINFALL—QUARTERLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	First Quarter.		Second Quarter.		Third Quarter.		Fourth Quarter.	
	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.
	points	points	points	points	points	points	points	points
Glengly and Wannon Rivers ..	86	344	1,003	757	1,109	908	777	571
Fitzroy, Kumeralla, and Merri Rivers ..	187	421	998	835	1,311	958	765	624
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek ..	161	420	775	704	1,162	808	857	581
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite ..	174	428	692	697	1,079	765	755	581
Cape Otway Forest ..	288	585	1,585	1,173	1,606	1,287	1,233	838
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	155	456	638	653	905	705	749	597
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	90	504	535	604	662	650	701	597
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	317	678	687	871	1,070	927	1,345	905
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	362	672	850	996	1,250	1,013	1,257	920
South Gippsland ..	368	766	1,186	1,095	1,051	1,144	1,143	904
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	380	695	924	923	1,418	1,036	1,190	979
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	204	601	500	527	791	602	778	652
Mitchell River ..	162	643	495	592	920	698	860	684
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	179	690	373	657	893	685	863	727
Snowy River ..	194	809	401	888	1,117	914	1,130	859
Murray River ..	38	305	670	494	609	491	400	383
Mitta Mitta and Klewa Rivers ..	114	626	1,212	968	1,246	1,103	1,250	813
Ovens River ..	52	519	1,372	398	1,188	1,108	848	729
Goulburn River ..	97	448	842	786	958	847	839	604
Campaspe River ..	54	403	841	690	895	731	424	476
Loddon River ..	49	344	825	613	780	634	408	439
Avoca River ..	43	272	712	529	707	551	272	364
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	43	244	702	487	680	528	309	338
Eastern Wimmera ..	61	235	910	652	870	725	529	468
Western Wimmera ..	58	246	910	621	917	707	497	430
Mallee ..	33	224	584	366	474	396	204	281
The whole State ..	119	430	800	685	928	750	687	564

The averages of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given below :—

AVERAGES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches	29·971	29·923	30·080	30·076
Monthly range of pressure of air—Inches	0·891	0·767	0·814	0·979
Mean temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	57·7	66·6	59·4	50·0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	18·7	21·1	17·4	13·9
Mean relative humidity. Saturation=100	66	60	70	76
Mean rainfall in inches	7·35	5·90	6·56	5·80
Mean number of days of rain	38	24	33	42
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10·21	17·25	7·82	3·62
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6·0	5·2	5·9	6·4
Mean number of days of fog	1	1	6	11

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly averages of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1923 and for the past 68 years, as well as the extremes between which the yearly average values of such elements have oscillated in the latter period.

YEARLY AVERAGES AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS.

Meteorological Elements.	Yearly Averages and Extremes.			
	Year 1923.	Average for 68 Years.	Extremes between which the Yearly Average Values have oscillated in 68 years.	
			Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	29·946	30·012	30·106	29·945
Highest " " " " ..	30·561	30·604	30·762	30·488
Lowest " " " " ..	29·133	29·256	29·495	28·942
Range (inches)	1·428	1·348	1·719	1·104
Mean temperature of air in shade (°Fahr.)	58·6	58·4	59·9	57·3
Mean daily maximum .. (°Fahr.)	67·1	67·3	69·0	66·0
Mean daily minimum	50·0	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum	106·1	105·2	111·2	96·6
Absolute minimum	34·2	30·8	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range	17·1	17·8	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range	71·9	74·4	82·6	66·0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima) ..	114·9	117·9	127·6	106·0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima) (°Fahr.)	46·4	44·0	46·8	39·5
Rainfall (in inches)	22·64	25·61	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days	158	137	171	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	40·26	38·90	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100)	63	68	76	62
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	5·7	5·9	6·4	4·8
Number of days of fog	25	19	39	5

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Department of Agriculture. This Department is controlled by a Minister of the Crown, under whom there is a large staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to the Agricultural, Pastoral, Fruit and Dairying Industries of the State, and in giving instructions to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Government Experimental Farms. The great expansion in our rural industries during recent years has been largely brought about by the general adoption of better methods of farming, and by the introduction of more prolific wheats, and it is claimed that these improvements have been adopted as the result of the experimental and demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture. For many years the Department carried out research work on a large number of experimental plots in private farms throughout the State, but in 1912 a Central Research Farm was established at Werribee, and it is there that the initiative with regard to practically all experimental and research work is now undertaken. The State farms at Rutherglen and Longerenong are used as district experimental stations for the North-East and the Wimmera respectively. The problems investigated on these farms are fully described in the 1915-16 issue of this work.

Agricultural Colleges. An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie, 2,386 acres at Longerenong, 2,500 acres at Gunyah Gunyah, 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. The areas at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for the purpose for which they were reserved, but the other three are devoted to other uses.

In addition to the college and farm lands, provision was made by the Act of 1884 to permanently reserve from sale an area of not more than 150,000 acres of Crown lands, and to vest it in trustees to be appointed, who should hold it in trust for the benefit of and by way of an endowment for State agricultural colleges and experimental farms. The land so reserved now amounts to 71,412 acres, and is let for grazing and agricultural purposes.

The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £35 per annum for maintenance, including stationery and medical and other charges. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students.

**School of
Primary
Agriculture
and
Horticulture.**

This institution is situated in the Burnley Gardens, close to the Hawthorn and Heyington railway stations. The classes are open to male and female students above fourteen years of age. The Course for the Certificate in Horticulture occupies two years, and is intended for those who propose to follow orchard or garden work as a profession. Part time classes are also held for those who are unable to devote full time to the subject. Another feature of the work at the school is the holding of regular classes of instruction in Agricultural Science for those desirous of taking the subject either in the Intermediate or the Leaving grade at the Annual Public Examinations conducted by the University. A practical training is obtained in the orchards, gardens, and nursery connected with the school; the course also includes lectures and demonstrations by various expert teachers. Excursions to up-to-date farms, orchards, and nurseries form part of the work of the school. In 1923 the students enrolled numbered 168.

**Experimental
Farms and
Agricultural
Colleges.**

Various particulars relating to the State Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges are embodied in the next statement.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1923.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Ruther- glen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agri- cultural College.	Longer- enong Agri- cultural College.	School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Professional Staff	1	2	13	6	4
Hands employed	42	36	54	17	6
Students	10	13	72	50	168
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of plant and machinery	3,300	2,572	5,700	4,500	150
Value of produce for year	10,000	4,925	6,500	8,000	1,200
Receipts—					
Government Grant	12,920	8,200	3,558	1,700	2,110
Fees .. .. .	..	..	2,317	1,798	116
Sale of produce, &c.	11,447	5,111	5,187	5,322	1,226
Other	401	8	83	..	2
Total receipts	24,768	13,319	11,145	8,820	3,454
Expenditure—					
Salaries—					
Professional Staff	372	723	4,250	2,031	1,225
General Staff	6,403	6,687	6,925	2,343	1,100
Buildings and maintenance	1,570	2,198	11,628	5,210	317
Other	4,269	2,718	202	96	597
Total expenditure	12,614	12,326	23,005*	9,680	3,239

* Excluding grant received from the Council of Agricultural Education.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGES, 1923—continued.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Ruther- glen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agri- cultural College.	Longer- enong Agri- cultural College.	School of Primary Agricul- ture, &c.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Area under—					
Cereals for Grain	430	225	325	443	..
Hay	270	126	250	137	1
Fruit trees, &c. .. .. .	..	1½	16	20	14
Vines .. .. .	..	101	15	5	½
Green fodder	260	51	45	40	..
Other crops	100	55	13	..	½
Total area under crop	1,060	559½	664	654	15½
Area of land in fallow	750	250	400	423	..
Area under artificially sown grasses	190	132	..	32	9
Area resting .. .. .	..	131	600	555	..
Total area of arable land	2,000	1,072½	1,664	1,664	24½
Balance of area	209	240½	4,231	722	8½
Total area of farm	2,209	1,313	5,955	2,386	33
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Live Stock—					
Horses	124	47	90	48	3
Dairy cows	60	23	50	23	5
All other cattle	90	2	100	75	9
Sheep	880	653	2,500	786	..
Pigs .. .. .	..	20	103	49	..

**Inspection of
Orchards,
Nurseries, &c.**

The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by the officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. Nurseries are inspected every six months, and certified to by the departmental supervisors if clean and free from disease. Old, worn-out, and infected orchards are destroyed.

A citriculturist has been appointed to take charge of the citrus areas. Special attention is being paid to the packing of fruit; classes are formed in the different districts and a special officer has been appointed to instruct the growers in this branch of horticulture, which is so vital to the efficient marketing of the produce.

Lectures and demonstrations are given on the various other phases of horticulture; experiments are carried out in the treatment of diseases; and sites are selected on the farms of intending fruit growers, to whom advice is given as to the most suitable varieties to be planted and their subsequent treatment.

The fear of introducing the fruit-flies *Tephritis tryoni* and *Halterophora capitata* and diseases arising from other causes has necessitated a thorough examination of fruit from Queensland, New South Wales,

and elsewhere. The fruit-fly question is a very grave one, and, should either of the above-named insects obtain a footing in Victoria, a great portion of the large and important fruit industry of our State will be practically ruined.

Plants and cuttings coming from foreign parts are fumigated if a certificate that they have been treated at the port of shipment does not accompany the consignment. Even when they have been thus certified the Senior Fruit Inspector has the right of examination and, if necessary, of ordering a second fumigation.

Forestry. The State Forests are controlled by a Commission of three, which was appointed in 1919. The State has a wooded area of about 8,000,000 acres, of which some 4,162,000 acres are set aside as timber and climatic reserves. The wooded area consists of—

1. Three million acres of merchantable forest, mainly situated along the Dividing Range with its spurs and foothills and also including the red gum forests of the northern river basins and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district.

2. Three million acres of forest in the more rugged portions of the mountain region. These forests are not at present accessible for practical working, owing to difficulties of transport; their protection, however, is essential for the maintenance of streams and springs.

3. Two million acres in the north-west of the State, known as Mallee, bearing at intervals a thick growth of stunted eucalypts and interspersed with belts of cypress pine and belar.

The forests of Victoria may be divided into four main classes which are referred to hereunder:—

(a) The coastal region, extending from the shore line some fifty miles northward, carries chiefly messmate and three species of stringybark. In Cape Otway district, however, bluegum, mountain ash, and spotted gum predominate; whilst, in the extreme south-east of the State, silvertop, small-fruited bluegum, bastard mahogany, bloodwood, and Gippsland grey box are found.

(b) The mountain region. In the western half of the State the predominant species in the hill forests are messmate, bluegum, manna gum, brown and red stringybarks, and yellow box. In the eastern half of the State the prevailing species are mountain ash, spotted gum, messmate, peppermint, red ash or wollybutt, and bluegum, with stunted snow gums on the steep granitic slopes near the mountain summits.

- (c) The foothills, stretching from the Dividing Range northward down to the plains, bear three valuable species, red ironbark, white ironbark or yellow gum, and grey box.
- (d) The river basins of the Murray and the streams flowing over the northern plain, and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district, bear broad belts of river redgum.

The timbers of commercial value in Victoria number some twenty, all species of the eucalyptus family. In addition, there are about forty woods of fine grain, many of them, however, being small trees confined to limited areas.

With careful conservation and management Victoria's forests are capable of yielding considerable amounts of timber for all time, despite the ravages made upon them in the past by bush fires, settlement, and mining.

The State is notably deficient in softwoods or conifers, though over extensive areas the conditions are suitable for their growth once they are introduced. To encourage their growth, both in State and in private plantations, three large nurseries have been established, at Creswick, Macedon and Broadford, and a number of plantations have been formed, the principal ones being situated at Creswick, Mount Macedon, Frankston, Anglesea, Port Campbell, Bright, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Scarsdale, and Mount Disappointment. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant in order to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1923-24 was £166,446, and the expenditure was £168,880. It is estimated that the quantity of timber produced in the rough in 1923-24 was 132,200,000 super feet. In addition, 372,600 tons measurement of fuel timber was produced.

A Forest School for training cadets is maintained at Creswick. The Commission also controls a State sawmill in the Warburton district, and Timber Seasoning Works at Newport, from which seasoned weatherboards, cabinet stock, floorings and linings are supplied, largely for use in the building of State schools and for other public works.

**Agriculture—
expenditure
and revenue
connected
with.**

The State has rendered substantial assistance to the various branches of the agricultural and pastoral industries during past years. The appended table summarizes for the last five years the items of State expenditure from consolidated revenue in this direction, and shows the amount of revenue

received by the Department of Agriculture, which consists chiefly of payments by exporters for packing produce for export :—

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE CONNECTED WITH
AGRICULTURE, ETC., 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

—	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Department of Agriculture ..	28,278	33,282	34,610	35,063	41,549
Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, &c. ..	675	975	675	675	775
Development of Export Trade ..	93,971	58,785	61,151	60,316	53,372
Viticultural Education and Inspection of Vineyards ..	5,000	6,112	6,881	6,334	4,454
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	46,805	42,159	59,791	75,291	74,497
Advances to Settlers for losses by bush fires, floods, &c. ..	1,755	2,008	91	7,300	659
Technical Agricultural Education, &c. ..	23,095	28,518	26,136	26,123	31,824
Publishing Agricultural Reports ..	250	249	227	329	250
Rabbit and Vermin Extermination ..	36,672	36,158	40,766	47,410	85,489
Stock and Dairy Branch ..	28,396	35,731	42,442	43,887	48,627
Labour Colonies ..	..	..	..	..	..
State Forests and Nurseries ..	86,142	145,790	154,023	157,347	168,880
Miscellaneous ..	3,172	2,999	2,428	3,104	6,006
Total ..	354,211	392,766	429,221	463,179	516,382
<i>Revenue.</i>					
Department of Agriculture ..	181,753	100,715	72,505	78,017	73,282
State Forests ..	96,889	138,679	154,611	163,038	166,446

In addition to the expenditure shown, various sums have been advanced from loans and votes for the purpose of aiding closer settlement, for the resumption of mallee lands, for relief to farmers on account of bush fires and flood losses, and for purchase of seed wheat and fodder. These advances are gradually being repaid.

The expenditure from Loan Funds in 1923-24 was £2,459,605—£1,577,411 having been expended on discharged soldiers' land settlement, £855,919 on closer settlement, and £26,275 on wire netting.

AGRICULTURE.

Progress of cultivation. All divisions of the State are suitable for cultivation, but the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern are the principal wheat-growing districts and furnish about 95 per cent. of the total area under this crop. In recent years the chief extensions of the wheat-growing areas have been in the Mallee. In this district, which

has a rainfall at one time thought wholly inadequate, wheat growing was rendered practicable by the introduction of machinery specially suited to the conditions, the extension of railway lines, and storage of water for domestic and stock supplies; and, with more of these facilities being made available each year, further areas are gradually being brought under cultivation. An indication of the growing importance of the Mallee is afforded by recent figures, which show that, of the wheat produced in the State in the last five seasons, the proportion obtained from the Mallee was 30 per cent., as against slightly less than 5 per cent. in 1891-92. The area under cultivation in the Mallee last season for all purposes was 2,320,765 acres.

The area cultivated in the State in 1923-24 was 6,976,441 acres, as against an annual average of 6,181,465 acres for the previous five seasons, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1905-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1895-1905. Notwithstanding the great increase in the area cultivated, the dairying and pastoral industries show a considerable expansion. The value of butter and cheese exported to overseas countries, which was £1,252,277 in 1900, averaged £3,082,280 in the last five seasons. The value of overseas exports of meats increased from £502,285 in 1900 to an annual average of £2,235,645 in the later period mentioned.

The increase in cultivation has been associated with new and improved farming methods. The chief of these are the practice of fallowing, the use of fertilizers, the selection of suitable seeds, and the increasing attention given to crop rotation. The more general adoption of improved methods in recent years has contributed greatly to the production of the State. The following table shows the progress of cultivation from period to period during the last 69 years:—

ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1855 to 1924.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
1865-75	624,377	57,274	681,651
1875-85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1885-95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1895-1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1905-15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1915-16	5,711,265	1,358,343	7,069,608
1916-17	4,851,335	1,899,559	6,750,894
1917-18	4,110,225	1,672,729	5,782,954
1918-19	3,942,899	1,548,121	5,491,020
1919-20	4,000,815	1,357,536	5,358,351
1920-21	4,489,503	1,935,747	6,425,250
1921-22	4,530,312	2,052,964	6,583,276
1922-23	4,862,548	2,186,881	7,049,429
1923-24	4,682,144	2,294,297	6,976,441

**Areas under
Principal
Crops.**

The principal crops grown in the State are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and hay. The average annual acreage of these for ten-year periods from 1855 to 1915 and the acreage for each of the last nine seasons are given in the next table :—

ANNUAL ACREAGE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1924.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Area of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65 ..	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75 ..	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85 ..	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95 ..	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905 ..	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15 ..	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-16 ..	3,679,971	353,932	61,400	56,910	1,330,455
1916-17 ..	3,125,692	441,598	93,015	73,618	897,186
1917-18 ..	2,690,216	293,214	84,931	66,966	748,808
1918-19 ..	2,214,490	342,867	100,198	51,620	984,479
1919-20 ..	1,918,269	559,547	85,323	53,918	1,116,998
1920-21 ..	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	62,687	1,333,397
1921-22 ..	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	63,895	1,159,135
1922-23 ..	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	61,741	1,261,408
1923-24 ..	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	59,306	1,277,606

**Production of
Principal
Crops.**

The average annual production of the five principal crops for decennial periods, from 1855 to 1915, and the production for each of the last nine seasons were as follows :—

ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 TO 1924.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Production of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-16 ..	58,521,706	9,328,894	1,734,511	173,821	2,342,094
1916-17 ..	51,162,438	8,289,289	1,799,784	187,992	1,232,721
1917-18 ..	37,737,552	6,141,287	1,970,650	182,195	949,545
1918-19 ..	25,239,871	5,274,984	2,028,635	137,533	1,113,861
1919-20 ..	14,858,380	6,603,067	1,528,654	145,888	1,242,489
1920-21 ..	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	171,628	1,984,854
1921-22 ..	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,246	173,660	1,548,453
1922-23 ..	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	148,354	1,665,089
1923-24 ..	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	238,520	1,541,287

Principal crops in Districts. The percentage in each district of the total area under each principal crop during last season was as given below :—

PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL AREA UNDER EACH PRINCIPAL CROP, 1923-24.

District.	Percentage in each District of Area under—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	0·40	5·25	37·33	50·52	19·25	32·90
North-Central	0·39	2·28	4·13	18·87	6·20	2·75
Western	2·19	8·77	13·65	12·84	13·30	5·04
Wimmera	25·93	23·79	9·75	0·21	15·34	1·98
Mallee	46·91	33·72	7·05	0·02	18·65	12·29
Northern	22·34	22·06	9·71	0·01	16·28	15·83
North-Eastern	1·50	2·78	1·16	1·51	4·78	8·34
Gippsland	0·34	1·35	17·22	16·02	6·20	20·87

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 487.

The area under the principal crops in proportion to the total area under crop in each district during last season was as follows :—

RELATIVE AREAS DEVOTED TO DIFFERENT CROPS IN EACH DISTRICT, 1923-24.

District.	Percentage of Area under all Crops devoted to—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	2·24	6·25	4·83	6·85	56·22	23·61
North-Central	7·81	9·70	1·90	9·11	64·45	7·03
Western	17·89	15·19	2·57	2·53	56·55	5·27
Wimmera	65·74	12·79	0·57	0·01	20·25	0·64
Mallee	71·61	10·92	0·25	0·00	14·82	2·40
Northern	59·19	12·40	0·59	0·00	22·46	5·36
North-Eastern	26·33	10·34	0·47	0·64	43·61	18·61
Gippsland	4·61	3·92	5·43	5·30	44·15	36·59
Total for Victoria	52·41	11·12	1·21	1·27	27·29	6·70

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 487.

The area and produce of the principal crops per head of population are given in the next table for each of the principal crops compared with population. last five years:—

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS
PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
Year ended March—			Area per Head of Population.				
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1920	..	..	1·29	·38	·06	·04	·75
1921	..	..	1·52	·29	·06	·04	·88
1922	..	..	1·70	·21	·07	·04	·75
1923	..	..	1·67	·31	·07	·04	·80
1924	..	..	1·51	·32	·03	·04	·79
			Produce per Head of Population.				
			bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1920	..	..	10·02	4·46	1·03	·10	·84
1921	..	..	26·16	7·23	1·65	·11	1·32
1922	..	..	28·54	3·96	1·52	·11	1·01
1923	..	..	22·61	5·13	1·55	·09	1·05
1924	..	..	23·25	5·76	·89	·15	·95

Except in the three seasons 1895-6, 1902-3, and 1914-15, the wheat produced during each year since 1870 has been more than sufficient to supply home consumption.

The following table gives the annual value of each of the five principal crops, based upon prices realized upon farms, also the value of each crop per acre for each of the last five years.

VALUES OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS.

Year.	Annual Value of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	£	£	£	£	£
1919-20	5,726,667	1,848,903	477,573	1,328,640	8,304,475
1920-21	14,307,377	1,295,229	447,352	586,458	5,259,863
1921-22	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	555,111	4,413,091
1922-23	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,235	1,040,662	6,327,338
1923-24	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	701,229	5,229,162
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value per acre 1919-20	2 19 7	3 6 1	5 11 11	24 12 10	7 8 8
„ „ 1920-21	6 4 8	2 18 5	4 15 3	9 7 1	3 18 11
„ „ 1921-22	4 0 6	2 18 5	4 0 3	8 13 9	3 16 2
„ „ 1922-23	3 0 9	2 17 6	4 4 11	16 17 1	5 0 4
„ „ 1923-24	3 6 9	2 15 11	4 12 9	11 16 6	4 1 10

The value of the five principal crops was £15,837,001 in 1923-24, as against £17,252,465 in the previous year, £16,811,093 in 1921-22, £21,896,279 in 1920-21, and £17,686,258 in 1919-20.

Wheat production. On the experience of the past five seasons the area under wheat for grain represented 53 per cent. of the total under all crops. The acreage, the total production, and the yield

per acre are given in the next table for decennial periods from 1860 to 1920, and for each of the last four seasons :—

WHEAT PRODUCTION, 1860 TO 1924.

Period or Season (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1860-70	194,714	3,480,765	17·87
1870-80	431,444	5,510,125	12·77
1880-90	1,077,575	10,793,936	10·02
1890-1900	1,563,403	12,610,595	8·07
1900-10	1,983,874	19,242,402	9·70
1910-20	2,570,540	30,632,514	11·92
1921	2,295,865	39,468,625	17·19
1922	2,611,198	43,867,596	16·80
1923	2,644,314	35,697,220	13·50
1924	2,454,117	37,795,704	15·40

Although a large area in districts of limited rainfall has been brought under cultivation for wheat growing during late years, the yield per acre for the State on the average of the past fourteen seasons was 12·97 bushels, which is better than the corresponding averages for decennial periods of earlier date back to 1870. This satisfactory result is largely due to the use of more prolific varieties of seed and to the more general practice of fallowing and fertilizing. In addition to the area shown for grain, 163,826 acres of wheat were cut for hay last season, so that the total area under wheat in 1923-24 was 2,617,943 acres.

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1923-24 was as follows :—New South Wales, 33,040,000 bushels; South Australia, 34,551,955 bushels; Western Australia, 18,920,271 bushels; Queensland, 243,713 bushels; and Tasmania, 305,628 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 124,857,271 bushels.

Wheat growing in counties.

The principal wheat growing areas are the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. Although other districts provide only small proportions of the total area they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The production of wheat in different counties for each of the last three seasons is shown in the following table :—

WHEAT YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE LAST THREE SEASONS.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Central—									
Bourke ..	3,212	3,598	3,438	58,403	69,281	66,877	18.18	19.26	19.45
Grant ..	9,759	6,628	5,812	170,429	120,755	107,589	17.46	18.22	18.51
Mornington ..	277	396	433	3,591	7,429	7,823	12.96	18.76	18.08
Evelyn ..	68	108	107	999	1,959	2,155	14.69	18.42	20.14
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	963	768	1,152	12,422	12,486	23,952	12.90	16.26	20.79
Dalhousie ..	1,936	2,224	2,051	29,305	39,904	32,917	15.14	17.94	16.05
Talbot ..	12,657	9,085	6,389	230,027	148,593	99,560	18.17	16.35	15.58
Western—									
Grenville ..	14,439	12,473	3,889	225,576	186,168	53,507	15.62	14.93	13.76
Polwarth ..	48	78	18	683	1,025	371	14.23	13.14	20.61
Heytesbury ..	3	4	..	90	46	..	30.00	11.50	..
Hampden ..	10,262	14,367	9,037	176,714	263,621	133,450	17.22	18.35	14.77
Ripon ..	45,863	55,351	37,736	900,393	1,085,819	578,469	19.63	19.62	15.33
Villiers ..	2,075	2,097	397	32,066	32,907	6,278	15.45	15.69	15.81
Normanby ..	1,413	1,225	642	20,116	21,254	11,610	14.24	17.35	18.08
Dundas ..	4,889	4,730	1,965	68,023	73,606	22,353	13.91	15.56	11.38
Follett ..	503	540	77	7,946	8,357	976	15.80	15.48	12.68
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	175,753	186,281	136,167	3,784,022	3,942,804	2,380,800	21.53	21.17	17.48
Borong ..	399,993	402,825	379,007	11,218,679	9,151,897	8,902,260	28.05	22.72	23.65
Kara Kara ..	141,267	145,521	121,129	3,115,212	2,783,428	2,191,925	22.05	19.12	18.10
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	2,980	2,435	1,491	18,849	7,884	16,735	6.33	3.24	11.22
Weeah ..	198,845	197,049	183,167	1,749,843	1,725,094	1,973,614	8.89	8.75	10.49
Karkaroo ..	553,420	572,498	589,959	6,077,599	4,661,460	7,293,987	10.88	8.14	12.36
Tatchera ..	347,611	370,377	371,662	4,563,124	2,743,941	4,836,523	13.13	7.41	13.01
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	34,585	35,891	30,425	545,183	384,385	382,809	15.76	10.71	12.58
Gladstone ..	113,395	115,209	85,075	2,208,515	1,689,102	1,111,661	18.65	14.66	13.07
Bendigo ..	123,715	121,520	94,627	2,219,737	1,529,560	1,307,496	17.25	12.59	13.32
Rodney ..	89,237	80,871	70,261	1,407,542	1,104,218	1,031,530	15.77	13.65	14.68
Moira ..	266,383	254,931	267,324	4,483,925	3,145,685	4,320,837	16.83	12.34	16.13
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	6,793	8,129	6,726	83,112	136,692	124,759	12.23	16.82	18.55
Bogong ..	30,306	29,646	29,857	341,831	441,893	471,081	11.28	14.91	15.78
Benambra ..	217	205	332	3,808	3,570	8,290	17.55	17.41	25.00
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	63	51	39	1,108	752	754	17.59	14.75	19.33
Tambo ..	95	43	37	1,174	767	806	12.36	17.84	21.78
Dargo ..	95	167	238	1,583	3,672	7,515	16.66	21.99	31.58
Tanjil ..	4,507	6,121	7,279	95,366	150,295	212,718	21.16	24.55	29.22
Bulu Bulu ..	571	872	672	10,601	16,971	11,707	18.56	19.46	17.42
Total ..	2,611,198	2,644,314	2,454,117	43,867,596	35,697,220	37,795,704	16.80	13.50	15.40

The table which follows gives the average yield of wheat per acre in the principal wheat growing counties for each of the last ten years :—

AVERAGE YIELD OF WHEAT PER ACRE IN WHEAT GROWING COUNTIES, 1914-15 to 1923-24.

District and County.	Average Yield of Wheat per Acre (in Bushels) during Year ended March—									
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Western District—										
Ripon	5·03	21·58	13·33	13·27	10·06	16·26	21·74	19·63	19·62	15·33
Wimmera District—										
Lowan	1·84	16·78	17·93	16·52	15·78	13·47	20·94	21·53	21·17	17·48
Borong	·95	19·27	22·49	22·62	20·01	15·76	23·79	28·05	22·72	23·65
Kara Kara ..	1·09	19·36	19·66	17·68	14·39	14·10	21·25	22·05	19·12	18·10
Mallee District—										
Weeah	·18	12·26	14·56	10·21	6·38	3·43	14·28	8·89	8·75	10·49
Karkaroc ..	·35	10·62	14·78	10·94	7·15	3·29	13·42	10·88	8·14	12·36
Tatchera ..	·37	10·09	15·80	12·30	9·44	4·60	13·65	13·13	7·41	13·01
Northern District—										
Gunbower ..	·23	15·33	15·89	14·23	8·74	8·96	15·27	15·76	10·71	12·58
Gladstone ..	1·52	17·94	19·10	14·17	11·52	12·08	18·72	18·65	14·06	13·07
Bendigo ..	·72	19·18	17·11	13·85	11·33	9·30	14·56	17·25	12·59	13·82
Rodney ..	1·05	20·15	14·69	12·67	10·80	6·85	15·79	15·77	13·65	14·68
Moirs	1·74	17·88	14·44	11·38	10·70	4·79	17·46	16·83	12·34	16·13

Varieties of Wheat. Australian wheat is noted for its hard, white, and dry qualities, and, on account of the whiteness of the flour made therefrom, it is much sought after by overseas millers for the purpose of mixing with other wheats.

Enquiries in regard to the varieties of wheat sown for the 1924-25 season were made with the view of ascertaining those most in favour amongst Victorian growers, and of enabling the Agricultural Department to advise growers as to the most suitable varieties to grow in a particular district.

An analysis of the replies of the growers who supplied the information is given in the appended table :—

VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE STATE, 1924-25.

Variety principally sown.	Wheat.					
	Districts.				Number of Growers.	
	Wimmera.	Mallee.	Northern.	Others.	Total.	Per cent.
	number.	number.	number.	number.	number.	
Federation	2,055	927	2,157	624	5,763	60·6
Major	60	103	470	262	895	9·4
Currawa	9	436	13	63	521	5·5
Turvey	5	9	48	301	363	3·8
Penny	51	197	34	44	326	3·4
Yandilla King	13	154	68	43	278	2·9
Minister	31	29	68	47	175	1·8
Dart's Imperial	5	79	34	23	141	1·5
Mac's White .. ..	..	110	..	15	125	1·3
Ruff's Imperial	108	5	2	3	118	1·2
Gluyas .. ..	..	113	..	2	115	1·2
Bald's Early	1	76	29	4	110	1·2
Joffre .. ..	..	35	23	33	91	1·0
Others (20)	58	185	118	126	487	5·2
Total	2,396	2,458	3,064	1,590	9,508	100·0

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lbs., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of the fair average quality standard annually fixed by the Chamber of Commerce was 60·95 lbs. on the average of the past ten years. The following statement shows the variation in the f.a.q. standard weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat for each season since 1913-14 :—

F.A.Q. WHEAT STANDARD, 1915 TO 1924.

Season ended March—	Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).	Season ended March—	Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).
	lbs.		lbs.
1915	62	1920	62
1916	61	1921	60½
1917	60½	1922	60
1918	60	1923	60½
1919	62½	1924	61

**Stocks of
wheat and
flour.**

A table giving the estimated stocks of wheat and flour on hand in the State on 30th June in each year from 1913 to 1922 inclusive appears on page 464 of the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

Oats.

In 1923-24 the area harvested for oats in Victoria was 520,654 acres, from which a yield of 9,366,205 bushels was obtained, giving an average of 17·99 bushels to the acre. The appended statement shows the harvest results for this crop for each of the last nine seasons, and for ten-year periods prior thereto back to 1865:—

OATS GROWN, 1865 TO 1924.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1865-75	129,384	2,636,747	20·38
1875-85	147,343	3,297,468	22·38
1885-95	210,901	4,649,393	22·05
1895-1905	340,957	6,649,453	19·50
1905-15	390,643	7,342,468	18·79
1916	353,932	9,328,894	26·36
1917	441,598	8,289,289	18·77
1918	293,214	6,141,287	20·94
1919	342,867	5,274,984	15·38
1920	559,547	6,603,067	11·80
1921	443,636	10,907,191	24·59
1922	318,681	6,082,258	19·09
1923	492,356	8,093,459	16·44
1924	520,654	9,366,205	17·99

In addition to the area for grain shown for last season there were 1,084,136 acres of oats cut for hay, so that the total area sown with oats in 1923-24 was 1,604,790 acres. During 1923-24 there were exported from Victoria to oversea countries 164,653 bushels of oats and 31,234 lbs. of oatmeal.

**Varieties of
Oats.**

Enquiries in regard to the different kinds of oats sown for the 1924-25 season showed that, of those growers who supplied the information, 91 per cent. planted principally Algerian and 8 per cent. Mortgage Lifter oats; the principal kinds planted by the remaining 1 per cent. of growers included eight varieties.

Barley. The area under barley in 1923-24 was 56,564 acres, of which 39,588 were under malting, and 16,976 under other barley. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production and yield per acre for each of the last five years :—

CULTIVATION OF BARLEY, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended March—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1920 ..	50,049	35,274	917,274	611,380	18·33	17·33	17·92
1921 ..	50,297	43,657	1,306,210	1,189,552	25·97	27·25	26·56
1922 ..	47,686	52,441	1,103,039	1,233,207	23·13	23·52	23·33
1923 ..	64,648	38,125	1,525,744	916,297	23·60	24·03	23·76
1924 ..	39,588	16,976	1,037,144	418,291	26·20	24·64	25·73

During 1923-24, 1,731,903 bushels of barley were used locally in the production of 1,720,128 bushels of malt.

Potatoes. The area planted with potatoes in 1923-24 was 59,306 acres, and the production was 238,520 tons, which represented a yield of 4·02 tons per acre, as compared with 2·40 tons in the previous season and 2·72 tons in 1921-22. The following table shows the potato returns for the last thirty-four years :—

POTATO PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1924.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900	47,738	155,432	3·26
1900-10	48,857	142,307	2·91
1910-20	60,127	166,677	2·77
1921	62,687	171,628	2·74
1922	63,895	173,660	2·72
1923	61,741	148,354	2·40
1924	59,306	238,520	4·02

The estimated value of the potatoes produced last season was £701,229, as against £1,040,662 in the preceding year, £555,111 in 1921-22, £586,458 in 1920-21, and £1,328,640 in 1919-20.

Hay. In 1924 the production of hay amounted to 1,541,287 tons, as against 1,665,089 tons in the previous year, 1,548,453 tons in 1922, and 1,984,854 tons in 1921. The quantity of straw returned for the season 1923-24 was 44,451 tons as against 51,096 tons for the previous year. The hay returns for decennial

periods from 1890 to 1920, and each of the last four seasons, are shown in the table which follows :—

HAY PRODUCTION, 1890 TO 1924.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area cut for Hay.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900	467,668	576,618	1·23
1900-10	664,387	894,108	1·35
1910-20	984,797	1,269,767	1·29
1921	1,333,397	1,984,854	1·49
1922	1,159,135	1,548,453	1·34
1923	1,261,408	1,665,089	1·32
1924	1,277,606	1,541,287	1·21

The estimated value of the hay crop was £5,229,162 for 1924, as compared with £6,327,338 for 1923, £4,413,091 for 1922, and £5,259,863 for 1921. Of the total hay produced in 1924, 1,303,113 tons were oaten, 188,109 tons were wheaten, and 50,065 tons were made from lucerne and other crops; the yields per acre of these varieties of hay were 1·20, 1·15, and 1·69 tons respectively.

Information is obtained direct from growers, in February or March of each year, in regard to the prices of the leading agricultural products other than the main crop of potatoes, the price of which is ascertained in June or July. The following table gives the average price of each product for each of the last ten years :—

PRICES OF PRODUCE, 1915 TO 1924.

Year.	Average Price in February and March.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Hay.	Potatoes.	
			Malting.	Other.		Early Crop.	Main Crop (after March).
	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per bushel.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1915 ..	7 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	147 0	80 0	85 0
1916 ..	3 9	2 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 10	35 0	201 0	106 0
1917 ..	4 0	2 0	3 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 10	33 0	114 0	53 0
1918 ..	4 0	3 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 0	79 0	55 0
1919 ..	4 9	4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 0	210 0	149 0
1920 ..	7 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 8	134 0	219 0	178 0
1921 ..	7 3	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 1	53 0	101 0	64 0
1922 ..	4 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 11	57 0	94 0	60 0
1923 ..	4 6	3 6	3 11	3 0	76 0	170 0	136 0
1924 ..	4 3	3 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	72 0	111 0	53 0

Other Crops. The area under other than principal crops and the production since March, 1921, are shown in the subjoined table:—

OTHER THAN PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1921-22 to 1923-24.

Crop.	1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Acres.	bushels.	Acres.	bushels.	Acres.	bushels.
Maize	23,227	951,960	25,846	879,915	29,104	1,464,731
Rye	1,320	14,442	1,291	15,718	899	11,151
Peas	8,659	166,474	11,149	214,544	11,216	233,047
Mangel-wurzel ..	560	7,768	684	8,120	854	13,569
Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Turnips	401	2,134	433	1,878	538	4,222
Onions	6,158	31,586	6,954	44,409	4,714	31,683
Green Forage ..	89,410	..	102,451	..	107,371	..
Grass and Clover Seeds ..	1,800	bushels. 12,226	1,468	bushels. 7,859	1,306	bushels. 6,466
Hops	104	Cwt. 1,812	194	Cwt. 2,071	224	Cwt. 2,481
Tobacco	604	3,735	890	4,151	1,047	†
Vines—Grapes	33,175	1,314,839	38,892	1,879,964	42,599	2,707,729
Flax	1,640	440 fibre 4,187 seed 20 tow 960 tons of straw	590	435 fibre 1,725 seed 25 tow ..	Nil	..
Gardens and Orchards ..	89,491	..	86,014	..	85,570	..
Minor Crops	7,145*	..	9,082*	..	12,237*	..
Land in Fallow	2,052,964	..	2,186,881	..	2,294,297	..
Artificial Grasses	1,032,104	..	957,454	..	938,547	..

* For details see page 502.

† Not available.

Maize. The area under maize for grain in 1923-24 was 29,104 acres, and the production was 1,464,731 bushels, which represented a yield of 50·33 bushels per acre, as compared with 34·04 bushels in the preceding season, 40·99 bushels in 1921-22, and 44·14 bushels in 1920-21. Of the total production for last season 83 per cent. was obtained from the Gippsland district. The area, total production, and produce per acre are given in the next table for each of the last four seasons and for periods prior thereto back to 1890:—

MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1924.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Maize for Grain.	Production.	Produce per Acre.
1890-1900	Acres. 8,688	bushels. 452,907	bushels. 52·13
1900-10	12,082	716,158	59·27
1910-20	20,811	922,461	44·33
1921	24,149	1,065,880	44·14
1922	23,227	951,960	40·99
1923	25,846	879,915	34·04
1924	29,104	1,464,731	50·33

On the average of the last five seasons the yield per acre was 41·7 bushels, as against 45·0 in 1910-15, and 65·4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

Rye. The area under rye in 1923-24 was 899 acres, from which 11,151 bushels of grain were obtained. The production was 15,718 bushels in the previous season, 14,442 bushels in 1921-22, and 21,359 bushels in 1920-21. Rye was grown principally in the counties of Delatite and Talbot last season. The area under this crop in the two counties mentioned was about 60 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Peas. The area under peas in 1923-24 was 11,216 acres, and the return, 233,047 bushels, there being a slight increase in each case on the figures for the previous year. Last season peas were grown to some extent in all districts with the exception of the Mallee. The counties from which the largest returns were obtained and the yields of these counties were as follows:—Grant, 84,732 bushels; Bourke, 23,228 bushels; Tanjil, 24,858 bushels; Buln Buln, 16,933 bushels; and Mornington, 14,556 bushels. The production of peas in the five counties mentioned was equal to 73 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Mangel-wurzel In 1923-24 there were 854 acres under mangel-wurzel, as against 684 in the previous season, 560 in 1921-22, 524 in 1920-21, 547 in 1919-20, and 581 in 1918-19. The production last year was 13,569 tons, as compared with an annual average of 7,767 tons for the preceding five-year period. Mangolds are grown principally in the Gippsland, Western, and Central districts. The production during last season in the districts mentioned represented 98 per cent. of the total for the State.

Beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips. The cultivation of beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips, exclusive of those grown in market gardens, showed an increase in area as compared with the previous season. In 1923-24 the extent of land sown was 538 acres, as against 433 in the preceding year, 401 in 1921-22, 410 in 1920-21, 460 in 1919-20, and 407 in 1918-19. The produce for last year was 4,222 tons, as compared with 1,878 in the previous season, 2,134 in 1921-22, and 2,289 in 1920-21.

Onions. Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for last season show that in Grenville the yield was 7,983 tons from 1,115 acres; in Bourke, 5,039 tons from 680 acres; in Villiers, 4,428 tons from 600 acres; in Buln Buln, 4,401 tons from 673 acres; in Grant, 4,090 tons from 692 acres; in Polwarth, 3,209 tons from 452 acres; and in Mornington

2,395 tons from 453 acres. The following statement shows the area and yield for each of the last five years :—

ONION CULTIVATION, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.				Area.	Produce.
				acres.	tons.
1919-20	..	..	..	6,863	27,032
1920-21	..	..	..	8,000	42,985
1921-22	..	..	..	6,158	31,586
1922-23	..	..	..	6,954	44,409
1923-24	..	..	..	4,714	31,683

The value of onions grown was £215,444 in 1923-24, as compared with £139,888 in the previous season, £150,033 in 1921-22, £131,104 in 1920-21, and £274,375 in 1919-20.

The area devoted to green forage in 1923-24 was 107,371 acres, as compared with 102,451 in the previous season, 89,410 in 1921-22, 79,524 in 1920-21, 89,802 in 1919-20, and 73,641 in 1918-19.

The practice of preserving forage in a green state has existed in Victoria for many years, but only a small number of farmers have adopted it. The returns for the last five seasons are given in the next table :—

ENSILAGE RETURNS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended March—				Number of Farms on which made.	Number of Silos (Pits and Stacks).	Materials used.
						tons.
1920	..	..	..	74	117	6,072
1921	..	..	..	99	175	9,702
1922	..	..	..	107	141	5,873
1923	..	..	..	103	138	5,674
1924	..	..	..	61	88	3,649

The area harvested for grass and clover seed last season was 1,306 acres, as compared with 1,468 in the previous year, 1,800 in 1921-22, 1,872 in 1920-21, 1,235 in 1919-20, and 2,152 in 1918-19. The production in 1923-24 was 6,466 bushels, as against 7,859 in the previous year, 12,226 in 1921-22, 11,555 in 1920-21, 8,625 in 1919-20, and 15,443 in 1918-19.

The hop-growing industry attained its maximum development in 1883-4, when 1,758 acres yielded 15,717 cwt. In 1923-24 the return from 224 acres was 2,481 cwt. Delatite, Bogong, Bourke, Polwarth, and Buln Buln were the only counties in which hops were grown last season.

Flax. No flax was sown during the year 1923-24, but the Commonwealth Flax Committee, which is now being wound up, supplied to Drysdale farmers sufficient seed for the sowing of approximately 200 acres in the 1924-25 season, and a private company has been formed to treat the harvest. Particulars of the crop for each of the last five years are given in the following statement:—

FLAX, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Year.	Area under Crop.	Seed Produced.	Fibre Produced.	Tow Produced.	Straw awaiting Treatment.
	acres.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	tons.
1919-20	1,611	4,970	1,053	394	1,653
1920-21	1,350	3,658	938	99	662
1921-22	1,640	4,187	440	20	960
1922-23	590	1,725	435	25	..
1923-24	Nil	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—For particulars of New Zealand flax, not included in above statement, *vide* page 502.

In 1923-24 imports into Victoria from countries outside Australia included linseed to the value of £27,402, linseed oil worth £80,970, and fibre worth £185,450.

Tobacco. Tobacco production reached its maximum in 1880-1, when 17,333 cwt. of dry leaf was produced. The subsequent sixteen years were marked by great variations in area and produce, and since 1896-7 the industry has become comparatively unimportant. The area devoted to this product last year was 1,047 acres, of which 465 were in Bogong, and 450 in Delatite. Particulars relating to the cultivation of tobacco for each of the last five years are as follows:—

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Year.	Area.	Produce.
	acres.	cwt. (dry).
1919-20	406	2,669
1920-21	95	908
1921-22	604	3,735
1922-23	890	4,151
1923-24	1,047	†

† Not available.

Vine Production. During the period 1904-15 the area under vines decreased by 6,712 acres, or by nearly 24 per cent., and the number of growers decreased by 521, or by 23 per cent. Since 1915 there has been a fairly large increase in the area and the number of growers. Vineyards are distributed fairly well over the State, and there are certain districts where the principal industries are connected with vine-growing. The Shire of Mildura produced last season 2,110,981 cwt. of grapes; Swan Hill, 300,055 cwt.; Rutherglen, 128,629 cwt.; Chiltern, 22,559 cwt.; and Stawell, 20,088 cwt. At Mildura the crop is principally dried for raisins and currants. The results of five years' operations are given below :—

VINE PRODUCTION, 1920 TO 1924.

Year ended June—	Number of Growers.	Area.	Produce.				
			Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Raisins made.		Currants made.
					Lexias.	Sultanas.	
		acres.	cwt.	gallons.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1920 ..	1,919	27,441	1,324,437	1,634,680	54,470	156,837	55,661
1921 ..	2,066	29,255	1,072,767	2,222,305	33,150	83,737	62,919
1922 ..	2,422	33,175	1,314,839	1,335,066	49,080	141,371	75,042
1923 ..	2,775	38,892	1,879,964	1,717,490	67,850	217,670	98,081
1924 ..	3,047	42,599	2,707,729	2,177,127	71,993	366,834	150,867

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1924, 386,929 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 2,266,271 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 54,529 cwt. for table consumption and export. Of the 366,834 cwt. of sultanas made, 313,044 cwt. were from Mildura.

Raisins are produced in Victoria upon a scale far in excess of the State's requirements. It is estimated that a year's consumption of raisins is about 88,000 cwt.; consequently, about 350,000 cwt. of the production in 1924 were available for interstate or oversea export. A year's consumption of currants is about 30,000 cwt., which would enable approximately 120,000 cwt. of last season's production to be exported to other States or oversea.

Orchards. The total number of persons in the State growing fruit for sale was 7,387 in 1923-24, as against 7,758 in the previous season, 8,286 in 1921-22, 7,705 in 1920-21, and 7,719 in 1919-20. The area under orchards in each of those years was 83,469, 83,880, 86,959, 84,718, and 83,574 acres respectively. The orchards are distributed fairly evenly over the whole State. The counties having

the largest areas last season were as follows:—Mornington, 14,964 acres; Evelyn, 13,794 acres; Bourke, 13,507 acres; Rodney, 9,953 acres; Moira, 7,244 acres; Talbot, 3,704 acres; and Bendigo, 3,276 acres.

The following is a statement of the number of bearing and non-bearing fruit trees and plants for the seasons 1919-20 and 1922-23:—

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF FRUIT TREES, PLANTS,
ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS WHERE FRUIT WAS
GROWN FOR SALE, 1919-20 AND 1922-23.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1919-20.			1922-23.		
	Not Bearing.	Bearing.	Total.	Not Bearing.	Bearing.	Total.
Apples ..	1,006,728	2,016,972	3,023,700	854,643	2,302,089	3,156,732
Pears ..	416,608	660,913	1,077,521	360,403	729,775	1,090,178
Quinces ..	53,639	76,377	130,016	33,041	72,316	105,357
Plums ..	184,909	369,784	554,693	153,020	368,355	521,375
Cherries ..	45,742	196,110	241,852	33,802	182,093	215,895
Peaches ..	332,001	750,834	1,082,835	341,485	778,650	1,120,135
Apricots ..	121,995	331,627	453,622	130,114	349,242	479,356
Nectarines ..	3,023	15,698	18,721	1,645	15,295	16,940
Oranges ..	147,105	240,297	387,402	224,117	279,146	503,263
Lemons ..	72,994	82,472	155,466	96,207	100,544	196,751
Loquats ..	1,778	4,202	5,980	1,138	3,337	4,475
Medlars ..	86	106	192	27	55	82
Figs ..	14,663	29,667	44,330	7,069	29,149	36,218
Guavas ..	61	134	195	92	182	274
Pomegranates ..	39	89	128	243	107	350
Persimmons ..	319	403	722	427	384	811
Total Large Fruits ..	2,401,690	4,775,685	7,177,375	2,237,473	5,210,719	7,448,192
Raspberries ..	..	316,498	316,498	..	308,647	308,647
Loganberries ..	..	158,431	158,431	..	139,084	139,084
Strawberries ..	..	2,148,044	2,148,044	..	2,432,038	2,432,038
Gooseberries ..	..	323,037	323,037	29,418	185,922	215,340
Mulberries ..	326	1,133	1,459	355	901	1,256
Olives ..	310	2,372	2,682	208	1,577	1,785
Currants (Red, White, and Black) ..	9,033	27,707	36,740	6,939	29,779	36,718
Passion-fruit ..	19,902	26,969	46,871	27,133	41,148	68,281
Almonds ..	9,423	20,378	29,801	9,792	21,987	31,779
Walnuts ..	7,812	4,819	12,631	7,019	5,223	12,242
Filberts ..	288	804	1,092	246	628	874
Chestnuts ..	269	380	649	262	692	954
Total Nuts ..	17,792	26,381	44,173	17,319	28,530	45,849

The area of orchards growing fruit for sale in 1923-24—83,469 acres—showed a reduction of 411 acres as compared with the area for the previous year. Details of the produce from such orchards in the last five years are given in the subjoined statement :—

ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1919-20
TO 1923-24.

Year ended March—	Number of Fruit-growers.	Area of Gardens and Orchards.	LARGE FRUITS GATHERED.			
			Apples.	Pears.	Quinces.	Plums.
		acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1920 ..	7,719	83,574	2,227,317	723,857	96,115	274,329
1921 ..	7,705	84,718	1,451,069	759,148	63,194	297,055
1922 ..	8,286	80,959	1,768,800	681,024	76,946	207,432
1923 ..	7,758	83,880	2,089,017	666,631	63,837	258,117
1924 ..	7,387	83,469	1,663,308	858,611	76,167	241,818

Large Fruits Gathered—continued.

	Cherries.	Peaches.	Apricots.	Oranges.	Lemons.	Figs.	Other.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1920 ..	89,604	960,773	301,009	137,184	74,427	19,255	44,225
1921 ..	81,619	728,272	251,996	169,335	87,867	23,386	33,024
1922 ..	66,969	905,477	208,215	237,949	103,127	22,359	43,897
1923 ..	92,407	966,952	290,876	259,330	109,347	15,313	32,246
1924 ..	63,662	938,908	352,604	210,595	95,443	27,772	34,577

ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24—
continued.

Year ended March—	SMALL FRUITS GATHERED.					NUTS GATHERED.			
	Rasp- berries.	Straw- berries.	Goose- berries.	Currants, Red, Black, & White.	Other	Almonds.	Walnuts.	Filberts.	Chest- nuts.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1920 ...	3,844	2,724	6,958	439	4,010	75,438	51,448	1,610	12,712
1921 ..	3,105	3,024	6,388	399	6,239	32,519	16,557	374	12,947
1922 ..	3,112	2,784	5,543	378	4,940	72,006	33,452	1,504	13,104
1923 ..	2,682	3,321	5,243	401	5,236	74,588	43,064	1,031	10,713
1924 ..	2,160	3,831	3,657	283	3,046	76,905	29,665	964	6,190

The following return shows the average produce per bearing tree for the seasons 1913-14, 1916-17, 1919-20, and 1922-23:—

PRODUCE OF FRUIT TREES.

Fruit Trees.	AVERAGE PER BEARING TREE.			
	1913-14.	1916-17.	1919-20.	1922-23.
	bushels	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Apples ..	1·03	·34	1·10	·91
Pears ..	1·07	1·14	1·10	·91
Quinces ..	1·03	1·11	1·26	·88
Plums ..	·83	·65	·74	·70
Cherries ..	·80	·17	·46	·51
Peaches ..	1·02	1·35	1·28	1·24
Apricots ..	1·21	·78	·91	·83
Nectarines ..	1·18	1·41	1·53	·96
Oranges ..	1·16	·59	·57	·93
Lemons ..	1·49	1·11	·90	1·09
Loquats ..	·24	·29	·52	·34
Medlars ..	·29	·07	·28	·20
Figs ..	·85	·87	·65	·53
Passion Vines ..	·75	·44	·65	·39
Guavas ..	·02	·42	·24	·13
Pomegranates ..	·54	·32	·31	·17
Persimmons ..	·68	·82	·69	·61
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Almonds ..	4·87	2·51	3·70	3·39
Walnuts ..	5·35	1·34	10·68	8·25
Filberts ..	·56	3·60	2·00	1·64
Chestnuts ..	18·94	26·66	33·45	15·48

In addition to the fruits shown, large quantities of melons, rhubarb and tomatoes were produced in the orchards, the following being the quantities returned for 1923-24:—Melons, 5,526 cwt. ; rhubarb, 8,753 dozen bundles ; and tomatoes, 209,963 bushels. There were also 2,101

acres laid down in gardens growing fruit for private use; the value of the produce from these was estimated at about £10,500.

According to prices received by growers the value of fruit which reaches market was estimated to be £1,248,500 in 1919-20, £1,029,700 in 1920-21, £1,184,100 in 1921-22, £1,172,300 in 1922-23, and £1,193,689 in 1923-24. This, of course, does not represent the actual value of all the fruit grown, as large quantities are privately consumed in various ways. No very reliable estimate of the value of such fruit can be prepared, but it may be set down at about £40,000.

The area under market gardens in the year 1923-24 was 16,212 acres. As these gardens are generally situated near large centres of population, the producers are able to dispose of the bulk of their goods with a minimum loss from waste, &c. An average return of £50 per acre is regarded as a fair estimate of their value, and on this basis the total value of the produce may be given as £810,600. This does not include crops of one acre and over of potatoes, onions, mangel-wurzel, beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips grown in market gardens, such crops being tabulated under their respective heads in the returns relating to agriculture.

The quantity of dried fruit (weight after drying) was first collected in 1895-6, when 179,460 lbs. were returned. During 1923-24 the quantity produced was 926,162 lbs., which was 35 per cent. less than the quantity for the previous year. The production of the various kinds of dried fruit, with the exception of raisins and currants, the particulars of which appear on page 497, is shown in the following statement for each of the last five seasons:—

DRIED FRUIT, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Prunes.	Peaches.	Apricots.	Figs.	Pears.	Total.*
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1920 ..	52,759	211,714	226,498	69,125	46,711	139,634	746,441
1921 ..	72,530	388,729	451,525	338,617	30,811	118,857	1,410,080
1922 ..	10,689	298,068	232,003	221,297	32,578	149,600	948,649
1923 ..	5,354	376,491	454,899	518,196	29,632	36,915	1,435,528
1924 ..	3,104	395,090	168,948	217,624	6,226	132,217	926,162

* Including nectarines, of which there were 4,414 lbs. in 1922, 14,041 lbs. in 1923, and 2,953 lbs. in 1924.

A striking feature of the returns for the season 1923-24, as compared with those for the previous year, is the decrease in all fruits except prunes and pears.

The following is a return of the minor crops for the last two seasons. The items do not in all cases represent the whole of the respective crops grown, but refer only to such as were taken cognisance of by the collectors. The return, therefore, indicates the nature of the crops rather than the full extent of their cultivation:—

MINOR CROPS, 1922-23 AND 1923-24.

Crop.	1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Area.	Produce.	Area.	Produce.
Beans	1,138	24,008 bushels	979	20,861 bushels
Chicory	739	640 tons (dry)	608	690 (dry)
Flowers	263	..	368	..
Garlic	17	68 tons	3	9 tons
Herbs	25	..	6	..
Flax—New Zealand ..	90	63 tons fibre	90	*
Millet—Broom ..	1,304	{ 4,200 cwt. fibre 3,200 cwt. seed }	2,626	{ 14,480 cwt. fibre 15,340 cwt. seed }
„ Japanese ..	756	4,660 cwt. seed	2,142	15,100 „ „
Nurseries	996	..	985	..
Pumpkins	1,549	4,551 tons	2,163	11,211 tons
Seeds—Agricultural and Garden ..	47	..	88	..
Sugar Beet	2,045	{ 20,444 tons clean beet, producing 2,784 tons mar- ketable sugar }	1,937	{ 29,512 tons clean beet, pro- ducing 3,499 tons market- able sugar. 2,263 cwt. }
Sunflowers	113	739 cwt.	231	..
Others .. ..	..	..	11	..
Total	9,082	..	12,237	..

* Awaiting treatment.

The practice of fallowing has become very popular in recent years. This is no doubt due to the more enlightened methods adopted, especially in wheat farming, where results have justified the introduction of extensive fallowing in conjunction with heavy manuring. The acreage in fallow in the years 1901, 1906, 1911, and each of the last nine years was as follows:—

LAND IN FALLOW.

Year ended March—	Acres.	Year ended March—	Acres.
1901	602,870	1919	1,548,121
1906	1,049,915	1920	1,357,536
1911	1,434,177	1921	1,935,747
1916	1,358,343	1922	2,052,964
1917	1,899,559	1923	2,186,881
1918	1,672,729	1924	2,294,297

Nearly all of the fallowed area is devoted to wheat production. Of the 2,294,297 acres in fallow last season, 739,480 were in the Wimmera, 713,072 in the Mallee, and 594,472 in the Northern District. The total for these three districts represented, therefore, 89 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The increase in the proportion of farmers using manure **Manure used.** indicates the popularity and the value of this method of treating the soil. Last year the number of farmers who used manure was 39,749, as compared with 26,159 in 1911, 11,439 in 1901, and 7,318 in 1898. The following table shows the number of farmers using manure, and the quantity used, in 1901, 1906, 1911, and 1916, and each of the last three years:—

MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZATION, 1901 TO 1923.

Year.	Farmers using.	Area used on.	Manure used—	
			Natural.	Artificial.
		acres.	tons.	tons.
1901	11,439	556,777	153,611	23,535
1906	23,072	1,985,148	205,906	60,871
1911	26,159	2,676,408	205,739	82,581
1916	33,165	3,870,742	181,268	117,812
1921	37,835	3,848,184	161,683	150,012
1922	40,037	4,148,780	173,343	172,897
1923	39,749	4,113,640	163,843	178,621

The area on which manure was used represented only 7 per cent. of that under crop in 1898, but since then the proportion manured has rapidly increased. In 1901, it was 19 per cent. ; in 1903, 36 per cent. ; in 1905, 56 per cent. ; in 1909, 66 per cent. ; in 1913, 77 per cent. ; and in 1923, 88 per cent. During 1923-24 the quantity of fertilizers imported into Victoria from oversea countries was 130,618 tons valued at £339,858. This included 84,979 tons of rock phosphates valued at £197,079, and 41,097 tons of guano valued at £90,414, all of which came from the Pacific Islands.

Persons
employed on
Farming,
Dairying, and
Pastoral
Holdings.

Information is obtained by the collectors of agricultural statistics each year as to the number of persons ordinarily employed upon the land occupied. For the last five years the numbers were as follows :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED UPON FARMING,
DAIRYING, AND PASTORAL HOLDINGS, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1919	98,308	54,318	152,626
1920	100,236	51,014	151,250
1921	106,369	53,059	159,428
1922	107,872	48,978	156,850
1923	105,933	46,218	152,151

Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are not included in the above tabulation, neither are domestic servants nor cooks; but females partly engaged in outdoor duties in connexion with the holdings are included therein. It is estimated that the temporary labour employed on farms and pastoral holdings is equivalent to about 30,000 men employed continuously throughout the year.

Wages—
agricultural
and
pastoral.

In the next return will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon farms and pastoral holdings during 1923-24. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

WAGES, AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL, 1923-24.

Occupations.	Range.	Prevailing Rate.
Ploughmen	30s. to 72s. per week ..	50s. per week
Farm labourers	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week
Threshing machine hands	12d. to 18d. per hour ..	15d. per hour
Harvest hands	10s. to 15s. per day ..	12s. per day
Milkers	25s. to 60s. per week ..	37s. 6d. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	7d. to 12d. per bag ..	8d. per bag
Married couples	50s. to 80s. per week ..	60s. per week
Female servants	15s. to 35s. per week ..	25s. per week
Men cooks	40s. to 70s. per week ..	50s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	35s. to 40s. per 100 sheep	38s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	35s. to 40s. per 100 sheep	38s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week
„ orchard	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week
Vineyard hands	30s. to 60s. per week ..	40s. per week

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.

Live Stock. The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing value in recent years, despite the larger areas devoted to cultivation, indicates that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The progress of stock breeding is shown in the next table, which gives the numbers of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, and their numbers per head of population and per square mile, in each of the last seven census years, also in the year 1924.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 to 1924.

Year.	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
	number.	number.	number.	number.	number.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1924	486,075	738,149	853,218	11,059,761	259,795
<i>Per Head of Population.</i>					
1861	·14	·37	·97	10·70	·11
1871	·29	·29	·77	14·32	·25
1881	·32	·38	1·11	12·01	·28
1891	·38	·35	1·22	11·13	·25
1901	·33	·43	·90	9·03	·29
1911	·36	·51	·67	9·79	·25
1921	·32	·41	·63	7·99	·12
1924	·30	·45	·52	6·80	·16
<i>Per Square Mile.</i>					
1861	·87	2·25	5·97	65·78	·70
1871	2·38	2·41	6·42	119·22	2·05
1881	3·14	3·75	10·89	117·88	2·75
1891	4·97	4·50	15·79	144·43	3·21
1901	4·46	5·94	12·30	123·36	4·00
1911	5·37	7·61	10·00	146·59	3·79
1921	5·55	7·05	10·87	138·49	1·99
1924	5·53	8·40	9·71	125·84	2·96

By reducing horses and cattle to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of

the latter as much as six sheep, interesting comparisons of the stock carried on the land at different periods may be instituted. Calculations made on this basis show that each square mile carried an equivalent of 290 sheep in 1924, as compared with 302 in 1921, 306 in 1911, and 237 in 1881.

Information relating to land occupied and cultivation and live stock thereon has been collected at various dates, the last collection having been in March, 1919. The land privately owned was summarized according to different-sized holdings, and in the instances where Crown lands were held in conjunction therewith these were, regardless of size, scheduled with the holdings to which they were attached.

Particulars of the size of holdings and cultivation thereon are given in the following table for the years 1913 and 1919:—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND CULTIVATION THEREON.

Privately-owned Land.				Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—		
Size of Holdings. (in acres.)	Year.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.	
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	
1 and under 100	}	1913	26,113	915,493	1,290,004	245,498	1,044,506	
		1919	23,902	942,775	347,377	1,290,152	241,794	1,048,358
100 "	}	1913	18,483	3,819,680	1,216,829	5,036,509	875,525	4,160,984
		1919	19,930	3,967,377	840,116	4,807,493	807,434	4,000,059
321 "	}	1913	11,212	5,475,942	1,191,890	6,667,832	1,424,020	5,243,812
		1919	11,831	5,790,225	1,480,407	7,270,632	1,490,476	5,780,156
641 "	}	1913	5,221	4,187,010	1,241,667	5,428,677	1,075,000	4,353,677
		1919	5,709	4,523,331	1,071,162	5,594,493	1,105,867	4,488,626
1,000 "	}	1913	4,544	6,748,985	1,852,529	8,601,514	1,546,611	7,054,903
		1919	5,010	7,291,675	2,300,465	9,592,140	1,379,247	8,212,893
2,500 "	}	1913	820	2,803,419	1,085,769	3,889,188	352,258	3,536,930
		1919	855	2,825,855	716,245	3,542,100	270,426	3,271,674
5,000 "	}	1913	237	1,825,862	342,848	2,168,710	111,910	2,056,800
		1919	290	1,996,606	378,877	2,375,483	88,014	2,292,469
10,000 and upwards	}	1913	151	2,652,966	404,710	3,057,676	39,606	3,018,070
		1919	152	2,928,307	124,045	2,762,352	35,979	2,726,373
Total	}	1913	66,811	28,420,357	7,710,753	36,140,110	5,670,428	30,469,683
		1919	72,679	29,976,151	7,258,694	37,234,845	5,414,237	31,820,608

The number of holdings of over 10,000 acres was 152 in 1919, as compared with 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the years mentioned were 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres, and 4,134,067 acres respectively.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1913 and 1919, various percentages relating to holdings of different sizes are given for those years in the succeeding table, which also shows the live stock carried by the holdings, reduced to their equivalent in sheep :—

Size of holdings and how they were utilized, 1913 and 1919.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND HOW UTILIZED, 1913 AND 1919.

Size of Holdings of Private Land. (In Acres.)	Year.	Percentage in each Division to Total of —				Live Stock Grazed reduced to equivalent in Sheep.		
		Area Occupied.	Area under Cultivation.	Area used for Pasture, &c.	Equivalent in Sheep Grazed.	Total.	Per 100 Acres used for Grazing, &c.	
1 and under	100	1913	3·57	4·33	3·43	7·08	1,766,873	169
		1919	3·46	4·47	3·29	6·50	1,909,552	182
100 „	321	1913	13·94	15·44	13·66	17·67	4,410,283	106
		1919	12·91	14·91	12·57	17·40	5,107,256	128
321 „	641	1913	18·45	25·12	17·21	17·14	4,278,079	82
		1919	19·53	27·53	18·17	17·48	5,132,920	89
641 „	1,000	1913	15·02	18·95	14·29	12·15	3,031,015	70
		1919	15·03	20·43	14·11	12·37	3,630,165	81
1,000 „	2,500	1913	23·80	27·27	23·15	20·34	5,076,868	72
		1919	25·76	25·47	25·81	22·28	6,539,378	80
2,500 „	5,000	1913	10·76	6·22	11·61	9·22	2,300,276	65
		1919	9·51	5·00	10·28	8·84	2,594,308	79
5,000 „	10,000	1913	6·00	1·98	6·75	6·95	1,735,240	84
		1919	6·38	1·53	7·20	6·85	2,011,066	88
10,000 and upwards		1913	8·46	·69	9·90	9·45	2,358,478	78
		1919	7·42	·66	8·57	8·28	2,431,720	89
Total ..	..	1913	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	24,957,112	82
		1919	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	29,356,865	92

Horses and cattle have been reduced to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one head of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep.

Particulars of the number of holdings of different sizes and of the cultivation and live stock thereon in March, 1919, are given in greater detail than in the above tables in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 510 and 511.

The following tables show the land in occupation in March, 1924, in districts, and the uses to which the land was applied:—

LAND IN OCCUPATION IN EACH DISTRICT OF VICTORIA,
MARCH, 1924.

(Areas of 1 acre and upwards.)

District.	Number of Occupiers.	Acres Occupied.				Total.
		For Agricultural Purposes.	For Pasture.		Other Purposes and Unproductive.	
			Sown Grasses, Clover, or Lucerne.	Natural Grasses.		
Central ..	18,207	528,020	134,981	2,016,123	139,876	2,819,000
North-Central ..	5,874	143,468	42,129	1,907,450	62,566	2,155,613
Western ..	13,234	396,106	255,337	5,812,250	323,004	6,786,697
Wimmera ..	6,736	1,707,468	1,150	3,987,602	260,315	5,956,535
Mallee ..	8,277	2,320,765	3,969	2,518,862	601,449	5,445,045
Northern ..	12,873	1,520,728	75,656	3,657,486	36,250	5,290,120
North-Eastern ..	5,661	173,416	3,895	3,844,672	196,958	4,218,941
Gippsland ..	9,524	186,470	507,474	3,605,534	703,960	5,003,438
Total ..	80,386	6,976,441	1,024,591	27,349,979	2,324,378	37,675,389
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OCCUPIED IN EACH DISTRICT.						
Central ..	..	18·73	4·79	71·52	4·36	100·00
North-Central ..	..	6·66	1·95	88·49	2·90	100·00
Western ..	..	5·84	3·76	85·64	4·76	100·00
Wimmera ..	..	28·66	0·02	66·95	4·37	100·00
Mallee ..	..	42·62	0·07	46·26	11·05	100·00
Northern ..	..	28·74	1·43	69·14	0·69	100·00
North-Eastern ..	..	4·11	0·09	91·13	4·67	100·00
Gippsland ..	..	3·72	10·14	72·07	14·07	100·00
Total ..	..	18·52	2·72	72·59	6·17	100·00
PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL IN STATE.						
Central ..	22·65	7·57	13·17	7·37	6·02	7·48
North-Central ..	7·31	2·06	4·11	6·98	2·69	5·72
Western ..	16·46	5·68	24·92	21·25	13·90	18·01
Wimmera ..	8·38	24·47	0·11	14·58	11·20	15·81
Mallee ..	10·30	33·27	0·39	9·21	25·88	14·45
Northern ..	16·01	21·79	7·39	13·37	1·56	14·05
North-Eastern ..	7·04	2·49	0·38	14·06	8·47	11·20
Gippsland ..	11·85	2·67	49·53	13·18	30·28	13·28
Total ..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It will be seen from these tables that the largest areas under cultivation and the largest proportions of cultivation to land occupied are

found in the Northern, Wimmera, and Mallee districts. Of the occupied land, about 29 per cent. in the Northern, 43 per cent. in the Mallee, and 29 per cent. in the Wimmera district are devoted to agriculture, and these divisions supply nearly 80 per cent. of the cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing; in Gippsland considerable attention is given to the cultivation of grasses, nearly 50 per cent. of all the sown grasses in the State being found in that district.

Areas occupied and stock thereon, in districts. The next table contains particulars of the distribution of horses, cattle, and sheep on agricultural and pastoral lands in March, 1924.

AREA OCCUPIED AND STOCK THEREON, 1924.

District.	Area Occupied for—		Number of—		
	Agriculture.	Pasture.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
	acres.	acres.			
Central	528,020	2,151,104	99,083	268,541	936,207
North-Central	143,468	1,949,579	23,361	96,507	991,912
Western	396,106	6,067,587	63,750	368,321	3,789,393
Wimmera	1,707,468	3,988,752	69,792	57,106	1,882,879
Mallee	2,320,765	2,522,831	65,471	48,798	549,681
Northern	1,520,728	3,733,142	91,040	216,803	1,592,098
North-Eastern	173,416	3,848,567	32,088	207,600	700,038
Gippsland	186,470	4,113,008	41,490	327,691	617,553
Total	6,976,441	28,374,570	486,075	1,591,367	11,059,761

The area occupied does not include 2,324,378 acres which are mostly in an unproductive state. Compared with 1923, cattle decreased by 11 per cent., sheep by 6 per cent., and horses by nearly 2 per cent.

The following return shows the live stock in Victoria each of the last five years. Tables showing the stock classified in conjunction with holdings and sheep classified in different-sized flocks in March, 1919, are given on page 511 of the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, and page 518 of this volume.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1920 to 1924.

Live Stock.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Horses (including foals)	513,500	487,503	496,124	494,947	486,075
Cattle—					
Dairy Cows	623,652	620,005	719,473	794,898	738,149
Other (including calves)	1,007,468	955,154	1,030,896	990,762	853,218
Sheep	14,422,745	12,171,084	12,325,818	11,765,520	11,059,761
Pigs	186,810	175,275	230,770	294,962	259,795

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average and the range of prices ruling in Melbourne during the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 for live stock. The information has been extracted from the Melbourne *Stock and Station Journal*.—

PRICES IN MELBOURNE OF LIVE STOCK, 1922-23 AND
1923-24.

Stock.	Prices in 1922-23.			Prices in 1923-24.		
	Average.	Range.		Average.	Range.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Horses.</i>						
Extra heavy draught	33 7 6	30 0 0 to 40 0 0	34 17 6	33 0 0 to 37 0 0		
Medium draught	25 19 0	25 0 0 to 27 0 0	26 7 6	25 10 0 to 27 0 0		
Delivery cart	20 6 0	18 0 0 to 22 0 0	18 2 6	17 0 0 to 20 0 0		
Saddle and harness	5 4 0	4 10 0 to 6 0 0	5 0 0	4 10 0 to 6 0 0		
Ponies	8 7 0	7 15 0 to 9 0 0	7 15 0	7 0 0 to 9 0 0		
Order cart	10 15 0	10 0 0 to 12 0 0	9 10 0	9 0 0 to 10 10 0		
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>						
<i>Bullocks—</i>						
Extra prime	17 14 0	14 9 0 to 27 15 0	21 15 0	15 17 0 to 33 12 0		
Prime	15 3 0	12 16 0 to 23 15 0	18 15 0	14 1 0 to 28 17 0		
Good	12 8 0	10 7 0 to 18 12 6	15 8 0	11 19 0 to 22 14 0		
Good light and handy weights	10 4 0	8 2 6 to 14 2 0	11 12 0	9 7 6 to 16 5 0		
Second	7 2 0	5 11 0 to 10 11 0	9 2 0	7 15 0 to 11 15 0		
<i>Cows—</i>						
Best	10 10 0	8 2 0 to 17 17 0	12 2 0	9 12 6 to 19 11 0		
Others	5 16 0	4 12 6 to 9 5 0	6 10 0	5 8 0 to 9 19 0		
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>						
Best milkers	11 2 6	8 12 0 to 14 0 0	13 17 0	12 12 0 to 15 14 0		
Springers, best	10 10 0	8 8 0 to 14 5 0	10 10 6	8 15 0 to 14 0 0		
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>						
<i>Wethers (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime	1 16 6	1 7 5 to 2 19 6	2 6 5	1 14 4 to 3 4 3		
Prime	1 12 3	1 4 3 to 2 13 1	2 2 3	1 11 6 to 2 16 10		
Good	1 7 8	1 1 1 to 2 5 10	1 17 6	1 8 2 to 2 8 8		
<i>Ewes (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime	1 7 1	0 19 1 to 2 7 9	1 18 9	1 8 3 to 2 14 2		
Prime	1 3 2	0 16 1 to 2 2 3	1 14 5	1 5 2 to 2 6 1		
Good	0 18 11	0 13 0 to 1 15 4	1 9 4	1 1 2 to 1 16 10		
<i>Wethers (merino)—</i>						
Extra prime	1 14 3	1 3 6 to 2 18 8	2 5 4	1 10 2 to 3 7 5		
Prime	1 10 2	1 1 7 to 2 10 0	2 0 7	1 9 2 to 2 14 6		
Good	1 5 3	0 17 7 to 2 2 6	1 14 9	1 5 10 to 2 1 0		
Ewes (merino) best	1 2 3	0 14 2 to 2 1 1	1 13 2	1 4 0 to 2 0 2		
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>						
Extra prime	1 9 9	1 4 9 to 2 6 0	1 16 4	1 9 5 to 2 15 1		
Prime	1 5 4	1 2 0 to 1 18 7	1 11 7	1 6 8 to 1 18 11		
Good	1 0 6	0 17 0 to 1 13 0	1 7 11	1 3 6 to 1 12 6		
Second	0 14 10	0 12 0 to 1 4 1	1 3 10	0 19 8 to 1 9 0		
<i>Pigs.</i>						
<i>Back Fattens—</i>						
Extra heavy prime	9 4 0	8 0 0 to 10 5 0	11 2 6	9 19 0 to 12 7 0		
Extra prime and weighty	6 0 0	5 0 0 to 6 16 0	8 0 0	6 7 0 to 9 7 6		
<i>Baconers—</i>						
Extra prime	4 13 0	4 3 0 to 5 12 0	6 3 0	5 10 0 to 6 18 0		
Prime	4 1 0	3 12 0 to 4 16 0	5 4 0	4 14 0 to 5 17 0		
Porkers	2 7 0	2 1 0 to 2 13 0	2 19 6	2 15 3 to 3 5 0		

The following is a statement of the stock slaughtered on farms and stations, as well as in municipal abattoirs, during each of the last five years :—

STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Number Slaughtered.		
	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1919	6,324,490	362,475	329,190
1920	4,244,798	374,545	240,557
1921	4,005,587	331,707	239,638
1922	5,863,195	424,199	308,172
1923	4,078,273	461,958	373,609

The purposes for which the slaughtered animals were used were as follows :—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH STOCK WERE SLAUGHTERED,
1919 TO 1923.

Year.	For Butcher and Private Use.*			For Export.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1919	3,136,059	281,636	126,509	2,854,059	44,437	1,000
1920	1,835,419	353,429	82,315	2,385,966	14,912	5,465
1921	2,794,790	310,428	55,521	1,186,704	16,694	7,335
1922	3,184,411	413,650	107,022	2,657,515	4,251	..
1923	3,372,722	449,101	139,405	691,630	4,011	..

Year.	For Preserving and Salting.			For Boiling Down.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1919	283,966	32,580	201,480	50,406	3,822	201
1920	2,067	1,133	152,556	21,346	5,071	221
1921	20,622	2,740	176,451	3,471	1,845	331
1922	9,763	2,955	200,901	11,506	3,343	249
1923	2,632	2,519	232,914	11,289	6,327	290

* Including carcasses held in Cool Stores at end of year.

Of the 4,078,273 sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria in 1923, 691,630, or 17 per cent., were frozen, as compared with 2,657,515, or 45 per cent., in 1922. In 1923-24 the oversea exports included 22,386,640 lbs. of mutton and lamb, valued at £670,195.

**Mutton and
Lamb frozen
for Export.**

The soil and climate of Victoria are well suited to the economical production of both mutton and lamb, and, as there is practically no limit to the demand for these products in Europe, the possibilities for those engaged in raising sheep for export are very great, especially as the number of sheep in the world is not keeping pace with the increase in population. The importance of this export trade to Victorian sheep owners is evidenced by the figures in the appended statement showing the numbers of carcasses exported in each of the last ten years. In the four years 1915-16 to 1918-19 the quantity exported was small in comparison with earlier years. The chief reasons for this were, in 1915-16, a drought in the preceding year, and, in the three following years, the lack of shipping space. In the year 1919-20 the exports were much greater than in any previous year, due mainly to the accumulations of the previous three years. The quantities exported in 1920-21 were below the average, owing to the dry condition which had prevailed in the previous year. After a world-wide fall in values, the season 1922-23 was marked by exceptionally heavy exports of both mutton and lamb at improved prices. In the 1923-24 season the export of mutton practically ceased, while the number of lambs exported was only about 40 per cent. of that for the previous year. The abnormal activity in 1922-23 was, to some extent, responsible for the great reduction in exports in 1923-24. Other reasons were a tendency among owners to retain their flocks in expectation of high prices for wool, and the demand for breeding ewes from New South Wales, where a drought had depleted the flocks.

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED.

Year (ending in June).	Number of Carcasses Exported.		
	Mutton.	Lamb.	Total.
1914-15	653,329	1,056,823	1,710,152
1915-16 .. ..	.. ..	47,546	47,546
1916-17	52,724	365,694	418,418
1917-18	66,730	129,537	196,267
1918-19	401,382	267,588	668,970
1919-20	2,468,090	1,533,410	4,001,500
1920-21	288,190	497,896	786,086
1921-22	314,564	872,140	1,186,704
1922-23	989,456	1,668,059	2,657,515
1923-24	12,945	678,685	691,630

Dairying. The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The value of dairy produce in 1924 was £10,561,940, as compared with £10,331,310 in the previous year, £9,512,980 in 1922, £11,816,670 in 1921, and £9,262,710 in 1920. The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows at the end of, and the total production of butter and cheese in each of the last five years:—

DAIRYING, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year ended March—	Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.	Butter made.*	Cheese made.*
			lbs.	lbs.
1920	56,659	623,652	60,218,945	7,735,023
1921	58,117	620,005	64,938,458	3,636,571
1922	60,882	719,473	82,981,570	5,675,909
1923	62,424	794,898	84,355,939	3,754,958
1924	61,685	738,149	86,888,723	7,216,938

* Year ended 30th June.

Dairy Cow's Record. An interesting example of the possibilities of dairying and of the value of selective breeding, combined with scientific feeding, is furnished by the following authenticated record (supplied by the Department of Agriculture), over a period of three years, of a Jersey cow.

Jersey cow, born 27th August, 1919.

Calved.	Days in Milk.	Total Milk.	Average Test.	Total Butter-fat.	Milk Yield on last day of Test.
		lbs.	per cent.	lbs.	lbs.
22nd September, 1921	273	6,827	5·08	347	19½
8th February, 1923	273	11,185	5·16	578	40½
25th March, 1924 ..	273	15,799	5·34	843½	42

	£	s.	d.
1924.—15,799 lbs. of milk=843½ lbs. of butter-fat at 1s. 5d.	59	14	7
1,495 gallons of skim milk at 2d.	12	9	2
Total return (excluding value of offspring) ..	72	3	9
Cost of feeding (including grazing)	21	16	6
Credit balance for nine months	50	7	3

Butter and
cheese made
on farms.

The next table shows the quantities of butter and cheese made on farms in the last five years :—

BUTTER AND CHEESE MADE ON FARMS.

Year ended June—					Butter.	Cheese.
					lbs.	lbs.
1920	..	..	..	..	4,743,906	937,030
1921	..	..	..	..	5,086,723	492,952
1922	..	..	..	..	5,480,421	316,249
1923	..	..	..	..	5,582,469	418,873
1924	..	..	..	..	5,597,128	420,552

Butter and
cheese made
in factories.

The quantities of butter, cheese, and concentrated, condensed, and powdered milk made, and of cream sold, in factories during the last five years were as follows :—

BUTTER, CHEESE, ETC., MADE IN FACTORIES, 1919-20 to
1923-24.

Year ended June—			Butter made.	Cream sold.	Cheese made.	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk made.
			lbs.	gallons.	lbs.	lbs.
1920	..	..	55,475,039	147,736	6,797,993	44,219,389
1921	..	..	59,851,735	153,124	3,143,619	42,643,871
1922	..	..	77,501,149	160,490	5,359,660	48,354,210
1923	..	..	78,773,470	213,170	3,336,085	38,314,261
1924	..	..	81,291,595	373,236	6,796,386	49,909,632

NOTE.—In addition, 2,946,346 lbs. of casein and 445,430 lbs. of milk sugar were made in 1923-24.

The quantities of milk, in gallons, received at factories and creameries were 1147,455,930 in 1919-20, 154,042,550 in 1920-21, 193,507,110 in 1921-22, 196,171,380 in 1922-23, and 206,915,177 in 1923-24.

Exports of butter and cheese.

In 1923-24 there were exported from Victoria to countries outside Australia 35,578,812 lbs. of butter, valued at £2,751,312, all of which, except 236,284 lbs., was Australian produce. The quantity sent to the United Kingdom was 27,295,805 lbs., valued at £2,055,754. The quantity of cheese exported to oversea countries was 753,856 lbs., and the value thereof, £31,071.

Wool production.

Information relating to the wool clip is obtained direct from the growers, and an allowance is made for the wool on Victorian skins, both stripped and exported. On this basis the production of wool in 1923-24 and earlier seasons was as follows :—

VICTORIAN WOOL CLIP AND ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION.

District.	Wool Clip, 1923-24.			
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Central	4,353,047	343,263	4,696,310	
North-Central	5,213,078	307,499	5,520,577	
Western	22,878,948	1,213,846	24,092,794	
Wimmera	12,408,007	633,463	13,041,470	
Mallee	3,732,174	137,360	3,869,534	
Northern	8,708,993	509,484	9,218,477	
North-Eastern	3,490,525	202,786	3,693,311	
Gippsland	3,022,048	172,034	3,194,082	
Total Clip	{ 1923-24	63,806,820	3,519,735	67,326,555
	{ 1922-23	71,088,919	5,105,031	76,193,950
	{ 1921-22	72,829,509	5,365,837	78,195,346
	{ 1920-21	67,617,476	3,532,465	71,149,941
	{ 1919-20	91,282,613	7,096,976	98,379,589
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Wool clip	71,149,941	78,195,346	76,193,950	67,326,555
Wool stripped from Victorian skins and on Victorian skins exported (estimated) ..	19,100,630	25,317,431	26,274,000	15,186,806
Total production ..	90,250,571	103,512,777	102,467,950	82,513,361
Total value ..	£4,729,400	£4,662,750	£6,380,600	£7,695,000

In 1923-24 there were 9,463,675 sheep and 1,614,147 lambs shorn, as compared with 9,920,239 sheep and 2,278,303 lambs in 1922-23, 10,072,358 sheep and 2,471,431 lambs in 1921-22, and 10,595,458 sheep and 1,725,305 lambs in 1920-21.

Weight of
a fleece.

The next table shows the production of wool per sheep and per lamb shorn in each of the last five years :—

WEIGHT OF A FLEECE, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Year.	Weight of a Fleece.		
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep and Lambs combined.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1919-20	7·44	2·26	6·38
1920-21	6·38	2·05	5·77
1921-22	7·23	2·17	6·23
1922-23	7·17	2·25	6·25
1923-24	6·74	2·18	6·08

The production of wool in Victoria, the quantity and value of that used locally for manufacturing purposes, and the balance available for export, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

WOOL PRODUCTION : HOME CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTABLE BALANCE, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Year.	Production.		Used in Manufactures.		Available for Export.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1919-20	132,847,167	7,908,007	11,300,400	612,105	121,546,767	7,295,902
1920-21	90,250,571	4,729,400	12,799,590	639,980	77,450,981	4,089,420
1921-22	103,512,777	4,662,750	13,293,010	553,875	90,219,767	4,108,875
1922-23	102,467,950	6,380,600	15,926,225	995,389	86,541,725	5,385,211
1923-24	82,513,361	7,695,000	13,068,648	1,218,500	69,444,713	6,476,500

Prices of
wool.

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Melbourne wool brokers :—

PRICES OF WOOL, 1921-22 to 1923-24.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
GREASY MERINO.			
Extra Super (Western District)	28d. to 36d.	34d. to 36d.	43d. to 44d.
Super	22d. to 24d.	27d. to 30d.	34d. to 38d.
Good	16d. to 18d.	23d. to 25d.	27d. to 28d.
Average	12d. to 14d.	18d. to 20d.	24d. to 26d.
Wasty and Inferior	8d. to 10d.	14d. to 16d.	19d. to 21d.
Extra Super Lambs	24d. to 26d.	28d. to 30d.	32d. to 34d.
Super Lambs	16d. to 18d.	20d. to 22d.	24d. to 27d.
Good Lambs	11d. to 12d.	16d. to 17d.	18d. to 20d.
Average Lambs	7d. to 8d.	13d. to 14d.	15d. to 18d.
Inferior Lambs	3d. to 5d.	6d. to 9d.	10d. to 12d.
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	22d. to 24d.	29d. to 31d.	37d. to 40d.
Super Comebacks	17d. to 19d.	24d. to 26d.	30d. to 34d.
Fine Crossbred	13d. to 15d.	18d. to 20d.	24d. to 26d.
Medium Crossbred	8d. to 10d.	14d. to 16d.	18d. to 19d.
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	3d. to 5d.	7d. to 9d.	11d. to 13d.
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs	14d. to 16d.	20d. to 22d.	22d. to 24d.
Good Crossbred Lambs	8d. to 10d.	12d. to 14d.	16d. to 18d.
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs	4d. to 5d.	8d. to 10d.	10d. to 12d.
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	42d. to 46d.	46d. to 50d.	58d. to 62d.
Super Fleece	34d. to 38d.	40d. to 44d.	54d. to 56d.
Good Fleece	26d. to 30d.	32d. to 36d.	46d. to 50d.
Average Fleece	18d. to 22d.	24d. to 26d.	36d. to 44d.
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	42½d.	40½d.	46½d.
„ Comeback Fleece	31d.	38½d.	42½d.
„ Merino Lambs	32½d.	41½d.	43½d.
„ Comeback Lambs	24½d.	28d.	37d.
Scoured Fleece	51d.	57½d.	64d.

Flocks of
sheep in
districts.

The following statement, which is based on returns received in March, 1919, contains information in regard to the numbers of flocks and of sheep in the different districts of the State :—

NUMBERS OF FLOCKS AND OF SHEEP IN DISTRICTS, 1919.

District.	Number of—		Average Number of Sheep to a Flock.	Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.
Central	3,384	1,377,304	407	11·94	8·75
North-Central	2,434	1,371,189	563	8·59	8·71
Western	6,080	4,848,391	797	21·46	30·80
Wimmera	4,282	2,440,595	570	15·11	15·50
Mallee	1,514	840,734	555	5·34	5·34
Northern	5,286	2,499,582	473	18·65	15·88
North-Eastern	2,449	1,038,230	424	8·64	6·60
Gippsland	2,909	1,325,171	455	10·27	8·42
Total	28,338	15,741,196	555	100·00	100·00

The figures do not include 32,706 sheep which were travelling on roads or were located in cities and towns. A comparison with figures based on collections made in 1913 and earlier years appears on page 464 of the *Year-Book* for 1918-19.

Sizes of
Flocks.

Excluding sheep travelling and those in cities and towns, the following table contains a classification for the whole State of sheep according to sizes of flocks :—

SHEEP ACCORDING TO SIZES OF FLOCKS, 1919.

Size of Flocks.	Number of—		Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
Under 500	20,430	3,185,381	72·10	20·24
500 to 1,000	4,339	2,972,551	15·31	18·88
1,000 „ 2,000	2,233	3,005,850	7·88	19·10
2,000 „ 5,000	955	2,733,598	3·37	17·35
5,000 „ 10,000	247	1,691,768	·87	10·75
10,000 „ 20,000	111	1,516,830	·39	9·64
Over 20,000	23	635,218	·08	4·04
Total	28,338	15,741,196	100·00	100·00

The above figures are compared with the corresponding ones for 1913 on page 465 of the *Year-Book* for 1918-19. Twenty-one of the 23 largest and 70 of the 111 second largest flocks in 1919 were in the Western District.

Live Stock
in Australia
and
New Zealand.

In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs in the various Australian States and New Zealand, according to returns dated June, 1923 for the Federal Capital Territory; June, 1924, for New South Wales and South Australia; March, 1924, for Victoria and Tasmania; January, 1924, for New Zealand; and December, 1923, for Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory:—

LIVE STOCK IN AUSTRALASIA.

State, &c.	Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
Victoria	486,075	738,149	853,218	11,059,761	259,795
New South Wales ..	658,372	864,455	2,074,067	37,539,413	323,196
Federal Capital Territory	1,345		6,275	139,063	274
Queensland	661,593	512,529	5,883,985	16,756,101	132,243
South Australia ..	258,489	136,438	276,834	6,596,875	73,414
Northern Territory ..	44,603		843,718	4,728	649
Western Australia ..	181,944	61,832	891,932	6,595,867	61,478
Tasmania	37,570	70,497	149,854	1,557,716	47,101
New Zealand	330,430	1,312,588	2,250,909	23,775,776	414,271

Bee-keeping. The returns for 1923-24 show that there were in that year 3,535 bee-keepers, who owned 54,521 frame and 6,239 box hives, producing 2,066,167 lbs. and 44,546 lbs. of honey respectively, and 25,371 lbs. of beeswax. The number of bee-keepers owning 20 hives and upwards was 668, as compared with 584 in the previous season. The quantity of honey produced in the Wimmera, the chief producing district, was 1,154,591 lbs. in 1923-24, as compared with 855,364 lbs. in the previous season. The more important particulars of the industry for the last five years are given below:—

BEE-KEEPING, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Season ended May—	Number of Bee-keepers.	Number of Hives.	Honey produced.	Beeswax produced.
			lbs.	lbs.
1920	3,914	40,970	1,396,704	24,735
1921	3,408	37,075	1,724,942	24,222
1922	4,046	50,147	2,712,675	32,737
1923	3,756	52,060	2,285,000	27,182
1924	3,535	60,760	2,110,713	25,371

Active operations for the destruction of rabbits, &c., on Crown lands were first undertaken by the Government in 1880, and from that date to 30th June, 1924, sums amounting to £1,051,839 had been expended in connexion therewith, including subsidies to Shire Councils for the destruction of wild animals. The following are the amounts spent since 1879:—

EXPENDITURE ON DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS, ETC.

	£		£
1879-80 to 1888-9	.. 142,963	1920-21 .. ..	.. 36,158
1889-90 to 1898-9	.. 208,638	1921-22 .. ..	.. 40,766
1899-1900 to 1908-9	.. 170,050	1922-23 .. ..	.. 47,410
1909-10 to 1919-20	.. 320,365	1923-24 .. ..	.. 85,489

In addition to the expenditure of £1,051,839 referred to above, sums have frequently been advanced from Loan Funds for the purchase of wire netting for supply to municipalities and land owners. The amounts of these advances in the last five years were as follows:—£13,540 in 1919-20, £44,380 in 1920-21, £15,447 in 1921-22, £23,731 in 1922-23, and £26,275 in 1923-24. A complete system, administered by an officer called the Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act, exists for effectually keeping the rabbits under control.

The quantity of rabbits, hares, and wild-fowl sold at the Melbourne Fish Market in each of the last five years was as shown in the following statement:—

RABBITS, HARES, AND WILD-FOWL SOLD AT THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year (ending in June).				Rabbits.	Hares.	Wild-fowl.
				pairs.	brace.	brace.
1919-20	..	..	..	444,456	..	20,022
1920-21	..	..	..	405,564	40	7,158
1921-22	..	..	..	429,372	8	21,708
1922-23	..	..	..	431,196	21	16,428
1923-24	..	..	..	448,656	42	8,148

Large quantities of frozen rabbits and hares and of rabbit and hare skins have been exported to overseas countries, the numbers and values for each of the last five years being as follows:—

RABBITS AND HARES AND RABBIT AND HARE SKINS EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year (ending in June).	Frozen Rabbits and Hares.		Rabbit and Hare Skins.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	pairs.	£	lbs.	£
1919-20	2,725,692	224,737	3,266,621	780,038
1920-21	1,094,689	131,130	1,893,827	326,681
1921-22	454,052	35,385	2,623,228	201,921
1922-23	141,312	10,176	2,140,915	237,853
1923-24	80,499	8,477	2,073,613	282,266

FISHERIES.

The numbers of men and boats engaged in the fishing industry at the different fishing stations throughout the State are given in the following table for the year 1923-24 :—

VICTORIAN FISHERIES—MEN AND BOATS EMPLOYED, 1923-24.

Fishing Stations.	Number of Men.	Boats.		Value of Nets and other Plant.
		Number.	Value.	
			£	£
Anderson's Inlet	8	6	189	92
Anglesea River	2	2	40	27
Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove	7	4	670	67
Brighton	8	5	79	137
Corner Inlet, Welshpool, Toora, and Port Franklin	75	55	7,277	2,795
Dromana	28	21	1,004	319
Frankston	9	7	216	178
Geelong	75	44	4,444	1,116
Gippsland Lakes	195	133	8,391	5,785
Kerang	2	2	6	20
Lorne	3	2	140	65
Mallacoota	2	2	34	40
Mentone	15	9	350	159
Mordialloc, Chelsea, and Carrum	34	28	1,118	296
Mornington	39	25	2,752	683
Portarlington and St. Leonards	88	58	4,126	1,703
Portland	47	31	4,468	594
Port Albert	39	23	2,540	962
Port Campbell	2	2	120	24
Port Fairy	40	31	6,640	573
Port Melbourne	48	29	2,672	844
Queenscliff	123	64	13,272	879
Rainbow	3	3	60	20
Sandringham	51	30	3,094	484
Sorrento, Portsea, and Rye	50	28	2,183	488
St. Kilda	18	10	334	130
Torquay	10	5	195	90
Warrnambool	18	14	760	174
Werribee	7	5	386	280
Waranga Basin	22	16	208	244
Western Port (Cowes, Hastings, Grantville, Flinders, San Remo, and Tooradin)	123	92	9,457	2,836
Williamstown	35	21	1,710	733
Wonthaggi	8	5	82	67
Total	1,234	812	79,017	22,904

The quantities and values of fish sold in the Melbourne Fish Market during each of the years 1922-23 and 1923-24 were as shown in the next table.

**FISH SOLD IN THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET,
1922-23 AND 1923-24.**

	1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fresh Fish (Victorian) lbs.	9,458,170	£ 135,170	8,174,520	£ 133,517
Crayfish doz.	32,729	30,274	33,105	29,795
Imported Fish (fresh or frozen) .. lbs.	2,726,958	68,174	3,382,348	84,558
Oysters bags	8,876	36,563	9,803	37,606
Total .. ..	..	270,181	..	285,476

In addition to the above, 9,726 cwt. of smoked fish, and 723 baskets of prawns were sold in this market in 1923-24.

Victorian fish sold. The quantity and value of fish caught in Victorian waters and sold in the Melbourne and Ballarat markets and elsewhere in 1923-24 were as follows :—

VICTORIAN FISH SOLD IN 1923-24.

Markets.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Fish.	Crayfish.	Fish.	Crayfish.
	lbs.	doz.	£	£
Melbourne	8,174,520	14,325	133,517	12,893
Ballarat	566,064	2,436	8,440	1,646
Other	220,225	624	3,597	562
Total	8,930,809	17,385	145,554	15,101

Fish imported. In connexion with this subject, the quantities and values of the different classes of fish imported are of interest. Particulars of imports from oversea countries in each of the last two years are given in the following statement :—

FISH IMPORTED, 1922-23 AND 1923-24.

	1922-23.		1923-24.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fish—		£		£
Fresh or Frozen lbs.	1,679,684	50,216	2,169,942	61,739
Smoked "	30,564	2,569	54,681	3,862
Fresh Oysters cwt.	2,924	4,081	368	269
Potted or Concentrated, &c. ..	..	10,281	..	17,264
Preserved in tins, &c. .. lbs.	6,090,118	256,514	7,229,629	317,182
N.E.I. cwt.	3,835	13,455	2,516	7,934
Total .. ..	..	337,116	..	408,250

The most important item in this table is fish preserved in tins and other air-tight vessels, of which 1,276,259 lbs. came from the United Kingdom and 3,249,964 lbs. from Canada, in 1923-24.

Imports by United Kingdom of staple articles produced in Victoria.

In Victoria the natural conditions are eminently suitable for agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and there is room for considerable expansion in these avenues of production. There is little need to fear over-production, as the United Kingdom offers an almost unlimited market for many articles which could be supplied from this State. This is readily seen from the figures in the subjoined table, which show the values of certain articles imported into the United Kingdom from Australia, other British Possessions, and Foreign Countries for each of the years 1921, 1922, and 1923:—

IMPORTS OF CERTAIN ARTICLES INTO UNITED KINGDOM FROM AUSTRALIA, OTHER BRITISH POSSESSIONS, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES, 1921, 1922, AND 1923.

Articles.	Year.	Value of Imports into United Kingdom from—			
		Australia.	Other British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	All Countries.
		£	£	£	£
Butter	1921	11,479,626	9,261,866	21,598,455	42,339,947
	1922	6,996,678	10,944,134	19,374,724	37,315,536
	1923	4,726,340	14,340,028	25,168,166	44,234,534
Cheese	1921	501,912	15,408,725	1,314,320	17,224,957
	1922	434,118	10,364,632	1,236,855	12,035,605
	1923	246,568	12,799,480	1,934,636	14,980,693
Wheat	1921	17,783,123	15,540,733	37,282,212	70,606,068
	1922	10,265,586	14,344,172	34,184,425	58,794,183
	1923	2,597,083	22,580,958	28,389,827	53,567,868
Wheatmeal and Flour .. .	1921	1,627,426	7,168,404	10,268,195	19,064,025
	1922	1,378,076	5,312,521	3,981,133	10,671,730
	1923	1,215,869	3,998,175	2,993,912	8,207,956
Meat	1921	8,097,492	26,664,727	97,513,808	132,276,027
	1922	6,680,141	18,895,151	76,393,599	101,968,891
	1923	7,024,600	19,562,073	82,517,807	109,104,480
Fruit—Fresh, Dried, etc. .. .	1921	2,179,189	6,677,162	35,801,498	44,657,849
	1922	3,182,570	6,839,648	34,137,246	44,159,464
	1923	2,712,896	6,118,175	33,141,409	41,972,480
Wine	1921	183,370	56,836	5,077,769	5,317,975
	1922	147,913	46,485	5,437,293	5,631,691
	1923	178,708	76,104	5,487,909	5,742,721
Wool	1921	18,914,465	18,638,851	3,997,569	41,550,885
	1922	27,379,129	25,494,379	5,977,176	58,850,684
	1923	21,267,968	19,665,317	5,743,570	46,676,855
Hides and Skins, Undressed .. .	1921	1,045,668	4,455,351	5,413,727	10,914,746
	1922	1,981,563	6,018,370	6,936,662	14,936,535
	1923	2,632,027	6,190,591	8,035,986	16,858,604
Tallow and Stearine .. .	1921	509,408	907,119	793,281	2,209,808
	1922	718,445	880,617	735,393	2,334,455
	1923	504,640	796,361	1,136,284	2,437,285
Leather	1921	336,236	2,166,417	5,842,849	8,345,502
	1922	386,075	2,682,734	7,658,216	10,727,025
	1923	340,534	3,461,441	7,241,026	11,073,961
Total—Eleven Articles .. .	1921	62,657,915	106,946,191	224,903,683	394,507,789
	1922	59,550,294	101,822,843	196,052,662	357,425,799
	1923	43,447,233	109,618,712	201,791,432	354,857,377

Agriculture in
Victoria and
Great Britain.

The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain in 1923 are, for comparative purposes, placed side by side in the table which follows:—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1923.

	Victoria.	Great Britain.
Area acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat bushels	37,795,704	59,210,667
Oats "	9,366,204	113,400,000
Barley "	1,455,435	49,235,200
Peas "	233,047	2,523,920
Potatoes tons	238,520	3,579,000
Turnips and swedes "	4,222*	17,440,000
Mangolds "	13,569	6,969,200
Hay "	1,541,287	8,597,000
Horses No.	486,075	1,252,704
Cattle "	1,591,367	7,016,582
Sheep "	11,059,761	20,621,256
Pigs "	259,795	2,797,633

* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

MINING.

The supervision of mining and the inspection of mines are regulated by Act of Parliament. Authority for all mining operations, whether on Crown or private lands, must be obtained in the prescribed manner, and mining leases giving the right to enter on private land for mining purposes may be issued to another than the owner.

Miners' Rights.

The taking out of a "miner's right" entitles the holder to prospect for gold on Crown lands. The right may be had on payment of a sum of 2s. 6d. per annum and remains in force for any number of years not exceeding fifteen. The holder is entitled to take possession for mining purposes of a defined parcel of Crown lands, which is called a "claim." The revenue in 1923-24 from miners' rights was £2,164.

Mining Leases.

Leases for the purpose of mining for gold are granted for a term not exceeding fifteen years at a yearly rental of 2s. 6d. per acre. For mining leases of land to be worked by means of dredging or hydraulic sluicing the yearly rent is 5s. per acre. Other mineral and coal mining leases are also issued at varying rates. The revenue from these sources in 1923-24 was £4,572.

The area of Crown and private lands under occupation for mining purposes on 31st December, 1923, was 47,361 acres. The subjoined table shows the area being worked for different minerals:—

AREA UNDER OCCUPATION FOR MINING PURPOSES,
31ST DECEMBER, 1923 (CROWN LAND AND PRIVATE
LAND).

Nature of Mineral, &c.	Area.
	acres.
Gold	32,600
Coal (ordinary)	4,716
Coal (brown)	887
Aluminium	37
Bluestone	22
Clay Slum	143
Copper	99
Copper and Silver	71
Dolomite and Clay	1
Eurite and Gold	11
Granite	16
Gypsum	1,190
Hematite and Iron Ores	8
Infusorial Earth	9
Iron	335
Iron Oxides	24
Kaolin	64
Limestone	219
Limestone and Clay	27
Magnesite	114
Manganese	2,068
Manganese and Cobalt	19
Marble	106
Molybdenite	431
Molybdenite, Copper, and Silver	29
Ochre	3
Oil	238
Oil and Gas	168
Oxide	3
Pigments	5
Pigments and Clay	21
Pigments and Limestone	43
Quicksilver	55
Salt	45
Sand	49
Silicate of Alumina	79
Silver and Gold	129
Silver and Lead	187
Slate	71
Sulphates and Oil	224
Tin	1,829
Wolfram	9
Wolfram and Tin	454
Water-right Licences	563
Total	47,361

Mining development. The mining industry has been well fostered by the Government, not only in the way of financial assistance but also by means of geological surveys and boring. Apart from the annual expenditure of the Mines Department from consolidated revenue, of which a statement is appended, loan moneys amounting to £510,454 (including £239,432 expended on the State Coal Mine), and portions of surplus revenues of past years amounting to £85,000, had been expended or advanced for developmental purposes from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1924.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON MINING, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Item.	Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£
Mines Department	24,423	27,359	26,785	27,085	26,176
State Coal Mine	367,733	385,105	499,076	436,753	519,536
Brown Coal Mine	98,053	75,186	44,426	48,886	45,830
Coal Mines Regulation—Sinking Fund and Depreciation Fund	56,613	22,419	82,786	22,342	39,628
Diamond drills for prospecting ..	11,703	10,992	9,809	9,411	10,597
Testing plants	4,028	4,643	3,212	3,148	3,499
Geological and underground surveys of mines	2,138	2,443	2,506	3,071	3,436
Mining Development—					
Advances to companies, &c., boring for gold, coal, &c. ..	16,993	9,006	8,161	6,963	6,711
Miscellaneous	5,347	1,702	2,024	1,806	2,107
Total	587,031	538,855	678,785	559,465	657,520

Yearly grants are also made to Schools of Mines, particulars of which will be found on page 331 of this work. Since 1st July, 1899, £510,454 has been apportioned from loan receipts and expended on mining development; details of this expenditure appear in the next statement:—

LOAN MONEY EXPENDED ON MINING DEVELOPMENT.

	£
Advances to companies—Development of mining ..	62,740
" " Boring for gold and coal, &c. ..	62,532
Construction of roads and tracks for mining purposes ..	57,579
Plant for testing metalliferous material	12,357
Construction of races and dams	8,260
Advances to miners for prospecting	27,839
Purchase of cyanide process patent rights	20,000
Equipping Schools of Mines with mining appliances ..	9,975
State Coal Mine	239,432
Miscellaneous	9,740
Total	510,454

The advances from loan moneys and revenue to mining companies to 30th June, 1924, for the development of mining, totalled £255,917, of which sum £39,975 had up to that date been repaid, £47,790 realized, and £133,837 written off, leaving £34,315 outstanding. Interest received during 1923-24 amounted to £410, and interest outstanding on 30th June, 1924, to £3,691.

The mineral production of the State is summarized in the subjoined statement, which contains particulars of the recorded production of all metals and minerals up to the end of the year 1923.

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION TO 31ST DECEMBER 1923.

Metals and Minerals.	Recorded prior to 1923.		Recorded during 1923.		Total Recorded to end of 1923.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£	Fine ozs.	£
Gold ..	70,967,131	301,448,435	95,403	405,245	71,062,534	301,853,680
Silver ..	1,448,833	220,386	6,304	963	1,455,137*	221,349
	30,577	7,880	..	..	30,577	7,880
Platinum ..	311	1,671	..	..	311	1,671
	tons.	£	tons.	£	tons.	£
Coal, black ..	9,729,912	6,279,328	476,823	525,270	10,206,735	6,804,598
" brown ..	633,9 3	218 153	116,888	38,019	750,831	256,172
Ore—copper ..	18,730	218,590	..	..	18,730	218,590
" tin ..	16,710	915,594	78	10,371	16,788	925,965
" antimony ..	102,994	578,021	1,760	14,112	104,754	592,133
" silver-lead ..	793	5,760	..	..	793	5,760
" iron ..	5,434	12,540	..	..	5,434	12,540
" manganese ..	407	1,949	..	..	407	1,949
Wolfram ..	118	11,785	..	..	118	11,785
Diamonds ..	..	128	..	..	..	128
Sapphires, &c. ..	..	630	..	..	..	630
Gypsum ..	50,709	35,757	12,761	10,176	63,470	45,933
Magnesite ..	1,481	4,491	75	225	1,556	4,716
Kaolin ..	22,558	29,233	2,307	2,384	24,865	31,617
Diatomaceous earth ..	8,057	33,137	..	..	8,057	33,137
Pigment clays ..	1,6 7	2,059	123	635	1,770	2,694
Phosphate rock ..	12,168	12,918	480	713	12,648	13,631
Molybdenite ..	700	6,916	50	6,250	750	13,166
Fluorspar ..	623	1,888	..	..	623	1,888
Bluestone, freestone, granite, &c. † ..	..	6,917,597	..	518,064	..	7,435,661
Limestone, &c. ‡ ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	..	316,964,846	..	1,532,427	..	318,497,273

* Extracted from gold at the Melbourne Mint. † From 1866 only. ‡ Record from 1900.

NOTE.—The value of gold as shown above is based on the average value of Victorian gold received at the Melbourne Mint.

Gold was first found in Victoria in 1849 in the Pyrenees Ranges, but it was not until 1851 that the first discovery of any importance took place. In the latter part of that year the Clunes, Anderson's Creek, Ballarat, and Bendigo fields were successively discovered, and over 200,000 ounces of gold were produced. Next year the gold rush took place, and it is estimated that, in 1852, 40,000 men were camped at Ballarat, 25,000 at Castlemaine, and 40,000 at Bendigo. The production of gold in 1852 amounted to 2,286,535 ounces, and in the ten years 1852-1861 it totalled over 25,000,000 ounces. The largest quantity produced in any one year was 3,053,744 ounces in 1856. The annual value of the output for the ten years 1852-1861 averaged over £10,000,000 sterling. The estimated value of the gold produced from 1851 to 1923 was £301,853,680, as shown in the preceding statement.

The quantities of gold raised in Victoria in different periods are shown in the next table:—

GOLD RAISED IN VICTORIA, 1851 to 1923.

Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).	Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).
1851-60	23,334,263*	1911-15	2,161,349
1861-70	16,276,566*	1916-20	905,561
1871-80	10,156,297*	1921	104,512
1881-90	7,103,448*	1922	106,872
1891-1900	7,476,038*	1923	95,403
1901-10	7,095,061		

* Gross ozs.

The yield has been on the down grade since 1906, the return for the State for 1923 having been the lowest since 1851. The quantities raised in the other principal gold-producing States in 1923 were 504,511 ounces in Western Australia, 88,726 ounces in Queensland, and 18,833 ounces in New South Wales. The total production of gold in the world in 1922, as shown in the United States Mint Report, was 15,440,243 ounces.

The yield of gold for the last two years in each mining district of the State, as estimated by the mining registrars, is shown in the following table. The quantities represented by the aggregate figures, which are given in gross

Mining
district
gold yields.

ounces, exceed the total output of 1922 by 3 ounces, and that of 1923 by 84 ounces:—

**DISTRICT YIELDS OF GOLD, ALLUVIAL AND QUARTZ,
1922 AND 1923.**

Mining District.	1922.			1923.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.
	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.	OZS.
Ararat and Stawell ..	4,370	460	4,830	4,647	516	5,163
Ballarat	1,378	1,434	2,812	1,007	785	1,792
Beechworth	11,438	22,628	34,066	7,871	25,067	32,938
Bendigo	914	52,537	53,451	361	44,896	45,257
Castlemaine	3,105	15,582	18,687	1,763	15,751	17,514
Gippsland	2,231	463	2,694	1,198	469	1,667
Maryborough	510	897	1,407	387	477	864
Total	23,946	94,001	117,947	17,234	87,961	105,195

The amount of the dividends declared in each of the last five years by gold-mining companies operating in each mining district of the State was as follows:—

**DIVIDENDS PAID BY GOLD MINING COMPANIES IN EACH
MINING DISTRICT, 1919 TO 1923.**

Mining District.	Amount Distributed.				
	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat and Stawell .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ballarat .. ..	..	..	13	..	1,635
Beechworth	19,220	36,690	13,455	18,450	9,000
Bendigo .. ..	..	44,226	6,750	20,250	37,872
Castlemaine	5,800	11,595	5,830	17,883	12,459
Gippsland	160	2,668	1,096	..	..
Maryborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	25,180	95,179	27,144	56,583	60,966

The average number of men employed in gold mining is estimated annually by the Mines Department. The figures for the last five years are given below :—

NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED IN GOLD MINING, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.				Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.
1919	..	..	..	1,155	1,910	3,065
1920	..	..	..	1,138	2,604	3,742
1921	..	..	..	1,073	1,977	3,050
1922	..	..	..	1,048	2,262	3,310
1923	..	..	..	770	2,212	2,982

The number of men employed in each mining district in 1923 was as follows :—Ararat and Stawell, 154 ; Ballarat, 63 ; Bendigo, 1,479 ; Beechworth, 716 ; Castlemaine, 344 ; Gippsland, 100 ; and Maryborough, 126.

The value of the mining plants employed in alluvial and quartz mining during each of the last five years was as shown hereunder :—

Value of
machinery on
gold-fields.

VALUE OF MACHINERY ON GOLD-FIELDS, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.				Approximate Value of Machinery Employed in—		
				Alluvial Mining.	Quartz Mining.	Total.
				£	£	£
1919	..	..	..	198,490	425,110	623,600
1920	..	..	..	181,400	703,416	884,816
1921	..	..	..	156,642	508,643	665,285
1922	..	..	..	135,295	508,630	643,925
1923	..	..	..	133,200	486,300	619,500

A feature of alluvial mining in Victoria for the last twenty-two years has been the treatment in bulk of low-grade auriferous alluvial deposits and their overburden by bucket dredges and pump hydraulic sluicing plants on barges. In 1923 the

Dredging
and sluicing.

number of bucket dredges at work was 3, and the number of pump hydraulic sluices 1, in addition to which 16 jet elevators and 4 gravitation plants were operating. Particulars relating to these dredging and sluicing plants for the last five years are as follows :—

DREDGING AND SLUICING, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.			Number of Plants.	Area Worked.	Quantity of Material Treated.	Gold Obtained.	Tin Obtained.
				acres.	cu. yds.	ozs.	tons.
1919	..	..	56	161	5,517,159	24,540	107
1920	..	..	43	130	4,179,778	19,855	78
1921	..	..	42	99	3,554,674	15,734	78
1922	..	..	32	41	1,736,735	11,939	115
1923	..	..	24	27	1,294,300	9,017	77

These plants employed 44 men in 1923. The yield of gold in that year per cubic yard of material was 3·3 grains. Since the inception of dredge mining 1,875,097 ounces of gold and 1,541 tons of tin have been won by this system.

Cyanidation. The quantity of tailings treated at old lode and alluvial mines by the cyanide process and the yield of gold therefrom are shown in the subjoined table for the last five years :—

CYANIDATION, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.			Number of Plants.	Quantity of Tailings Treated.	Yield of Gold.	Value of Yield.
				tons.	ozs.	£
1919	..	..	33	44,581	4,361	16,484
1920	..	..	28	37,596	4,226	16,216
1921	..	..	20	39,937	5,326	17,212
1922	..	..	12	41,163	5,847	22,654
1923	..	..	14	18,644	3,415	13,445

Records show that the total amount of tailings which have been treated by the cyanide and other processes is 15,982,431 tons, and that the gold which has been won thereby amounts to 1,278,706 ounces, which is equal to an average yield of 1 dwt. 14 grs. per ton.

A Sludge Abatement Board, appointed by the Government, is intrusted with the duty of regulating the disposal of mining sludge, and preventing the silting of streams and injury to lands by battery sand and infertile debris.

Government batteries. Batteries for testing small quantities of ore for prospectors have been erected by the Government in various mining districts. The number of these plants and their operations in the last five years were as follows :—

GOVERNMENT BATTERIES, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.				Number of Batteries.	Quantity of Ore Treated.	Yield of Gold.
					tons.	ozs.
1919	..	..	..	34	2,941	3,778
1920	..	..	..	33	2,664	2,849
1921	..	..	..	34	1,748	1,367
1922	..	..	..	34	1,286	1,424
1923	..	..	..	34	1,000	649

Since 1897, the year in which the first battery was erected, 73,190 tons of ore have been crushed for 50,799 ounces of gold.

Coal mining. Bituminous coal is found in three main areas in the southern portion of the State, viz., the Wannon, the Otway, and South Gippsland. The Wannon area is comparatively unprospected, owing to almost the whole of the land having been sold. In the Otway area bores have been sunk without disclosing seams of payable thickness. The South Gippsland area occupies about 2,000 square miles, and coal mining is being carried on at Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Outtrim, Jumbunna, and Korumburra.

Brown coal. The brown coal beds of Victoria have an approximate area of 1,200 square miles, and are reputed to be the thickest known. At Morwell, 780 feet of coal were passed through in a bore 1,010 feet deep. It is estimated that the average thickness of the coal in the deposits at Morwell, Alberton, and Altona is 50 feet, and that the total deposits in the State amount to 11,000,000,000 tons. These deposits are practically untouched, as the total output of brown coal for all years has been only 750,831 tons (valued at £256,172), of which 116,888 tons were obtained in 1923. Of the total output for that year 115,045 tons valued at £37,424 were obtained from the State Brown Coal Mine at Morwell.

The State coal-field. The State coal mine at Wonthaggi, on the Powlett River, was opened in November, 1909. In June, 1911, the control of the mine was transferred to the Railways Commissioners. The area reserved for mining is about 17 square miles. Boring has

proved that about 28,000,000 tons of coal existed in the central area of 5 square miles. The output of coal for the year ended 31st December, 1923, was 418,394 tons, valued at £460,234. The total output up to the end of 1923 was 5,999,403 tons, valued at £4,208,726. The average number of men employed at the mine throughout the year ended 30th June, 1923, was 1,556.

The quantity of coal, exclusive of brown coal, raised in Victoria up to the end of 1923 was 10,206,735 tons, valued at £6,804,598. The total quantity raised prior to 1892, the average annual production for different periods from 1892 to 1920, and the production for each of the years 1921, 1922, and 1923, together with the value per ton at the pit's mouth, are given in the following table :—

Victorian
coal
production
and value.

COAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE PER TON.

Period.			Average Annual Production.	Average Annual Value per ton at pit's mouth.
			tons.	s. d.
Prior to 1892	..	..	*77,914	18 8
1892-1900	..	..	184,517	9 11
1901-10	..	..	168,548	11 8
1911-15	..	..	608,512	9 2
1916-20	..	..	437,833	15 11
1921	..	..	514,859	23 5
1922	..	..	559,284	23 9
1923	..	..	476,823	22 0

* Total production up to date mentioned.

The quantities of coal produced in the other States in 1923 were as follows :—New South Wales, 10,478,513 tons; Queensland, 1,136,883 tons; Western Australia, 420,714 tons; and Tasmania, 80,718 tons.

The numbers of fatal and non-fatal accidents in gold and coal mines during the last five years are shown below. Only those non-fatal accidents have been recorded which rendered the injured unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days.

MINING ACCIDENTS, 1919 TO 1923

Year.	Gold Mines.			Coal Mines.		
	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.
1919	3,065	4	9	2,192	5	13
1920	3,724	3	13	2,011	1	5
1921	3,050	5	2	1,994	5	11
1922	3,310	..	4	1,953	..	11
1923	2,982	1	6	2,131	1	11

As a result of gold mining accidents during the last five years 13 persons were killed and 34 were injured and rendered unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days. These numbers were equivalent to annual rates of 0·81 and 2·11 respectively per 1,000 employed. Coal mining accidents during the same period accounted for 12 deaths and 51 injuries resulting in disablement for at least fourteen days, these being equal to yearly rates of 1·17 and 4·96 respectively per 1,000 employees.

The record of boring operations conducted by the Boring for gold and coal. Mines Department during the last five years is as follows:—

GOVERNMENT BORING OPERATIONS, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	Drills worked by—		Bores put down for—			Total Depth Bored.
	Steam.	Other Power.	Gold.	Coal.	Total.	
1919	2	10	6	216	222	feet. 38,340
1920	2	13	5	358	363	37,957
1921	1	14	20	400	420	40,000
1922	1	14	6	182	188	25,200
1923 .. ..	..	12	4	67	71	19,270

Antimony. Up to the end of 1923 the quantity of antimony ore produced in Victoria was 104,754 tons valued at £592,133. Nearly the whole of it was obtained at Costerfield. The production for 1923 yielded 822 tons of concentrates valued at £14,112. For the previous year the yield was 1,283 tons of concentrates valued at £22,966.

Tin. The production of tin ore in the State up to the end of 1923 was 16,788 tons, valued at £925,965. In the year 1923 the quantity produced was 78 tons, as against 115 tons in the preceding year, and 80 tons in 1921. Of the tin won during the last five years nearly the whole was obtained in the Beechworth district.

Gypsum. The quantity of gypsum produced in the State in 1923 was 12,761 tons, nearly all of which was obtained at Waitchie, Lake Boga, and Bolton. The output for the previous year was 6,945 tons, which was obtained almost entirely at Lake Boga, Bolton, and Cowangie. Up to the end of 1923 the quantity raised in Victoria was 63,470 tons, valued at £45,933.

Kaolin. The quantity of kaolin produced in 1923 was 2,307 tons, and in the previous year, 2,340 tons. Up to the end of 1923 the total output was 24,865 tons, valued at £31,617.

Molybdenite. The total value of molybdenite produced in the State up to the end of 1923 was £13,166. In the year 1923 the output was valued at £6,250, as against £2,550 in 1922. The whole of the output was obtained at Everton, near Beechworth.

Quarries. The quantity and value of stone raised from Victorian quarries during the last five years were as set forth in the following table:—

QUARRIES, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Year ended June—	Number of Quarries.	Quantity of Stone Operated on—				Approximate Value of Stone Raised.
		Bluestone.	Free-stone.	Granite.	Limestone.	
		c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	£
1920 ..	91	785,847	2,324	1,490	56,446	219,413
1921 ..	105	1,068,131	417	1,485	56,031	340,450
1922 ..	112	1,212,637	4,437	1,515	58,073	369,030
1923 ..	106	1,244,262	10,776	1,775	73,448	384,510
1924 ..	105	1,429,719	2,536	2,242	74,474	436,175

In 1923-24 the number of persons employed in quarries was 1,781, and the wages paid amounted to £366,184. These figures include the employees and wages connected with stone-breaking and tar-paving works, most of which are carried on in conjunction with quarries and cannot be separated therefrom.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Industrial progress. The earliest year for which there are statistical records of the factories of the State is 1850, at which date the number of manufacturing establishments is shown to have been 68. Subsequently fair and regular progress was made in the industry until in 1900, the year before Federation, there were 3,097 factories working. The years immediately following Federation were marked by increased industrial activity, which was well maintained in later years. During the last ten years nearly all existing lines of manufacture have shown a notable expansion, and many industries new to the State have been firmly established. Since 1914 the number of factories has increased by 29 per cent., the number of persons employed by 32 per cent., the amount of salaries and wages paid by 147 per cent., the value of output by 130 per cent., the value of machinery and plant and premises by 142 per cent., and the engine power of factories by 186 per cent. The difference between the cost of materials used and the value of the output was equivalent to an added value of £331 1s. 10d. per person employed in 1923-24, as compared with £172 15s. 0d. in 1914. This favorable economic result coincides with a larger proportion of establishments using mechanical power in 1923-24, when 83 per cent. were so equipped, as against 73 per cent. in 1914, and with the increased aggregate engine power of factories previously referred to. The increase in the added value relatively to employees, the larger proportion of factories using power, and the higher aggregate power of establishments as a whole are indications of increasing industrial efficiency. The proportion of children employed in factories to total employees increased from 4·18 per cent. in 1914 to 5·03 per cent. in 1923-24.

Since 1914 the number of factories employing over 100 hands has increased by 22 per cent., and the number of hands employed by such factories has increased by 31 per cent. While factories of this size formed only 3·3 per cent. of the total number in the State in 1923-24, they employed 41·3 per cent. of the the total number of hands. The figures relating to distinct industries show that steady progress has been maintained in almost every class of factory during recent years. This is most noticeable in industries associated with the manufacture of clothing and textile fabrics (including boots) and with the preparation of food, &c.

The appended table summarizes the position of the industries at various stages since 1871, but, except for the period 1904 to 1923-24, the information for different years is not strictly comparable, for the reason that it has not been compiled upon the same basis throughout.

GROWTH IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons employed.	Amount of Salaries and Wages paid.	Value of Plant, Machinery, Land, and Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1871 ..	1,740	19,468	*	4,725,125	*
1881 ..	2,488	43,209	*	8,044,296	†13,370,836
1891 ..	3,141	52,225	*	16,472,859	‡22,390,251
1901 ..	3,249	66,529	*	12,298,500	§19,478,780
1904 ..	4,208	76,287	4,794,365	13,668,185	23,126,180
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921-22 ...	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927

* Particulars not available.

† 1880.

‡ 1890.

§ 1900.

NOTE.—Up to the year 1915 inclusive the statistics relate to the calendar year ; for subsequent years they relate to the year ending 30th June.

The first Factories Act in Victoria was passed in 1873, and since that year many other Acts dealing with the subject have been placed upon the statute-book. The *Factories and Shops Act* 1915 (No. 2650) consolidated all Acts passed prior to that date. The general provisions of factory legislation, including "Wages Boards," are fully dealt with in Part "Social Condition" of this work.

In the year 1902 the classification of industries for statistical purposes, as shown in the next table, was adopted by the Statisticians of Australia. A factory was defined as an establishment employing on the average four persons or more, or an establishment employing less than four persons where machinery is worked by other than manual power, whether the business carried on is that of making or repairing for the trade (wholesale or retail), or for export. The table shows for the year 1923-24 the number of factories in each industry, the power used, the number of persons employed, the wages paid, the values of materials and fuel and light used, and the value of articles produced or work done :—

Factories and Wages Board Legislation.

Production of different industries, 1923-24.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1923-24.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid exclusive of Amounts drawn by Working Proprietors.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class I.—Treating Raw Material the product of Pastoral Pursuits, or Vegetable Products, not otherwise classed.</i>										
Boiling down	13	195	7	170	..	..	£ 39,385	£ 10,760	£ 164,730	£ 206,869
Bone milling	14	797	14	110	..	2	23,809	14,459	51,940	112,289
Tanning	51	4,217	77	2,386	..	17	550,153	47,132	1,795,692	2,794,944
Fellmongering	29	1,633	31	416	..	2	95,862	24,809	1,616,588	1,880,967
Chaffcutting and grain crushing ..	173	2,503	186	673	..	12	78,973	12,641	871,167	1,034,083
Other	8	53	4	169	..	..	39,637	387	91,856	167,427
Total	288	9,398	319	3,924	..	33	827,819	110,188	4,591,973	6,196,579
<i>Class II.—Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable.</i>										
Oil, grease, glue	11	215	7	154	..	18	41,187	9,558	229,827	352,471
Soap and candle	17	667	11	587	..	143	147,124	31,635	568,001	937,148
Total	28	882	18	741	..	161	188,311	41,193	797,828	1,289,619

*Class III.—Processes relating to
Stone, Clay, Glass, &c.*

Brick, pottery, &c. ..	104	8,172	72	3,303	1	164	735,719	282,681	94,787	1,568,362
Cement, including cement pipes ..	24	3,451	13	783	..	7	196,611	105,691	188,322	769,692
Glass, including bottles ..	4	431	11	776	..	11	206,429	70,453	72,512	496,007
Glass bevelling ..	26	101	21	253	..	7	56,773	1,242	95,934	197,091
Marble and stone dressing ..	43	474	60	381	..	6	93,232	3,143	76,174	226,820
Modelling ..	34	390	42	454	1	11	104,969	4,252	152,280	349,843
Other ..	17	313	12	271	..	1	59,615	26,757	18,668	131,541
Total ..	252	13,332	231	6,221	2	207	1,453,348	494,219	698,677	3,739,356

Class IV.—Working in Wood.

Cooperage ..	9	297	8	191	..	..	55,292	1,419	31,169	110,361
Saw-milling (forest) ..	241	5,004	315	3,261	..	11	686,419	1,011	24,331	1,374,581
Saw-milling, moulding, &c. ..	402	12,069	441	5,787	2	84	1,272,151	39,064	2,419,376	4,388,991
Mantelpiece ..	9	73	8	210	..	6	45,166	503	40,271	102,289
Wood carving, turning ..	21	469	23	239	..	8	65,826	2,405	59,351	167,833
Other ..	9	155	11	153	..	37	39,354	1,304	68,937	132,449
Total ..	691	18,067	806	9,871	2	146	2,164,208	45,706	2,643,435	6,276,504

Class V.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.

Agricultural implement ..	61	1,952	65	3,049	2	95	688,229	44,171	713,637	1,690,645
Engineering, iron foundry, &c. ..	516	12,917	592	10,132	5	173	2,288,499	183,953	2,501,025	6,087,049
Railway workshop ..	18	3,388	..	5,883	..	7	1,300,137	33,377	1,596,236	3,222,714
Nail ..	9	375	6	162	..	4	33,588	2,379	148,572	212,243
Sheet-iron, tin, &c. ..	108	843	89	1,880	1	263	381,224	14,430	737,387	1,364,693
Brass, copper smithing ..	97	834	118	1,184	1	58	257,790	14,602	259,476	656,370
Wireworking ..	24	437	32	314	..	19	67,079	2,976	225,406	374,189
Metallurgical, &c., cyanide ..	8	93	11	61	..	..	13,630	3,029	102,184	135,661
Oven, range ..	19	134	22	177	..	1	40,288	1,734	53,592	121,564
Other ..	48	706	48	508	1	15	108,346	10,665	194,111	404,437
Total ..	908	21,679	983	23,350	10	635	5,178,810	311,316	6,531,626	14,269,565

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1923-24—*continued.*

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Victorian Year-Book, 1923-24.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid exclusive of Amounts drawn by Working Proprietors.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class VI.—Connected with Food and Drink, &c.</i>										
Bacon curing	24	1,647	32	483	..	19	£ 118,751	£ 17,549	£ 1,313,895	£ 1,602,615
Butter, cheese, butterine	190	5,320	34	2,089	..	214	529,686	128,206	6,984,383	8,184,522
Meat freezing, preserving	13	5,906	8	848	..	37	161,643	21,972	841,788	1,143,920
Biscuit	9	540	6	861	1	608	213,307	24,062	658,638	1,135,114
Flourmilling	47	5,647	32	1,063	..	19	266,540	58,015	4,483,925	5,495,110
Jam, sauce, &c.	47	1,036	30	1,491	4	1,048	397,750	25,992	1,105,650	1,930,258
Oatmeal, starch, &c.	37	2,049	26	383	..	323	120,674	19,746	752,733	1,121,412
Sugar, confectionery, &c.	115	8,601	98	2,222	19	1,995	736,548	125,997	4,520,659	6,221,331
Aerated water, cordial, &c.	121	670	132	782	10	83	179,255	6,406	300,777	698,770
Malt	21	461	14	257	..	6	69,894	18,778	368,785	601,433
Brewing	14	5,058	6	1,179	..	1	323,806	61,211	961,038	2,412,387
Distilling	10	316	4	122	..	3	26,632	10,560	80,292	173,557
Condiments, coffee, cocoa, &c.	15	755	8	224	..	122	67,916	7,678	445,218	620,243
Tobacco, &c.	14	690	16	1,173	1	630	332,930	7,185	1,302,018	2,126,625
Other	43	3,768	34	362	3	34	87,093	32,483	87,943	293,214
Total	720	42,464	480	13,539	38	5,142	3,633,025	565,840	24,207,742	33,760,511

*Class VII.—Clothing and Textile
Fabrics, and Fibrous Material.*

10027—29

Woollen mill	27	10,412	22	2,196	..	2,696	713,411	92,187	2,086,136	3,561,480
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	525	561	501	1,770	42	7,533	1,206,472	22,361	2,059,904	3,908,514
Dressmaking and millinery ..	509	499	147	263	336	7,975	849,306	12,458	1,739,847	3,135,160
Underclothing, shirt	188	985	92	328	97	5,572	666,462	13,282	1,527,555	2,601,053
Hat, cap	53	783	48	645	4	965	269,946	14,830	437,302	880,143
Hosiery	158	1,054	92	472	83	3,377	429,215	14,533	1,012,448	1,892,662
Oilskin, waterproof clothing ..	5	32	4	48	..	130	29,395	1,085	81,880	144,581
Boot, shoe	400	3,157	471	6,629	18	5,316	1,941,075	38,607	2,879,194	5,888,699
Fur	40	98	38	154	14	317	61,971	1,656	277,060	404,573
Rope, twine, &c.	9	1,586	11	558	..	375	140,081	12,538	329,160	588,358
Sail, tent, &c.	16	37	18	109	1	111	35,555	504	165,706	243,193
Other	37	168	35	202	10	423	86,424	6,924	211,814	369,031
Total	1,967	19,372	1,479	13,374	605	34,790	6,429,313	230,965	12,808,006	23,617,447

*Class VIII.—Books, Paper, Printing,
Engraving, &c.*

Printing	416	5,847	482	6,310	12	1,669	1,895,981	48,067	1,748,088	5,342,617
Account-book, stationery, &c. ..	35	634	41	660	..	667	205,362	5,329	261,618	605,229
Fancy box	35	455	24	304	6	812	146,424	3,944	308,518	582,073
Die sinking, engraving, &c. ..	19	104	20	200	..	6	35,722	1,216	31,005	101,071
Other	32	2,840	35	698	2	150	171,110	49,032	249,774	626,465
Total	537	9,880	602	8,172	20	3,304	2,454,599	107,588	2,599,003	7,257,455

Class IX.—Musical Instruments

..	20	366	13	468	..	17	105,628	2,196	128,486	277,009
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Class X.—Arms and Explosives

..	10	543	3	264	..	156	87,155	8,010	180,450	338,247
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Production.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1923-24—continued.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1923-24.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid exclusive of Amounts drawn by Working Proprietors.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class XI.—Vehicles and Fittings, Saddlery, Harness, &c.</i>										
Coachbuilding	296	1,298	346	2,341	..	24	£ 472,742	£ 15,187	£ 526,257	£ 1,213,054
Bicycle, &c.	473	1,774	501	3,106	3	70	655,383	21,879	567,307	1,594,925
Saddle, harness	42	33	51	301	..	64	63,476	642	96,461	192,677
Other	19	80	23	185	..	13	32,779	891	47,088	106,980
Total	830	3,185	921	5,933	3	171	1,224,380	38,599	1,237,113	3,107,636
<i>Class XII.—Shipbuilding, Fitting, &c.</i>										
	12	1,409	9	381	..	2	89,340	5,319	34,031	143,065
<i>Class XIII.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.</i>										
Upholstery, bedding, &c. ..	71	619	48	578	3	325	155,163	5,099	421,068	695,384
Cabinet, including billiard table ..	307	2,545	405	2,854	5	109	569,368	14,956	681,107	1,596,751
Picture frame	20	63	21	77	..	14	17,520	478	23,956	53,816
Other	8	111	5	165	..	20	35,792	2,140	71,205	131,940
Total	406	3,338	479	3,674	8	468	777,843	22,673	1,197,336	2,477,891

Class XIV.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.

Blacking, blue, &c.	24	199	17	159	..	176	51,599	2,563	258,694	391,976
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	50	1,537	35	640	1	534	220,956	22,106	464,515	912,427
Fertilizers	8	1,918	4	864	..	7	209,801	39,567	761,865	1,209,368
Other	39	312	30	213	1	18	38,742	2,740	100,737	178,556
Total	121	3,966	86	1,876	2	735	521,098	66,976	1,585,811	2,692,327

Class XV.—Surgical and Scientific Appliances

.. ..	36	63	32	153	..	10	29,438	1,109	28,891	80,139
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Class XVI.—Timepieces, Jewellery, and Plated-ware

.. ..	111	518	119	885	1	105	187,029	7,289	232,853	545,827
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Class XVII.—Heat, Light, and Energy.

Electric apparatus	77	515	77	768	1	33	144,259	5,407	206,754	462,063
Electric light	90	154,622	5	1,672	..	75	462,172	624,321	2,326	2,176,551
Gas, coke	45	2,014	3	2,448	..	110	699,173	6,732	838,749	2,098,571
Other	7	1,613	1	263	..	423	97,691	10,910	228,650	510,423
Total	219	158,764	86	5,151	1	641	1,403,295	647,370	1,276,479	5,247,611

Class XVIII.—Leatherware (except Saddlery and Harness)

.. ..	62	469	68	609	2	392	158,593	5,107	369,345	645,642
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Production.

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1923-24—*continued.*

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Victorian Year-Book, 1923-24.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Manufactories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—					
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid exclusive of Amounts drawn by Working Proprietors.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used.	Articles Produced or Work Done.		
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.						
<i>Class XIX.—Wires, not elsewhere included.</i>												
Umbrella	7	13	5	53	..	137	24,389	287	78,734	126,422		
Rubber goods	20	6,655	16	1,646	..	539	446,831	89,560	852,799	1,560,888		
Brush, broom	18	178	20	276	1	98	59,475	1,446	110,504	201,490		
Basket, wickerware	26	20	30	212	..	..	28,157	283	26,752	70,697
Total	71	6,866	71	2,187	1	774	558,852	91,576	1,068,789	1,959,497		
Grand Total	7,289	314,561	6,805	100,773	695	47,889	27,472,084	2,803,239	62,217,874	113,921,927		

Most of the more important manufacturing industries in the State have shown a substantial increase in the value of output in the last five years. The output for the years 1918-19 and 1923-24 of a number of leading industries is shown in the following table, the industries being arranged in order of increase in value:—

OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIES, 1918-19 AND 1923-24.

Industry.	Value of Output.		Increase in Five Years.	
	1918-19.	1923-24.	Value.	Per cent.
	£	£	£	
Engineering, iron foundries, &c.	3,359,580	6,087,049	2,727,469	81·2
Woollen mills	1,126,119	3,561,480	2,435,361	216·3
Printing	3,014,240	5,342,617	2,328,377	77·2
Sawmills, moulding, &c. ..	2,187,100	4,388,991	2,201,891	100·7
Railway workshop	1,248,380	3,222,714	1,974,334	158·1
Butter, cheese, &c.	6,056,342	7,974,676	1,918,334	31·7
Boot and shoe	4,040,550	5,888,699	1,848,149	45·7
Electric light and power ..	835,190	2,176,551	1,341,361	160·6
Dressmaking and millinery ..	1,891,802	3,135,160	1,243,358	65·7
Confectionery, &c.	1,661,680	2,882,561	1,220,881	73·5
Hosiery	803,231	1,892,662	1,089,431	135·6
Bicycle, motor, &c.	516,376	1,594,925	1,078,549	208·8
Sugar	2,274,192	3,338,770	1,064,578	46·8
Agricultural implements ..	702,870	1,690,645	987,775	140·5
Breweries	1,476,335	2,412,387	936,052	63·4
Brick, pottery, &c.	632,841	1,568,362	935,521	147·7
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	2,980,583	3,908,514	927,931	31·1
Cabinet, including billiard table	706,815	1,596,751	889,936	125·9
Flour mills	4,656,403	5,495,110	838,707	18·0
Underclothing	1,832,183	2,601,053	768,870	42·0
Gasworks	1,373,603	2,098,571	724,968	52·8
Forest sawmills	657,880	1,374,581	716,701	108·9
Sheet iron, tinware, &c. ..	727,380	1,354,693	637,313	87·6
Cement and cement goods ..	190,539	769,692	579,153	304·0
Bacon curing	1,107,910	1,602,615	494,705	44·7
Coachbuilding	729,316	1,213,054	483,738	66·3
Fertilisers	790,130	1,209,368	419,238	53·1
Tobacco, &c.	1,735,678	2,126,625	390,947	22·5
Bedding, upholstery, &c. ..	310,786	695,384	384,598	12·4
Oatmeal, starch, &c.	742,724	1,121,412	378,688	51·0
Chaffcutting and grain crushing	691,053	1,034,083	343,030	49·6
Electric apparatus	123,258	462,063	338,805	274·9
Brass, copper	322,270	656,370	334,100	103·7
Biscuit	847,256	1,135,114	287,858	34·0
Fancy box, paper bag	327,844	582,073	254,229	77·5
Aerated waters, cordials, &c. ..	464,343	698,770	234,427	50·5
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	691,271	912,427	221,156	32·0

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

The salient features in connexion with the chief industries are set forth in the succeeding pages.

The development of the tanning and fellmongering industries during the past ten years is shown by the particulars contained in the next two tables:—

TANNERIES, ETC., 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Number of Working Proprietors	Amount of Wages Paid.
			£			£
1914	79	2,434	190,460	1,875	82	210,007
1915	82	2,510	193,350	2,165	97	268,884
1916-17	74	3,187	214,896	2,362	82	300,796
1917-18	76	3,476	271,120	2,485	69	347,753
1918-19	81	4,035	370,765	2,984	74	455,548
1919-20	86	4,631	400,110	3,299	85	631,920
1920-21	80	4,707	436,395	2,764	87	575,132
1921-22	78	5,341	504,355	2,902	93	625,443
1922-23	79	5,530	518,815	2,947	105	658,026
1923-24	80	5,850	557,930	2,821	108	646,015

The quantity of bark used in connexion with tanning operations in 1923-24 was 13,066 tons. The output of tanneries for each of the last ten years was as follows:—

OUTPUT OF TANNERIES, ETC., 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number Tanned—			Sheep Skins Stripped.	Wool Washed (weight after washing).	Value of Articles produced or Work done.
	Hides.	Calf Skins.	Sheep and other Skins.			
				number	lbs.	£
1914	554,242	210,894	936,975	1,639,161	7,816,250	2,132,935
1915	765,088	166,197	1,150,449	1,463,775	12,224,184	3,201,455
1916-17	722,649	230,380	1,027,847	1,538,178	13,843,439	3,962,202
1917-18	601,950	217,605	1,418,595	1,641,000	24,560,590	5,061,236
1918-19	670,956	234,548	1,742,388	2,354,487	34,483,316	6,918,270
1919-20	738,907	251,973	2,780,017	5,030,438	38,191,912	8,896,091
1920-21	694,322	308,542	1,406,472	2,604,413	14,619,943	4,200,077
1921-22	792,974	512,515	2,042,817	2,214,980	17,453,847	3,953,049
1922-23	780,221	663,813	2,403,940	2,407,830	19,939,785	4,577,664
1923-24	788,942	526,818	2,387,235	971,559	12,885,685	4,675,911

The value of the leather, &c., imported into Victoria from oversea countries during the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £172,804.

Particulars in regard to the soap and candle works in the State for the past ten years are given below :—

SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Products.		Value of Output.
					Soap.*	Candles.	
		£		£	cwt.	cwt.	£
1914 ..	17	120,215	604	65,155	243,558	37,564	641,104
1915 ..	17	121,946	627	71,282	267,426	41,031	721,845
1916-17	18	128,100	670	84,036	214,526	38,746	802,179
1917-18	17	130,795	756	91,604	228,310	37,290	951,114
1918-19	15	140,600	669	92,663	206,429	39,680	957,295
1919-20	16	143,310	725	103,333	243,156	40,908	1,321,112
1920-21	16	164,110	696	115,749	225,748	32,662	1,134,820
1921-22	17	174,460	726	139,519	267,858	31,613	1,096,955
1922-23	19	196,355	756	142,685	296,888	39,519	1,152,270
1923-24	17	210,270	730	147,124	289,364	34,424	937,148

* Not including soap made in small soap works not classified as factories, viz., 3,489 cwt. in 1914, 1,664 cwt. in 1915, 927 cwt. in 1916-17, 1,134 cwt. in 1917-18, 1,054 cwt. in 1918-19, 907 cwt. in 1919-20, 996 cwt. in 1920-21, 859 cwt. in 1921-22, 1,346 cwt. in 1922-23, and 1,258 cwt. in 1923-24.

The quantity of tallow used in 1923-24 in the manufacture of soap and candles was 176,443 cwt. in factories, and 392 cwt. in minor works.

The imports from oversea countries in 1923-24 included 323,032 lbs. of soap valued at £20,617, and 24,969 lbs. of candles valued at £1,454.

Particulars relating to brickyards and potteries for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 are shown in the following statement. The value of the land, plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with such works in 1923-24 was £1,001,250 :—

BRICKS, POTTERY, PIPES, AND TILES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Number of Bricks Made.*	Value of—	
					Pipes and Tiles.	Pottery.
			£		£	£
1914 ..	109	2,117	260,877	188,238,000	124,826	47,948
1915 ..	89	1,839	230,969	142,601,000	134,623	52,732
1916-17 ..	79	1,636	200,781	108,444,000	147,840	57,266
1917-18 ..	78	1,842	231,090	107,139,000	171,836	73,398
1918-19 ..	84	2,296	314,452	133,176,000	246,763	121,286
1919-20 ..	93	2,504	336,295	119,142,000	255,562	97,844
1920-21 ..	92	2,729	481,352	203,425,000	362,495	177,410
1921-22 ..	93	2,583	495,288	169,715,000	355,784	185,293
1922-23 ..	92	3,136	631,454	227,183,000	439,159	203,828
1923-24 ..	104	3,467	735,719	247,598,000	541,796	241,821

* In addition, there are bricks made in small brickyards not tabulated as factories.

The estimated value of bricks made in 1923-24 was £784,745, being an increase of £68,185 on the value of those made in the preceding year.

**Forest
Saw-mills.**

Detailed information in regard to the forest saw-mills of the State for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 is given in the table which follows:—

FOREST SAW-MILLS, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Victorian Timber Sawn.	
					Quantity.	Value.
		£		£	super ft.	£
1914 ..	167	273,086	2,127	232,305	84,374,000	316,400
1915 ..	138	233,343	1,564	169,027	62,589,000	234,710
1916-17 ..	151	235,140	1,678	206,709	70,038,000	297,663
1917-18 ..	162	260,280	1,935	248,940	78,984,000	355,430
1918-19 ..	187	315,670	2,278	319,547	91,540,000	503,470
1919-20 ..	203	366,355	2,627	405,335	99,142,000	693,995
1920-21 ..	246	473,275	3,181	563,627	113,215,000	905,720
1921-22 ..	239	517,725	3,014	627,432	112,008,000	896,070
1922-23 ..	227	516,800	2,910	616,680	118,366,000	946,930
1923-24 ..	241	624,590	3,272	686,419	134,639,000	942,476

In addition to the forest saw-mills there were 450 other factories working in wood. Particulars relating to these for the year 1923-24 are given on page 539.

**Firewood,
&c.**

It is estimated that the approximate value of the production of firewood for consumption in the year 1923-24 was £1,033,700. In addition, there were supplies of railway sleepers, piles, posts and rails, shingles, and timber for mines obtained from the forests, but it has been found impossible to procure reliable information as to their value.

During the past decade there has been a very marked expansion in engineering works and iron foundries. Since 1914 the number of factories has increased by 46 per cent., the number of persons employed therein by 20 per cent., the amount of wages paid by 120 per cent., the value of machinery and plant by 90 per cent., the value of materials used by 93 per cent., and the value of the output by 106 per cent. The chief particulars of the industry for the years 1914 to 1923-24 are given in the next table:—

ENGINEERING, IRON FOUNDRY, ETC., 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of—		
						Materials Used.	Fuel and Light Used.	Output.
			£		£	£	£	£
1914 ..	354	7,899	762,392	8,601	1,038,622	1,298,255	94,284	2,961,187
1915 ..	364	7,999	784,447	8,552	1,056,075	1,349,270	106,483	3,029,713
1916-17 ..	364	7,964	809,940	7,726	1,008,627	1,365,280	104,334	2,936,342
1917-18 ..	388	8,045	844,350	7,351	1,011,930	1,414,060	110,900	3,096,090
1918-19 ..	402	8,694	903,110	7,537	1,077,720	1,578,990	134,440	3,359,580
1919-20 ..	441	10,795	1,023,395	9,042	1,395,379	1,917,877	128,435	4,220,094
1920-21 ..	510	11,567	1,207,630	10,265	1,984,834	2,882,847	206,806	6,206,289
1921-22 ..	517	11,872	1,325,500	9,632	2,067,009	2,511,800	196,239	5,897,158
1922-23 ..	531	12,934	1,389,075	9,707	2,055,596	2,482,822	179,372	5,809,039
1923-24 ..	516	12,917	1,445,840	10,305	2,288,499	2,501,025	183,953	6,087,049

The above figures are exclusive of railway workshops, which in 1923-24 numbered 18, and gave employment to 5,890 hands who were paid £1,300,137; the value of the materials dealt with by such workshops in that year was £1,596,236, and the value of the output was £3,222,714, of which 68 per cent. was from the Newport Workshops.

Agricultural implement works. The subjoined statement contains the leading particulars relating to agricultural implement works for the last ten years:—

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKS, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	No. of Factories.	No. of Employees.	Wages Paid.	Value of—		
				Fuel, &c., Used.	Materials Used.	Output.
			£	£	£	£
1914 ..	65	1,895	242,158	16,866	278,283	638,827
1915 ..	64	1,678	206,764	15,337	213,257	526,756
1916-17 ..	63	1,832	250,450	18,666	359,342	743,196
1917-18 ..	62	1,904	261,045	20,911	435,665	830,876
1918-19 ..	60	1,628	249,360	18,100	337,730	702,870
1919-20 ..	61	1,701	272,262	20,001	349,555	757,062
1920-21 ..	60	2,641	512,363	42,193	756,204	1,750,704
1921-22 ..	58	2,851	643,874	43,794	806,066	1,567,843
1922-23 ..	61	2,589	555,394	36,935	626,561	1,511,724
1923-24 ..	61	3,144	688,229	44,171	713,637	1,690,645

The wages averaged £127 15s. 9d. for each employee in 1914, and £218 18s. in 1923-24. The stripper-harvester, which is a Victorian invention, is one of the principal implements manufactured.

In the following table particulars of bacon and ham curing establishments are given for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24. The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings in connexion with these establishments was £153,029 in 1914 and £322,080 in 1923-24.

BACON CURING. 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Pigs Slaughtered for Curing.	Weight of Bacon and Hams Cured.	Value of Output.
			£	number	lbs.	£
1914 ..	26	442	57,965	181,756	16,298,474	772,318
1915 ..	25	362	49,672	129,259	11,451,031	767,778
1916-17 ..	23	405	58,191	167,003	15,376,600	972,477
1917-18 ..	21	433	65,870	197,880	17,908,100	1,084,440
1918-19 ..	21	482	76,308	201,770	18,343,400	1,107,910
1919-20 ..	21	529	99,736	182,320	16,675,090	1,384,351
1920-21 ..	22	421	90,394	139,881	13,369,107	1,335,186
1921-22 ..	22	445	103,783	163,917	15,583,960	1,366,832
1922-23 ..	24	462	104,841	186,524	17,293,395	1,289,267
1923-24 ..	24	502	118,751	217,847	20,458,243	1,602,615

This table does not include particulars relating to pigs slaughtered for curing, or to bacon and hams cured in small curing works; the pigs so slaughtered numbered 974 in 1914, 439 in 1915, 379 in 1916-17, 140 in 1917-18, 130 in 1918-19, 145 in 1919-20, 150 in 1920-21, 164 in 1921-22, 116 in 1922-23, and 95 in 1923-24; the quantity (in pounds) of bacon and hams cured in these works was 87,258 in 1914, 45,030 in 1915, 31,300 in 1916-17, 12,970 in 1917-18, 9,790 in 1918-19, 11,500 in 1919-20, 14,000 in 1920-21, 12,010 in 1921-22, 9,600 in 1922-23, and 9,025 in 1923-24.

In addition, the following quantities of bacon and hams were returned as having been cured on farms:—2,476,023 lbs. in 1914, 2,208,943 lbs. in 1915, 2,738,428 lbs. in 1916-17, 3,403,776 lbs. in 1917-18, 3,859,205 lbs. in 1918-19, 2,698,919 lbs. in 1919-20, 1,755,993 lbs. in 1920-21, 1,812,838 lbs. in 1921-22, 1,975,729 lbs. in 1922-23, and 2,082,731 lbs. in 1923-24. The total quantity of bacon and hams cured in 1923-24 was thus 22,540,974 lbs.—an increase of 3,262,250 lbs. as compared with 1922-23.

The number of butter, cheese, and kindred factories in 1923-24 was 184. Of these 148 were making butter, 32 cheese, 4 concentrated milk, 6 condensed milk, 12 powdered milk, 13 casein, and 1 milk sugar. There were also 26 creameries attached to the factories. The number of factories and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings, the number of employees and the amount of their wages, and the total value of the output for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 were as follows:—

BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Output.
		£		£	£
1914	197	643,677	1,290	161,740	3,228,640
1915	190	644,960	1,145	139,543	2,715,784
1916-17	182	647,128	1,398	185,024	4,815,833
1917-18	181	683,140	1,642	226,050	5,086,238
1918-19	180	786,275	1,885	273,335	6,056,342
1919-20	181	1,025,325	2,026	338,507	6,365,927
1920-21	184	1,238,745	2,093	414,420	9,194,654
1921-22	188	1,395,425	2,293	492,446	7,115,642
1922-23	182	1,509,545	2,188	497,816	7,899,377
1923-24	184	1,685,530	2,186	511,001	7,974,676

Further particulars relating to butter and cheese factories will be found under the heading of Dairying on page 514.

Meat freezing and preserving works numbered thirteen in 1923-24, and gave employment to 885 hands and 8 working proprietors, the wages of the hands amounting to £161,643. The approximate value of machinery, plant, land and buildings in that year was £1,356,560. The output for each of the last ten years is given in the following table :—

MEAT FREEZING AND PRESERVING, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Frozen.			
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Rabbits.	Poultry.
	qrs.	number.	number.	number.
1914	212,520	1,710,152	3,778,164	30,504
1915 .. ..	..	47,546	3,584,388	8,652
1916-17	28,492	418,418	2,846,904	4,900
1917-18	3,832	196,267	7,394,140	4,620
1918-19	8,640	668,970	2,335,990	2,700
1919-20	177,230	4,001,500	5,385,854	2,736
1920-21	49,372	786,086	2,189,378	9,468
1921-22	55,355	1,186,704	903,400	8,856
1922-23	17,006	2,657,515	282,624	5,284
1923-24	16,044	691,630	160,998	...

Year.	Preserved.			
	Beef.	Mutton.	Rabbits.	Other Meats, &c.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1914	49,103	7,316	2,368	5,936
1915	38,835	2,092	422	3,448
1916-17	15,591	4,484	5,245	2,693
1917-18	17,810	28,530	9,530	15,110
1918-19	75,790	118,520	9,625	9,850
1919-20	104,725	60,850	7,580	1,860
1920-21	3,641	443	1	764
1921-22	8,808	4,419	29	30
1922-23	9,500	2,092	16	3,925
1923-24	8,098	564	32	1,411

NOTE.—In addition to the above, there were treated at freezing works 11,708 calves, 1,713 pigs, and 57,576 hares in 1914; 3,072 hares in 1915; 1,120 calves, 156 pigs, and 6,872 hares in 1916-17; 166 calves, 971 pigs, and 9,180 hares in 1917-18; 1,360 calves, 615 pigs, and 16,220 hares in 1918-19; 130 calves, 1,000 pigs, and 65,530 hares in 1919-20; 2,569 calves and 5,465 pigs in 1920-21; 2,855 calves and 7,385 pigs in 1921-22; and 98 calves and 121 pigs in 1923-24.

Imports and exports of meats.

The following statement shows the imports from and exports to oversea countries of frozen and preserved meats, other than bacon and ham, during the year ended 30th June, 1924 :—

MEATS IMPORTED AND EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1923-24.

Meats.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Frozen—				
Mutton	3,806 lbs.	170	552,901 lbs.	13,757
Lamb .. ..	..	..	21,833,739 „	656,438
Beef .. ..	..	..	1,811,145 „	22,944
Pork	226,136 lbs.	8,685	..	..
Rabbits and Hares .. ..	..	..	80,499 prs.	8,477
Poultry	280 lbs.	15	3,388 „	1,945
Game	5,040 lbs.	695	2,076 lbs.	119
Potted and Concentrated .. ..	..	28,658	..	872
Preserved in tins .. ..	..	16,800	370,379 lbs.	9,409
Sausage Casings. . . . .	..	58,115	1,324 cwt.	20,591
Not elsewhere included .. ..	..	175	..	1,241
Total value .. ..	..	113,313	..	737,236

The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings used in connexion with flour mills was estimated at £503,885 in 1914, and at £737,985 in 1923-24. Particulars of the industry for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 are as follows :—

FLOUR MILLS, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Number of Employees.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Wheat Ground into Flour.	Flour Made.	Value of Total Output.
			£	bushels.	tons.	£
1914 ..	57	836	109,910	12,173,943	246,136	2,726,878
1915 ..	51	608	70,982	6,574,753	134,401	2,739,730
1916-17 ..	54	857	126,280	12,483,990	263,095	3,458,633
1917-18 ..	55	988	155,330	15,034,990	311,450	3,989,510
1918-19 ..	53	1,029	169,233	16,621,290	347,840	4,656,403
1919-20 ..	51	1,028	189,224	16,920,890	353,683	6,082,741
1920-21 ..	51	911	191,688	12,387,960	260,032	5,745,507
1921-22 ..	45	963	228,195	14,697,290	308,532	5,759,281
1922-23 ..	47	1,058	244,436	16,601,530	352,002	5,415,067
1923-24 ..	47	1,082	266,540	18,552,540	382,204	5,495,110

In addition to the flour made, the wheat ground in 1923-24 produced 8,711,743 bushels of bran and 7,491,647 bushels of pollard. Other grain operated on amounted to 38,992 bushels in 1914, 43,618 bushels in 1915, 44,150 bushels in 1916-17, 31,960 bushels in 1917-18, 40,113 bushels in 1918-19, 39,235 bushels in 1919-20, 40,094 bushels in 1920-21, 65,788 bushels in 1921-22, 44,363 bushels in 1922-23, and 34,283 bushels in 1923-24.

Exports of bread stuffs. During the year 1923-24, 1,904,520 lbs. of biscuits valued at £59,413, and 211,685 tons of flour valued at £2,175,854, were exported from Victoria to countries beyond Australia.

Jam, pickle, and sauce works. In 1923-24 there were 47 establishments in which the manufacture of jams, pickles, and sauces was carried on, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,539, of whom 34 were working proprietors. The wages paid to the employees amounted to £397,750, and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings was £475,185. The quantities of fruit and sugar used and the output for each of the last ten years were as shown below:—

JAM, PICKLE, AND SAUCE WORKS, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Fruit Used.	Sugar Used.	Jams and Jellies Made.	Fruit Preserved.	Fruit Pulped.	Sauce Made.	Pickles Made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	pints.	pints.
1914 ..	341,189	175,538	271,755	81,425	75,299	5,648,280	1,840,920
1915 ..	300,861	193,243	305,445	52,939	40,993	5,827,176	1,285,476
1916-17..	372,424	257,481	347,152	60,419	132,182	6,433,032	1,803,408
1917-18..	497,650	286,860	398,500	115,589	94,810	7,064,520	1,972,320
1918-19..	496,690	314,645	495,575	133,230	91,550	4,913,050	2,137,730
1919-20..	628,721	262,585	323,452	181,562	225,522	6,546,610	1,874,240
1920-21..	465,349	171,706	231,297	61,542	178,786	6,601,330	1,239,250
1921-22..	384,214	148,886	157,712	239,656	100,317	6,600,530	1,056,430
1922-23..	450,199	177,334	206,966	221,157	114,615	8,439,440	2,106,950
1923-24..	552,262	191,216	197,850	239,077	208,688	10,696,190	2,361,250

Some of these establishments also candied fruit peel, the quantities being 6,892 cwt. in 1914, 4,628 cwt. in 1915, 3,360 cwt. in 1916-17, 9,330 cwt. in 1917-18, 8,449 cwt. in 1918-19, 10,466 cwt. in 1919-20, 13,306 cwt. in 1920-21, 10,743 cwt. in 1921-22, 6,831 cwt. in 1922-23, and 3,820 cwt. in 1923-24. The value of the output in 1923-24 of the whole of the establishments whose produce is shown in the above table was £1,930,258.

Beet Sugar Industry. In 1896 Parliament made available £62,000 to assist in the establishment of the beet sugar industry at Maffra, in Gippsland. On receiving a guarantee that 1,500 acres of beet would be sown by local land-holders, a company erected a large building and plant, and operated for two seasons. Although a good quality of sugar was produced, various climatic, financial, and

other difficulties compelled the company to close down the works, and the Government, as chief creditor, took control.

In 1910 a definite campaign to revive the industry was commenced, and the mill was re-opened; since that time it has operated from year to year. Estates were purchased by the Government at Boisdale and Kilmany, and land was allotted to settlers, subject to the proviso that each would grow a certain quantity of beet. The compulsory system of securing acreage was not found satisfactory, and all crops are now grown voluntarily. Recently the financial results have been sufficiently favorable to more than compensate for all losses; the by-products have been found to be of great value to the dairying industry, and the sugar has become a most important item of Gippsland's food supply. The Government has decided to remodel the plant, and preliminary arrangements are being made to enable this to be done. A sum of £65,000 has been voted for the purpose, and an engineer has been appointed to proceed with the work.

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is well advanced with an irrigation scheme on the Macalister River, which will provide water for the whole district. Under irrigation it is anticipated that the beet supply will at least double itself, and that the industry will expand on more favorable and economical lines than in the past.

The following particulars summarize the results of the industry for the last ten seasons:—

Season.	Area Harvested.	Sugar Beet Harvested.	Sugar Produced.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1914-15	990	8,843	1,182
1915-16	461	4,928	560
1916-17	1,320	15,159	1,948
1917-18	1,200	14,487	1,650
1918-19	1,009	12,289	1,263
1919-20	1,080	13,084	1,551
1920-21	1,180	7,147	833
1921-22	1,602	16,578	1,872
1922-23	2,045	20,444	2,784
1923-24	1,937	29,512	3,499

The last season was a very favorable one in every respect. Growers were paid 37s. 6d. a ton for their beets, and a profit of £19,016 was realized.

Breweries. Particulars regarding breweries for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 are set forth in the next table. Machinery and plant were valued at £394,785 in 1914 and at £661,475 in 1923-24, whilst land and buildings were valued at £396,030 and £459,800 respectively in those years. The wages paid in 1923-24 amounted to £323,806.

BREWERIES, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Breweries.	Number of Employees.	Materials Used—			Beer Made.	Value of Output.
			Sugar.	Malt.	Hops.		
			cwt.	bushels.	lbs.	gallons.	£
1914 ..	25	1,036	133,707	678,526	738,953	23,865,000	1,196,306
1915 ..	22	893	111,363	600,333	661,299	20,340,000	1,061,196
1916-17	19	857	105,238	616,630	710,470	20,112,000	1,118,288
1917-18	18	866	109,640	650,500	748,840	21,021,000	1,334,344
1918-19	17	932	112,080	625,770	722,590	20,963,000	1,476,335
1919-20	17	1,008	110,020	720,515	769,765	22,610,000	1,830,548
1920-21	16	1,048	104,140	753,260	736,580	22,257,000	2,098,720
1921-22	15	1,047	107,160	688,090	717,950	22,388,000	2,200,882
1922-23	14	1,086	110,051	723,511	768,870	23,212,000	2,322,814
1923-24	14	1,180	112,840	743,131	796,769	23,907,000	2,412,387

Distilleries. The number of distilleries working in 1923-24 was 10, and the persons employed numbered 129, of whom four were working proprietors. The estimated value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £280,520. The quantities of materials used in manufacture and of spirits distilled in each of the last ten years were as follows :—

DISTILLERIES, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Materials Used.				Spirits Distilled.
	Wine.	Malt.	Other Grain.	Molasses.	
	gallons.	bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	proof gal.
1914 ..	1,248,957	39,043	118	1,649,760	409,815
1915 ..	984,817	34,896	118	1,592,640	386,152
1916-17 ..	1,452,048	176,472	170	1,093,120	658,357
1917-18 ..	1,137,640	376,830	..	3,962,560	1,150,091
1918-19 ..	1,206,530	385,690	397	5,604,480	1,185,629
1919-20 ..	1,524,860	180,306	..	3,230,080	702,586
1920-21 ..	1,041,890	125,414	1,422	2,682,960	572,671
1921-22 ..	671,162	58,848	..	1,167,600	390,840
1922-23 ..	1,100,568	77,717	..	85,120	473,152
1923-24 ..	1,114,590	121,691	..	2,350,880	730,158

Spirits made by vine-growers for fortifying wine are not included in the foregoing table. The following quantities were distilled in vineyards for that purpose during the last ten years:—12,256 gallons in 1914, 9,955 gallons in 1915, 9,937 gallons in 1916-17, 5,134 gallons in 1917-18, 2,232 gallons in 1918-19, 5,141 gallons in 1919-20, 15,486 gallons in 1920-21, 23,020 gallons in 1921-22, 14,930 gallons in 1922-23, and 13,792 gallons in 1923-24.

The number of tobacco, cigar, and cigarette factories licensed in 1923-24 was thirty-one, of which seventeen were too small to be classified as ordinary factories and were consequently not included in the statistical tabulation on page 540. In the year mentioned the remaining fourteen employed 1,803 hands, who were paid £332,930 in wages, and used machinery, plant, land and buildings valued at £339,810. The subjoined table shows the quantity of tobacco leaf used by and the output of the full number of licensed establishments for the last ten years:—

TOBACCO FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Unmanufactured Leaf Operated on.		Quantity Manufactured.			
	Australian.	Imported.	Tobacco.	Snuff.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	number.	number.
1914 ..	340,296	4,708,548	5,140,695	746	23,533,572	140,100,500
1915 ..	515,969	4,414,921	5,022,910	565	22,676,586	138,111,000
1916-17 ..	656,320	5,254,110	6,089,929	446	26,268,733	123,480,200
1917-18 ..	558,278	4,598,364	5,479,191	313	27,920,180	126,883,970
1918-19 ..	405,625	5,096,176	5,842,142	1,049	27,973,908	125,372,900
1919-20 ..	573,932	5,189,098	6,164,126	426	35,232,399	143,374,400
1920-21 ..	751,137	5,290,854	6,443,480	228	35,549,722	109,686,950
1921-22 ..	535,590	5,250,641	6,345,508	232	33,893,695	152,908,600
1922-23 ..	540,322	5,628,555	6,709,060	231	32,699,019	99,771,650
1923-24 ..	471,862	4,998,680	5,833,903	99	29,244,981	87,896,350

There were twenty-seven woollen mills working in 1923-24, and the number of persons employed therein was 4,914 of whom twenty-two were working proprietors. The wages paid to employees amounted to £713,411, and the approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £2,878,350. The value of the raw materials used during the year was £2,086,136, and that of the goods manufactured in the same period, £3,561,480.

The quantities of wool and cotton used and of goods manufactured in each of the last ten years were as follows :—

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Quantity of Scoured Wool Used.	Quantity of Cotton Used.	Goods Manufactured—				Value of Output.
			Tweed and Cloth.	Flannel.	Blankets.	Shawls and Rugs.	
	lbs.	lbs.	yards.	yards.	pairs.	number	£
1914	3,607,690	1,075,666	1,036,079	5,546,841	258,859	22,455	577,434
1915	6,521,130	702,653	1,331,137	5,136,258	347,988	6,418	931,774
1916-17	5,114,320	599,288	1,238,363	5,250,093	259,080	3,661	1,006,635
1917-18	4,332,420	832,400	1,429,050	5,411,990	214,410	8,560	1,036,081
1918-19	4,614,585	513,800	1,429,200	5,047,490	191,130	19,430	1,126,119
1919-20	7,285,570	578,542	2,212,202	3,667,816	165,794	51,637	1,976,428
1920-21	7,702,055	553,282	2,509,198	4,035,298	224,745	47,179	2,397,610
1921-22	8,015,650	586,836	1,872,512	5,759,987	297,700	51,598	2,482,761
1922-23	9,640,760	621,490	1,714,460	6,622,350	314,803	71,073	3,264,025
1923-24	7,936,456	848,812	1,927,298	6,095,442	377,354	115,443	3,561,480

During the period 1914 to 1923-24 the value of the output of woollen mills increased by 517 per cent. The articles manufactured showed a considerable increase in quantity in the ten-year period, and, except in the case of flannel, the production of individual articles was greater in 1923-24 than in the preceding year.

The development which has taken place in the boot factories. industry in recent years is exhibited in the following tables :—

BOOT FACTORIES, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Wages Paid.
			£	£
1914	..	172	455,158	603,318
1915	..	174	483,683	625,886
1916-17	..	201	529,950	843,772
1917-18	..	231	577,125	858,874
1918-19	..	238	627,770	987,203
1919-20	..	264	716,305	1,252,004
1920-21	..	304	927,310	1,208,760
1921-22	..	334	1,130,425	1,760,589
1922-23	..	371	1,338,555	1,922,345
1923-24	..	400	1,529,615	1,941,075

OUTPUT OF BOOT FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Goods Manufactured—		Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
	Boots and Shoes.	Slippers.*		
	pairs.	pairs.	£	£
1914	4,913,593	272,866	1,281,352	2,160,500
1915	5,257,415	191,044	1,502,285	2,436,673
1916-17	6,210,866	212,582	2,171,812	3,460,404
1917-18	6,049,510	205,614	2,093,803	3,442,302
1918-19	6,073,117	243,383	2,563,423	4,040,550
1919-20	6,774,267	552,652	3,909,570	5,996,639
1920-21	5,447,504	559,213	2,911,852	4,964,462
1921-22	7,571,231	903,992	3,109,863	6,043,172
1922-23	7,591,946	851,289	3,059,769	6,157,132
1923-24	7,063,385	1,107,257	2,879,194	5,888,699

* Includes canvas shoes and house-boots.

The value of the output of establishments connected with the manufacture of dress, *i.e.*, clothing, tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, underclothing, hats and caps, &c., but exclusive of boots and shoes, was £13,118,477 in 1923-24, as compared with £5,568,744 in 1914. During the period 1914 to 1923-24 the persons employed increased by 6 per cent., the wages paid by 125 per cent., the value of materials used by 139 per cent., and the value of the output by 136 per cent. Particulars of the industry for each of the last ten years are as follows:—

DRESS (EXCLUSIVE OF BOOT) FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons Employed.			Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
					£	£	£
1914 ..	1,298	4,019	25,660	29,679	1,591,133	3,001,379	5,568,744
1915 ..	1,198	3,833	24,126	27,959	1,554,921	3,295,009	5,901,238
1916-17 ..	1,196	3,744	25,739	29,483	1,747,478	3,919,333	6,765,326
1917-18 ..	1,209	3,730	24,630	28,360	1,788,136	4,512,648	7,674,705
1918-19 ..	1,210	3,776	23,505	27,281	1,915,096	5,205,460	8,590,603
1919-20 ..	1,252	4,123	25,490	29,613	2,490,549	6,628,276	11,407,324
1920-21 ..	1,346	4,383	25,980	30,363	2,872,171	7,804,264	12,994,011
1921-22 ..	1,424	4,674	27,370	32,044	3,328,326	7,689,101	13,429,230
1922-23 ..	1,526	4,951	28,595	33,546	3,554,303	7,456,539	13,354,238
1923-24 ..	1,501	4,751	26,772	31,523	3,574,059	7,181,020	13,118,477

Electric light and power works. Particulars relating to the electric light and power works of the State are given in the next table:—

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Horse-power of Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Electricity Supplied.	Value of Output.
			£		£	British units.	£
1914 ..	58	28,485	1,418,511	924	131,854	44,890,000	473,918
1915 ..	63	33,127	1,569,553	957	135,045	53,210,000	536,251
1916-17	74	42,144	1,787,477	1,144	178,430	71,622,000	673,769
1917-18	75	48,526	1,889,550	1,167	183,948	79,486,000	760,117
1918-19	77	48,777	2,135,310	1,149	190,280	83,778,000	835,190
1919-20	78	49,241	2,632,665	1,215	217,995	100,838,000	953,039
1920-21	79	54,189	2,660,945	1,242	283,309	115,105,000	1,131,331
1921-22	84	57,481	3,166,750	1,350	334,805	136,021,000	1,407,268
1922-23	88	72,106	4,042,910	1,451	377,048	157,728,000	1,614,139
1923-24	90	154,622	5,864,065	1,752	462,172	405,108,000	2,176,551

The electricity supplied in 1923-24 represented an increase of over 800 per cent. on that supplied in 1914.

The particulars relating to the power houses at Newport under the control of the Victorian Railways Commissioners and the State Electricity Commission are included in the figures for 1923-24 which appear in the above table. This largely accounts for the seeming discrepancy between the quantity and value of the output for the year mentioned. The quantity of electricity generated in these power houses in 1923-24 was 275,114,000 units; the value of this has been estimated at bulk rates by the respective departments.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACTS 1918 AND 1920.

When it was first appointed in 1919, the operations of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria were carried on under the provisions of the *Electricity Commissioners' Act* 1918, which provided for the appointment by the Governor in Council of three Commissioners to administer the Act. By an amending Act of the 24th December, 1920, the name of the Act was changed to the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1918, and provision was made, *inter alia*, for the appointment of four Commissioners for a period of seven years, one of whom would devote the whole of his time to the Commission's works as permanent chairman. In addition to the Acts mentioned above, the Commission administers the *Electric Light and Power Act* 1915, the provisions of which give it control over all electrical undertakings in the State.

The duties of the Commission include the following:—

- (1) To inquire into and report to the Government as to the steps which should be taken to co-ordinate and concentrate all electrical undertakings in Victoria, and to secure the efficient inter-connexion of such undertakings by the adoption of the necessary standards of plant, pressure, &c.

- (2) To encourage and promote the use of electricity for industrial and manufacturing purposes, and to report to the Government on the prospects of establishing new industries in Victoria requiring large quantities of electrical energy.
- (3) To carry out investigations of coal deposits or of water power in connexion with the generation of electricity.

The Commission is vested with the following powers in relation to electrical undertakings:—

- (1) To erect and operate electrical undertakings.
- (2) To supply electricity in bulk to any corporation.
- (3) To supply electricity to any person outside any area in which there is an existing undertaking.
- (4) To carry on any business associated with an electric undertaking.
- (5) To make regulations as to precautions to be adopted in the use of electricity, and to arrange for the licensing of electric wiremen.

Authority is also given to the Commission to establish and operate State Coal Mines.

The Commission has complete control over all officers and employees required for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Act, the Commission has constructed a coal winning plant and an electric generating station in the neighbourhood of Morwell, for the purpose of utilizing the practically unlimited supplies of brown coal in that area. The scheme provides for the winning of coal on the open cut system by means of mechanical appliances, for the erection of a power station close to the site of the open cut, having an initial capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, with provision for triplication, and for the erection at Yarraville of a receiving station with the necessary switch and transforming gear. This latter station is now completed and in operation.

In addition, a plant is being installed at Yallourn, which will be capable, in the initial stages, of supplying annually 96,000 tons of brown coal briquettes.

In order to relieve the insistent demands for electrical power until the Morwell station is in operation, the Commission has installed at Newport a station with an initial capacity of 14,000 kilowatts. It is intended that this station shall take only the "peak" loads when the Morwell station comes into operation.

Supply of electricity from the Commission's temporary station at Yallourn is already being given to the following towns in the Gippsland district (in addition to the Commission's township of Yallourn):—Morwell, Traralgon, Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon, Maffra, Sale, Tyers, Heyfield, Mirboo North, Drouin and Korumburra. Ultimately, supply will be given to other towns throughout Gippsland and on the route of the main transmission line.

A transmission line has been built from Geelong, stretching through the south-western district of Victoria to the town of Warrnambool (a distance of 117 miles), giving supply to the latter town and to the following towns *en route*:—Colac, Camperdown, Terang, Mortlake, Warrion,

Beac, Cobden, Noorat, Alvie, Allansford, Winchelsea and Birregurra. This transmission line (operating at 44,000 volts) is believed to be among the longest in the British Empire.

Supply has also been given to the towns of Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff, Portarlington, Drysdale and Ocean Grove by another transmission line from Geelong.

The energy is generated at the Melbourne Electric Supply Company's Power House at Geelong under an agreement between that body and the Electricity Commission until such time as energy is available from the Commission's main power station at Yallourn.

The Commission is supplying energy in bulk to the Melbourne City Council, the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, the municipalities of Brunswick, Coburg, Williamstown, and Footscray, and the shires of Braybrook and Lilydale, and has built a subsidiary line, operating at 22,000 volts, from Brunswick sub-station, which encircles the eastern half of the outer metropolitan area, passing through and giving service to Ringwood, Dandenong, Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula. It has also taken over the supply and retail distribution of energy to Dandenong, Werribee, and Essendon—Flemington.

The Commission is empowered to develop hydro-electric resources, and with this object to maintain survey parties constantly in the field for the purpose of obtaining data relative to stream, flow, volume, etc.

Plans are complete for the building of hydro-power stations at Royston, Rubicon, Rubicon Lower, Snobbs Creek and Sugarloaf—all to feed into a common sub-station about eight miles from Sugarloaf. The total capacity of hydraulic turbines to be installed in these stations is 25,800 brake horse power. The construction of the transmission line from Sugarloaf to Thomastown has been commenced, and, pending completion of the line, supply will be given to the north-eastern portions of the State over a transmission line from Thomastown.

The approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings connected with gasworks in Victoria was £1,796,720 in 1914, and £2,440,710 in 1923-24. The gas made in the latter year was 42 per cent. in excess of that made in 1914. Particulars in regard to these works are given below.

GASWORKS, 1914 to 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Works.*	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Coal Used.	Gas Made.	Coke Produced.	Value of Output.
			£	tons.	cubic feet.	tons.	£
1914 ..	47	2,117	332,971	300,152	3,806,380,000	195,178	979,229
1915 ..	47	2,175	347,434	307,902	4,107,578,000	204,957	1,035,941
1916-17 ..	47	2,093	365,777	317,450	4,449,230,000	200,673	1,181,096
1917-18 ..	47	2,089	375,181	318,560	4,505,847,000	200,660	1,263,030
1918-19 ..	46	2,270	420,597	353,584	4,904,351,000	220,287	1,373,603
1919-20 ..	45	2,267	472,855	331,149	4,592,305,000	206,245	1,395,320
1920-21 ..	45	2,213	576,515	339,250	4,499,088,000	216,771	1,608,999
1921-22 ..	45	2,309	609,600	383,092	5,151,380,000	239,755	1,953,936
1922-23 ..	45	2,444	639,954	402,537	5,443,993,000	260,526	1,941,808
1923-24 ..	45	2,561	699,173	410,517	5,407,962,000	259,030	2,098,571

* Including one establishment manufacturing coke only, which has not worked since 1919-20.

Oil was used as well as coal in the manufacture of gas, the number of gallons consumed each year being 332,586 in 1914, 328,230 in 1915, 345,272 in 1916-17, 396,717 in 1917-18, 355,933 in 1918-19, 343,764 in 1919-20, 360,876 in 1920-21, 300,188 in 1921-22, 248,481 in 1922-23, and 223,986 in 1923-24.

The facilities afforded in the metropolitan area have had the effect of bringing within that area the more important of the manufactories. The distribution of factories by classes between the metropolis and the remainder of the State, for 1914 and each of the last three years, is exhibited in the following statement:—

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	Number of Factories.							
	Metropolis.				'Remainder of State.			
	1914.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1914.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c.	78	89	87	84	276	204	208	204
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	14	19	21	19	11	9	9	9
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	102	130	140	149	111	85	91	103
Working in wood	202	265	289	336	247	322	324	355
Metal works, machinery, &c.	493	671	705	696	229	213	213	212
Connected with food and drink, &c.	196	277	289	277	447	431	442	443
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	1,141	1,460	1,589	1,594	374	358	370	373
Books, paper, printing, &c.	288	345	356	367	165	162	161	170
Musical instruments, &c.	5	14	17	19	..	1	1	1
Arms and explosives	7	10	9	9	4	1	1	1
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	240	365	371	413	298	361	379	417
Ship and boat building and repairing	14	10	10	11	1	1	1	1
Furniture, upholstery and bedding	243	337	367	370	26	29	30	36
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	56	88	91	90	35	27	31	31
Surgical and other scientific appliances	23	35	36	34	1	2	2	2
Jewellery, time-pieces and plated-ware	93	101	105	104	5	8	6	7
Heat, light, and power	42	80	88	95	92	117	121	124
Leatherware, n.e.i.	34	58	61	59	..	2	3	3
Minor wares, n.e.i.	55	63	68	62	2	3	4	9
Total	3,326	4,417	4,699	4,788	2,324	2,336	2,397	2,501

Since 1914 the number of factories in the State has increased by 1,639, the greatest numerical increase in the classes being that

of the clothing and textile factories, of which there were 452 more in 1923-24 than in 1914.

The employment afforded in each class of industry is set forth in the next statement:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	1914.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Treating raw materials, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	3,310	4,045	4,329	4,488	4,276
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	711	835	880	915	920
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	4,283	5,486	5,391	6,059	6,661
Working in wood . . .	7,472	9,529	9,537	9,939	10,825
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	19,694	23,276	22,868	23,406	24,978
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	15,308	17,673	17,974	19,037	19,199
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	39,446	44,341	48,844	51,898	50,248
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	9,153	10,281	10,465	11,307	12,098
Musical instruments, &c. . .	170	384	390	444	498
Arms and explosives . . .	970	650	756	406	423
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	5,086	6,087	6,173	6,407	7,028
Ship and boat building and repairing . . .	593	900	684	618	392
Furniture, bedding, and upholstery . . .	2,986	3,917	3,709	4,392	4,629
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . .	1,834	2,564	2,465	2,511	2,699
Surgical and other scientific appliances . . .	114	199	203	203	195
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware . . .	925	1,397	1,183	1,151	1,110
Heat, light, and power . . .	3,769	4,738	5,090	5,364	5,879
Leatherware, n.e.i. . .	566	1,057	1,065	1,123	1,071
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	2,009	3,384	2,870	2,957	3,033
Total . . .	118,399	140,743	144,876	152,625	156,162

The total increase in the number of hands employed during the period covered by the above table was 37,763, which represented an advance of about 31 per cent. The greatest development had taken place in clothing factories, industries connected with food, drink, &c., and metal works, which showed increases of 10,802, 3,891, and 5,284 respectively in the number of persons employed in 1923-24 as compared with the number in 1914.

An examination of the figures relating to factories in 1914 and 1923-24 shows that increases in the number of factories and in the number of hands employed have been most pronounced in the smallest sized factories, and in those employing from 21 to 50 hands. Particulars of factories of different sizes in 1914 and 1923-24 are given in the next two tables:—

FACTORIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED.

Size of Factory.	Number of Factories.			Average Number of Hands Employed.		
	1914.	1923-24.	Increase.	1914.	1923-24.	Increase.
Under 4 hands..	1,045	1,636	56·6	2,411	3,643	51·1
4	646	729	12·8	2,584	2,916	12·8
5 to 10	1,941	2,233	15·0	13,437	15,567	15·9
11 to 20	926	1,202	29·8	13,457	17,368	29·1
21 to 50	659	939	42·5	20,838	29,960	43·8
51 to 100	239	311	30·1	16,510	21,623	31·0
Over 100	194	239	23·2	49,162	65,085	32·4
Total	5,650	7,289	29·0	118,399	156,162	31·9

PROPORTION OF FACTORIES OF DIFFERENT SIZES.

Size of Factory.	Percentage to Total.			
	Factories.		Hands.	
	1914.	1923-24.	1914.	1923-24.
Under 4 hands	18·5	22·4	2·0	2·3
4	11·4	10·0	2·2	1·9
5 to 10	34·4	30·6	11·4	10·0
11 to 20	16·4	16·5	11·4	11·1
21 to 50	11·7	12·9	17·6	19·2
51 to 100	4·2	4·3	13·9	13·8
Over 100	3·4	3·3	41·5	41·7
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

**Occupations
in factories.**

In the following table the persons employed in factories are grouped according to their occupational status:—

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Occupations.	1914.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Working proprietors ..	5,707	5,898	6,645	6,904	7,296	7,500
Managers, overseers ..	3,283	4,130	4,354	4,454	4,673	4,929
Accountants, clerks ..	3,981	5,602	6,106	6,307	6,582	6,966
Engine-drivers, firemen	1,835	2,144	2,108	2,156	2,106	2,197
Workers in factory or works	97,923	113,276	116,650	119,598	126,791	129,617
Outworkers	1,737	1,492	1,151	1,476	1,228	870
Carters, messengers ..	2,835	3,056	2,964	3,115	3,316	3,378
Others	1,098	924	765	866	633	705
Total	118,399	136,522	140,743	144,876	152,625	156,162

Outworkers. The term "outworker" used in the above table relates to factory workers working in their own homes, but does not include individuals working for themselves. The employment of outworkers is regulated by a special provision of the Factories and Shops Act. They are required to register their names and addresses with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and factory proprietors are forbidden to give work to those who are not registered.

**Sex distribu-
tion in
factories.**

The average numbers of males and females employed in factories and their proportions to the male and female populations, for the years 1914 to 1923-24, were as follows:—

EMPLOYMENT OF MALES AND FEMALES IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Male Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Female Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Total Population.
1914 ..	79,772	1,119	38,627	543	118,399	832
1915 ..	75,971	1,097	37,863	522	113,834	798
1916-17 ..	74,924	1,123	42,046	574	116,970	836
1917-18 ..	76,654	1,142	41,587	562	118,241	838
1918-19 ..	81,357	1,188	40,992	550	122,349	855
1919-20 ..	92,101	1,243	44,421	588	136,522	913
1920-21 ..	96,379	1,277	44,364	580	140,743	926
1921-22 ..	97,789	1,279	47,087	599	144,876	934
1922-23 ..	103,092	1,307	49,533	618	152,625	960
1923-24 ..	107,578	1,334	48,584	593	156,162	961

Males formed 67·4 per cent. in 1914 and 68·9 per cent. in 1923-24 of the total persons employed. The increase during the period 1914 to 1923-24 in the number of males employed was 27,806, or 34·8 per cent., and in the number of females employed, 9,957, or 25·8 per cent.

Of the total females in factories 72·9 per cent. are engaged in the textile and clothing industries, and 10·7 per cent. in the preparation of food and drink. The extent of female employment in certain industries is shown in the next table :—

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES, 1923-24.

Industry.	Number Employed.		Females per 100 Males.
	Males.	Females.	
Oatmeal, &c.	409	323	78·97
Biscuit	867	609	70·24
Jam, pickle, and sauce	1,521	1,052	69·16
Confectionery	1,875	1,964	104·75
Tobacco, &c.	1,189	631	53·07
Woollen mills	2,218	2,696	121·55
Clothing, tailoring, &c.	2,271	7,575	333·55
Dressmaking, millinery	410	8,311	2,027·07
Underclothing	420	5,669	1,349·76
Hats, caps, &c.	693	969	139·82
Hosiery	564	3,460	613·48
Waterproof clothing	52	130	250·00
Boots and shoes	7,100	5,334	75·12
Printing, &c.	6,792	1,681	24·75
Bookbinding, stationery, &c.	701	667	95·15
Fancybox, &c.	328	818	249·39
Rope, twine	569	375	65·91
Sail, tent	127	112	88·19
Ammunition	86	61	70·93
Match	189	423	223·81
Fancy leather	542	373	68·82
Rubber goods	1,662	539	32·43
All other factories	76,993	4,812	6·25
Total	107,578	48,584	45·16

A favorable feature of factory statistics has been the small proportion of children engaged in factories. Of the male and female employees, boys and girls under 16 constituted 4·03 and 7·15 per cent. respectively in 1923-24, as against 3·88 and 4·78 per cent. in 1914. The number of children

Child labour in factories.

employed in factories and their proportions to the total employees are given in the subjoined table for the years 1914 to 1923-24 :—

CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total Children.	Proportion per cent. of—		
				Boys to Male Employees.	Girls to Female Employees.	Children to Total Employees.
1914 ..	2,898	1,816	4,714	3·88	4·78	4·18
1915 ..	3,355	2,197	5,552	4·71	5·89	5·12
1916-17 ..	3,072	2,301	5,373	4·37	5·55	4·81
1917-18 ..	3,195	2,447	5,642	4·45	5·97	5·00
1918-19 ..	3,137	2,389	5,526	4·15	5·90	4·73
1919-20 ..	3,721	2,872	6,593	4·04	6·47	4·83
1920-21 ..	3,715	2,798	6,513	4·11	6·39	4·86
1921-22 ..	3,780	3,120	6,900	4·13	6·71	5·00
1922-23 ..	4,031	3,163	7,194	4·18	6·48	4·95
1923-24 ..	4,057	3,422	7,479	4·03	7·15	5·03

Machinery in factories. In the following table are shown the number of factories using mechanical power, the total horse-power of the engines used, and the value of the machinery and plant for the ten years 1914 to 1923-24 :—

MACHINERY IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Number of Factories equipped with Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Horse-power of Engines.
		£	
1914	4,106	10,727,526	110,055
1915	4,089	11,068,949	117,815
1916-17	4,226	11,732,062	136,985
1917-18	4,371	12,612,797	149,095
1918-19	4,470	13,645,220	153,408
1919-20	4,737	15,846,935	166,803
1920-21	5,161	18,179,385	182,143
1921-22	5,473	21,182,110	191,881
1922-23	5,762	23,994,715	216,427
1923-24	6,030	28,223,915	314,561

The nature of the power used and the capacity of the machinery in the factories of the State are set out in the next table. Establishments using more than one kind of mechanical power are included once only in the first portion, usually under the power which is principally used. The second portion shows the total horse-power of engines used.

POWER USED IN FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Number of Factories using—					
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Water, Wind, or Horses.	Manual Labour.
1914	1,040	858	1,782	348	78	1,544
1915	961	824	1,915	330	59	1,324
1916-17	931	800	2,142	311	42	1,219
1917-18	896	784	2,365	285	41	1,256
1918-19	875	782	2,481	297	35	1,250
1919-20	910	761	2,712	315	39	1,301
1920-21	941	705	3,128	360	27	1,371
1921-22	935	666	3,474	364	34	1,280
1922-23	910	655	3,795	372	30	1,334
1923-24	885	540	4,174	402	29	1,259

Year.	Actual Horse-power of Engines.				
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Total.
1914	67,649	17,432	22,584	2,390	110,055
1915	71,223	17,935	26,385	2,272	117,815
1916-17	81,611	18,651	34,348	2,375	136,985
19 7-18	89,561	19,045	38,246	2,243	149,095
1918-19	91,245	18,929	40,791	2,443	153,408
1919-20	95,747	19,183	48,814	3,059	166,803
1920-21	103,048	19,331	56,602	3,162	182,143
1921-22	106,882	19,327	62,663	3,009	191,881
1922-23	112,547	18,968	81,679	3,233	216,427
1923-24	195,744	18,394	95,340	5,083	314,561

Although steam is the principal motive power, and was used to supply 62 per cent. of the total mechanical power employed in factories in 1923-24, a remarkable development is shown in the use of electricity, which in 1914 was used by 1,782, and in 1923-24 by 4,174 factories, the actual horse-power increasing from 22,584 to 95,340 in the same period.

Wages in factories.

The total amount and the average amount of salaries and wages paid to male and female employees in factories are given in the following table :—

SALARIES AND WAGES PAID IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Salaries paid to Managers and Clerks.		Wages paid to Factory Workers.		Average Salary of Managers and Clerks.		Average Wage of Factory Workers.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1914 ..	1,187,114	125,610	8,065,222	1,721,994	198 9 7	97 18 1	117 6 10	46 18 6
1915 ..	1,232,981	138,362	7,928,871	1,741,131	205 10 7	94 11 8	121 13 9	48 10 0
1916-17	1,364,269	171,675	8,226,582	2,070,991	220 3 0	97 3 1	128 7 8	52 2 7
1917-18	1,462,220	190,707	8,679,530	2,170,144	231 4 4	99 15 11	132 8 6	55 10 1
1918-19	1,625,584	208,524	9,906,082	2,340,213	244 5 4	101 7 5	141 19 8	60 19 0
1919-20	1,967,959	270,875	12,515,207	2,948,132	264 8 1	118 6 9	157 16 8	70 17 5
1920-21	2,384,372	310,024	15,284,545	3,398,275	298 19 7	124 15 2	185 12 4	82 5 11
1921-22	2,563,467	357,691	16,933,984	3,991,353	316 18 11	133 16 4	202 19 11	91 2 11
1922-23	2,761,045	394,366	18,038,101	4,353,680	331 10 9	134 14 8	204 12 2	94 16 5
1923-24	3,003 855	436,425	19,577,822	4,453,982	339 19 1	142 13 5	212 19 0	99 7 1

The particulars appearing in the above table reveal a steady increase in the average earnings of males and females, this being shown both in the salaries of managers, overseers, and clerks, and in the wages of factory workers generally.

The amount of wages paid during the year 1923-24, £27,472,084, represented an average payment for all employees of £184 15s. 11d., which was an increase of £9 0s. 2d. on the average wage for 1922-23, of £11 19s. 2d. on that for 1921-22, of £25 7s. 7d. on that for 1920-21, of £49 5s. 6d. on that for 1919-20, of £64 6s. 6d. on that for 1918-19, of £74 0s. 7d. on that for 1917-18, of £78 18s. 5d. on that for 1916-17, of £83 0s. 11d. on that for 1915, and of £86 5s. 11d. on that for 1914. Concurrent with this increase there was a slight change in the relative proportions of male and female workers during the ten years, the percentages of male to total employees being 69 in 1920-21, 68 in 1915, 1919-20, 1921-22, 1922-23, and 1923-24, 67 in 1914 and 1918-19, 65 in 1917-18, and 64 in 1916-17. The above average wage for 1923-24 (£184 15s. 11d.) was probably below the average according to the determinations of Wages Boards. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that the former sum is based on the actual payments to workers, while the latter represents the average of the sums to which they would have been entitled if they had worked throughout the whole year. There is, of necessity, a difference between the two averages, as all hands are not continuously employed, nor are all factories working throughout the whole year.

The cost of production and the value of the output in each class of manufacturing industry during the year 1923-24 are given in the subjoined statement:—

FACTORY COSTS AND OUTPUT, 1923-24.

Class of Industry.	Cost of—			Value of Output.
	Raw Materials Used.	Fuel, Light, and Power Used.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	
	£	£	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	4,591,973	110,188	827,819	6,196,579
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	797,828	41,193	188,311	1,289,619
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	698,677	494,219	1,453,348	3,739,356
Working in wood	2,643,435	45,706	2,164,208	6,276,504
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	6,531,626	311,316	5,178,810	14,269,565
Connected with food and drink, &c.	24,207,742	565,840	3,633,025	33,760,511
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	12,808,006	230,965	6,429,313	23,617,447
Books, paper, printing, &c. . . .	2,599,003	107,588	2,454,599	7,257,455
Musical instruments, &c.	128,486	2,196	105,628	277,009
Arms and explosives	180,450	8,010	87,155	338,247
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. .	1,237,113	38,599	1,224,380	3,107,636
Ship and boat building and repairing	34,031	5,319	89,340	143,065
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding	1,197,336	22,673	777,843	2,477,891
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	1,585,811	66,976	521,098	2,692,327
Surgical and other scientific instruments	28,891	1,109	29,438	80,139
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	232,853	7,289	187,029	545,827
Heat, light, and power	1,276,479	647,370	1,403,295	5,247,611
Leatherware, n.e.i.	369,345	5,107	158,593	645,642
Minor wares, n.e.i.	1,068,789	91,576	558,852	1,959,497
Total	62,217,874	2,803,239	27,472,084	113,921,927

The difference between the sum of the first three columns and the last column represents the amount available for miscellaneous expenses, interest, and profit. The proportions which this margin and the chief items of the cost of production bear to the total value

of production in each class of industry are shown in the following table :—

PROPORTIONATE VALUE OF COSTS, ETC., TO PRODUCTION
IN FACTORIES, 1923-24.

Class of Industry.	Percentage of Costs, &c., on Total Value of Production.			
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, &c.	Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . . .	74·1	1·8	13·4	10·7
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . . .	61·9	3·2	14·6	20·3
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	18·7	13·2	38·9	29·2
Working in wood	42·1	0·7	34·5	22·7
Metal works, machinery, &c. . . .	45·8	2·2	36·3	15·7
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	71·7	1·7	10·8	15·8
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . . .	54·2	1·0	27·2	17·6
Books, paper, printing, &c. . . .	35·8	1·5	33·8	28·9
Musical instruments, &c. . . .	46·4	0·8	38·1	14·7
Arms and explosives	53·3	2·4	25·8	18·5
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . . .	39·8	1·2	39·4	19·6
Ship and boat building and repairing	23·8	3·7	62·5	10·0
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding . .	48·3	0·9	31·4	19·4
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . .	58·9	2·5	19·4	19·2
Surgical and other scientific instruments	36·1	1·4	36·7	25·8
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	42·7	1·3	34·3	21·7
Heat, light, and power	24·3	12·3	26·8	36·6
Leatherware, n.e.i. . . .	57·2	0·8	24·6	17·4
Minor wares, n.e.i. . . .	54·5	4·7	28·5	12·3
Total	54·6	2·5	24·1	18·8

There are considerable variations in the proportions which the cost of materials and the expenditure on wages bear to the value of the output in the different classes of industries. These are, of course, due to the difference in the treatment required to present the raw material in its manufactured form. Thus in brickworks, &c., the sum paid in wages represents 39 per cent. and the cost of raw materials 19 per cent. of the value of the finished article, whilst in the industries connected with food and drink the expenditure on wages amounts to 11 per cent. and that on raw materials to over 72 per cent. of the value of the output.

Cost of production, 1914 to 1923-24.

In the next table the cost of production, the value of the output of factories, and the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses are compared for the years 1914 to 1923-24 :—

COST OF PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF OUTPUT OF FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Cost of Production.				Total Value of Output.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1914	28,986,694	804,325	11,099,940	8,549,026	49,439,985
1915	30,728,743	834,966	11,036,345	8,866,039	51,466,093
1916-17	37,103,750	1,024,156	11,833,517	10,085,861	60,047,284
1917-18	42,133,636	1,248,186	12,502,601	11,182,292	67,066,715
1918-19	52,098,737	1,457,124	14,080,403	12,559,413	80,195,677
1919-20	65,563,104	1,723,220	17,702,173	16,486,866	101,475,363
1920-21	65,401,425	2,184,096	21,377,216	17,045,557	106,008,294
1921-22	60,352,561	2,329,760	23,846,495	19,714,365	106,243,181
1922-23	62,658,163	2,443,681	25,547,192	20,637,307	111,286,343
1923-24	62,217,874	2,803,239	27,472,084	21,428,730	113,921,927

These figures are reduced in the appended statement to their proportionate value of the total output.

PROPORTION OF OUTLAY TO OUTPUT OF FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Proportion of Outlay to Output.				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	Other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	%	%	%	%	%
1914	58·6	1·6	22·5	17·3	100·0
1915	59·7	1·6	21·5	17·2	100·0
1916-17	61·8	1·7	19·7	16·8	100·0
1917-18	62·8	1·9	18·6	16·7	100·0
1918-19	65·0	1·8	17·5	15·7	100·0
1919-20	64·6	1·7	17·4	16·3	100·0
1920-21	61·7	2·0	20·2	16·1	100·0
1921-22	56·8	2·2	22·4	18·6	100·0
1922-23	56·3	2·2	23·0	18·5	100·0
1923-24	54·6	2·5	24·1	18·8	100·0

The ratio of salaries and wages to the value of the output of factories was 21·5 per cent. on the average of the last five years, as against 19·7

per cent. in the period 1914 to 1918-19. The cost of materials was 58·7 per cent. of the value of output in the period 1919-20 to 1923-24, as compared with 62·0 per cent. in the years 1914 to 1918-19. The proportionate outlay on fuel, light, and power has remained fairly uniform during the past ten years. The balance available for miscellaneous expenses, rent, interest, and manufacturers' profit was £17 13s. 8d. in every £100 of the total output value in the period 1919-20 to 1923-24, as compared with £16 12s. 6d. in the preceding five-year period.

Capital
invested in
manufacturing
plant and
premises.

In the following statement the amount of capital invested in machinery and plant and land and buildings used in connexion with the various classes of manufacturing industries is shown for the year 1923-24 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1923-24.

Class of Industry.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c.	731,375	837,710
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	254,785	190,255
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	1,095,840	926,520
Working in wood	1,204,775	932,720
Metal works, machinery, &c.	3,060,945	2,912,680
Connected with food and drink, &c.	4,985,775	4,970,855
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	3,816,925	5,687,050
Books, paper, printing, &c.	2,426,590	2,087,480
Musical instruments, &c.	34,360	117,235
Arms and explosives	218,775	204,480
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	323,390	1,299,240
Ship and boat building and repairing	102,530	232,275
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding	185,920	822,185
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	600,380	640,095
Surgical and other scientific instruments	13,640	52,055
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	68,460	235,520
Heat, light, and power	8,363,465	2,086,885
Leatherware, n.e.i.	50,045	156,900
Minor wares, n.e.i.	685,940	580,420
Total	28,223,915	24,972,560

The capital invested in plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with three classes of industries—food and drink; clothing and textile fabrics; and heat, light and power—amounted, in the year under review, to £29,910,955, or more than one-half of the total for all manufacturing industries.

The values of machinery and plant and of land and buildings used in connexion with manufacturing industries are shown in the next table for the years 1914 to 1923-24 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1914 TO 1923-24.

Year.						Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
						£	£
1914	..	..	..	..	..	10,727,526	11,248,120
1915	..	..	..	..	..	11,068,949	11,460,123
1916-17	..	..	..	..	..	11,732,062	12,052,227
1917-18	..	..	..	..	..	12,612,797	12,847,485
1918-19	..	..	..	..	..	13,645,220	13,673,515
1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	15,846,935	14,957,585
1920-21	..	..	..	..	..	18,179,385	17,313,350
1921-22	..	..	..	..	..	21,182,110	19,810,170
1922-23	..	..	..	..	..	23,994,715	22,428,525
1923-24	..	..	..	..	..	28,223,915	24,972,560

It will be seen from these figures that the values of machinery and plant and land and buildings more than doubled between 1914 and 1923-24.

In the appended table the number of accidents in factories is given for the last ten years. The particulars in the table relate to establishments which came within the scope of the Factories Acts in force in the years specified, and not to those classified for statistical purposes in the preceding tables.

The large increase shown in the number of accidents since 1919 is mainly attributable to an amendment of the law, which made compulsory the reporting of accidents. Previously, only those of a serious nature were reported.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.		Number of Employees.	Number of Accidents.	Percentage of Accidents to Number of Employees.
1914	..	110,660	391	·353
1915	..	91,888	464	·505
1916	..	92,320	503	·544
1917	..	97,561	442	·453
1918	..	104,242	459	·440
1919	..	116,369	362	·311
1920	..	116,846	862	·737
1921	..	117,633	830	·705
1922	..	126,630	787	·621
1923	..	128,915	1,034	·802

The foregoing tables do not include particulars relating to work of various kinds done by the Penal Department at Pentridge. At this establishment the manufacture of clothing, brushware, boots, mats, blankets, flannel, underclothing, bread, &c., and printing are carried on. The estimated value of the output for 1923-24 was £38,735, and of the materials used, £26,848. The articles produced are used principally by Government Departments.

The value of all articles produced or manufactured in Victoria has been compiled from actual returns or estimates in the office of the Government Statist, and the results are set forth in the following table:—

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1919-20 to 1923-24.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
<i>Cultivation.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Wheat	5,726,667	14,307,377	10,509,945	8,031,875	8,189,069
Oats	1,848,903	1,295,229	931,346	1,416,355	1,455,331
Barley, malting ..	304,377	263,963	221,757	298,792	195,545
" other ..	173,196	183,889	179,843	137,445	66,665
Maize	336,920	186,529	194,858	205,314	253,276
Other Cereals ..	58,207	49,532	66,537	75,553	71,173
Grass and Clover					
Seed	5,606	8,570	6,113	3,537	3,880
Potatoes	1,328,640	586,458	555,111	1,040,662	701,229
Onions	274,375	131,104	157,930	139,888	215,444
Other Root Crops	14,148	13,151	11,259	11,800	15,032
Hay	8,304,475	5,259,863	4,413,091	6,327,338	5,229,162
Straw	68,893	75,015	66,164	76,644	66,877
Green Forage* ..	449,010	397,620	447,050	512,255	536,855
Tobacco	16,240	3,800	24,160	35,600	41,880
Grapes, not made into wine, raisins, &c. ..	42,025	21,010	39,978	71,793	45,589
Raisins, ordinary	138,899	84,533	125,154	132,308	27,420
" sultanas ..	494,037	263,772	443,319	555,059	122,775
Currants	139,153	157,298	187,605	171,642	57,027
Wine	347,370	333,346	166,883	171,749	217,713
Hops	10,365	14,988	22,650	23,195	29,772
Other Crops ..	71,859	57,027	68,536	81,447	104,066
Fruit grown for sale in orchards and gardens ..	1,274,715	1,054,491	1,184,069	1,172,325	1,193,689
Fruit in private orchards and gardens ..	13,810	15,250	12,660	10,670	10,505
Market Gardens ..	442,155	427,035	500,640	493,780	810,600
Total ..	21,884,045	25,190,350	20,538,158	21,197,026	19,660,374

* Exclusive of area under sown grasses.

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1919-20 TO 1923-24—continued.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
<i>Dairying and Pastoral.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Milk consumed in natural state ..	2,424,050	2,622,010	2,027,040	1,995,280	2,130,345
Butter made ..	4,945,480	7,043,950	5,127,570	6,660,600	6,491,310
Cheese made ..	344,210	189,070	203,620	163,180	253,795
Cream made (not for butter) ..	32,970	76,560	80,130	127,530	177,090
Condensed, Concentrated, and Powdered Milk ..	1,516,000	1,885,080	2,074,620	1,434,720	1,509,400
Horses ..	..	..	71,800	..	..
Cattle ..	4,856,100	5,269,650	3,099,300	3,384,270	1,413,310
Pigs ..	2,782,290	1,250,680	1,277,730	1,280,040	1,507,600
Sheep (without wool) ..	1,139,960	1,750,220	1,991,600	3,752,260	2,600,450
Wool ..	7,908,010	4,729,400	4,662,750	6,380,600	7,695,000
Total ..	25,949,070	24,816,620	20,616,160	25,178,480	23,778,300
<i>Mining.</i>					
Gold ..	575,260	648,969	443,938	453,962	405,245
Coal ..	406,620	528,919	634,397	695,430	563,289
Stone from Quarries (including limestone) ..	300,100	383,002	434,520	468,468	518,064
Other Metals and Minerals ..	48,150	46,755	30,299	48,021	45,829
Total ..	1,330,130	1,607,645	1,543,154	1,665,881	1,532,427
<i>Forest Produce.</i>					
Timber (Forest Saw-mills only) ..	693,995	905,720	896,070	946,930	942,480
Firewood (estimated) ..	790,140	923,200	918,550	927,860	1,033,700
Bark for Tanning ..	153,260	125,830	138,520	136,830	130,660
Total ..	1,637,395	1,954,750	1,953,140	2,011,620	2,106,840
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Honey and Beeswax ..	35,930	45,346	48,075	40,122	45,559
Poultry production (estimated) ..	3,579,230	4,545,620	4,406,750	4,315,810	4,587,560
Rabbits and Hares ..	913,220	401,690	238,632	268,478	310,930
Fish ..	181,760	167,340	149,400	160,151	161,905
Total ..	4,710,140	5,159,996	4,842,857	4,782,561	5,105,954
Total Value of Primary Products ..	55,510,780	58,729,361	49,493,469	54,835,568	52,183,895
Manufacturing—Added Value* ..	34,259,060	38,330,232	43,592,856	46,355,804	49,141,526
Grand Total ..	89,769,840	97,059,593	93,086,325	101,191,372	101,325,421

* Exclusive of value of output of butter and cheese factories, and forest saw-mills (as regards Victorian timber), which is included above under the headings "Dairying and Pastoral" and "Forest Produce," respectively.

The value of primary production was less in the year 1923-24 than in the preceding year, the most noticeable decrease being shown in "Cultivation" and "Dairying and Pastoral." There has been a marked improvement in the value of forest produce in recent

years, this having advanced from £912,950 in 1914 to £2,106,840 in 1923-24.

The total value of primary production in 1923-24 was £52,183,895, and that of manufactures (added value) was £49,141,526. The former was less by £2,651,673, and the latter greater by £2,785,722, than the corresponding values in the preceding year.

The values of different kinds of production per head of the total population in each of the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRODUCTION PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Produce.	Value of Produce per head in—				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cultivation ..	14 12 7	16 11 6	13 4 10	13 6 7	12 1 11
Dairying and Pastoral	17 7 0	16 6 7	13 5 10	15 16 8	14 12 7
Mining	0 17 9	1 1 2	0 19 11	1 0 11	0 18 10
Forest	1 1 11	1 5 9	1 5 2	1 5 4	1 5 11
Miscellaneous ..	3 3 0	3 7 10	3 2 5	3 0 2	3 2 10
Total Primary Production	37 2 3	38 12 10	31 18 2	34 9 8	32 2 1
Manufactures ..	22 18 1	25 4 5	28 2 2	29 3 0	30 4 8
Grand Total	60 0 4	63 17 3	60 0 4	63 12 8	62 6 9

The figures show the steadily increasing importance of the manufacturing industries. Relatively to population, the amount added in the process of manufacture to the value of the raw materials used was 32 per cent. higher in 1923-24 than in 1919-20.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR VICTORIA, 1836 to 1923.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immi- grants (by Sea).	Emi- grants (by Sea).
	Persons.	Males.	Females.					
1836	224	186	38	1	3	..	..	..
1840	10,291	7,254	3,037	358	198	177	4,080	..
1850	76,162	45,495	30,667	2,673	780	969	10,760	3,304
1860	537,847	328,251	209,596	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087
1880	860,067	451,456	408,611	26,148	11,652	5,286	56,955	45,294
1890	1,133,266	596,064	537,202	37,578	18,012	9,187	79,777	63,820
1900	1,197,206	602,487	594,719	30,779	15,215	8,308	82,157	83,684
1910	1,301,408	646,482	654,926	31,437	14,736	10,240	82,594	77,951
1911	1,339,893	668,818	671,075	33,044	15,217	11,088	106,349	93,246
1912	1,382,553	690,056	692,497	35,817	16,595	11,738	124,527	99,933
1913	1,415,416	707,444	707,972	35,978	15,475	11,324	114,586	101,718
1914	1,435,188	713,307	721,881	36,225	16,503	11,830	109,149	*99,043
1915	1,424,445	694,210	730,235	35,010	15,823	12,832	*85,977	*82,189
1916	1,404,663	666,245	738,418	34,239	16,489	11,341	*80,458	*76,687
1917	1,417,060	671,075	745,985	33,035	14,555	9,506	*58,976	*58,774
1918	1,437,245	684,243	753,002	31,601	15,177	9,156	*48,566	*51,631
1919	1,503,035	739,956	763,079	31,621	19,370	11,706	*33,621	*37,099
1920	1,527,909	753,803	774,106	36,214	16,832	14,898	*65,595	59,956
1921	1,550,686	764,905	785,781	35,593	16,165	13,676	66,537	63,944
1922	1,590,225	788,626	801,599	36,288	15,156	12,996	81,903	66,355
1923	1,625,380	806,546	818,834	35,876	17,219	13,126	87,248	69,986

* Exclusive of members of the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

STATE FINANCE.

Year ended June—	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.	Expenditure by Government from Loan Funds.	Loan Expenditure on—		
				Railways.	Country Water Supply.	Closer Settlement (including Soldier Settlement).
1836*	£ ..	£ 2,165	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
1840*	255,984	70,129	..	..	..	..
1850*	259,433	196,440	..	..	..	..
1860*	3,082,461	3,315,307	†	†	†	..
1870*	3,261,883	3,428,382	†	†	†	..
1880	4,621,282	4,875,029	1,435,376	1,209,892†	37,982	..
1890	8,519,159	9,645,737	4,188,934	3,260,244	427,186	..
1900	7,453,355	7,285,636	1,033,588	594,484	144,149	63,985
1910	8,760,305	8,742,293	1,209,505	657,666	286,823	198,945
1911	9,372,637	9,362,291	2,657,271	1,230,381	311,709	956,900
1912	10,181,840	10,171,386	2,974,149	1,703,453	259,281	889,000
1913	10,508,945	10,479,741	2,202,697	1,231,113	256,724	569,473
1914	10,958,037	10,944,718	3,282,386	2,468,338	239,963	273,189
1915	10,529,017	11,706,968	4,912,585	3,172,444	304,766	211,636
1916	11,470,875	11,683,363	4,047,651	2,440,317	347,135	81,490
1917	11,813,879	11,795,295	2,306,627	1,266,352	287,561	92,700
1918	12,672,787	12,631,169	1,901,747	761,705	284,020	282,970
1919	13,044,088	12,979,407	2,627,716	577,356	414,459	1,105,541
1920	15,866,184	15,752,459	7,502,756	1,146,593	484,325	5,221,221
1921	19,054,475	18,941,698	11,099,694	1,413,434	810,437	6,936,252
1922	20,357,733	20,297,279	11,880,927	3,886,534	968,047	4,287,132
1923	21,634,677	21,611,309	8,764,306	1,674,643	1,210,485	2,420,764
1924	23,075,968	23,050,968	8,407,526	1,395,282	1,415,109	2,433,330
Total to date	—	—	134,980,786	64,766,368	14,517,457	27,709,427

NOTE.—For expenditure by the Country Roads Board, see page 581.

* Year ended 31st December.

† Details of Loan Expenditure for each year prior to 1872-3 are not available. The total loan expenditure up to 30th June, 1872, was £12,434,568, of which £9,790,526 had been expended on Railways, and £876,062 on Country Water Supply.

‡ Including purchase money of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company's lines.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

Year.	Public Debt at end of Financial Year.	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.		
		No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.
	£		£	£		£	£
1857	828,700	19	16,520,160	219,960	16	2,890,550	58,113
1860	5,118,100	41	19,512,925	324,728	42	8,242,199	122,470
1870	11,924,800	65	22,607,630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881
1880	20,056,600	57	31,199,483	416,765	117	52,647,936	405,187
1890	41,377,693	59	86,226,966	925,638	133	108,086,680	925,673
1900	49,324,885	58	67,302,423	657,775	150	106,839,331	531,102
1910	55,576,721	60	114,113,507	1,015,028	146	150,970,220	754,586
1911	57,983,764	61	119,400,893	1,056,575	146	155,677,624	761,853
1912	60,737,000	61	127,743,501	1,149,044	147	160,128,933	796,472
1913	62,776,724	61	137,649,219	1,259,569	147	164,268,467	840,080
1914	66,130,726	61	147,205,224	1,320,545	147	167,405,523	854,483
1915	73,083,927	52	149,235,137	1,378,006	141	169,724,979	827,466
1916	76,775,032	51	154,105,571	1,407,021	139	172,309,539	847,206
1917	78,125,395	52	158,777,843	1,487,526	139	172,558,872	875,940
1918	79,595,646	52	164,306,704	1,598,643	139	176,297,529	927,901
1919	82,031,929	52	172,838,636	1,857,884	139	184,599,186	1,022,241
1920	87,647,739	55	193,947,624	2,053,584	138	205,555,121	1,171,379
1921	97,317,831	53	210,501,055	2,314,017	139	215,984,328	1,279,099
1922	109,099,199	53	233,586,201	2,648,855	139	221,623,773	1,382,922
1923	118,562,029	53	264,693,364	2,992,159	139	235,274,597	1,496,764

EXPENDITURE BY THE COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Year.	Expenditure on Maintenance of Roads.*	Loan Expenditure on—		Total Expenditure on Construction and Maintenance of Roads.
		Construction Works.†	Developmental Roads.‡	
	£	£	£	£
1913-14	9,490	24,440	..	33,930
1914-15	49,888	342,681	..	392,569
1915-16	98,879	464,787	..	563,666
1916-17	130,537	226,603	..	357,140
1917-18	173,785	226,395	1,703	401,883
1918-19	179,133	284,734	47,561	511,428
1919-20	192,303	335,755	315,701	843,759
1920-21	221,395	271,850	693,245	1,186,490
1921-22	267,969	288,864	626,998	1,183,831
1922-23	288,129	266,046	364,132	918,307
Total	1,611,508	2,732,155	2,049,340	6,393,003

* One-half of this expenditure is repaid by the municipalities affected annually.

† One-half of this expenditure is repaid by the municipalities over a period of 31½ years.

‡ The municipalities pay, during the period of the loan, a proportion of the interest on the expenditure incurred in making these roads, and they maintain the roads after they have been constructed.

BANKING.

Year.	Ordinary Banks.					Savings Banks.*		
	No. of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Deposits.	No. of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.
		£	£	£	£			£
1854	6	3,367,560	10,536,528	7,494,909	5,068,792	4	2,761	180,020
1860	9	6,134,657	12,693,727	9,238,731	7,225,728	9	10,135	484,501
1870	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571	10,899,026	123	41,738	1,047,147
1880	11	9,126,250	23,284,822	19,488,512	17,972,703	202	92,115	1,661,409
1890	16	13,281,790	60,937,955	42,224,084	40,292,065	360	281,509	5,262,105
1900	11	13,746,458	41,755,928	31,895,571	30,638,285	371	375,070	9,110,793
1910	11	13,933,729	47,341,431	44,746,441	43,188,975	416	560,515	15,417,887
1911	12	14,529,658	49,343,205	48,158,503	47,485,600	423	595,424	17,274,423
1912	12	14,529,735	49,543,884	47,836,052	47,258,048	422	641,736	19,662,465
1913	16	23,677,252	50,335,420	49,255,216	48,686,121	433	674,542	21,508,125
1914	16	25,074,076	51,996,067	51,819,656	50,896,536	445	705,029	23,258,775
1915	16	25,112,160	59,449,407	55,813,235	54,040,102	451	721,936	24,874,811
1916	17	26,519,044	63,435,125	60,195,632	59,202,831	461	746,597	26,143,908
1917	17	27,006,166	59,737,528	65,329,672	64,042,657	459	780,139	28,344,042
1918	16	27,013,981	75,489,092	78,296,932	76,390,503	464	813,031	30,756,929
1919	16	28,155,048	70,903,238	80,028,961	78,518,187	468	850,486	34,104,110
1920	17	35,915,745	88,536,893	88,049,750	86,085,423	473	886,344	37,232,543
1921	16	36,001,087	84,033,765	83,741,022	82,249,429	484	928,009	42,956,461
1922	15	37,786,681	85,914,172	91,368,158	89,833,392	499	970,431	45,968,222
1923	16	40,256,301	96,577,390	97,593,150	96,089,113	518	1,015,346	49,540,039

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. Particulars relating to Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December; those relating to Trustee Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June. They were merged into one institution on 1st October, 1897.

CROWN LANDS ; COMMERCE.

Year.	Crown Land Sales.		Imports.	Exports.	Total Exports of Victorian Produce.	Exports Oversea of—	
	Area Sold.	Amount Realized.	Total Value.	Total Value.		Butter.	
						Quantity.	Value.
	acres.	£	£	£	£	lbs.	£
1857	500,383	1,067,450	17,256,209	15,079,512	..	572,770	16,240
1860	492,248	663,238	15,093,730	12,962,704	11,061,076	705,040	27,974
1870	337,507	463,821	12,455,758	12,470,014	9,103,323	137,475	4,704
1880	409,738	471,824	14,556,894	15,954,559	11,220,467	1,096,401	29,996
1890	249,373	322,946	22,954,015	13,266,222	10,291,821	1,297,777	47,972
1900	494,694	526,650	18,301,811	17,422,552	13,918,556	32,087,739	1,243,260
1910	127,890	171,904	*	*	*	39,698,122	1,780,044
1911	121,062	136,277	*	*	*	51,304,010	2,361,587
1912	128,069	165,854	*	*	*	31,451,378	1,545,771
1913	152,989	164,065	*	*	*	34,542,925	1,681,987
1914	129,235	145,003	*	*	*	† 9,373,252	† 475,898
1915	117,161	113,167	*	*	*	† 16,630,637	† 800,385
1916	89,177	80,238	*	*	*	† 11,417,311	† 719,653
1917	81,991	79,992	*	*	*	† 30,706,719	† 2,189,052
1918	76,039	78,235	*	*	*	† 24,323,648	† 1,664,299
1919	100,945	114,654	*	*	*	† 23,969,104	† 1,860,415
1920	187,228	192,861	*	*	*	† 24,170,187	† 2,089,296
1921	109,874	100,890	*	*	*	† 32,813,204	† 4,027,256
1922	106,286	118,698	*	*	*	† 45,985,904	† 3,026,447
1923	142,812	167,669	*	*	*	† 41,653,344	† 3,190,805
1924	..	..	*	*	*	† 35,578,812	† 2,751,312

* Information not available owing to the Federal Government having abandoned the collecting and recording of Inter-State imports and exports from 13th September, 1910.

† For period of six months to 30th June.

‡ For year ended 30th June.

NOTE.—In addition to the quantity of land actually sold and the amount realized for sales effected and completed within the year, the figures under the head "Crown Land Sales" represent during each of the years after 1868 the total extent of, and the amount paid on lands purchased under deferred payments on which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold. This amounted, at the end of 1923, to 8,342,846 acres. The figures for 1894 include 12,221 acres disposed of to Messrs. Chaffey Bros. in previous years at £1 per acre, which area and amount were not previously taken into account. The figures for 1895 include 11,584 acres granted without purchase to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.; but, except for this, lands granted without purchase, which amounted, up to the end of 1923, to 128,751 acres (including 50,000 granted to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.), are excluded.

The figures for 1894 and 1895 which are referred to above appear on page 601 of the Year-Book for 1920-21.

COMMERCE—continued.

Year.	Value of Australian Produce Exported Oversea.	Value of Oversea Imports.	Value of Oversea Exports.	Value of Total Oversea Trade.
	†	†	†	†
	£	£	£	£
1859 ..	*	12,873,360	12,558,129	25,431,489
1860 ..	*	12,736,535	11,390,445	24,126,980
1870 ..	*	10,608,267	11,236,300	21,844,567
1880 ..	*	9,034,538	12,151,798	21,186,336
1890 ..	*	15,161,356	9,553,031	24,714,387
1900 ..	11,855,052	11,937,644	12,165,364	24,103,008
1910 ..	17,388,708	20,002,606	18,188,236	38,190,842
1911 ..	17,936,017	21,850,963	18,915,716	40,766,679
1912 ..	18,366,092	25,081,074	19,113,121	44,194,195
1913 ..	16,750,278	24,387,073	17,837,591	42,224,664
1914 (to 30th June) ..	8,746,861	12,718,794	8,994,698	21,713,492
1914-15 ..	12,009,497	21,050,310	12,349,662	33,399,972
1915-16 ..	14,279,482	26,761,922	14,748,730	41,510,652
1916-17 ..	18,668,224	25,474,839	19,030,146	44,504,985
1917-18 ..	20,270,842	21,113,588	20,716,688	41,830,276
1918-19 ..	27,682,262	35,026,311	28,095,159	63,121,470
1919-20 ..	42,236,835	33,788,287	43,124,940	76,913,227
1920-21 ..	33,890,767	57,608,777	34,871,961	92,480,738
1921-22 ..	33,681,068	36,352,056	34,644,182	70,996,238
1922-23 ..	33,148,557	46,608,239	33,768,655	80,376,894
1923-24 ..	29,088,603	49,592,677	29,611,985	79,204,662

* Information not available.

† The figures in these columns refer only to Imports from and Exports to countries beyond Australia.

COMMERCE—continued.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—						
	Wool.		Tallow.		Wheat.		Frozen Meats.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	lbs.	£	cwt.	£	bushels.	£	£
1850	17,780,000	815,892	87,763	130,397	85	21	...
1860	24,216,847	2,021,396	6,029	15,687	328	165	...
1870	51,830,526	3,199,309	197,420	358,092	5,294	1,458	...
1880	111,509,915	6,372,306	134,022	191,531	2,378,097	539,421	...
1890	131,041,074	5,862,011	162,140	156,535	505,025	95,930	...
1900	100,743,853	4,164,656	153,340	171,327	6,246,645	874,323	432,120
1910	164,213,073	7,190,789	248,735	378,924	15,319,971	3,091,079	888,001
1911	159,955,473	6,255,599	334,937	480,256	20,351,479	3,592,534	941,406
1912	166,859,531	6,990,918	229,638	324,497	9,183,280	1,836,387	889,297
1913	143,391,292	6,282,291	258,969	371,316	11,220,525	2,053,454	1,565,061
1914*	44,626,388	1,979,174	156,470	227,759	17,579,763	3,260,551	710,018
1914-15	115,234,566	5,251,177	143,695	192,400	786,432	160,642	1,779,952
1915-16	100,526,942	6,203,565	24,831	45,214	9,974,218	2,767,099	140,973
1916-17	84,127,550	6,149,212	106,260	246,091	18,089,912	4,177,726	630,494
1917-18	87,681,189	6,820,006	44,819	133,577	10,050,700	2,776,635	478,921
1918-19	146,762,561	10,968,651	177,489	467,529	15,070,085	3,923,715	891,297
1919-20	156,458,960	12,800,519	265,870	1,037,986	28,675,295	7,983,987	4,096,685
1920-21	118,862,086	8,909,004	101,400	282,306	21,760,063	10,086,400	1,036,982
1921-22	193,425,056	11,185,526	203,829	336,869	32,268,626	9,182,731	1,132,230
1922-23	204,143,606	16,115,971	278,058	451,405	9,252,600	2,498,066	2,448,056
1923-24	118,152,098	13,067,701	99,118	188,767	16,762,086	3,922,823	707,179

* Period of six months to 30th June.

COMMERCE ; SHIPPING.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—			Shipping.			
	Flour.		Hides and Skins.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1850 ..	tons. ..	£ ..	£ 1,245	555	108,030	508	87,087
1860 ..	995	17,713	141,194	1,814	581,642	1,841	599,137
1870 ..	1,077	13,423	23,141	1,759	630,474	1,834	645,571
1880 ..	11,742	113,404	86,127	1,648	1,006,478	1,688	1,028,721
1890 ..	7,323	68,036	163,258	2,076	2,119,171	2,078	2,128,895
1900 ..	21,672	132,398	271,691	1,928	2,901,619	1,935	2,912,696
1910 ..	68,766	609,960	1,296,516	2,308	4,952,273	2,312	4,954,773
1911 ..	79,684	629,427	1,089,451	2,335	5,148,184	2,347	5,156,952
1912 ..	68,782	600,267	1,329,400	2,399	5,426,146	2,385	5,410,801
1913 ..	84,689	710,416	1,688,409	2,481	5,950,035	2,469	5,902,277
1914* ..	48,113	398,442	552,211	1,281	3,150,689	1,297	3,208,400
1914-15	21,058	191,214	885,075	2,324	5,290,063	2,329	5,308,817
1915-16	55,600	653,490	534,440	2,392	4,935,129	2,385	4,902,245
1916-17	101,991	1,213,751	548,736	1,962	4,042,819	1,967	4,050,095
1917-18	135,180	1,529,789	478,236	1,721	2,871,343	1,724	2,873,770
1918-19	144,073	1,707,399	1,078,163	1,730	2,870,974	1,709	2,815,938
1919-20	207,616	3,259,296	1,947,747	1,792	3,987,262	1,809	4,021,188
1920-21	87,422	1,900,888	784,421	2,246	4,663,126	2,248	4,651,818
1921-22	145,127	2,157,754	768,010	2,442	5,506,127	2,436	5,518,393
1922-23	178,812	2,024,921	1,562,572	2,634	6,611,352	2,634	6,618,968
1923-24	211,685	2,175,854	1,704,857	2,666	6,782,495	2,676	6,749,873

* Period of six months to 30th June.

POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Year.	Postage.			Electric Telegraphs.			Tele- phones. §
	Number of Post Offices.	Number of Letters. †	Number of Newspapers.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams. ‡	Number of Sub- scribers.
1860	311	8,116,302	5,683,023	33	*	166,803	..
1870	677	11,133,283	5,287,482	95	3,371	454,598	..
1880	1,100	24,195,149	10,640,540	284	6,019	1,160,912	..
1890	1,671	62,526,448	22,729,005	748	13,499	3,114,783	2,307
1900	1,615	74,291,204	25,466,342	824	15,198	1,993,009	5,136
1910	1,657	143,483,191	*	1,374	16,405	2,757,737	20,236
1911	1,720	159,092,011	36,125,728	1,455	17,403	2,894,664	22,859
1912	1,730	175,588,805	37,826,929	1,538	18,649	2,969,237	26,562
1913	1,749	189,975,987	40,950,516	1,648	19,403	2,971,041	30,640
1914	1,816	188,440,698	40,737,663	1,748	26,146	3,267,195	34,071
1915-16	1,787	191,427,078	40,246,088	1,796	28,937	3,335,026	36,372
1916-17	1,782	201,093,447	43,175,024	1,711	29,446	3,428,871	38,025
1917-18	1,726	197,830,163	36,695,699	1,695	29,606	3,532,430	40,754
1918-19	1,715	188,526,047	34,982,384	1,671	30,860	3,804,234	44,035
1919-20	1,707	197,080,463	31,756,907	1,663	29,955	4,490,656	49,017
1920-21	1,712	180,797,030	31,660,611	1,703	31,243	4,096,843	52,791
1921-22	1,721	170,337,926 ||	31,293,290 ||	1,791	31,839	3,940,167	55,986
1922-23	1,736	178,682,295 ||	37,264,106 ||	1,858	32,594	4,094,863	61,201
1923-24	1,774	195,166,640 ||	40,241,184 ||	2,040	35,043	4,308,242	71,138

* Information not available.

† Post cards were first issued in April, 1876. They are included with letters in this column.

‡ Telegrams on Railway service are not included in 1890 and subsequent years. There was a reduction in the rates for telegrams in 1885 which led to a large increase in their number.

§ The Telephone system was taken over by the Post Office on 22nd September, 1887. Previously it was worked as a private undertaking.

|| Exclusive of letters and newspapers posted in other States for delivery in Victoria, which are included in all previous years. In 1920-21 these numbered :—Letters, 20,681,335; newspapers, 2,218,408.

STATE RAILWAYS, ETC.

Year.	State Railways.					Churches, Chapels, and Buildings used for Public Worship.
	Miles Con- structed.	Capital Cost.	Total Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Train Miles Travelled.	
		£	£	£		
1880	1,199	18,041,295	1,492,917	814,075	4,380,802	3,307
1890	2,471	32,588,375	3,131,866	2,132,158	11,773,152	4,583
1900	3,186	39,496,247	3,025,162	1,902,540	10,107,549	5,037
1910	3,544	43,091,478	4,455,748	2,827,735	12,045,866	4,748
1911	3,576	44,021,212	4,909,062	3,109,323	13,319,572	4,887
1912	3,675	45,603,114	5,233,979	3,455,086	14,203,681	4,946
1913	3,700	47,076,911	5,222,271	3,605,001	14,648,489	4,993
1914	3,888	49,311,907	5,581,474	3,886,348	15,570,098	5,173
1915	3,928	51,620,187	5,183,687	4,528,316	15,880,677	5,134
1916	4,153	54,560,106	5,730,743	4,141,588	14,424,357	5,059
1917	4,176	55,808,163	5,980,638	4,305,958	14,594,775	5,042
1918	4,205	56,694,141	6,593,873	4,603,905	14,147,896	5,010
1919	4,245	57,658,557	6,476,076	4,474,771	13,587,968	4,953
1920	4,270	58,496,357	8,287,063	6,265,754	15,687,177	4,720
1921	4,322	60,012,250	9,851,908	8,093,869	16,583,638	4,997
1922	4,372	63,186,759	10,857,853	8,287,146	16,522,658	4,846
1923	4,389	64,938,085	11,413,782	8,442,214	17,023,611	5,068
1924	4,490	66,212,984	12,025,987	8,982,880	17,729,597	..

NOTE.—The figures for 1880 in relation to State Railways are for the calendar year; those for 1890 and subsequent years relate to the period of twelve months ending 30th June of the year mentioned in the table.

EDUCATION.

Year.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars on Rolls.			Melbourne University.	
	State.	Private.	Total.	State.	Private.	Total.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Graduates (Direct degrees).
1860	665	221	886	46,687	4,981	51,668	10	6
1870	908	959	1,867	123,385	30,968	154,353	82	10
1880	1,810	643	2,453	229,723	28,134	257,857	151	49
1890	2,170	791	2,961	250,097	40,181	290,278	154	99
1900	1,948	884	2,832	243,667	48,483	292,150	101	124
1910	2,036	641	2,677	235,042	54,740	289,782	287	201
1911	2,059	587	2,646	234,766	55,893	290,659	283	243
1912	2,093	548	2,641	238,111	56,035	294,146	315	184
1913	2,127	519	2,646	241,042	57,698	298,740	287	260
1914	2,175	512	2,687	246,447	58,886	305,333	364	305
1915	2,227	509	2,736	250,264	60,865	311,129	316	347
1916	2,225	495	2,720	257,726	64,830	322,556	364	302
1917	2,202	495	2,697	254,033	64,369	318,402	373	241
1918	2,272	493	2,765	240,664	63,476	304,140	430	295
1919	2,280	486	2,766	235,292	63,106	298,398	636	204
1920	2,333	489	2,822	247,337	66,445	313,782	746	387
1921	2,334	486	2,820	247,204	68,048	315,252	610	380
1922	2,405	486	2,891	248,882	67,673	316,555	548	514
1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	496	573

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ; OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS.

Year.	Friendly Societies.*				Old-age and Invalid Pensions.†		
	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Receipts.	Funds at end of Year.	Old-age.	Invalid.	Amounts Expended.
			£	£	No.	No.	£
1860	61	5,028	20,084	26,421	..	..	..
1870	592	34,224	117,295	186,384	..	..	..
1880	748	45,876	171,987	450,719	..	..	..
1890	1,003	86,450	322,747	909,504	..	..	..
1900	1,132	96,802	372,631	1,318,165	..	..	..
1910	1,475	139,308	534,616	2,122,602	20,218	..	470,658
1911	1,498	145,439	559,585	2,246,396	23,722	2,272	573,699
1912	1,505	151,262	580,371	2,361,464	24,449	3,162	672,593
1913	1,501	155,601	606,785	2,490,957	25,434	3,918	715,924
1914	1,524	158,511	620,765	2,644,216	27,150	4,844	795,449
1915	1,533	158,746	634,649	2,775,787	28,365	6,054	839,718
1916	1,522	157,819	672,650	2,912,178	28,446	6,869	908,159
1917	1,516	158,035	653,055	3,017,503	29,064	7,921	1,070,386
1918	1,496	153,870	658,435	3,073,083	29,159	8,901	1,168,498
1919	1,489	146,919	664,526	3,056,666	29,179	9,337	1,199,787
1920	1,475	143,651	681,232	3,173,678	29,565	10,277	1,348,100
1921	1,464	143,421	763,031	3,375,050	30,385	11,174	1,533,430
1922	1,467	145,254	790,788	3,549,798	30,958	11,444	1,581,898
1923	..	..	..	..	31,248	11,707	1,589,362
1924	..	..	..	..	32,603	12,220	1,947,069

*Until 1880 the figures given do not represent particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the State, but only of such as furnished returns. For that year and subsequent years the returns are complete. The figures for 1923 are not available owing to an alteration in the date by which returns must be furnished.

† Old-age pensions were first granted in Victoria on 18th January, 1901, and the Commonwealth Government took over the administration on 1st July, 1909. The figures relate to the financial year ended 30th June.

LIVE STOCK ; CRIME.

Year.	Live Stock.				Crime : Number of Persons—			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Taken into Custody.*	Committed for Trial.*	Convicted after Commitment.*	Executed.
1860	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259	29,030	1,329	796	3
1870	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	22,527	908	573	5
1880	275,516	1,286,267	10,360,285	241,936	22,843	680	398	1
1890	436,469	1,782,881	12,692,843	282,457	37,339	1,129	662	..
1900	392,237	1,602,384	10,841,790	350,370	26,104	575	374	1
1910	472,080	1,547,569	12,882,665	333,281	19,070	503	354	..
1911	507,813	1,647,127	13,857,804	348,069	19,398	522	334	..
1912	530,494	1,508,089	11,892,224	240,072	19,814	518	352	1
1913	562,331	1,528,553	12,113,682	221,277	21,554	568	352	..
1914	552,053	1,362,542	12,051,685	243,196	21,084	518	342	..
1915	493,779	1,043,604	10,545,632	192,002	20,276	561	391	..
1916	514,403	1,175,098	12,576,587	254,436	17,599	509	343	2
1917	514,061	1,371,049	14,760,013	323,159	12,689	440	276	..
1918	523,788	1,596,544	15,773,902	267,819	10,346	340	209	2
1919	513,500	1,631,120	14,422,745	186,810	11,993	506	307	..
1920	487,503	1,575,159	12,171,084	175,275	14,582	759	442	..
1921	496,124	1,750,369	12,325,818	230,770	15,249	715	483	..
1922	494,947	1,785,660	11,765,520	294,962	16,163	684	434	1
1923	486,075	1,591,367	11,059,761	259,795	17,223	570	361	..

* The figures prior to 1900 represent the number of offences with which persons arrested were charged ; those for 1900 and subsequent years represent distinct arrests.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Gold Raised.		Black Coal Produced.		Other Minerals.	Total.
	Estimated Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	oz. gross.	£	tons.	£	£	£
1870	1,304,304	5,217,216	100	100	24,421	5,241,737
1880	829,121	3,316,484	..	..	30,936	3,347,420
1890	588,560	2,354,240	14,601	13,899	16,311	2,384,450
1900	807,407	3,229,628	211,596	101,599	49,017*	3,380,244
1910	609,998	2,422,745	369,059	188,977	139,434	2,751,156
1911	542,074	2,140,855	653,864	298,829	178,107	2,617,791
1912	516,255	2,039,464	589,143	258,455	201,796	2,499,715
1913	467,052	1,847,475	593,912	274,371	222,898	2,344,744
1914	443,347	1,755,236	617,536	288,535	235,238	2,279,009
1915	352,272	1,397,793	588,104	274,770	282,884	1,955,447
1916	276,188	1,090,194	417,183	216,292	229,901	1,536,387
1917	217,092	857,500	466,220	335,259	307,473	1,500,232
1918	171,271	674,655	439,575	349,696	317,971	1,342,322
1919	146,981	575,260	423,946	372,075	382,791	1,330,126
1920	165,115	648,969	442,241	464,739	493,937	1,607,645
1921	114,602	443,938	514,859	603,323	495,893	1,543,154
1922	117,944	453,962	559,284	664,251	547,668	1,665,881
1923	105,111	405,245	476,823	525,270	601,912	1,532,427

* From 1900 the production of stone quarries is included in the value of mineral production ; before 1894 it was included in the output of manufacturing industries.

AGRICULTURE.

Year.	Total Area Cultivated.	Area under each Description of Tillage.					
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	52,340½	28,510½	5,007¾	2,101¾	24½	..	..
1860-61	407,740¼	161,251¾	86,337¼	4,123¼	1,650	111¾	662
1870-71	762,031	284,167	149,309	19,646	1,014	1,168	4,366
1880-81	1,742,949	977,285	134,089	68,630	1,769	1,569	23,378
1890-91	2,417,527	1,145,163	221,048	87,751	10,357	948	25,992
1900-01	3,717,002	2,017,321	362,689	58,853	9,389	823	7,812
1910-11	5,386,247	2,398,089	392,681	52,687	20,151	2,640	11,068
1911-12	5,109,849	2,164,066	302,238	53,541	18,223	1,098	11,535
1912-13	5,706,579	2,085,216	439,242	71,631	19,986	1,428	11,875
1913-14	6,129,893	2,565,861	442,060	83,351	17,962	1,779	12,630
1914-15	5,969,304	2,863,535	434,815	62,492	19,433	1,955	12,944
1915-16	7,069,608	3,679,971	353,932	61,400	22,258	3,137	8,563
1916-17	6,750,894	3,125,692	441,598	93,015	23,076	3,481	9,956
1917-18	5,782,954	2,690,216	293,214	84,931	20,987	1,597	11,899
1918-19	5,491,020	2,214,490	342,867	100,198	22,559	982	12,398
1919-20	5,358,351	1,918,269	559,547	85,323	23,474	784	9,655
1920-21	6,425,250	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	24,149	1,717	7,655
1921-22	6,583,276	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	23,227	1,320	9,423
1922-23	7,049,429	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	25,846	1,291	12,287
1923-24	6,976,441	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	29,104	899	12,195

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Potatoes.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.
1850-51	556,167	99,535	40,144	4	..	..	5,613
1860-61	3,459,914	2,633,693	83,854	25,045	1,720	11,973	77,258
1870-71	2,870,409	2,237,010	240,825	20,028	14,856	73,449	127,579
1880-81	9,727,369	2,362,425	1,068,830	49,299	13,978	403,321	129,262
1890-91	12,751,295	4,919,325	1,571,599	574,083	17,583	739,310	204,155
1900-01	17,847,321	9,582,332	1,215,478	604,180	11,989	146,357	123,126
1910-11	34,813,019	9,699,127	1,340,387	982,103	32,647	223,284	163,312
1911-12	20,891,877	4,585,326	1,024,584	792,660	9,981	181,113	119,092
1912-13	26,223,104	8,323,639	1,744,527	715,299	17,141	232,856	191,112
1913-14	32,936,245	8,890,321	1,812,890	800,529	19,029	226,564	176,602
1914-15	3,940,947*	1,608,419	600,599	1,018,419	13,415	124,612	189,225
1915-16	58,521,706	9,328,894	1,734,511	999,886	42,857	151,508	173,821
1916-17	51,162,438	8,289,289	1,799,784	1,172,330	42,953	162,951	187,992
1917-18	37,737,552	6,141,287	1,970,650	1,152,787	17,021	213,840	182,195
1918-19	25,239,871	5,274,984	2,028,635	711,679	7,428	160,419	137,533
1919-20	14,858,380	6,603,067	1,528,654	878,922	8,547	128,639	145,888
1920-21	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	1,065,880	21,359	146,150	171,628
1921-22	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,248	951,960	14,442	182,579	173,660
1922-23	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	879,915	15,718	238,552	148,354
1923-24	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	1,464,731	11,151	253,908	238,520

* In 1914-15 the almost total failure was due to drought.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.						
	Potatoes.	Mangel- wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Green Forage.	Chicory.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	2,837 $\frac{3}{4}$	..	..	..	13,567	130	..
1860-61	24,841 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,029	1,228 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	90,920 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,020 $\frac{3}{4}$	..
1870-71	39,026	957	1,886	287	163,181	6,868	220
1880-81	45,951	1,284	808	1,056	249,656	9,617	230
1890-91	53,818	892	708	2,238	413,052	10,091	258
1900-01	38,477	636	507	2,815	502,105	18,975	184
1910-11	62,904	1,254	872	6,161	832,669	71,826	467
1911-12	47,692	797	658	3,652	860,205	75,177	399
1912-13	47,575	1,121	627	4,977	1,203,728	84,460	506
1913-14	74,574	952	470	6,121	977,684	98,963	531
1914-15	65,495	893	563	8,937	895,755	139,654	595
1915-16	56,910	1,091	758	9,294	1,330,455	60,426	805
1916-17	73,618	860	524	6,324	897,186	49,667	658
1917-18	66,966	690	500	5,134	748,808	55,903	664
1918-19	51,620	581	407	5,512	984,479	73,641	536
1919-20	53,918	547	460	6,863	1,116,998	89,802	295
1920-21	62,687	524	410	8,000	1,333,397	79,524	392
1921-22	63,895	560	401	6,158	1,159,135	89,410	615
1922-23	61,741	684	433	6,954	1,261,408	102,451	739
1923-24	59,306	854	538	4,714	1,277,603	107,371	608

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.							Artificial Grass.*
	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.	To-bacco.	Vines.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	Land in Fallow.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	..	..	..	161½	..	..	..	..
1860-61	..	..	91	1,138	579½	7,298½	20,457½	11,640
1870-71	242	64	93	5,466	24	14,856	69,191	146,984
1880-81	2,817	428	1,990	4,980	984	22,288	194,140	254,994
1890-91	2,587	789	618	20,686	1,095	33,864	385,572	235,241
1900-01	2,235	401	109	30,634	2,671	57,496	602,870	207,896
1910-11	1,295	121	329	23,412	5,291	68,153	1,434,177	991,195
1911-12	1,188	122	356	24,193	4,785	70,316	1,469,608	1,041,772
1912-13	2,429	131	138	24,579	6,084	73,623	1,627,223	1,085,346
1913-14	1,452	117	284	22,435	6,135	77,960	1,738,572	1,094,566
1914-15	149	115	196	21,801	6,195	87,237	1,346,545	1,202,130
1915-16	2,435	107	160	22,353	5,711	91,499	1,358,343	1,182,995
1916-17	1,769	87	73	23,264	6,654	93,833	1,899,559	1,292,817
1917-18	2,312	64	82	25,236	5,842	95,180	1,672,729	1,268,310
1918-19	2,152	71	167	26,072	7,443	96,724	1,548,121	1,269,493
1919-20	1,235	72	406	27,441	6,757	98,969	1,357,536	1,062,244
1920-21	1,872	93	95	29,255	6,309	99,969	1,935,747	1,051,290
1921-22	1,800	104	604	33,175	6,684	103,795	2,052,964	1,032,104
1922-23	1,468	194	890	38,892	7,705	100,122	2,186,881	957,454
1923-24	1,306	224	1,047	42,599	11,732	100,706	2,294,297	1,024,591

* Not included in land under cultivation.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Mangel- wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Chicory.	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.
	tons.	tons.	cwt.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	cwt.
1850-51	..	..	..	20,971	..	..	..
1860-61	13,446	6,405	26,189	144,211	..	..	..
1870-71	10,521	10,363	32,900	183,708	1,349	2,652	318
1880-81	12,640	4,335	99,580	300,581	960	26,320	2,744
1890-91	14,676	8,556	279,220	567,779	1,859	36,415	7,931
1900-01	7,670	4,514	255,320	677,757	233	35,084	2,741
1910-11	17,654	7,481	749,680	1,292,410	432	16,262	737
1911-12	9,568	4,953	418,220	1,032,288	333	9,503	777
1912-13	14,615	5,628	572,820	1,572,933	500	23,206	1,387
1913-14	15,642	3,166	495,100	1,350,374	360	16,349	961
1914-15	9,921	2,249	630,560	568,956	380	1,100	903
1915-16	13,067	4,938	751,740	2,341,094	595	24,087	855
1916-17	10,307	2,025	563,260	1,232,721	515	13,174	975
1917-18	7,826	2,809	434,900	949,545	518	22,059	838
1918-19	9,818	2,412	484,220	1,113,861	485	15,443	522
1919-20	6,388	2,121	540,640	1,242,489	148	8,625	691
1920-21	6,742	2,289	859,700	1,984,854	310	11,555	1,199
1921-22	7,768	2,134	631,720	1,548,453	468	12,226	1,812
1922-23	8,120	1,878	888,180	1,665,089	640	7,859	2,071
1923-24	13,569	4,222	633,660	1,541,287	690	6,466	2,481

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.			
	Tobacco.	Grapes not made into Wine.	Grapes made into Wine.	Wine made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	gallons.
1850-51 .. ..	..	..	..	4,621
1860-61	1,257	7,979	..	12,129
1870-71	467	26,296	98,642	629,219
1880-81	17,333	24,817	79,045	484,028
1890-91	326*	63,535	293,775	2,008,493
1900-01	311*	235,268	396,644	2,578,187
1910-11	1,090	397,808	194,630	1,362,420
1911-12	3,686	542,761	140,489	983,423
1912-13	661	564,991	168,588	1,206,111
1913-14	2,037	675,388	161,105	1,131,491
1914-15	1,192	528,468	92,408	605,636
1915-16	596	898,991	185,775	1,380,367
1916-17	410	827,967	185,230	1,302,660
1917-18	526	623,935	135,635	800,068
1918-19	1,825	804,124	215,255	1,349,309
1919-20	2,669	1,071,319	253,118	1,634,680
1920-21	908	717,069	355,698	2,222,305
1921-22	3,735	1,101,880	212,959	1,335,066
1922-23	4,151	1,607,502	272,462	1,717,490
1923-24	†	2,320,800	386,929	2,177,127

* The tobacco crops of 1890-91 and 1900-1 failed in most parts of the State.

† Not available.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Year.		Bacon and Hams Cured.	Cheese made.	Butter made.
		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1891	.. ..	*	3,311,012	16,703,786
1900	.. ..	13,204,547	4,284,170	55,604,118
1910	.. ..	16,581,361	4,530,893	70,603,787
1911	.. ..	19,617,212	4,549,843	86,500,474
1912	.. ..	20,094,206	4,176,778	67,655,834
1913	.. ..	19,340,878	4,856,321	73,381,567
1914	.. ..	18,861,755	4,395,502	62,421,288
1915	.. ..	13,705,004	3,497,278	42,345,113
1916-17	.. ..	18,146,328	5,869,562	59,568,771
1917-18	.. ..	21,324,846	5,285,003	64,405,711
1918-19	.. ..	22,212,395	6,055,964	66,240,403
1919-20	.. ..	19,385,509	7,735,023	60,218,945
1920-21	.. ..	15,139,100	3,636,571	64,938,458
1921-22	.. ..	17,396,798	5,675,909	82,981,570
1922-23	.. ..	19,269,124	3,754,958	84,355,939
1923-24	.. ..	22,540,974	7,216,938	86,888,723

* Not available.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Hay.	Potatoes.	Onions.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,119,878	465,257	123,423	79,967	861,479	417,150	116,721
1905	3,366,290	678,040	182,828	88,167	1,641,936	597,426	133,638
1906	3,109,980	810,851	205,832	70,496	1,681,768	333,678	79,800
1907	2,443,906	791,162	241,507	87,973	3,023,128	383,145	108,155
1908	4,405,303	989,844	253,309	116,402	3,256,308	411,840	138,408
1909	5,501,605	777,547	165,181	119,725	2,432,840	517,775	98,325
1910	5,512,060	909,295	227,382	96,166	2,455,560	534,515	63,723
1911	3,547,266	663,916	261,443	147,357	3,200,109	614,540	177,744
1912	4,343,202	953,750	332,430	119,305	4,010,979	678,448	176,142
1913	5,352,141	777,903	236,804	121,234	2,565,740	573,227	138,257
1914	1,391,647	397,078	161,899	234,597	4,181,827	800,269	167,098
1915	10,972,820	942,607	294,597	191,645	4,098,664	1,017,563	105,244
1916	10,232,488	828,929	299,481	163,638	2,033,990	550,086	118,423
1917	7,547,510	965,973	373,379	243,766	2,801,158	519,605	141,343
1918	5,994,469	1,175,882	461,056	190,522	4,622,523	1,079,496	236,451
1919	5,726,667	1,848,903	477,573	336,920	8,304,475	1,328,640	274,375
1920	14,307,377	1,295,229	447,352	186,529	5,259,863	586,458	131,104
1921	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	194,358	4,413,091	555,111	157,930
1922	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,237	205,314	6,327,338	1,040,662	139,888
1923	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	253,276	5,229,162	701,229	215,444

Value of Agricultural Production—continued.

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production—continued.						
	Green Forage.	Raisins.	Currants.	Fruit (including Grapes not made into Wine).	Market Gardens.	All Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	74,755	49,526	9,757	405,263	197,600	295,437	6,216,213
1905	85,103	89,346	11,952	406,495	183,325	263,875	7,728,421
1906	91,255	180,473	21,994	524,962	197,650	267,808	7,576,547
1907	149,742	110,248	19,296	458,453	225,550	333,189	8,375,454
1908	157,665	102,483	21,472	441,700	231,975	478,577	11,005,286
1909	141,465	130,558	49,334	489,738	255,350	417,890	11,097,333
1910	179,565	132,262	48,829	586,084	269,450	397,695	11,412,586
1911	187,943	195,560	88,899	639,104	258,275	311,535	10,293,691
1912	211,150	213,818	60,421	696,029	260,350	373,633	12,429,657
1913	247,408	176,026	71,413	803,536	269,425	368,623	11,701,737
1914	418,962	181,177	37,085	536,797	323,375	352,819	9,184,630
1915	181,278	361,879	123,473	808,802	284,475	382,081	19,765,128
1916	149,001	227,448	91,355	633,718	268,650	359,317	15,956,524
1917	167,709	191,523	92,803	783,293	284,050	289,061	14,401,173
1918	368,205	317,668	139,880	934,677	405,790	435,485	16,362,104
1919	449,010	632,936	139,153	1,330,550	442,155	592,688	21,884,045
1920	397,620	348,305	157,298	1,090,751	427,035	555,429	25,190,350
1921	447,050	570,473	187,605	1,236,707	500,640	432,302	20,538,158
1922	512,255	687,367	171,642	1,254,788	493,780	479,525	21,197,026
1923	536,855	150,195	57,027	1,249,783	810,600	550,193	19,660,374

PASTORAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

Value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.									
Year.	Wool Produced.	Horses Produced.	Cattle Produced.	Sheep Produced.	Pigs Produced.	Milk Consumed in Natural State.*	Butter made.	Cheese made.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,543,810	198,456	1,740,767	1,429,970	380,616	696,972	2,414,695	89,022	10,494,308
1905	3,313,550	176,267	2,064,000	1,599,800	331,140	753,510	2,496,580	102,563	10,837,410
1906	3,869,000	335,538	2,480,226	1,913,202	325,381	817,317	2,978,860	116,860	12,836,384
1907	3,878,431	273,700	2,056,198	1,716,908	424,660	850,126	2,855,905	109,948	12,165,276
1908	3,556,168	15,274	298,606	597,880	330,650	845,004	2,388,743	126,252	8,208,577
1909	4,044,755	261,268	1,602,838	1,317,320	470,081	891,755	2,493,990	130,670	11,212,697
1910	4,318,100	388,556	1,860,888	1,298,740	541,785	1,020,360	3,109,510	105,340	12,643,279
1911	4,142,747	520,580	2,344,680	1,558,170	454,815	1,317,484	3,860,100	106,160	14,304,736
1912	3,751,083	328,020	1,165,430	709,660	389,350	1,805,320	3,478,640	125,480	11,752,983
1913	4,032,954	454,820	2,277,170	1,572,420	678,355	1,694,826	3,341,920	126,670	14,179,135
1914	3,410,913	..	1,766,473	1,134,678	735,065	1,821,580	2,998,820	117,210	11,984,739
1915	4,066,003	..	226,480	784,575	472,050	2,295,376	2,528,360	129,110	10,501,954
1916	5,927,814	262,020	4,774,610	3,928,860	825,450	2,451,170	4,224,420	223,040	22,617,384
1917	6,410,077	70,880	5,270,940	3,641,630	1,002,250	2,786,890	4,229,310	197,750	23,609,727
1918	7,621,410	97,640	5,383,660	3,288,330	884,280	3,393,040	4,868,670	257,880	25,796,910
1919	7,908,010	..	4,856,100	2,782,290	1,139,960	3,973,020	4,945,480	344,210	25,949,070
1920	4,729,400	..	5,269,650	1,750,220	1,250,680	4,583,650	7,043,950	189,070	24,816,620
1921	4,662,750	71,800	3,099,300	1,991,600	1,277,730	4,181,790	5,127,570	203,620	20,616,160
1922	6,380,600	..	3,384,270	3,752,260	1,280,040	3,557,530	6,660,600	163,180	25,178,480
1923	7,695,000	..	1,413,310	2,600,450	1,507,600	3,816,835	6,491,310	253,795	23,778,300

* Including cream not made into butter, and concentrated milk.

MANUFACTORIES (EXCLUSIVE OF QUARRIES).

Year.*	Number.	Number of Hands Employed.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land & Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1860 ..	566	5,467	..	..	..
1870 ..	1,579	17,630	..	..	..
1880 ..	2,468	38,178	..	7,465,328	13,370,836
1890 ..	3,104	56,369	..	16,773,448	22,390,251
1900 ..	3,097	64,207	..	11,894,949	19,478,780
1910 ..	4,873	102,176	7,600,932	16,613,348	36,660,854
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921 ..	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927

* The figures for 1916 and subsequent years relate to the financial years ending on the 30th June following, i.e., 1916-17, 1917-18, &c.

Statistical Summary.

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INSURANCE, ETC.

Year.	Life Assurance.			Insurance—other than Life.		Amount Received from the Commonwealth Government by the State of Victoria.*
	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.	Premiums.	Losses.	
1894 ..	131,210	£ 23,095,900	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..	£ ..
1900 ..	172,713	26,315,862	..	..	..	..
1910 ..	292,055	36,495,251	1,315,172	851,949	353,348	1,922,278
1911 ..	311,695	38,185,859	1,378,059	897,185	391,324	1,617,572
1912 ..	331,846	40,132,346	1,454,169	956,677	423,737	1,667,657
1913 ..	351,250	41,546,825	1,519,427	1,048,271	414,541	1,691,833
1914 ..	368,481	43,305,375	1,593,707	1,336,103	663,504	1,733,280
1915 ..	381,106	44,402,089	1,650,909	1,426,456	569,695	1,757,894
1916 ..	401,591	46,145,573	1,758,827	1,561,437	679,312	1,743,467
1917 ..	425,481	48,389,346	1,870,513	1,645,632	458,367	1,722,409
1918 ..	453,724	51,563,634	1,984,909	1,768,511	477,949	1,739,481
1919 ..	484,965	55,656,616	2,150,203	1,940,085	794,499	1,764,239
1920 ..	524,520	61,405,905	2,388,209	2,324,700	676,486	1,847,085
1921 ..	562,332	66,102,630	2,574,329	2,501,200	891,573	1,878,449
1922 ..	607,840	72,347,222	2,828,556	2,512,430	833,576	1,918,967
1923 ..	650,432	78,690,619	3,084,990	2,702,081	1,107,396	1,969,772
1924 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,014,746

* Year ended 30th June.

APPENDIX.

Information received since the parts of the book which deal with the subjects mentioned were sent to press is given below:—

PART I.—CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE MINISTRY, MARCH, 1925.

Office.	Name.								
Premier and Minister of Water Supply	Hon. John Allan, M.L.A.								
Treasurer, Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Labour	Hon. Sir Alexander J. Peacock, K.C.M.G., M.L.A.								
Chief Secretary and Minister of Public Health	Hon. S. S. Argyle, M.R.C.S., M.L.A.								
Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, and Minister of Railways	Hon. F. W. Eggleston, M.L.A.								
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and Minister of Immigration	Hon. A. Downward, M.L.A.								
Minister of Forests	Hon. H. F. Richardson, M.L.C.								
Commissioner of Public Works and Minister of Mines	Hon. G. L. Goudie, M.L.C.								
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Markets	Hon. M. W. J. Bourchier, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., M.L.A.								
Ministers without portfolio	<table border="0" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">{</td> <td>Hon. W. P. Crockett, M.L.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Hon. M. McGregor, M.L.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Hon. J. McDonald, M.L.A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Hon. E. J. Mackrell, M.L.A.</td> </tr> </table>	{	Hon. W. P. Crockett, M.L.C.		Hon. M. McGregor, M.L.C.		Hon. J. McDonald, M.L.A.		Hon. E. J. Mackrell, M.L.A.
{	Hon. W. P. Crockett, M.L.C.								
	Hon. M. McGregor, M.L.C.								
	Hon. J. McDonald, M.L.A.								
	Hon. E. J. Mackrell, M.L.A.								

PART II.—FINANCE.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1923-24.

	£
Public Revenue	23,075,968
Public Expenditure	23,050,968
Expenditure from Loan Funds	8,407,526
Public Debt, at 30th June, 1924—	£
Payable in London	48,551,314
Payable in Australia	75,557,012
Total	124,108,326

The interest on the public debt at 30th June, 1924, was £5,898,632, of which £2,158,199 was payable in London and £3,740,433 in Australia.

The amount collected by the State through Taxation in 1923-24 was £4,476,158, or £2 15s. 1d. per head of population.

PART III.—POPULATION.

Estimated population of the State of Victoria, 31st December, 1924 :—

Males	..	..	..	..	..	824,182
Females	..	..	..	..	..	832,913
Total	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1,657,095</u>

Estimated population of Melbourne and suburbs, 31st December, 1924, 885,700.

PART VI.—ACCUMULATION.

Bank Deposits in Victoria, 30th September, 1924 :—

					£
Ordinary Banks	..	..	..	..	79,469,252
Commonwealth Bank	..	..	..	..	5,461,530
Commonwealth Savings Bank..	..	..	..	..	5,507,566
State Savings Bank	51,818,739
State Penny Bank Department	70,837
Total	<u>142,327,924</u>

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" quantity made	497
Wire netting advances	452, 520
Women voters	13, 14
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Wonthaggi population	108
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Wool, home consumption and exportable balance	516
" liens registered	275
" prices of	517
" production	6, 515
" used in manufactories	516
" value of production	516
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" weight of a fleece	516
Woollen mills, output, &c.	556
Workers' Compensation Acts	361
" " arbitration cases	279
" dwellings	205
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