

## 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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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 universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

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

**Cities, towns,  
boroughs, and  
shires.**

Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 56 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 140 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.

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.

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

Rateable  
property.

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—  
general,  
separate, &c.** 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.

A comparatively small number of 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 28th November, 1922.

**Recovery of rates.** 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.

**Building Permits issued.** According to building permits issued by the cities in the metropolitan area during 1928, Camberwell occupied first place as regards the number and value of private dwellings erected in the year. Coburg, Caulfield, and Preston were ahead of other municipalities in the same period. The value of shops and factories, &c., erected was greater in Melbourne City than in any other municipality, followed by Collingwood, Camberwell and South Melbourne. The following statement shows the particulars for metropolitan municipalities :—

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FOR NEW BUILDINGS IN  
GREATER MELBOURNE DURING THE YEAR 1928.

| Name of City.           | Dwellings. |           | Other Buildings. |           |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|                         | Number.    | Value.    | Number.          | Value.    |
|                         |            | £         |                  | £         |
| Box Hill .. .. .        | 189        | 153,936   | 68               | 6,244     |
| Brighton .. .. .        | 239        | 244,169   | 156              | 17,469    |
| Brunswick .. .. .       | 206        | 166,260   | 305              | 63,940    |
| Camberwell .. .. .      | 690        | 727,145   | 502              | 73,391    |
| Caulfield .. .. .       | 431        | 405,766   | 38               | 48,859    |
| Coburg .. .. .          | 483        | 407,190   | 288              | 32,420    |
| Collingwood .. .. .     | 13         | 16,921    | 65               | 73,625    |
| Essendon .. .. .        | 256        | 204,610   | 236              | 7,880     |
| Fitzroy .. .. .         | 8          | 8,005     | 19               | 53,046    |
| Footscray .. .. .       | 279        | 166,014   | 38               | 54,005    |
| Hawthorn .. .. .        | 121        | 148,680   | 183              | 54,090    |
| Kew .. .. .             | 200        | 228,408   | 104              | 39,654    |
| Malvern .. .. .         | 215        | 268,311   | 158              | 9,210     |
| Melbourne .. .. .       | 47         | 53,567    | 98               | 807,999   |
| Northcote .. .. .       | 117        | 74,393    | 30               | 55,232    |
| Oakleigh .. .. .        | 144        | 109,381   | 46               | 33,301    |
| Port Melbourne .. .. .  | 70         | 51,300    | 37               | 1,830     |
| Prahran .. .. .         | 99         | 206,580   | 107              | 28,993    |
| Preston .. .. .         | 470        | 333,406   | 279              | 9,159     |
| Richmond .. .. .        | 39         | 24,825    | 22               | 30,270    |
| Sandringham .. .. .     | 149        | 141,083   | 127              | 20,113    |
| South Melbourne .. .. . | 13         | 24,895    | 87               | 72,565    |
| St. Kilda .. .. .       | 161        | 172,960   | 149              | 10,393    |
| Williamstown .. .. .    | 157        | 134,380   | 19               | 25,230    |
| Total .. .. .           | 4,796      | 4,472,185 | 3,161            | 1,628,918 |

**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.

**New Municipalities.** The Phillip Island Riding of the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai was excised on the 18th September, 1928, and proclaimed a separate shire entitled Shire of Phillip Island, and the name of the original shire was altered to Woolamai on the same date. On the 16th January, 1929, the name of this shire was again altered from Woolamai to Bass.

**Bridges in Municipalities.** The particulars of the number of bridges in the State in the year 1928 are shown below :—

**NUMBER OF BRIDGES (NOT LESS THAN 30 FEET IN LENGTH EXCLUSIVE OF APPROACHES), 1928.**

| Bridges.                   | Cities, Towns and Boroughs— |                            | Shires. | Total.  |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
|                            | In Greater Melbourne.       | Outside Greater Melbourne. |         |         |
|                            | Number.                     | Number.                    | Number. | Number. |
| Wood .. .. .               | 22                          | 78                         | 2,431   | 2,531   |
| Brick .. .. .              | 14                          | 5                          | 4       | 23      |
| Stone and Concrete .. .. . | 41                          | 32                         | 299     | 372     |
| Iron and Steel .. .. .     | 42                          | 24                         | 41      | 107     |
| Total .. .. .              | 119                         | 139                        | 2,775   | 3,033   |

**Length of Roads and Streets.**

The following table shows the length of all roads and streets in the State in the year 1928 :—

## LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS, 1928.

| Roads and Streets.   | Cities, Towns and Boroughs— |                            | Shires.       | Total.         |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|  | In Greater Melbourne.       | Outside Greater Melbourne. |               |                |
|  | Miles.                      | Miles.                     | Miles.        | Miles.         |
| Wood or Stone Paving ..  | 80                          | 19                         | 45            | 144            |
| Bitumen or Concrete ..   | 164                         | 155                        | 493           | 812            |
| Tar paving, Metal or Gravel ..                                     | 1,518                       | 792                        | 19,270        | 21,580         |
| Formed but not metalled or otherwise prepared ..                   | 98                          | 180                        | 22,837        | 23,115         |
| <b>Total</b> .. ..   | <b>1,860</b>                | <b>1,146</b>               | <b>42,645</b> | <b>45,651</b>  |
| Surveyed Roads not formed which are used for general traffic .. .. | 506                         | 385                        | 55,564        | 56,455         |
| <b>Total all Roads and Streets</b>                                 | <b>2,366</b>                | <b>1,531</b>               | <b>98,209</b> | <b>102,106</b> |

**Municipalities:** The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1928 was 196. Of these, 30 ranked as cities, 4 as towns, 22 as boroughs, and the remainder (140) 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 1928-29:—

## MUNICIPALITIES: 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

| Year.                               | Popula-<br>tion. | Number<br>of<br>Rate-<br>payers. | Estimated Number<br>of<br>Dwellings. |                   | Estimated Value<br>of<br>Rateable Property. |              | Total<br>Revenue. |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
|                                     |                  |                                  | In-<br>habited.                      | Unin-<br>habited. | Total.                                      | Annual.      |                   |
| <b>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—</b> |                  |                                  |                                      |                   |   |              |                   |
| 1924-25 ..                          | 1,031,670        | 291,910                          | 233,660                              | 1,689             | £ 288,230,793                               | £ 16,388,842 | £ 3,763,373       |
| 1925-26 ..                          | 1,072,510        | 314,386                          | 244,164                              | 2,061             | 314,333,446                                 | 17,778,661   | 4,191,063         |
| 1926-27 ..                          | 1,106,010        | 319,568                          | 252,611                              | 1,917             | 339,221,826                                 | 19,020,312   | 4,435,764         |
| 1927-28 ..                          | 1,144,380        | 316,412                          | 260,648                              | 2,460             | 362,432,238                                 | 20,220,172   | 4,689,716         |
| 1928-29 ..                          | 1,170,390        | 333,364                          | 265,376                              | 3,580             | 373,880,729                                 | 20,984,591   | ..                |
| <b>Shires—</b>                      |                  |                                  |                                      |                   |   |              |                   |
| 1924-25 ..                          | 635,340          | 221,345                          | 148,717                              | 1,887             | 250,480,405                                 | 12,588,177   | 1,815,707         |
| 1925-26 ..                          | 632,550          | 246,161                          | 148,546                              | 1,703             | 257,350,043                                 | 12,933,459   | 1,921,483         |
| 1926-27 ..                          | 643,950          | 234,403                          | 151,568                              | 1,730             | 267,100,576                                 | 13,426,424   | 2,086,507         |
| 1927-28 ..                          | 647,860          | 265,265                          | 153,537                              | 1,852             | 274,314,322                                 | 13,780,690   | 2,155,651         |
| 1928-29 ..                          | 656,600          | 270,176                          | 156,681                              | 1,777             | 288,008,585                                 | 14,447,193   | ..                |
| <b>Total—</b>                       |                  |                                  |                                      |                   |   |              |                   |
| 1924-25 ..                          | 1,667,010        | 513,255                          | 382,377                              | 3,576             | 538,711,198                                 | 28,977,019   | 5,579,080         |
| 1925-26 ..                          | 1,705,060        | 560,547                          | 392,710                              | 3,764             | 571,683,489                                 | 30,712,120   | 6,112,546         |
| 1926-27 ..                          | 1,749,960        | 573,971                          | 404,179                              | 3,647             | 606,322,402                                 | 32,446,736   | 6,582,271         |
| 1927-28 ..                          | 1,792,240        | 591,677                          | 414,185                              | 4,312             | 636,746,500                                 | 34,000,362   | 6,845,367         |
| 1928-29 ..                          | 1,826,990        | 603,540                          | 422,057                              | 5,357             | 661,889,314                                 | 35,431,784   | ..                |

**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.                             |           |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
|                                    | 1928-29 over 1924-25.                 |           | 1927-28 over 1924-25.     |
|                                    | Estimated Value of Rateable Property. |           | Revenue from all sources. |
|                                    | Total.                                | Annual    |                           |
|                                    | £                                     | £         | £                         |
| Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ... .. | 85,649,936                            | 4,595,749 | 926,343                   |
| Shires ... ..                      | 37,528,180                            | 1,859,016 | 339,944                   |
| Total Increase ... ..              | 123,178,116                           | 6,454,765 | 1,266,287                 |

The number of ratepayers returned for 1928-29 was 603,540, and the total capital value of rateable property £661,889,314, which is equivalent to about 18·7 years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £35,431,784.

**Unimproved Value of Rateable Property.**

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1928-29 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £186,940,364, and in shires £192,005,724. 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.

**Properties rated in municipalities.**

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,  
1924-25 TO 1928-29.

| Year.   | Properties Rated.                     |            |         |
|---------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|
|         | In Cities,<br>Towns, and<br>Boroughs. | In Shires. | Total.  |
| 1924-25 | 343,462                               | 310,250    | 653,712 |
| 1925-26 | 366,494                               | 339,421    | 705,915 |
| 1926-27 | 374,095                               | 353,632    | 727,727 |
| 1927-28 | 384,298                               | 379,812    | 764,110 |
| 1928-29 | 389,122                               | 388,740    | 777,862 |

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, 1928-29, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1927-28 :-

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1928-29.

| Name.                         | Esti-<br>mated<br>Popula-<br>tion. | Number<br>of<br>Rate-<br>payers. | Amount<br>of<br>General<br>Rate<br>levied<br>in the<br>£. | Estimated Value of<br>Rateable Property. |            | Total<br>Revenue,<br>1927-28. | Annual<br>Endow-<br>ment pay-<br>able by the<br>Govern-<br>ment. |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                               |                                    |                                  |   | Total.                                   | Annual.    |                               |  |
| <b>GREATER<br/>MELBOURNE.</b> |                                    |                                  | <i>s. d.</i>  | £  | £          | £                             | £  |
| Box Hill ..                   | 12,970                             | 7,738                            | 2 8   | 4,901,580                                | 245,079    | 74,743                        | ..   |
| Brighton ..                   | 28,650                             | 7,696                            | 2 6   | 10,374,760                               | 518,738    | 80,834                        | ..   |
| Brunswick ..                  | 56,500                             | 11,543                           | 0 7*  | 10,017,362                               | 657,334    | 198,016                       | ..   |
| Camberwell ..                 | 45,340                             | 18,500                           | 0 4½*   | 15,633,978                               | 863,492    | 186,461                       | ..   |
| Caulfield ..                  | 70,700                             | 19,100                           | 0 4½*   | 18,895,817                               | 1,050,776  | 165,853                       | ..   |
| Coburg ..                     | 38,570                             | 11,363                           | 0 5*  | 8,479,500                                | 423,975    | 138,202                       | ..   |
| Collingwood ..                | 33,100                             | 7,630                            | 2 3   | 10,339,720                               | 516,986    | 72,011                        | ..   |
| Essendon ..                   | 42,990                             | 12,350                           | 0 5½*   | 10,727,005                               | 659,526    | 119,757                       | ..   |
| Fitzroy ..                    | 33,300                             | 7,555                            | 2 0   | 7,976,520                                | 531,768    | 64,476                        | ..   |
| Footscray ..                  | 50,000                             | 13,275                           | 2 6   | 12,228,740                               | 611,437    | 200,014                       | ..   |
| Hawthorn ..                   | 33,240                             | 8,607                            | 2 7   | 11,816,080                               | 590,804    | 91,513                        | ..   |
| Kew ..                        | 25,700                             | 6,520                            | 2 6   | 6,532,920                                | 435,528    | 80,661                        | ..   |
| Malvern ..                    | 45,650                             | 12,750                           | 2 8   | 17,470,060                               | 873,503    | 146,835                       | ..   |
| Melbourne ..                  | 104,000                            | 32,199                           | 2 0   | 98,838,360                               | 4,941,918  | 1,388,474                     | ..   |
| Northcote ..                  | 41,800                             | 10,845                           | 2 6   | 9,688,580                                | 484,429    | 142,072                       | ..   |
| Oakleigh ..                   | 11,000                             | 4,064                            | 0 5*  | 2,858,707                                | 193,055    | 30,124                        | ..   |
| Port Melbourne ..             | 13,400                             | 2,941                            | 2 6   | 2,268,625                                | 181,490    | 49,645                        | ..   |
| Prahran ..                    | 52,600                             | 13,448                           | 1 11  | 15,022,644                               | 1,251,887  | 131,605                       | ..   |
| Preston ..                    | 28,000                             | 17,000                           | 2 6   | 7,210,140                                | 360,507    | 95,483                        | ..   |
| Richmond ..                   | 43,000                             | 9,033                            | 2 5   | 8,974,110                                | 598,274    | 88,574                        | ..   |
| Sandringham ..                | 23,500                             | 9,370                            | 0 4*  | 5,262,277                                | 334,983    | 72,109                        | ..   |
| South Melbourne ..            | 47,700                             | 10,600                           | 2 6   | 17,889,340                               | 894,467    | 145,448                       | ..   |
| St. Kilda ..                  | 43,000                             | 10,652                           | 2 0   | 12,833,664                               | 1,069,472  | 119,669                       | ..   |
| Williamstown ..               | 24,810                             | 5,247                            | 2 6   | 4,771,820                                | 238,591    | 130,990                       | ..   |
| Total ..                      | 949,520                            | 270,026                          | ..  | 331,012,109                              | 18,528,019 | 4,013,569                     | ..   |

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

## CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1928-29—continued.

| Name.                             | Estimated Population. | Number of Rate-payers. | Amount of General Rate levied in the £. | Estimated Value of Rateable Property. |            | Total Revenue 1927-28. | Annual Endowment payable by the Government. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|---|
|                                   |                       |                        |   | Total.                                | Annual.    |                        |   |
| <b>OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE.</b> |                       |                        |   |                                       |            |                        |   |
| <b>CITIES.</b>                    |                       |                        |   |                                       |            |                        |   |
|                                   |                       |                        | <i>s. d.</i>                            | £                                     | £          | £                      | £   |
| Ballarat ..                       | 37,970                | 9,065                  | 2 9                                     | 5,724,210                             | 381,614    | 87,083                 | ..  |
| Bendigo ..                        | 26,350                | 6,605                  | 2 6                                     | 4,215,840                             | 281,056    | 65,378                 | ..  |
| Geelong ..                        | 16,750                | 4,965                  | 2 9                                     | 6,156,460                             | 307,823    | 58,619                 | ..  |
| Geelong West ..                   | 13,470                | 3,720                  | 2 9                                     | 2,652,300                             | 132,615    | 29,977                 | ..  |
| Mordialoc ..                      | 10,060                | 4,479                  | 0 3½*                                   | 2,724,411                             | 143,399    | 47,377                 | ..  |
| Warrnambool ..                    | 8,100                 | 1,741                  | 2 10                                    | 1,710,132                             | 100,596    | 49,149                 | ..  |
| <b>TOWNS.</b>                     |                       |                        |   |                                       |            |                        |   |
| Hamilton ..                       | 5,300                 | 1,376                  | 2 6                                     | 1,320,000                             | 66,000     | 12,919                 | 25  |
| Mildura ..                        | 6,050                 | 1,289                  | 3 0                                     | 1,381,820                             | 69,091     | 34,787                 | ..  |
| Newtown and Chilwell ..           | 9,100                 | 2,420                  | 0 5½*                                   | 2,357,887                             | 119,775    | 18,600                 | ..  |
| Sale ..                           | 4,020                 | 1,063                  | 2 3                                     | 1,041,160                             | 52,058     | 12,530                 | ..  |
| <b>BOROUGHES.</b>                 |                       |                        |   |                                       |            |                        |   |
| Ararat ..                         | 5,120                 | 1,026                  | 2 9                                     | 760,000                               | 38,000     | 22,775                 | 25  |
| Carrum ..                         | 7,150                 | 5,698                  | 0 3¼*                                   | 2,067,531                             | 102,788    | 37,239                 | 50  |
| Castlemaine ..                    | 5,500                 | 1,700                  | 3 0                                     | 591,450                               | 47,316     | 12,270                 | 25  |
| Clunes ..                         | 1,220                 | 470                    | 1 9                                     | 76,671                                | 10,953     | 3,441                  | 38  |
| Creswick ..                       | 1,760                 | 543                    | 1 9                                     | 78,670                                | 7,867      | 2,541                  | 37  |
| Daylesford ..                     | 3,380                 | 820                    | 3 0                                     | 547,540                               | 27,377     | 5,372                  | 25  |
| Eaglehawk ..                      | 4,720                 | 1,364                  | 2 6                                     | 328,830                               | 21,922     | 9,252                  | 25  |
| Echuca ..                         | 4,100                 | 969                    | 3 0                                     | 895,720                               | 44,786     | 12,677                 | 25  |
| Horsham ..                        | 4,700                 | 1,500                  | 2 9                                     | 1,051,815                             | 70,121     | 19,878                 | 50  |
| Inglewood ..                      | 1,100                 | 290                    | 2 0                                     | 87,720                                | 7,310      | 4,128                  | 25  |
| Koroit ..                         | 1,860                 | 410                    | 2 6                                     | 452,300                               | 22,615     | 6,297                  | 25  |
| Maryborough ..                    | 4,950                 | 1,252                  | 3 0                                     | 410,450                               | 41,045     | 18,954                 | 25  |
| Port Fairy ..                     | 2,070                 | 510                    | 2 8                                     | 454,700                               | 22,735     | 7,694                  | 25  |
| Portland ..                       | 2,750                 | 1,140                  | 0 4¼*                                   | 599,103                               | 31,709     | 9,542                  | 25  |
| Queenscliffe ..                   | 3,130                 | 722                    | 3 0                                     | 500,660                               | 25,033     | 5,471                  | 50  |
| Ringwood ..                       | 3,650                 | 2,070                  | 2 6                                     | 1,240,000                             | 62,000     | 15,291                 | 50  |
| Sebastopol ..                     | 1,930                 | 480                    | 2 9                                     | 197,860                               | 9,893      | 2,760                  | 40  |
| Shepparton ..                     | 5,500                 | 1,400                  | 3 0                                     | 1,289,380                             | 64,469     | 14,801                 | ..  |
| St. Arnaud ..                     | 3,400                 | 868                    | 3 0                                     | 301,000                               | 30,100     | 0,964                  | 25  |
| Stawell ..                        | 4,740                 | 1,027                  | 2 9                                     | 312,160                               | 31,216     | 19,959                 | 25  |
| Wangaratta ..                     | 4,020                 | 1,010                  | 3 0                                     | 853,400                               | 42,670     | 9,817                  | 25  |
| Wonthaggi ..                      | 6,950                 | 1,346                  | 3 0                                     | 487,440                               | 40,620     | 8,606                  | 46  |
| Total ..                          | 1,170,390             | 333,364                | ..                                      | 378,880,729                           | 20,984,591 | 4,689,716              | 711   |

\* 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, 1928-29.

| Name.                           | Estimated Population. | Number of Rate-payers. | Amount of General Rate levied in the £. | Estimated Value of Rateable Property. |         | Total Revenue 1927-28. | Annual Endowment payable by the Government. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---|
|                                 |                       |                        |   | Total.                                | Annual. |                        |   |
| Alberton ..                     | 5,750                 | 1,319                  | s. d.                                   | £                                     | £       | £                      | £   |
| Alexandra ..                    | 3,600                 | 870                    | 2 0                                     | 2,357,640                             | 117,882 | 16,936                 | 697   |
| Arapiles ..                     | 2,450                 | 670                    | 2 0                                     | 1,249,000                             | 62,450  | 10,618                 | 389   |
| Ararat ..                       | 6,080                 | 1,700                  | 1 6                                     | 4,341,680                             | 74,270  | 6,585                  | 153   |
| Avoca ..                        | 3,400                 | 1,241                  | 2 0                                     | 1,121,980                             | 56,099  | 23,712                 | 638   |
| Avon ..                         | 2,630                 | 812                    | 2 0                                     | 1,484,900                             | 74,245  | 6,717                  | 239   |
| Bacchus Marsh ..                | 3,440                 | 863                    | 1 9                                     | 1,455,000                             | 72,750  | 8,017                  | 301   |
| Bairnsdale ..                   | 8,200                 | 2,440                  | 2 0                                     | 2,980,140                             | 149,007 | 13,376                 | 704   |
| Ballan ..                       | 3,240                 | 1,230                  | 1 6                                     | 2,980,140                             | 149,007 | 16,899                 | 205   |
| Ballarat ..                     | 4,010                 | 1,196                  | 2 3                                     | 1,164,420                             | 58,221  | 7,428                  | 286   |
| Bannockburn ..                  | 2,700                 | 735                    | 2 0                                     | 1,309,040                             | 65,452  | 8,224                  | 296   |
| Barrabool ..                    | 1,980                 | 860                    | 2 0                                     | 1,060,080                             | 53,004  | 6,770                  | 203   |
| Bass ..                         | 4,700                 | 1,020                  | 2 0                                     | 1,210,780                             | 60,539  | 8,592                  | 228   |
| Beechworth ..                   | 4,560                 | 1,415                  | 3 0                                     | 1,387,320                             | 69,366  | 14,025                 | 545   |
| Belfast ..                      | 2,640                 | 682                    | 2 0                                     | 606,880                               | 32,930  | 14,320                 | 271   |
| Bellarine ..                    | 4,500                 | 2,035                  | 2 0                                     | 1,705,940                             | 85,297  | 10,121                 | 243   |
| Benalla ..                      | 8,230                 | 2,260                  | 1 9                                     | 1,390,000                             | 69,500  | 7,602                  | 240   |
| Berwick ..                      | 9,700                 | 3,675                  | 1 9                                     | 3,534,060                             | 176,703 | 36,565                 | 715   |
| Bet Bet ..                      | 3,570                 | 1,240                  | 2 0                                     | 3,101,000                             | 155,050 | 19,294                 | 495   |
| Birchip ..                      | 2,100                 | 588                    | 1 6                                     | 838,360                               | 41,918  | 5,450                  | 236   |
| Blackburn and<br>Mitham ..      | 6,500                 | 3,351                  | 1 6                                     | 1,313,160                             | 65,658  | 6,429                  | 199   |
| Borong ..                       | 5,250                 | 1,532                  | 3 0                                     | 2,078,220                             | 103,911 | 23,778                 | 329   |
| Braybrook ..                    | 7,300                 | 9,400                  | 1 6                                     | 3,798,660                             | 189,933 | 16,237                 | 492   |
| Bright ..                       | 4,180                 | 1,348                  | 2 0                                     | 3,587,000                             | 179,350 | 31,227                 | 129   |
| Broadford ..                    | 1,430                 | 473                    | 2 0                                     | 788,200                               | 39,410  | 7,002                  | 370   |
| Broadmeadows ..                 | 5,260                 | 15,127                 | 1 9                                     | 527,380                               | 26,369  | 4,142                  | 148   |
| Bulla ..                        | 2,680                 | 440                    | 2 0                                     | 2,549,020                             | 127,451 | 26,192                 | 251   |
| Buln Buln ..                    | 6,070                 | 1,600                  | 2 0                                     | 861,160                               | 43,058  | 4,955                  | 172   |
| Bungaree ..                     | 3,280                 | 976                    | 2 7                                     | 1,442,120                             | 73,106  | 13,083                 | 616   |
| Buninyong ..                    | 5,160                 | 1,633                  | 2 0                                     | 871,200                               | 43,560  | 5,823                  | 395   |
| Charlton ..                     | 2,750                 | 815                    | 2 0                                     | 1,452,560                             | 72,628  | 9,948                  | 296   |
| Chiltern ..                     | 2,200                 | 710                    | 2 0                                     | 1,944,440                             | 97,232  | 12,473                 | 271   |
| Cohuna ..                       | 3,200                 | 710                    | 1 6                                     | 691,600                               | 34,580  | 4,358                  | 216   |
| Colac ..                        | 13,100                | 3,035                  | 1 6                                     | 1,259,080                             | 62,954  | 8,603                  | 114   |
| Corio ..                        | 3,460                 | 5,530                  | 1 7                                     | 6,672,720                             | 333,636 | 51,137                 | 138   |
| Cranbourne ..                   | 6,120                 | 1,950                  | 2 6                                     | 2,589,660                             | 129,483 | 31,710                 | 241   |
| Creswick ..                     | 3,080                 | 845                    | 2 6                                     | 2,475,340                             | 123,767 | 16,868                 | 342   |
| Dandenong ..                    | 9,750                 | 9,100                  | 1 6                                     | 1,237,760                             | 61,888  | 5,331                  | 383   |
| Deakin ..                       | 4,340                 | 1,222                  | 0 2½*                                   | 2,955,460                             | 147,773 | 31,693                 | 209   |
| Dimboola ..                     | 6,650                 | 1,533                  | 1 6                                     | 2,014,020                             | 100,701 | 9,589                  | 219   |
| Donald ..                       | 3,670                 | 1,006                  | 2 0                                     | 3,496,380                             | 174,819 | 20,214                 | 305   |
| Doncaster and<br>Templestowe .. | 3,050                 | 1,685                  | 1 9                                     | 2,238,980                             | 111,949 | 16,380                 | 323   |
| Dundas ..                       | 3,700                 | 1,344                  | 2 3                                     | 1,284,000                             | 64,200  | 12,299                 | 194   |
| Dunmunkle ..                    | 4,880                 | 1,160                  | 2 0                                     | 2,987,540                             | 149,377 | 15,971                 | 517   |
| East Loddon ..                  | 1,870                 | 460                    | 1 6                                     | 3,209,940                             | 160,497 | 22,244                 | 612   |
| Eltham ..                       | 4,500                 | 3,200                  | 1 6                                     | 1,569,560                             | 78,478  | 6,763                  | 271   |
| Euroa ..                        | 4,060                 | 1,145                  | 2 6                                     | 1,231,640                             | 61,582  | 15,451                 | 208   |
| Ferntree Gully ..               | 9,350                 | 6,560                  | 2 0                                     | 1,441,160                             | 72,058  | 10,153                 | 321   |
| Flinders ..                     | 5,300                 | 5,500                  | 3 0                                     | 3,157,400                             | 157,870 | 31,725                 | 444   |
| Frankston and<br>Hastings ..    | 5,750                 | 4,492                  | 1 9                                     | 2,046,720                             | 102,336 | 18,103                 | 128   |
| Gisborne ..                     | 2,470                 | 1,079                  | 3 0                                     | 2,216,460                             | 110,823 | 47,902                 | 213   |
| Glenelg ..                      | 5,630                 | 1,798                  | 2 0                                     | 819,280                               | 40,964  | 7,148                  | 168   |
| Glenlyon ..                     | 3,670                 | 1,466                  | 2 0                                     | 3,113,660                             | 155,683 | 20,721                 | 591   |
| Gordon ..                       | 3,430                 | 910                    | 1 9                                     | 897,980                               | 44,899  | 5,396                  | 223   |
| Goulburn ..                     | 2,280                 | 634                    | 1 6                                     | 1,914,020                             | 95,701  | 9,384                  | 365   |
| Grenville ..                    | 3,350                 | 1,205                  | 1 6                                     | 1,133,300                             | 56,665  | 7,013                  | 172   |
| Hampden ..                      | 11,400                | 2,384                  | 1 9                                     | 954,120                               | 63,608  | 7,136                  | 299   |
| Healesville ..                  | 3,800                 | 1,140                  | 2 6                                     | 6,543,080                             | 327,154 | 51,414                 | 370   |
|                                 |                       |                        | 3 0                                     | 906,800                               | 45,340  | 14,717                 | 382   |

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

## SHIRES, 1928-29—continued.

| Name.                         | Estimated Population. | Number of Rate-payers. | Amount of General Rate levied in the £. | Estimated Value of Rateable Property. |         | Total Revenue 1927-28. | Annual Endowment payable by the Government. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---|
|                               |                       |                        |   | Total.                                | Annual. |                        |   |
|                               |                       |                        | <i>s. d.</i>                            | £                                     | £       | £                      | £   |
| Heidelberg ..                 | 25,500                | 16,266                 | 2 0                                     | 8,033,160                             | 401,658 | 150,302                | 245   |
| Heytesbury ..                 | 4,600                 | 1,096                  | 2 4                                     | 2,264,400                             | 113,220 | 15,854                 | 530   |
| Huntly ..                     | 3,210                 | 1,224                  | 1 6                                     | 1,258,700                             | 62,935  | 5,920                  | 198   |
| Kara Kara ..                  | 3,150                 | 1,057                  | 1 9                                     | 2,894,120                             | 144,706 | 12,830                 | 316   |
| Karkaroc ..                   | 5,840                 | 1,330                  | 1 6                                     | 4,580,000                             | 229,000 | 20,986                 | 469   |
| Kellor ..                     | 2,040                 | 6,500                  | 1 9                                     | 1,708,040                             | 85,402  | 11,834                 | 49  |
| Kerang ..                     | 9,250                 | 2,329                  | 1 6                                     | 5,009,280                             | 250,464 | 32,261                 | 380   |
| Kilmore ..                    | 1,810                 | 556                    | 2 0                                     | 413,085                               | 27,539  | 5,550                  | 136   |
| Korong ..                     | 5,050                 | 1,578                  | 1 9                                     | 2,045,440                             | 102,272 | 13,408                 | 321   |
| Korumburra ..                 | 7,750                 | 2,060                  | 2 0                                     | 2,731,220                             | 136,561 | 23,297                 | 982   |
| Kowree ..                     | 3,510                 | 1,216                  | 1 9                                     | 1,975,300                             | 98,765  | 11,766                 | 430   |
| Kyneton ..                    | 8,220                 | 2,192                  | 2 0                                     | 1,951,620                             | 97,581  | 22,391                 | 365   |
| Lawloit ..                    | 2,350                 | 660                    | 1 10                                    | 1,283,460                             | 85,564  | 13,825                 | 196   |
| Leigh ..                      | 1,570                 | 495                    | 1 6                                     | 1,253,160                             | 62,658  | 5,836                  | 272   |
| Lexton ..                     | 1,680                 | 545                    | 1 9                                     | 993,680                               | 49,684  | 5,386                  | 198   |
| Lillydale ..                  | 9,800                 | 3,970                  | 2 6                                     | 3,076,520                             | 153,826 | 25,764                 | 345   |
| Lowan ..                      | 3,880                 | 1,310                  | 1 9                                     | 3,120,380                             | 156,019 | 20,075                 | 296   |
| Maflra ..                     | 6,130                 | 1,230                  | 1 6                                     | 3,190,480                             | 159,524 | 18,028                 | 483   |
| Maldon ..                     | 3,100                 | 1,066                  | 1 6                                     | 773,660                               | 38,683  | 4,082                  | 185   |
| Mansfield ..                  | 4,110                 | 1,320                  | 2 6                                     | 1,713,660                             | 85,683  | 15,269                 | 542   |
| Marong ..                     | 5,940                 | 1,400                  | 2 0                                     | 2,034,540                             | 101,727 | 13,314                 | 154   |
| Melton ..                     | 1,490                 | 460                    | 1 9                                     | 1,105,000                             | 55,230  | 6,154                  | 145   |
| Metcalfe ..                   | 2,760                 | 1,000                  | 1 9                                     | 884,800                               | 44,240  | 4,830                  | 162   |
| Mildura ..                    | 9,150                 | 3,100                  | 2 0                                     | 4,351,480                             | 217,574 | 18,524                 | 184   |
| Minhamite ..                  | 2,000                 | 771                    | 2 0                                     | 1,981,240                             | 99,062  | 12,987                 | 321   |
| Mirboo ..                     | 1,660                 | 415                    | 3 0                                     | 670,100                               | 33,505  | 6,769                  | 355   |
| Moorabbin ..                  | 15,830                | 10,968                 | 2 6                                     | 5,562,320                             | 278,116 | 59,875                 | 296   |
| Mornington ..                 | 3,250                 | 2,453                  | 2 0                                     | 1,408,960                             | 70,448  | 16,188                 | 114   |
| Mortlake ..                   | 3,200                 | 886                    | 1 9                                     | 3,762,060                             | 188,103 | 19,051                 | 346   |
| Morwell ..                    | 4,050                 | 1,070                  | 3 0                                     | 1,316,400                             | 65,820  | 11,354                 | 435   |
| Mount Rouse ..                | 2,810                 | 750                    | 1 9                                     | 2,110,000                             | 105,500 | 10,869                 | 198   |
| Moulgrave ..                  | 4,420                 | 4,106                  | 2 6                                     | 1,706,460                             | 85,323  | 13,384                 | 221   |
| Melvor ..                     | 3,550                 | 900                    | 1 6                                     | 1,208,000                             | 60,400  | 8,141                  | 221   |
| Narracan ..                   | 7,150                 | 1,493                  | 2 0                                     | 2,198,840                             | 109,942 | 14,130                 | 920   |
| Newham and Woodend ..         | 2,320                 | 690                    | 2 0                                     | 664,900                               | 33,245  | 8,236                  | 148   |
| Newstead and Mt. Alexander .. | 2,700                 | 746                    | 1 9                                     | 605,000                               | 30,250  | 3,238                  | 166   |
| Numurkah ..                   | 5,960                 | 1,247                  | 1 6                                     | 3,459,800                             | 172,990 | 19,813                 | 591   |
| Omeo ..                       | 2,540                 | 756                    | 2 3                                     | 971,420                               | 48,571  | 9,115                  | 836   |
| Orbost ..                     | 4,090                 | 1,056                  | 2 6                                     | 1,332,000                             | 66,600  | 11,969                 | 472   |
| Otway ..                      | 4,400                 | 1,513                  | 3 0                                     | 1,030,000                             | 51,500  | 9,469                  | 680   |
| Oxley ..                      | 4,010                 | 1,039                  | 2 0                                     | 1,444,240                             | 72,212  | 10,354                 | 370   |
| Phillip Island ..             | 910                   | 493                    | 2 6                                     | 415,040                               | 20,752  | ..                     | ..  |
| Portland ..                   | 5,500                 | 2,100                  | 1 6                                     | 2,314,000                             | 115,700 | 12,485                 | 494   |
| Pyalong ..                    | 770                   | 263                    | 2 0                                     | 585,880                               | 29,294  | 3,087                  | 113   |
| Ripon ..                      | 3,660                 | 1,100                  | 1 9                                     | 2,487,940                             | 124,397 | 16,922                 | 221   |
| Rochester ..                  | 6,500                 | 1,690                  | 1 6                                     | 2,977,620                             | 148,881 | 15,033                 | 246   |
| Rodney ..                     | 8,550                 | 1,970                  | 2 3                                     | 3,927,820                             | 196,391 | 26,748                 | 432   |
| Romsey ..                     | 3,320                 | 850                    | 2 0                                     | 1,255,600                             | 62,780  | 7,895                  | 320   |
| Rosedale ..                   | 4,650                 | 1,240                  | 0 1½*                                   | 3,300,000                             | 165,000 | 11,564                 | 537   |
| Rutherglen ..                 | 4,140                 | 800                    | 1 9                                     | 1,146,620                             | 57,331  | 7,950                  | 257   |
| Seymour ..                    | 3,980                 | 1,093                  | 2 0                                     | 1,067,980                             | 53,399  | 12,573                 | 420   |
| Shepparton ..                 | 4,000                 | 1,270                  | 2 0                                     | 2,423,320                             | 121,166 | 14,931                 | 274   |
| South Barwon ..               | 3,900                 | 2,478                  | 2 9                                     | 1,475,560                             | 73,778  | 12,512                 | 137   |
| South Gippsland ..            | 4,830                 | 1,145                  | 3 0                                     | 1,398,740                             | 69,937  | 12,252                 | 517   |
| Stawell ..                    | 3,500                 | 1,296                  | 1 9                                     | 2,278,840                             | 113,942 | 12,798                 | 311   |
| Strathfieldsaye ..            | 3,470                 | 1,001                  | 2 0                                     | 549,200                               | 27,460  | 3,636                  | 137   |
| Swan Hill ..                  | 12,950                | 3,912                  | 1 6                                     | 5,665,980                             | 283,299 | 34,367                 | 272   |
| Talbot ..                     | 1,500                 | 545                    | 1 4                                     | 578,880                               | 28,944  | 3,678                  | 134   |
| Tambo ..                      | 4,360                 | 1,090                  | 2 9                                     | 1,433,000                             | 71,650  | 12,161                 | 513   |
| Towong ..                     | 4,540                 | 1,208                  | 2 0                                     | 1,920,000                             | 96,000  | 13,332                 | 578   |
| Traralgon ..                  | 3,510                 | 750                    | 2 6                                     | 1,312,080                             | 65,604  | 13,252                 | 441   |
| Tullaroop ..                  | 3,710                 | 820                    | 1 9                                     | 901,080                               | 45,054  | 5,944                  | 206   |
| Tungamah ..                   | 4,720                 | 1,390                  | 1 6                                     | 3,202,060                             | 160,103 | 15,671                 | 444   |
| Upper Murray ..               | 2,360                 | 516                    | 2 0                                     | 1,076,500                             | 53,825  | 7,544                  | 307   |
| Upper Yarra ..                | 5,800                 | 1,442                  | 2 6                                     | 940,640                               | 47,032  | 8,857                  | 221   |

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1928-29—continued.

| Name.           | Estimated Population. | Number of Rate-payers. | Amount of General Rate levied in the £. | Estimated Value of Rateable Property. |             | Total Revenue 1927-28. | Annual Endowment payable by the Government. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---|
|                 |                       |                        |   | Total.                                | Annual.     |                        |   |
| Violet Town ..  | 1,980                 | 820                    | s. d.<br>1 9                            | £<br>1,078,220                        | £<br>53,911 | £<br>6,621             | £<br>221                                    |
| Walpeup ..      | 5,850                 | 1,760                  | 1 6                                     | 2,628,400                             | 131,420     | 11,775                 | 300   |
| Wangaratta ..   | 2,520                 | 902                    | 1 9                                     | 966,240                               | 48,312      | 4,784                  | 146   |
| Wannon ..       | 3,250                 | 1,050                  | 1 6                                     | 2,583,520                             | 129,176     | 12,287                 | 426   |
| Waranga ..      | 5,800                 | 1,660                  | 2 0                                     | 2,035,200                             | 101,760     | 16,222                 | 370   |
| Warragul ..     | 5,220                 | 1,313                  | 2 6                                     | 2,045,580                             | 102,279     | 13,593                 | 885   |
| Warrnambool ..  | 8,510                 | 1,794                  | 1 9                                     | 5,332,040                             | 266,602     | 31,323                 | 678   |
| Werribee ..     | 6,300                 | 10,000                 | 2 3                                     | 2,980,000                             | 149,000     | 26,955                 | 296   |
| Whittlesea ..   | 3,620                 | 1,245                  | 2 0                                     | 1,558,000                             | 77,900      | 10,367                 | 226   |
| Wimmera ..      | 4,340                 | 1,065                  | 1 0                                     | 3,930,060                             | 196,503     | 17,368                 | 360   |
| Winchelsea ..   | 4,560                 | 1,676                  | 2 0                                     | 2,086,600                             | 104,330     | 16,000                 | 397   |
| Wodonga ..      | 2,920                 | 700                    | 1 10                                    | 986,260                               | 49,313      | 6,766                  | 169   |
| Woorayl ..      | 6,350                 | 1,800                  | 2 9                                     | 2,239,820                             | 111,991     | 22,700                 | 1,030                                       |
| Wycheproof ..   | 4,440                 | 1,309                  | 1 6                                     | 3,114,560                             | 155,728     | 17,899                 | 323   |
| Yackandandah .. | 3,020                 | 962                    | 2 0                                     | 1,215,300                             | 60,765      | 7,718                  | 337   |
| Yarrowonga ..   | 2,770                 | 790                    | 1 6                                     | 1,220,020                             | 61,001      | 7,902                  | 281   |
| Yea ..          | 2,840                 | 700                    | 0 2½*                                   | 1,242,260                             | 62,113      | 10,388                 | 371   |
| Total ..        | 156,681               | 270,176                | ..                                      | 288,008,585                           | 14,447,193  | 2,155,651              | 47,716                                      |

\* 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, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

| Amount levied in the £. | Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs. |          |          |          |          | Number of Shires. |          |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | 1924-25.                               | 1925-26. | 1926-27. | 1927-28. | 1928-29. | 1924-25.          | 1925-26. | 1926-27. | 1927-28. | 1928-29. |
| s. d.<br>0 6 ..         | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 4                 | 3        | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 0 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 1 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 2 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 3 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1                 | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 4 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 2                 | 1        | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 1 4 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1                 | 1        | 1        | ..       | 1        |
| 1 6 ..                  | ..                                     | 1        | 1        | 1        | ..       | 47                | 45       | 40       | 35       | 29       |
| 1 7 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1                 | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        |
| 1 9 ..                  | 2                                      | 1        | 1        | 1        | 2        | 24                | 27       | 25       | 30       | 28       |
| 1 10 ..                 | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | 2        |
| 1 11 ..                 | 1                                      | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 2 0 ..                  | 3                                      | 4        | 4        | 3        | 4        | 31                | 30       | 39       | 37       | 42       |
| 2 1 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | 2        | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 2 2 ..                  | 1                                      | 1        | 1        | ..       | ..       | ..                | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..       |
| 2 3 ..                  | 6                                      | 6        | 3        | 3        | 2        | 7                 | 7        | 7        | 6        | 5        |
| 2 4 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1                 | ..       | ..       | 1        | 1        |
| 2 5 ..                  | ..                                     | ..       | 1        | 1        | 1        | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 2 6 ..                  | 15                                     | 18       | 14       | 14       | 13       | 13                | 14       | 13       | 12       | 14       |
| 2 7 ..                  | 4                                      | 2        | ..       | ..       | 1        | ..                | ..       | ..       | 1        | 1        |
| 2 8 ..                  | 2                                      | 1        | 4        | 2        | 3        | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 2 9 ..                  | 7                                      | 6        | 8        | 9        | 7        | 1                 | 4        | 4        | 6        | 3        |
| 2 10 ..                 | ..                                     | 1        | ..       | 1        | 1        | ..                | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       |
| 3 0 ..                  | 3                                      | 4        | 6        | 7        | 10       | 4                 | 4        | 5        | 5        | 9        |
| Total ..                | 44                                     | 46       | 44       | 45       | 45       | 136               | 136      | 136      | 136      | 137      |

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1928-29 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. 6d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 10½d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7¼d. 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 twelve 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,  
1926 TO 1928.**

| Sources of Revenue.                       | 1926.     | 1927.     | 1928.     |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | £         | £         | £         |
| Taxation —                                |           |           |           |
| Rates                                     | 3,380,749 | 3,615,998 | 3,772,864 |
| Licences                                  | 161,682   | 162,863   | 161,786   |
| Dog Fees                                  | 28,151    | 29,332    | 30,258    |
| Government Endowment and Grants           | 147,014   | 163,384   | 154,316   |
| Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. | 320,582   | 352,733   | 352,214   |
| Market and Weighbridge Dues               | 114,773   | 125,845   | 132,977   |
| Sanitary Charges                          | 202,360   | 206,351   | 204,996   |
| Rents                                     | 137,941   | 138,977   | 145,654   |
| Electric Light and Gas Works              | 1,057,596 | 1,163,851 | 1,224,565 |
| Other Sources                             | 561,718   | 622,937   | 665,737   |
| Total                                     | 6,112,546 | 6,582,271 | 6,845,367 |
|   |           |           |           |
| Heads of Expenditure.                     |           |           |           |
| Salaries, &c.                             | 407,009   | 437,921   | 459,718   |
| Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.      | 454,107   | 474,125   | 502,486   |
| Lighting                                  | 153,292   | 160,118   | 170,721   |
| Contributions to Fire Brigades            | 64,508    | 69,058    | 72,857    |
| Public Works—                             |           |           |           |
| Construction                              | 454,247   | 488,881   | 415,119   |
| Maintenance                               | 2,195,045 | 2,169,302 | 2,195,110 |
| Formation of Private Streets, &c.         | 446,961   | 548,131   | 512,586   |
| Electric Light and Gas Works              | 757,456   | 808,630   | 877,374   |
| Redemption of Loans                       | 229,913   | 262,110   | 291,628   |
| Interest on Loans                         | 513,222   | 589,101   | 661,809   |
| Charities                                 | 35,469    | 34,096    | 39,858    |
| Other Expenditure                         | 581,493   | 724,142   | 773,405   |
| Total                                     | 6,292,722 | 6,765,615 | 6,972,671 |

As compared with 1927, the revenue of 1928 increased by £263,096, as follows:—Rates increased by £156,866, rents by £6,677, dog fees by £926, electric light and gas works by £60,714, market and

weighbridge dues by £7,132 and "other sources" by £42,800. Decreases occurred in the following items:—Sanitary charges, £1,355; contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., £519; licences, £1,077; and Government endowment and grants £9,068. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £207,056. Most of the items showed increases as under:—Salaries, £21,797; lighting, £10,603; contributions to fire brigades boards, £3,799; public works maintenance, £25,808; electric light and gas works, £68,744; redemption of loans, £29,518; interest on loans, £72,708; charities by £5,762; sanitary work and street cleansing, £28,361; and other expenditure, £49,263. Public works construction decreased by £73,762; formation of private streets, &c., by £35,545.

Fifty-five per cent. of municipal revenue in 1928 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 2½ per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, ½ per cent. from dog fees, 2 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from rents, and 10 per cent. from all other sources.

**Salaries.** In 1928 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £459,718, or about 6¾ per cent. of the entire revenue.

**Local charities.** A sum of £39,858, or a little more than ½ 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, 1926 TO 1928.

| Assets.                               | 1926.     | 1927.      | 1928.      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Municipal Fund—                       | £         | £          | £          |
| Uncollected Rates ... ..              | 286,338   | 333,086    | 381,138    |
| Other Assets ... ..                   | 1,049,190 | 1,292,763  | 1,645,603  |
| Loan Funds—                           |           |            |            |
| Sinking Funds—                        |           |            |            |
| Amount at Credit ... ..               | 545,712   | 610,002    | 626,613    |
| Arrears Due ... ..                    | 210       | 209        | 638        |
| Unexpended Balances ... ..            | 587,609   | 635,771    | 597,121    |
| Property—                             |           |            |            |
| Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ... .. | 4,782,140 | 5,311,830  | 5,782,860  |
| Waterworks ... ..                     | 340,920   | 360,180    | 371,680    |
| Gasworks ... ..                       | 185,690   | 193,540    | 203,370    |
| Electric Light Works... ..            | 2,060,140 | 2,232,760  | 2,393,810  |
| Total Assets ... ..                   | 9,837,949 | 10,970,141 | 12,002,833 |

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1926 TO 1928—*continued.*

| Liabilities.                        | 1926.             | 1927.             | 1928.             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Municipal Fund—</b>              |                   |                   |                   |
| Due on Current Contracts ... ..     | £ 145,051         | £ 106,048         | £ 120,397         |
| Arrears due to Sinking Funds ... .. | 210               | 209               | 638               |
| Overdue Interest ... ..             | 9,475             | 22,477            | 12,415            |
| Bank Overdrafts ... ..              | 902,820           | 1,144,516         | 1,249,262         |
| Other Liabilities ... ..            | 819,356           | 819,651           | 1,031,115         |
| <b>Loan Funds—</b>                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Loans Outstanding ... ..            | 9,076,787         | 10,096,696        | 11,391,767        |
| Due on Loan Contracts ... ..        | 359,496           | 252,331           | 226,026           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b> ... ..     | <b>11,313,195</b> | <b>12,441,928</b> | <b>14,031,620</b> |

**Municipal assets and liabilities compared.** The total of the assets of municipalities in 1928 was £12,002,833 and of the liabilities £14,031,620. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £2,413,827, against which there were assets amounting to £2,026,741.

The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £11,617,793, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £10,393,421. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£8,751,720), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £1,641,701.

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 thirteen succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in March of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is as set out in the Second Schedule to the



*Municipal Endowment Act 1907*, No. 2129, but this has been altered from time to time by adjustments rendered necessary owing to various changes in municipalities.

The allocation of amounts paid to municipalities in 1927-28 is shown on pages 136 to 139 *ante*.

### 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, 12 for each of the years 1922-23 to 1925-26 inclusive, and 14 for each of the years 1926-27 to 1928-29 inclusive. The following table gives for these

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1928-29.

| Municipality.                      | Capital Value. | Capital Unimproved Value. | Annual Improved Value. | Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value. | Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value. | Amount Collectible in 1929 on Unimproved Value. | Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value. |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|                                    | £              | £                         | £                      | s. d.  | s. d.                                     | £   |   |
| <b>CITIES, TOWNS and BOROUGHs.</b> |                |                           |                        |  |   |   |   |
| <i>Greater Melbourne.</i>          |                |                           |                        |  |   |   |   |
| Brunswick City ..                  | 10,017,362     | 3,133,798                 | 657,334                | 0 7  | 2 9½                                      | 91,402  | 31·28                                   |
| Camberwell City ..                 | 15,633,978     | 5,594,051                 | 863,492                | 0 4½   | 2 5½                                      | 104,888   | 35·78                                   |
| Caulfield City ..                  | 18,895,617     | 6,066,985                 | 1,050,776              | 0 4½   | 2 2                                       | 113,756   | 32·11                                   |
| Coburg City ..                     | 8,479,500      | 2,584,644                 | 423,975                | 0 5  | 2 6½                                      | 53,847  | 30·48                                   |
| Essendon City ..                   | 10,727,005     | 3,446,486                 | 659,526                | 0 5½   | 2 4½                                      | 78,982  | 32·13                                   |
| Oakleigh City ..                   | 2,858,707      | 1,140,347                 | 193,055                | 0 5  | 2 5½                                      | 23,757  | 39·89                                   |
| Sandringham City ..                | 5,262,277      | 2,889,189                 | 334,983                | 0 4  | 2 10½                                     | 48,153  | 54·90                                   |
| <i>Outside Greater Melbourne.</i>  |                |                           |                        |  |   |   |   |
| Carrum Borough ..                  | 2,067,531      | 1,054,708                 | 102,788                | 0 3¼*  | 2 9½                                      | 14,283  | 51·01                                   |
| Mordialloc City ..                 | 2,724,411      | 1,326,516                 | 143,399                | 0 3½†  | 2 8½                                      | 19,345  | 48·69                                   |
| Newtown and Chilwell Town ..       | 2,357,887      | 727,419                   | 119,775                | 0 5½   | 2 8                                       | 15,912  | 30·85                                   |
| Portland Borough ..                | 599,103        | 238,786                   | 31,709                 | 0 4½   | 2 8                                       | 4,228   | 39·86                                   |
| <b>SHIRES.</b>                     |                |                           |                        |  |   |   |   |
| Dandenong ..                       | 2,955,460      | 1,487,625                 | 147,773                | 0 2½‡  | 2 1                                       | 15,496  | 50·33                                   |
| Rosedale ..                        | 3,300,000      | 1,752,600                 | 165,000                | 0 1½§  | 1 1½                                      | 9,128   | 53·11                                   |
| Yea ..                             | 1,242,260      | 600,352                   | 62,113                 | 0 2½   | 2 0                                       | 6,254   | 48·33                                   |

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—  
 \* ¼d. in the Centre and North Wards.  
 † ¼d. in the Mordialloc and Mentone Wards.

‡ 1d. in the Centre Riding, and of 1d. in the South Riding.  
 § 3d. in the township of Rosedale.  
 || 4d. in the township of Yea.

municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1928-29.—

**HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1927.****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 over-crowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3545) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 21st December, 1927, 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 £1,000 for houses of wood, or £1,300 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 where the dwelling house is of wood or 35 years where such dwelling house is of brick, stone, or concrete.

The number of contracts entered into for the erection of dwellings has been—

|                                |    |    |       |
|--------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| For year ended 30th June, 1923 | .. | .. | 813   |
| do. do. 1924                   | .. | .. | 806   |
| do. do. 1925                   | .. | .. | 549   |
| do. do. 1926                   | .. | .. | 594   |
| do. do. 1927                   | .. | .. | 758   |
| do. do. 1928                   | .. | .. | 1,249 |
| do. do. 1929                   | .. | .. | 1,127 |

The position at 30th June, 1929, with regard to the erection of houses was—

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Houses completed .. .. .   | 6,053 |
| In course of erection .. .. .  | 458   |
| Approved sites for which tenders had not then<br>been accepted .. .. . | 350   |
| Total number of applications approved                                  | 6,861 |

#### 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 Commonwealth of Australia, 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, 1929, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 3,664 War Service Homes buildings, of which 3,593 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 375 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 28 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

**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 empowered the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,550, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £1,200 (Act No. 3495).

**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 follow :—£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; £1,000,000 (by Act No. 3334) over a period of three years from 1st July, 1923, and £822,000 over five years commencing on 1st July, 1925. 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 Treasury, 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. 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, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, 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*), all fees and fines paid under the *Motor Omnibus (Urban and Country) Act 1927* in respect of country motor omnibuses are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads and State highways and other purposes; in addition thereto a sum of £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is one-third of 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.

During the year 1927-28 constructional work to the value of £303,083, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £910,451 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1928, for permanent works was £4,166,546, and for developmental roads £4,922,888.

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

The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines are as follows:—The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of £1; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s.; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight; of motor cars, 3s. to 8s. 9d. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

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, £1,000,000 and £1,475,000 by Acts Nos. 3255, 3334 and 3,425 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 £2,788 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £567,770 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1928.

The *Highways and Vehicles Act* 1924, No. 3379, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1925, provides for the declaration of State Highways, the full cost of maintenance of which is charged against the moneys to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1923-27 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—

Registration of motors, &c.

Developmental roads.

State Highways.

Ordinary receipts and payments.



# COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1928.

| RECEIPTS.  |            |    |    | PAYMENTS. |    |    |    |
|--|------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|
|  | £          | s. | d. |           | £  | s. | d. |
| To Balance, 1st July, 1927 .. .. .   |            |    |    | 15,084    | 10 | 0  |    |
| „ Motor Car Act No. 2702—  |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Registration Fees .. .. .  | 891,571    | 15 | 5  |           |    |    |    |
| Licence Fees .. .. .   | 47,122     | 5  | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| Fines .. .. .  | 11,693     | 12 | 7  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 950,387    | 13 | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds and Cost of Administration  | 36,481     | 9  | 10 |           |    |    |    |
|  |            |    |    | 913,906   | 3  | 10 |    |
| „ Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—   |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Licence Fees .. .. .   | 22,534     | 13 | 0  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds and Cost of Administration  | 2,419      | 2  | 6  |           |    |    |    |
|  |            |    |    | 20,115    | 10 | 6  |    |
| „ Country Roads Act No. 2635—  |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Registration of Traction Engines .. .. .   | £          | s. | d. |           |    |    |    |
| Engines .. .. .  | 1,421      | 6  | 0  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 6          | 0  | 0  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 1,415      | 6  | 0  |           |    |    |    |
| Width of Tires Administration, Motor Omnibus Act—Fees, Fines, and Costs  | 766        | 11 | 10 |           |    |    |    |
|  |            |    |    | 2,181     | 17 | 10 |    |
| „ Municipalities' Repayments—  |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Permanent Works .. .. .  | 105,850    | 15 | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| Maintenance .. .. .  | 138,934    | 9  | 2  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 244,785    | 4  | 10 |           |    |    |    |
| „ Appropriation for Maintenance Act No. 2986   |            |    |    | 10,000    | 0  | 0  |    |
| „ Hire of Plant .. .. .  | 38,817     | 5  | 11 |           |    |    |    |
| „ Stores and Materials .. .. .   | 92,207     | 16 | 0  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Sundries .. .. .   | 63,088     | 5  | 10 |           |    |    |    |
|  | 194,113    | 7  | 9  |           |    |    |    |
|  |            |    |    | 1,385,102 | 4  | 9  |    |
| „ Advance to Loan on Account of Permanent Works—   |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Refunded .. .. .   |            |    |    | 31,259    | 16 | 1  |    |
| „ Advances on Account of Expenditure under Act No. 3-35—Item 4, Tourist Vote—Refunded .. .. .                    |            |    |    | 5,265     | 11 | 0  |    |
| „ Advances, Division 72/8, Construction of Road to Relieve Unemployment in Thrip-Infested Areas—Refunded .. .. . |            |    |    | 2,198     | 2  | 8  |    |
| „ Advances, Divisions 71/4 and 71/12, on Account of Expenditure to Relieve Unemployment—Refunded—                |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Division 71/4 .. .. .  | 44,518     | 2  | 5  |           |    |    |    |
| Division 71/12 .. .. .   | 2,545      | 3  | 9  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 47,063     | 6  | 2  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances under Division 71/4—Construction of Roads for Isolated Settlers, .. .. .                              |            |    |    | 1,154     | 11 | 10 |    |
| „ Treasurer's Advance on Account of Expenditure—Construction of Williamstown Short Road .. .. .                  |            |    |    | 5,092     | 7  | 11 |    |
| „ Advances for Construction of Roads under Migrants Grant—Refunded .. .. .                                       |            |    |    | 13,230    | 13 | 11 |    |
| „ Advance for Extension of Great Ocean Road—Refunded .. .. .   |            |    |    | 250       | 0  | 0  |    |
|  | £1,505,701 | 8  | 11 |           |    |    |    |
|  |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| By Maintenance .. .. .   | 918,613    | 14 | 2  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 8,162      | 12 | 5  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 910,451    | 1  | 9  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Miscellaneous .. .. .  | 415,389    | 8  | 7  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure .. .. .                                     |            |    |    | 29,809    | 1  | 1  |    |
| „ Advances under Act No. 3235, Item 4—   |            |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| Tourist Vote .. .. .   | 5,243      | 19 | 5  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 70         | 19 | 2  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 5,173      | 0  | 3  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances under Division 72/8—Construction of Roads for Unemployment in Thrip-Infested Areas .. .. .            | 2,203      | 8  | 2  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 19         | 19 | 6  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 2,183      | 8  | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances, Divisions 71/4, and 71/12, for Construction of Roads to Relieve Unemployment .. .. .                 | 51,182     | 14 | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 4,768      | 12 | 6  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 46,414     |    |    |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances, Division 71/4, for Construction of Roads for Isolated Settlers .. .. .                               |            |    |    | 1,154     | 11 | 10 |    |
| „ Treasurer's Advance for Construction of Port Melbourne to Williamstown Short Road .. .. .                      | 4,442      | 6  | 6  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 8          | 18 | 11 |           |    |    |    |
|  | 4,433      | 12 | 7  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances for Construction of Roads under Migrants Grant, Closer Settlement Board .. .. .                       | 12,448     | 9  | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| Less Refunds .. .. .   | 10         | 0  | 0  |           |    |    |    |
|  | 12,438     | 9  | 8  |           |    |    |    |
| „ Advances for Construction of Migration Developmental Roads .. .. .   |            |    |    | 1,453     | 12 | 9  |    |
| „ Advances for Extension of Great Ocean Road .. .. .   |            |    |    | 251       | 11 | 2  |    |
| „ Balance, 30th June, 1928 .. .. .   |            |    |    | 76,599    | 3  | 5  |    |
|  | £1,505,701 | 8  | 11 |           |    |    |    |

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, 1928, is shown below :—

### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1928.

| RECEIPTS.                                  |                 |            | PAYMENTS.  |         |       |                    |            |       |
|--|-----------------|------------|--|---------|-------|--------------------|------------|-------|
|  | £               | s. d.      | £  |         | s. d. | £                  |            | s. d. |
| To Balance, 1st July, 1927 ..              | 25,886          | 16 6       | By Permanent Works                                 | 322,433 | 6 9   |                    |            |       |
| „ Proceeds of Loans ..                     | 309,736         | 3 0        | <i>Deduct Refunds</i>                              | 19,350  | 11 8  |                    |            |       |
| „ Advance from Country Roads Board Fund .. | 29,809          | 1 1        |  |         |       | 303,082            | 15 1       |       |
|  |                 |            | „ Temporary Advance from Country Roads Board Fund— |         |       | Refunded ..        | 31,408     | 5 11  |
|  |                 |            | „ Loan Expenditure Outstanding                     |         |       | 30th June, 1927 .. | 415        | 3 5   |
|  |                 |            | „ Balance, 30th June, 1928 ..                      |         |       | 30,525             | 16 2       |       |
|  | <u>£365,432</u> | <u>0 7</u> |  |         |       | <u>£365,432</u>    | <u>0 7</u> |       |

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1928, 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, 2985, AND 3255).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1928.

| RECEIPTS.                     |                 |             | PAYMENTS.                  |         |       |                 |             |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
|                               | £               | s. d.       | £                          |         | s. d. | £               |             | s. d. |
| To Balance, 1st July, 1927 .. | 152,347         | 14 9        | By Expenditure             | 575,110 | 18 3  |                 |             |       |
| „ Proceeds of Loans ..        | 509,993         | 18 8        | <i>Less Refunds</i>        | 4,552   | 3 2   |                 |             |       |
|                               |                 |             |                            |         |       | 570,558         | 15 1        |       |
|                               |                 |             | „ Balance, 30th June, 1928 |         |       | 91,782          | 18 4        |       |
|                               | <u>£662,341</u> | <u>13 5</u> |                            |         |       | <u>£622,341</u> | <u>13 5</u> |       |

## LICENSING FUND.

Licensing  
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1928 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,  
1927-1928.

| RECEIPTS.  |                              |              | EXPENDITURE.   |                 |            |
|--|------------------------------|--------------|--|-----------------|------------|
|  | £                            | s. d.        |  | £               | s. d.      |
| Balance, 30th June, 1927                             | 60,714                       | 10 0         | Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.                                | 5,922           | 8 1        |
| Fees   | 3,185                        | 17 0         | Incidental Expenses  | 14,765          | 7 10       |
| Fines  | 8,847                        | 2 7          | Annual payment to municipalities   | 61,755          | 0 0        |
| Sale of confiscated liquor                           | 247                          | 6 8          | Compensation   | 27,845          | 0 0        |
| Licences.  | Spirit Merchants and Grocers | 39,063 7 0   | Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855 | 23,000          | 0 0        |
|  | Victuallers                  | 297,619 14 3 | Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259                    | 238,661         | 17 7       |
|  | Temporary                    | 4,607 6 0    | Balance £421,714 10 0  |                 |            |
|  | Railway Refreshment Rooms    | 1,591 18 0   | Deduct   |                 |            |
|  | Packet                       | 103 10 6     | Investments  |                 |            |
|  | Australian Wine              | 4,953 1 0    | in Stock   | 341,000         | 0 0        |
|  | Billiard-table               | 6,125 0 0    |  | 80,714          | 10 0       |
|  | Brewers                      | 90 5 0       |  |                 |            |
|  | Vignerons                    | 80 0 0       |  |                 |            |
|  | Club certificates            | 8,022 5 6    |  |                 |            |
| Permits—Extra Bars                                   | 1,810 0 0                    |              |  |                 |            |
| „ Extended Hours                                     | 1,387 0 0                    |              |  |                 |            |
| Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court | 21 0 0                       |              |  |                 |            |
| Interest   | 14,170 0 0                   |              |  |                 |            |
| Cost of taking poll                                  | 25 0 0                       |              |  |                 |            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>£452,664</b>              | <b>3 6</b>   | <b>Total</b>   | <b>£452,664</b> | <b>3 6</b> |

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1927-28 a sum of £61,796 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., 1927-28.

|                          | £      |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Paid to Cities ... ..    | 29,592 |
| „ Towns ... ..           | 853    |
| „ Boroughs ... ..        | 6,858  |
| „ Shires—                |        |
| 1st Class ... ..         | 228    |
| 2nd „ ... ..             | 10,153 |
| 3rd „ ... ..             | 9,096  |
| 4th „ ... ..             | 739    |
| 5th „ ... ..             | 3,112  |
| 6th „ ... ..             | 1,165  |
| Total Amount paid ... .. | 61,796 |

### 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.

The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1927-28 was £11,391,767, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows:—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1928.

|                             |     |     |     | Due to the Government. | Due to the Public. |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|--------------------|
|                             |     |     |     | £                      | £                  |
| Cities, Towns, and Boroughs | ... |     |     | 801,468                | 8,347,471          |
| Shires                      | ... | ... | ... | 141,829                | 2,100,999          |
| Total                       | ... | ... | ... | 943,297                | 10,448,470         |

Municipal indebtedness.

**Municipal loan receipts and expenditure.** The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure :—

### MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1928.

|   | Cities, Towns,<br>and<br>Boroughs. | Shires. | Total.    |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
|   | £                                  | £       | £         |
| Receipts during the year ... ..           | 1,264,446                          | 444,853 | 1,709,299 |
| Balance unexpended from previous year ... | 507,438                            | 136,866 | 644,304   |
| Expenditure during the year ... ..        | 1,337,888                          | 418,594 | 1,756,482 |
| Balance unexpended at the end of 1928 ... | 433,996                            | 163,125 | 597,121   |

**Municipal loan expenditure, 1924 to 1928.** The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1928 amounted to £1,756,482, of which £1,337,888 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £418,594 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

### MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

| Year.       | Receipts. |     | Expenditure. |     |
|-------------|-----------|-----|--------------|-----|
|             | £         | £   | £            | £   |
| 1924 ... .. | 1,289,041 | ... | 1,281,423    | ... |
| 1925 ... .. | 1,527,690 | ... | 1,535,960    | ... |
| 1926 ... .. | 1,404,566 | ... | 1,318,187    | ... |
| 1927 ... .. | 1,791,555 | ... | 1,699,607    | ... |
| 1928 .. ..  | 1,709,299 | ... | 1,756,482    | ... |

**Loans raised by municipalities, 1928.** The loan receipts for the year 1927-28 amounted to £1,709,299, and the loan expenditure to £1,756,482. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1927-28 was £597,121—£433,996 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £163,125 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars :—

## LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1928.

|                              | Loans from Government. | Loans from Public. | Loan Expenditure. | Balance Unexpended at end of year— |         |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
|                              |                        |                    |                   | 1927.                              | 1928.   |
| CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGHES— |                        |                    |                   |                                    |         |
| In GREATER MELBOURNE—        |                        | £                  | £                 | £                                  | £       |
| Box Hill .. .. .             | ..                     | 31,000             | 26,945            | 5,135                              | 9,190   |
| Brighton .. .. .             | ..                     | ..                 | 24,335            | 36,454                             | 12,119  |
| Brunswick .. .. .            | ..                     | 31,600             | 17,342            | 12,225                             | 26,483  |
| Camberwell .. .. .           | ..                     | 40,000             | 66,212            | 75,589                             | 49,377  |
| Caulfield .. .. .            | ..                     | ..                 | 6,858             | 26,958                             | 20,100  |
| Coburg .. .. .               | ..                     | 33,000             | 56,980            | 27,162                             | 3,182   |
| Collingwood .. .. .          | ..                     | 5,000              | 8,935             | 7,636                              | 3,701   |
| Essendon .. .. .             | ..                     | 30,000             | 22,725            | 6,730                              | 14,005  |
| Fitzroy .. .. .              | ..                     | ..                 | 2                 | 1,249                              | 1,247   |
| Footscray .. .. .            | ..                     | 81,000             | 27,949            | 11,216                             | 64,267  |
| Hawthorn .. .. .             | ..                     | 13,000             | 15,312            | 18,863                             | 16,551  |
| Kew .. .. .                  | ..                     | 18,000             | 13,615            | 16,020                             | 20,405  |
| Malvern .. .. .              | ..                     | 55,662             | 41,486            | 9,017                              | 23,193  |
| Melbourne .. .. .            | ..                     | 668,321*           | 664,439           | ..                                 | 3,882   |
| Northcote .. .. .            | ..                     | ..                 | 28,102            | 28,102                             | ..      |
| Oakleigh .. .. .             | ..                     | 14,000             | 12,925            | 6,584                              | 7,659   |
| Port Melbourne .. .. .       | ..                     | ..                 | 28,028            | 29,539                             | 1,511   |
| Prahran .. .. .              | ..                     | ..                 | 9,860             | 10,860                             | 1,000   |
| Preston .. .. .              | ..                     | 86,671             | 53,139            | 20,117                             | 53,649  |
| Richmond .. .. .             | ..                     | 4,800              | 13,157            | 10,788                             | 2,431   |
| Sandringham .. .. .          | ..                     | 20,449             | 10,090            | 24,324                             | 34,683  |
| South Melbourne .. .. .      | ..                     | ..                 | 25,096            | 35,765                             | 10,669  |
| St. Kilda .. .. .            | ..                     | 40,000             | 32,863            | 14,288                             | 21,425  |
| Williamstown .. .. .         | ..                     | ..                 | 18,209            | 18,877                             | 668     |
| Total .. .. .                | ..                     | 1,172,503          | 1,224,604         | 453,498                            | 401,397 |

\* Of this amount £120,848 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £35,738 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account. The amount of £11,735 due to Loan Account is also included.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1928—*continued.*

|   | Loans from Government. | Loans from Public. | Loan Expenditure. | Balance Unexpended at end of year— |         |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
|   |                        |                    |                   | 1927.                              | 1928.   |
| CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGH— <i>continued.</i> |                        |                    |                   |                                    |         |
| OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—                    |                        | £                  | £                 | £                                  | £       |
| Ararat .. ..                                  | 7,000                  | ..                 | 7,904             | 1,395                              | 491     |
| Ballarat .. ..                                | ..                     | ..                 | 445               | 719                                | 274     |
| Bendigo .. ..                                 | ..                     | ..                 | 11,013            | 19,575                             | 8,562   |
| Carrum .. ..                                  | ..                     | 1,800              | 3,006             | 1,429                              | 223     |
| Castlemaine .. ..                             | ..                     | 3,100              | 3,402             | 470                                | 168     |
| Clunes .. ..                                  | 3,078                  | ..                 | 2,965             | ..                                 | 113     |
| Daylesford .. ..                              | ..                     | ..                 | 217               | 250                                | 33      |
| Echuca .. ..                                  | ..                     | ..                 | 185               | 404                                | 219     |
| Geelong .. ..                                 | ..                     | 13,000             | 13,000            | ..                                 | ..      |
| Geelong West .. ..                            | ..                     | 24,200             | 17,998            | ..                                 | 6,202   |
| Hamilton .. ..                                | ..                     | 5,000              | 1,000             | ..                                 | 4,000   |
| Horsham .. ..                                 | ..                     | ..                 | 2,912             | 2,912                              | ..      |
| Inglewood .. ..                               | ..                     | 5,000              | 5,000             | ..                                 | ..      |
| Maryborough .. ..                             | ..                     | 5,000              | 4,250             | 365                                | 1,115   |
| Mildura .. ..                                 | ..                     | ..                 | 942               | 952                                | 10      |
| Mordialloc .. ..                              | ..                     | 18,265             | 19,478            | 3,590                              | 2,377   |
| Newtown & Chilwell .. ..                      | ..                     | 3,000              | 3,211             | 1,182                              | 971     |
| Portland .. ..                                | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 62                                 | 62      |
| Queenscliff .. ..                             | ..                     | ..                 | 1,468             | 3,100                              | 1,632   |
| Ringwood .. ..                                | ..                     | ..                 | 8,578             | 12,030                             | 3,452   |
| Sale .. ..                                    | ..                     | ..                 | 20                | 20                                 | ..      |
| Shepparton .. ..                              | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 825                                | 825     |
| St. Arnaud .. ..                              | ..                     | ..                 | 169               | 169                                | ..      |
| Stawell .. ..                                 | ..                     | ..                 | 169               | 169                                | ..      |
| Wangaratta .. ..                              | ..                     | 3,500              | 4,246             | 882                                | 136     |
| Warrnambool .. ..                             | ..                     | ..                 | 1,706             | 2,364                              | 658     |
| Wonthaggi .. ..                               | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 1,076                              | 1,076   |
| Total .. ..                                   | 10,078                 | 81,865             | 113,284           | 53,940                             | 32,599  |
| Total Cities, Towns, and Boroughs .. ..       | 10,078                 | 1,254,368          | 1,337,888         | 507,438                            | 433,996 |



## LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1928—continued.

|  | Loans from Government. | Loans from Public. | Loan Expenditure. | Balance Unexpended at end of year— |        |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
|  |                        |                    |                   | 1927.                              | 1928.  |
| SHIRES—                                |                        | £                  | £                 | £                                  | £      |
| Alberton .. .. .                       | ..                     | 3,000              | 1,879             | ..                                 | 1,121  |
| Bacchus Marsh .. .. .                  | ..                     | ..                 | 262               | 262                                | ..     |
| Bairnsdale .. .. .                     | ..                     | ..                 | 639               | 947                                | 308    |
| Beechworth .. .. .                     | ..                     | 3,000              | 3,272             | 1,370                              | 1,098  |
| Bellarine .. .. .                      | ..                     | 1,000              | 1,000             | ..                                 | ..     |
| Benalla .. .. .                        | ..                     | 16,000             | 11,468            | ..                                 | 4,532  |
| Berwick .. .. .                        | ..                     | ..                 | 1,604             | 2,403                              | 799    |
| Blackburn and Mit-<br>cham .. .. .     | ..                     | 6,500              | 3,750             | 4,003                              | 6,753  |
| Braybrook .. .. .                      | ..                     | 2,100              | 5,692             | 4,631                              | 1,089  |
| Bright .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 83                | 436                                | 353    |
| Broadford .. .. .                      | ..                     | ..                 | 734               | 1,013                              | 279    |
| Broadmeadows .. .. .                   | ..                     | 11,316             | 10,954            | 128                                | 490    |
| Buninyong .. .. .                      | ..                     | 4,000              | 330               | ..                                 | 3,670  |
| Corio .. .. .                          | ..                     | 7,500              | 5,752             | 2,285                              | 4,033  |
| Cranbourne .. .. .                     | ..                     | ..                 | 1                 | 308                                | 307    |
| Dandenong .. .. .                      | ..                     | 21,850             | 22,824            | 1,107                              | 133    |
| Deakin .. .. .                         | ..                     | 5,500              | 5,500             | ..                                 | ..     |
| Donald .. .. .                         | ..                     | 5,000              | 2,265             | 147                                | 2,882  |
| Doncaster and Tem-<br>plestowe .. .. . | ..                     | 400                | 400               | ..                                 | ..     |
| Eltham .. .. .                         | ..                     | 6,500              | 4,599             | ..                                 | 1,901  |
| Euroa .. .. .                          | ..                     | ..                 | 7                 | 159                                | 152    |
| Ferntree Gully .. .. .                 | ..                     | 10,600             | 5,076             | 1,596                              | 7,120  |
| Flinders .. .. .                       | ..                     | 7,500              | 6,980             | ..                                 | 520    |
| Frankston and Hast-<br>ings .. .. .    | ..                     | 4,000              | 2,125             | 1,707                              | 3,582  |
| Gisborne .. .. .                       | ..                     | 7,300              | 7,800             | 825                                | 325    |
| Glenelg .. .. .                        | ..                     | ..                 | 65                | 65                                 | ..     |
| Glenlyon .. .. .                       | ..                     | 2,500              | 2,082             | ..                                 | 418    |
| Heidelberg .. .. .                     | ..                     | 130,855            | 122,636           | 16,764                             | 24,983 |
| Huntly .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 160               | 569                                | 409    |
| Karkaroc .. .. .                       | ..                     | ..                 | 7,107             | 7,107                              | ..     |
| Keilor .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 24                | 24                                 | ..     |
| Kerang .. .. .                         | ..                     | 1,800              | 7,422             | 5,622                              | ..     |
| Korong .. .. .                         | 2,026                  | ..                 | 2,026             | ..                                 | ..     |
| Kyneton .. .. .                        | ..                     | 2,500              | 359               | ..                                 | 2,141  |
| Lawloit .. .. .                        | ..                     | 6,000              | 6,000             | ..                                 | ..     |
| Lillydale .. .. .                      | ..                     | 14,726             | 16,501            | 14,024                             | 12,249 |
| Maffra .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 326               | 326                                | ..     |
| Marong .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 173               | 932                                | 759    |
| Melton .. .. .                         | ..                     | ..                 | 208               | 445                                | 237    |
| Mildura .. .. .                        | ..                     | ..                 | 2,909             | 4,870                              | 1,961  |
| Moorabbin .. .. .                      | ..                     | 54,000             | 51,179            | 17,440                             | 20,261 |
| Mornington .. .. .                     | ..                     | ..                 | 7,735             | 7,735                              | ..     |
| Mulgrave .. .. .                       | ..                     | 3,000              | 666               | 666                                | 3,000  |
| Newham and Wood-<br>end .. .. .        | ..                     | 1,600              | 1,556             | ..                                 | 44     |
| Numurkah .. .. .                       | ..                     | 2,000              | ..                | ..                                 | 2,000  |

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1928—*continued.*

|                                    | Loans from Government. | Loans from Public. | Loan Expenditure. | Balance Unexpended at end of year— |         |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
|                                    |                        |                    |                   | 1927.                              | 1928.   |
| <b>SHIRES—<i>continued.</i></b>    |                        | £-                 | £                 | £                                  | £       |
| Phillip Island and Woolamai* .. .. | ..                     | ..                 | 210               | 856                                | 646     |
| Rochester .. ..                    | ..                     | ..                 | 376               | 443                                | 67      |
| Rodney .. ..                       | ..                     | 1,650              | 6,417             | 12,051                             | 7,284   |
| Romsey .. ..                       | ..                     | 500                | 827               | 727                                | 400     |
| Rutherglen .. ..                   | ..                     | 1,600              | 1,600             | ..                                 | ..      |
| Seymour .. ..                      | ..                     | 5,500              | 5,382             | ..                                 | 118     |
| Shepparton .. ..                   | ..                     | 7,200              | 9,014             | 4,819                              | 3,005   |
| South Barwon .. ..                 | ..                     | 10,130             | 8,890             | 1,239                              | 2,479   |
| South Gippsland .. ..              | ..                     | 2,000              | 1,259             | 693                                | 1,434   |
| Stawell .. ..                      | ..                     | ..                 | 1,240             | 1,240                              | ..      |
| Swan Hill .. ..                    | ..                     | ..                 | 3,441             | 5,068                              | 1,627   |
| Traralgon .. ..                    | ..                     | ..                 | 392               | 601                                | 209     |
| Tungamah .. ..                     | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 35                                 | 35      |
| Upper Yarra .. ..                  | ..                     | 2,500              | 1,252             | ..                                 | 1,248   |
| Violet Town .. ..                  | ..                     | 1,500              | 1,500             | ..                                 | ..      |
| Walpeup .. ..                      | ..                     | 10,000             | 4,784             | 1,328                              | 6,544   |
| Wangaratta .. ..                   | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 8                                  | 8       |
| Waranga .. ..                      | ..                     | 3,200              | 3,200             | ..                                 | ..      |
| Werribee .. ..                     | ..                     | 10,000             | 8,955             | 3,466                              | 4,511   |
| Whittlesea .. ..                   | ..                     | ..                 | ..                | 106                                | 106     |
| Winchelsea .. ..                   | ..                     | ..                 | 527               | 631                                | 104     |
| Wodonga .. ..                      | ..                     | 5,000              | 4,218             | 756                                | 1,538   |
| Woorayl .. ..                      | ..                     | ..                 | 50                | 163                                | 113     |
| Wycheproof .. ..                   | ..                     | 17,000             | 15,778            | 2,670                              | 3,892   |
| Yarrawonga .. ..                   | ..                     | 23,000             | 5,152             | ..                                 | 17,848  |
| Total Shires .. ..                 | 2,026                  | 442,827            | 418,594           | 136,866                            | 163,125 |
| Grand Total .. ..                  | 12,104                 | 1,697,195          | 1,756,482         | 644,304                            | 597,121 |

\* Name changed to Bass.

### 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, 1928, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO  
30TH JUNE, 1928.

|   | Receipts.     |                     |  | Expenditure.  |                     |
|---|---------------|---------------------|--|---------------|---------------------|
|   | 1927-28.      | To 30th June, 1928. |  | 1927-28.      | To 30th June, 1928. |
|   | £             | £                   |  | £             | £                   |
| Balance, 30th June, 1927 .. ..                              | ..            | ..                  | 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 .. ..   | ..            | 309,138             |
| 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 ..  | 5,000         | 588,158             |
| Contributions by municipalities ..                          | 52,730        | 529,389             | Redeemable in instalments ..   | 28,175        | 114,670             |
| Stock realized ..   | 1,500         | 94,134              | Ordinary loans .. ..   | 4,561         | 102,786             |
| 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 .. ..  | 16,494        | 27,096              |
|   |               |                     | Sundries .. ..   | ..            | 10                  |
|   |               |                     | Balance, 30th June, 1928 .. ..   | ..            | ..                  |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>  | <b>54,230</b> | <b>1,450,823</b>    | <b>Total .. ..</b>   | <b>54,230</b> | <b>1,450,823</b>    |

\* 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, 1928, was £125,002.

**RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.**

**City of Melbourne, revenue and expenditure under various heads.** Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1928 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

**CITY OF MELBOURNE : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1928.**

| Heads of Revenue.   | Amount.          |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Rates—</b>   | £                |
| General and Lighting .. .. .                                      | 488,892          |
| <b>Licences—</b>  |                  |
| Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act .. .. .              | 8,916            |
| Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees .. .. .     | 57,471           |
| Drays, Hackney Carriages, and Motors .. .. .                      | 442              |
| Other Licences .. .. .  | 1,134            |
| Fees under Dog Act .. .. .  | 594              |
| Street Parking Fees .. .. .                                       | 5,043            |
| Omnibus Act—Government Contribution .. .. .                       | 2,224            |
| Parks and Tree Planting Fees .. .. .                              | 9,309            |
| Baths .. .. .   | 8,941            |
| Market and Weighbridge Fees .. .. .                               | 85,843           |
| Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c. .. .. . | 547,824          |
| Closet and Street Cleansing Charges .. .. .                       | 11,498           |
| Fines and Costs .. .. .   | 4,112            |
| <b>Rents—</b>   |                  |
| Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .                                  | 65,121           |
| Town Hall Premises and Rooms .. .. .                              | 8,472            |
| Other .. .. .   | 8,259            |
| Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c. .. .. .                           | 4,289            |
| <b>Miscellaneous—</b>   |                  |
| Hydraulic Power .. .. .   | 31,736           |
| Desiccators—Sale of Manure .. .. .                                | 13,649           |
| Fees under Building Act .. .. .                                   | 3,488            |
| Sundries .. .. .  | 21,217           |
| <b>Total .. .. .</b>  | <b>1,388,474</b> |

| Heads of Expenditure.   | Amount.            |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &amp;c.) .. .. .</b> | <b>£</b><br>60,725 |
| Allowance to Lord Mayor .. .. .   | 2,500              |
| Closet Cleansing .. .. .  | 1,267              |
| Street Cleansing, &c. .. .. .   | 90,006             |
| Lighting—Electric and Gas .. .. .   | 20,400             |
| Fire Brigades Board—Contribution .. .. .  | 14,918             |
| <b>Public Works—</b>  |                    |
| Roads and Bridges .. .. .   | 195,618            |
| Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .  | 44,564             |
| Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) .. .. .  | 74,790             |
| Parks and Planting trees in streets .. .. .   | 63,729             |
| Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995 .. .. .   | 2,258              |
| Interest on Loans from the Public .. .. .   | 193,287            |
| Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public .. .. .   | 49,802             |
| Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c. .. .. .  | 441,535            |
| Expenses of paying Interest on Loans .. .. .  | 394                |

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1928—*continued.*

| Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>  |    |    |    |    |    | Amount.          |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|------------------|
|  |    |    |    |    |    | £                |
| Contributions to Charitable Institutions | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,975            |
| "    "    Infectious Diseases Hospital   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,961            |
| "    "    Heatherton Sanatorium          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,716            |
| Law Costs                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,224            |
| Printing, Advertising, and Stationery    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,325            |
| Miscellaneous—                           |    |    |    |    |    |                  |
| Rat Destruction                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,314            |
| Hydraulic Power                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23,690           |
| Fees—Dog Act                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 711              |
| Insurance and Guarantee Premiums         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,253           |
| Depreciation                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29,939           |
| Libraries                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 175              |
| Town Planning Commission                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 636              |
| Street Parking                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,844            |
| Band Performances                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,520            |
| Milk Supply                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,796            |
| Ceremonials                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,847            |
| Baby Health Centre                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,579            |
| Ambulance Service                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 500              |
| National War Memorial                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,000            |
| Superannuation Fund Contribution         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,806           |
| Retiring Allowance to Employees          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4,137            |
| Sundries                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10,999           |
| <b>Total</b>                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <b>1,391,740</b> |

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1928, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 40 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, 5 per cent. from licences, 2 per cent. from hydraulic power, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 27 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and expenses of paying interest, 14 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 4 per cent.; for electric supply, 32 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 7 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 4 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 11 per cent.

**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY 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

**Municipal  
Officers'  
Guarantee  
Fund.**

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, 1928, amounting to £298,125, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £995. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1928, was £16,659. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1928, amounted to £3,131.

### MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

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

Melbourne  
Harbor Trust  
—receipts and  
expenditure.

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 £4,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1928, was £3,726,800. 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: 1924 TO 1928.

| Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.                        | 1924.   | 1925.   | 1926.   | 1927.   | 1928.   |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| REVENUE.   |         |         |         |         |         |
|  | £       | £       | £       | £       | £       |
| Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..                            | 630,992 | 632,018 | 658,944 | 716,193 | 625,907 |
| Rents .. .. .  | 36,391  | 35,804  | 37,116  | 37,521  | 36,885  |
| Interest .. .. .   | 669     | 285     | 79      | 43      | 2,149   |
| Other Revenue .. .. .                                    | 56,391  | 64,363  | 60,111  | 63,287  | 62,994  |
|  | 724,443 | 732,470 | 756,250 | 817,044 | 727,935 |
| Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue .. .. .         | 140,382 | 136,494 | 143,002 | 148,282 | 143,648 |
| Total .. .. .  | 584,061 | 595,976 | 613,248 | 668,762 | 584,287 |
| REVENUE EXPENDITURE.                                     |         |         |         |         |         |
| General Management and Expenses .. .. .                  | 42,484  | 37,527  | 68,442  | 58,385  | 53,765  |
| Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses .. .. .       | 5       | 10      | 15      | 8       | 3,500   |
| Maintenance—Dredging ..                                  | 74,564  | 96,759  | 81,128  | 74,884  | 49,258  |
| " Harbor .. .. .   | 4,478   | 4,027   | 4,240   | 6,357   | 5,587   |
| " Wharfs .. .. .   | 32,978  | 45,555  | 43,451  | 49,852  | 59,775  |
| " Approaches .. .. .                                     | 18,214  | 20,269  | 14,098  | 17,587  | 22,884  |
| Interest on Loans* .. .. .                               | 119,526 | 151,891 | 140,318 | 144,513 | 167,489 |
| Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund .. .. . | 213,000 | 213,000 | 213,000 | 213,000 | 213,000 |
| Total .. .. .  | 505,249 | 569,038 | 564,692 | 564,586 | 575,258 |
| Surplus on Revenue Account ..                            | 78,812  | 26,938  | 48,556  | 104,176 | 9,029   |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.                                     |         |         |         |         |         |
| Land and Property .. .. .                                | 560     | 37,699  | 30,962  | 20,144  | 10,869  |
| Deepening Waterways .. .. .                              | 137,488 | 145,808 | 169,053 | 204,536 | 261,634 |
| Wharfs Construction .. .. .                              | 194,318 | 285,072 | 129,382 | 246,587 | 161,235 |
| Approaches Construction ..                               | 25,483  | 46,130  | 15,412  | 35,619  | 78,249  |
| Other Harbor Improvements ..                             | 23,826  | 18,631  | 40,416  | 15,735  | 17,253  |
| Floating Plant .. .. .                                   | 3,192   | 97,354  | 9,221   | 125,690 | 2,193   |
| General Plant .. .. .                                    | 3,429   | 2,718   | 4,891   | 5,045   | 1,268   |
| Total .. .. .  | 388,296 | 633,412 | 399,337 | 653,356 | 532,701 |

\* 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 £599,717 (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.

|   | 1924.         | 1925.         | 1926.         | 1927.         | 1928.         |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUE.  |               |               |               |               |               |
| Wharfage, Tonnage and Special Berth Rates .. .. | 30,571        | 40,137        | 35,468        | 38,860        | 30,721        |
| Rents, Fees, and Licences .. ..                 | 12,286        | 10,469        | 10,940        | 10,204        | 7,159         |
| Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. ..        | 15,475        | 15,766        | 16,318        | 12,498        | 8,000         |
| Other Revenue .. ..                             | 3,024         | 19,958        | 4,347         | 4,069         | 11,531        |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                              | <b>61,356</b> | <b>86,330</b> | <b>67,073</b> | <b>65,631</b> | <b>57,411</b> |
| REVENUE EXPENDITURE.                            |               |               |               |               |               |
| General Management and Expenses .. ..           | 6,368         | 6,239         | 6,657         | 7,413         | 7,595         |
| Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches .. ..         | 3,282         | 4,518         | 8,210         | 40,751        | 8,056         |
| " Harbor .. ..                                  | 530           | 824           | 952           | 1,023         | 1,161         |
| " Floating Plant .. ..                          | 987           | 650           | 615           | 679           | 556           |
| " Other .. ..                                   | 6,973         | 7,183         | 9,876         | 16,489        | 5,030         |
| Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund .. ..        | 27,755        | 27,756        | 27,755        | 24,818        | 26,026        |
| Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. ..        | 4,599         | 7,969         | 6,622         | 4,682         | 4,405         |
| Corio Quay Power-house .. ..                    | 888           | ..            | ..            | ..            | ..            |
| Miscellaneous .. ..                             | 933           | 1,888         | 5,543         | 4,093         | 4,228         |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                              | <b>52,315</b> | <b>57,027</b> | <b>66,230</b> | <b>99,948</b> | <b>57,057</b> |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.                            |               |               |               |               |               |
| Land and Property .. ..                         | 10,056        | 2,209         | 2,564         | 4,572         | 2,693         |
| Deepening Waterworks .. ..                      | 14,991        | 20,587        | 15,716        | 3,554         | 9,434         |
| Wharfs and Approaches Construction .. ..        | 95            | 3,283         | 8,973         | 17,044        | 84,694        |
| Other Harbor Improvements .. ..                 | 746           | 810           | 955           | 938           | 667           |
| Floating and General Plant .. ..                | 11            | ..            | 29            | 2,134         | ..            |
| Stock Account, Timber and Piles .. ..           | ..            | ..            | ..            | 923           | ..            |
| <b>Total .. ..</b>                              | <b>25,899</b> | <b>26,889</b> | <b>28,237</b> | <b>29,165</b> | <b>97,488</b> |



**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, called Commissioners, 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 (part of), and Preston. The 39 Commissioners therefore represent 22 municipalities or part municipalities.

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 main and general sewerage; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; to control and manage the rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and carry out certain other duties. 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 pressing want.

**Area under Board's control, and population.**

Under the provisions of section 3 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 (corner of Bourke and Elizabeth streets), 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, 1928, comprised 24 cities and part of another city, also parts of 13 shires, or 38 municipalities in all. Sixteen of these municipalities—or part municipalities—are without representation on the

**Board.** The whole of the city 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, 1928, was 1,072,459.

**Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans.**

The Board is authorized to borrow £22,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs.

These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £19,902,020 on 30th June, 1928. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £2,237,914 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 1927-28 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 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 £17,486,799 in 1927-28, and £17,971,442 in 1928-29.

**Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.** The total revenue was £744,977, as against £720,124 in the previous year. The cost in 1927-28 of maintenance and management was £133,815, and the amount of interest was £414,570, the total charge being £548,385, as compared with a payment in 1926-27 of £113,706 for maintenance and management, and of £367,363 for interest, or a total charge of £481,069.

**Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.** The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1928, was as follows:—

|                                    |       |      |         |            |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|---------|------------|
| Original water supply station, &c. | works | tank | pumping | £          |
| Yan Yean system                    | ..    | ..   | ..      | 84,885     |
| Maroondah system                   | ..    | ..   | ..      | 642,677    |
| O'Shanassy system                  | ..    | ..   | ..      | 1,665,705  |
| Service reservoirs                 | ..    | ..   | ..      | 1,484,965  |
| Large mains                        | ..    | ..   | ..      | 473,167    |
| Reticulation                       | ..    | ..   | ..      | 2,068,702  |
|                                    |       |      |         | 2,315,632  |
| Cost of water supply system        | ..    | ..   | ..      | 8,735,733  |
| River improvements                 | ..    | ..   | ..      | 45,004     |
| Dight's Falls pumping station      | ..    | ..   | ..      | 2,235      |
| Total                              | ..    | ..   | ..      | £8,782,972 |

### 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 Coranderrk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

**Total area.** The total area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 108,840 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 152,000,000 gallons.

### YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yeau system.** The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 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  $2\frac{1}{8}$  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 1928 was 22 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. on 13th November, and the minimum depth, 13 ft. 8 in. on 16th January. Its total capacity is 6,879,000,000 gallons, of which 6,251,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1928, the total intake of the Reservoir was 4,108,547,000 gallons, and the total output was 1,043,073,000 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 partly from the Maroondah storage reservoir and partly from small weirs, all of which are situated on the watershed of 40,000 acres near Healesville. The Maroondah Reservoir is formed by means of a cyclopean rubble concrete dam 135 feet high and 946 feet in length. The total capacity of the reservoir formed by

the dam is 6,274,000,000 gallons, and the total quantity of water available above lowest draw-off level is 4,855,000,000 gallons. The wall has a thickness at the base of 111 feet and is 16 feet thick at the top. The area of water surface at top water line is 486 acres. The length around the reservoir at top water line is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The water from the Maroondah system is conveyed to the service reservoirs along an aqueduct which is capable of delivering 50,000,000 gallons daily.

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed.** The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is collected in a storage reservoir formed by the construction of an earthen embankment 110 feet high and 740 feet in length. The reservoir has a capacity of 930,540,000 gallons. The water is 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 60,000,000 gallons daily. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir near Mount Dandenong is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1928.

**Output of Water.** The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1928 was as follows:—

|                         |       | Gallons.       |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------|
| From Yan Yean Reservoir | .. .. | 1,043,073,000  |
| ,, Maroondah Reservoir  | .. .. | 11,328,159,000 |
| ,, O'Shanassy River ..  | .. .. | 7,918,375,000  |
|                         |       | <hr/>          |
| Total Output            | .. .. | 20,289,607,000 |
|                         |       | <hr/>          |

**Storage and service reservoirs.** There are four storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 14,143,540,000 gallons and seventeen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), with a total capacity of 191,350,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, two other service reservoirs. The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the then capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

**Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs.** The average number of people supplied with water during 1928 was 1,060,325, and the average daily consumption was 52.16 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 1928:—

**TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER  
IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH  
OF THE YEAR 1928.**

| Month.                               | Total Consumption<br>of Water. | Daily Average<br>Consumption of<br>Water. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
|                                      | Gallons.                       | Gallons.                                  |
| January ... ..                       | 2,296,565,000                  | 74,082,742                                |
| February ... ..                      | 1,531,987,000                  | 54,551,275                                |
| March ... ..                         | 1,718,865,000                  | 55,447,258                                |
| April ... ..                         | 1,507,412,000                  | 50,247,067                                |
| May ... ..                           | 1,325,330,000                  | 42,752,581                                |
| June ... ..                          | 1,291,641,000                  | 43,054,700                                |
| July ... ..                          | 1,339,478,000                  | 44,821,870                                |
| August ... ..                        | 1,432,800,000                  | 46,219,354                                |
| September ... ..                     | 1,676,122,000                  | 55,870,733                                |
| October ... ..                       | 1,547,450,000                  | 49,917,742                                |
| November ... ..                      | 1,995,927,000                  | 66,530,900                                |
| December ... ..                      | 2,526,030,000                  | 81,484,839                                |
| Total for the year ..                | 20,239,607,000                 | ...                                       |
| Daily average for the<br>year ... .. | ...                            | 55,314,333                                |

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1928 occurred on 11th January and the minimum daily consumption on 19th May of that year. The consumption was 116,397,000 gallons on the former and 35,057,000 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, 1919 TO 1928.**

| Year.    | Estimated<br>Population<br>supplied with<br>Water to 30th<br>June. | Houses sup-<br>plied with<br>Water to 30th<br>June. | Number of Houses<br>for which Sewers<br>were provided<br>to 30th June. | Daily Average of<br>Annual Consumption<br>of Water to<br>31st December. | No. of Gallons<br>of Water per<br>Head Daily. |
|----------|--|---|--|---|---|
|          |  |   |  | Gallons.  |   |
| 1919 ... | 731,154  | 165,046   | 155,238  | 42,455,225  | 58·07   |
| 1920 ... | 755,536  | 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   |
| 1924 ... | 918,485  | 207,333   | 182,987  | 50,187,508  | 54·64   |
| 1925 ... | 954,558  | 215,476   | 191,318  | 55,633,000  | 58·28   |
| 1926 ... | 990,561  | 223,603   | 199,918  | 53,403,863  | 53·91   |
| 1927 ... | 1,028,983  | 232,276   | 208,003  | 57,738,181  | 56·11   |
| 1928 ... | 1,060,325  | 239,351   | 216,785  | 55,314,333  | 52·16   |

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 7,075 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1928.

**Snagging the River Yarra.** Under the provisions of the Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Acts, the River Yarra has been snagged and banks cleared for a further 10 miles during the year 1928, thus making safe for boating a stretch of about 17 miles between Dight's Falls and a point 1 mile above the mouth of the Plenty River. From the stream above Fairfield 5,655 snags and four stone reefs have been removed. As snags are the cause of the majority of boating accidents on the Yarra, the Board's work in making the river safe for navigation so far upstream has been much appreciated by all users of the river.

**River Yarra Improvements.** Portion of the plant for river improvement works was received and operations commenced. A Dredging Depot with necessary roads, buildings and fences was constructed; the Mud Island below the South Yarra Railway Bridge was removed and the bank straightened and low ground filled at Cubitt-street; the cut for the river through Richmond Quarries, widening the river in Richmond Park, and bank protection works were started.

**Maribyrnong River Improvements.** Improvement and Beautification works were commenced on both upper and lower reaches of the river and 753 snags were removed.

**Metropolitan Streams.** The rivers and streams were patrolled by the Board's staff to prevent pollution, and over the Yarra there was regular supervision and control of river traffic by the police.

The following streams were cleaned and cleared in those portions needing attention :—Elwood Canal, Elster, Merri, Moonee Ponds, Blackburn and Gardiner's Creeks.

**Dight's Falls Pumping Station.** During the year the output of water reached a total of 345 million gallons. This water was chiefly used by the Botanical Gardens and for the Albert Park Lake to replace loss by evaporation.

### SEWERAGE FINANCE.

**Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.** 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 1928-29 was £18,757,973, 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 £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1927-28 was 8d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 8d. rate was £16,342,505 in 1927-28.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1927-28 amounted to £557,797.

The sewerage revenue for 1927-28 was £625,690, as against £633,165 in the previous year. The outlay in 1927-28 for management, working expenses and repairs was £157,323, and for interest £598,962, the total charges being £756,285, compared with an outlay in 1926-27 of £148,814 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £560,539 for interest, or a total expenditure of £709,353.

**Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system.** The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1928, was £11,084,335, divided as follows:—

|  | £           |
|--|-------------|
| Farm purchase and preparation .. .. .                  | 1,007,365   |
| Treatment works .. .. .                                | 22,341      |
| Outfall Sewer and Rising Mains .. .. .                 | 460,419     |
| Pumping station buildings and engines .. .. .          | 316,399     |
| Main and branch sewers .. .. .                         | 2,571,799   |
| Street reticulation .. .. .                            | 3,426,720   |
| Reticulation of rights-of-way .. .. .                  | 1,897,065   |
| House connexions branches .. .. .                      | 732,618     |
| Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital .. .. . | 595,512     |
| Sanitary depots .. .. .                                | 54,097      |
| <hr/>  |             |
| Cost of sewerage system .. .. .                        | £11,084,335 |
| Householders' debts for house connexions .. .. .       | 418,272     |
| Main Drains .. .. .                                    | 212,001     |
| <hr/>  |             |
| Total .. .. .  | £11,714,608 |



**Disposal of  
Nightsoil from  
Unsewered  
Premises.**

The agreements entered into with 27 municipal councils for the collection and delivery by them of nightsoil from unsewered premises within their respective districts have been in operation during 1927-28. The total number of pans cleaned was 1,323,101, and the nightsoil was disposed of by burial by the Board at its various depots at Brooklyn, Campbellfield and Moorabbin. Nightsoil was also disposed of by the Board at the Burwood Depot until 30th November, 1927, when this Depot was closed and operations ceased.

**Main Sewers  
and Subsidiary  
Main.**

The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (Northern system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (Southern system). The subsidiary main, which takes in 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 REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE  
BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31st  
DECEMBER, 1928.

On the 31st December, 1928, 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.

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

A small portion of the municipality of Moorabbin had been completed, and the Five Mile Creek Branch Main had been extended through Essendon to Keilor.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1928, work has progressed more particularly in Camberwell, Coburg, Moorabbin, and Preston; also in Caulfield, Essendon, Heidelberg, Sandringham, &c.

*Main and Branch Sewers.*—The following Main and Branch Sewers have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas in the respective municipalities mentioned:—Murrumbeena Branch Section 2 in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 596, Caulfield; Five Mile Creek Branch, in conjunction with Reticulation Area 584, Essendon and Keilor; Ashburton Branch Section 2, in

conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 592, Camberwell; Youell-street Branch Section 6, in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 609, Footscray; Darebin Creek Branch Section 2; Gardiner's Creek Branch Sections, 5, 6 and 7; Elster Creek Branch Section 1; Glass Creek Branch Section 1; and Raglan-street Branch, Preston.

*Reticulation Contracts.*—These have been completed chiefly in Camberwell, Preston, Moorabbin, Coburg, Williamstown, Oakleigh, Heidelberg, and Footscray, others have been carried out in Broadmeadows, Kew and Essendon. A reticulation area has been carried out in each of the following Districts, by day labour:—Williamstown, Heidelberg and Oakleigh. Day labor reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Camberwell, Caulfield, Footscray, Hawthorn, Heidelberg, and Preston; and in a lesser degree in Brighton, Brunswick, Coburg, Essendon, Malvern, Melbourne, Northcote, Prahran, Sandringham, and St. Kilda. The Edgar's Creek Pumping Station was built by contract during the year.

*Works in Progress 31st December, 1928—Main and Branch Sewers.*—The following works are in course of construction:—The deviation of the North Yarra main; Darebin Creek Branch Section 3; Moonee Ponds Main Section 6; Box Hill Branch Section 1; and Darebin Creek Branch Section 4.

*Reticulation contracts* are now being carried out in Kew, Preston, Box Hill, Coburg, Camberwell, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg and Footscray. Contract and day labor reticulation extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Camberwell, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Hawthorn, Heidelberg, Kew, Northcote, Oakleigh, Preston and Sandringham.

In all 1,980 miles 17 chains of reticulation and 203 miles 25 chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, and adding the rising mains and outfall sewer (a length of 24 miles 59 chains), makes a total length of 2,208 miles 21 chains of sewers.

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

Number of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st Decr., 1928.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1928, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 219,220, including 765 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1927-28, 6,497 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,782 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1928 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

| Municipality.                     | No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1928. |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Melbourne City ... ..             | 27,474   |
| South Melbourne City ... ..       | 10,965   |
| Prahran City ... ..               | 12,908   |
| Fitzroy City ... ..               | 8,158  |
| Richmond City ... ..              | 10,510   |
| St. Kilda City ... ..             | 9,868  |
| Collingwood City ... ..           | 8,742  |
| Footscray City ... ..             | 9,630  |
| Hawthorn City ... ..              | 8,296  |
| Brunswick City ... ..             | 12,806   |
| Essendon City ... ..              | 10,654   |
| Malvern City ... ..               | 10,465   |
| Caulfield City ... ..             | 15,351   |
| Northcote City ... ..             | 9,943  |
| Camberwell City ... ..            | 9,870  |
| Brighton City ... ..              | 6,682  |
| Port Melbourne City ... ..        | 3,189  |
| Williamstown City ... ..          | 5,151  |
| Kew City ... ..                   | 5,321  |
| Coburg City ... ..                | 6,358  |
| Sandringham City ... ..           | 3,884  |
| Preston City ... ..               | 4,958  |
| Oakleigh City ... ..              | 2,197  |
| Box Hill City ... ..              | 444  |
| Heidelberg Shire (part of) ... .. | 4,426  |
| Moorabbin Shire (part of) ... ..  | 966  |
| Werribee Shire (part of) ... ..   | 4  |
| Total ... ..                      | 219,220  |

In addition to the above, there is part of a city and there are parts of ten shires in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

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 from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively below low-water mark through straining wells, two of which are 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

**Pumping station.**

matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes. There are seven steam driven reciprocating pumping engines installed of about 300 horse-power each, with a daily capacity of about 8,000,000 gallons each. 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 134,000,000 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 from 120 feet to 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. rising mains (one of mild steel and one of wrought iron) and one 4-ft. rising main with  $3\frac{3}{8}$  chains of concrete at the top end. The three mains run side by side, each about 2 miles  $63\frac{1}{2}$  chains long. Only two of them are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. There are also two 6-ft. exterior by-pass rising mains laid north and south of the pumping station and having a total length of 14 chains 3 feet. These are provided so that the flow can be by-passed and cleaning and repairs effected to the mains and valves in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station. The total length of all the rising mains is 8 miles  $44\frac{1}{2}$  chains. 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 present maximum capacity of the outfall sewer (which is only half of the full amount) is 12,500 cubic feet a minute, or  $112\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons of sewage per day. The total volume of sewage pumped during the year 1927-28 was 13,746,968,000 gallons—equal to 37,560,022 gallons per day, as against a total of 12,549,580,000 gallons, with a daily average of 34,382,411 for the previous year. Although, in consequence of the increased quantity of sewage pumped, the working expenses were increased by £2,104, nevertheless, the unit cost of raising 1,000 gallons 100 feet was reduced from .477d. to .465d.

### METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

**Sewage farm.** The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 22,634 acres 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 for the past 35 years to 31st December, 1928, of 17.73 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending

6 miles from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River, and a further  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-westward). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road. The land gradually slopes from the north, and the highest point at which sewage is delivered on the land by pumping is 50 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer 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.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided, where the contours permit, into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays commanded by distributing channels to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main carriers which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers 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, which are fed by sub-drains at intervals generally of 10 chains. Each of the hundreds of paddocks on the farm is supplied with water drawn from a main laid from Melbourne, which also feeds a storage reservoir of 2,600,000 gallons capacity, to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

The area under irrigation in the year 1927-28 was 8,563 acres, all but a few hundred acres of lucerne being sown with mixed pastures on which are grazed beef cattle, sheep, and horses. In addition to the 8,563 acres under irrigated pastures there is an area of 1,211 acres of reclaimed foreshore country specially prepared and kept in reserve to deal with surplus winter sewage and abnormal flows in wet weather.

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

The revenue from grazing for the year 1927-28 totalled £57,678, made up as follows :—

|                         |       | £      |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
| Net profits from cattle | .. .. | 31,209 |
| "    "    "    sheep    | .. .. | 17,631 |
| Agistment of horses     | .. .. | 8,838  |
|                         |       | <hr/>  |
| Total                   | .. .. | 57,678 |
|                         |       | <hr/>  |

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1927-28, or as at 30th June, 1928, are as follows:—

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Total area of farm .. .. .  | 22,634 acres |
| Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1927-28 = in gallons .. ..   | 37,560,022   |
| = 138·36 acre-feet per day = 5·18 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 9,774 acres.                    |              |
| Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1928 ..  | £1,007,365   |
| Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..   | £44,289      |
| Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £22,072 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £51,733, interest on capital cost) .. .. | £29,516      |
| The net cost per head per annum of sewage purification for the year was .. ..   | 7·38d.       |
| Population served by sewerage system .. ..  | 960,358      |
| Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1928 ..  | 23·98 inches |
| "    "    "    31st December, 1928 ..   | 19·84    "   |
| Average rainfall for 35 years to 31st December, 1928 .. .. .  | 17·73    "   |
| Rainfall on newly acquired land at Murtcaim for year ended 30th June, 1928 .. .. .  | 19·36    "   |

Except for a monsoonal intrusion lasting from 18th January, 1928, to 28th March, 1928, the rainfall was very low and the season unfavorable for pastures on unirrigated country and for seeding new land. The Murtcaim area has in consequence remained valueless as a grazing or revenue producing proposition, while a large area planted with lucerne and grasses failed to germinate, and will have to be re-sown. On the irrigated portions of the Farm, pastures generally were good throughout the year, and stock on them did well. Owing to the bad grass season around Melbourne the receipts for agistment of horses were again a record. The maximum number on agistment at one time during the year reached 2,000 in June.

**Main Drains.** Under the provisions of the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1926* as amended by the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1926* a "Metropolitan Drainage and River Improvement Rate" of one penny in the Pound was first struck on 1st July, 1927, and was again levied for the year 1928-29.

During the year 1928 further existing drains were declared to be main drains and control taken over from the municipal councils, the total length of such drains to 31st December being 33 miles 38 chains. In addition 12 miles 56 chains of main drains were constructed or were in course of construction by the Board, making a total length of 46 miles

14 chains under the Board's control. Of the drains taken over, a length of 3 miles 1 chain has been reconstructed and carrying capacity enlarged.

Since the report in the last issue of this volume contracts amounting in all to £279,680 were let, the principal works being as follow:—

- Geelong-road to Maribyrnong River Drain, Footscray, £34,978 ;
- Grainger's-road to Stony Creek Drain, Footscray, £20,957 ;
- Shakespeare-grove to Inkerman-street Drain St. Kilda, £27,014 ;
- Byron-street Drain, St. Kilda, £9,211 ;
- Hardings-street Drain, Coburg, £14,116 ;
- Albion-street Drain, Brunswick, £21,280 ;
- Grange-road Drain, Caulfield, £49,690 ;
- Williams-road Diversion Drain, Prahran, £17,065 ;
- High-street to Miller-street Drain, Preston, £41,669.
- Princes-street Drain, Port Melbourne, £17,655 ;

besides other works in Hawthorn, Camberwell, Brunswick, and South Melbourne.

Various works have been carried out by day labor, the expenditure on such being approximately £5,000, and culverts and other minor works amounting to about £11,000 have been constructed by Municipal Councils at the Board's expense.

The total sum of contracts let from the signing of the first contract in October, 1926, to 31st December, 1928, involving, in all, the construction of 27 drains, is £391,623.

### 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 £651,681. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £306,534 as at 31st December, 1928. The annual revenue is £34,834.

*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 scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons (present population, 40,000). The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1928, is £236,967, for which is provided disposal works; outfall sewer, 1 mile, diameter 3 ft. 3 in.; main sewer, 2-1/10th miles; submains and reticulation pipes, 32½ miles. The method of sewage disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation, and sludge digestion. Thirty-nine sewered areas have been declared as at 1st July, 1929, comprising 4,820 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made. The whole of the system has to date worked in a most satisfactory manner.

*Finance.*—The scheme is being financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £300,000 having been provided up to 30th June, 1929, for constructional works, and £80,000 for house connexions.

*Rating.*—Prior to the Authority being in a position to levy a rate on sewered properties and to provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, a special rate was levied on the whole of the district, as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923, 3d. in the £; 1924 and 1925, 6d. in the £; Rating for 1929 is 1s. 9d. in the £ on all sewered properties, and 3d. in the £ on unsewered properties.

### 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, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1928, was:—Water supply, £634,152; sewerage, £587,494; and sewerage installation, £239,507. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1928, was £50,428 on account of waterworks and £44,997 on account of sewerage. Since 1913 the Trust has appropriated and set apart sums out of surplus revenues for the creation of a sinking fund to redeem loans. The amount of these sinking funds on 30th June, 1928, was—For sewerage, £37,823; for water supply, £37,482.



The population supplied is about 44,869. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 11,100; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 10,800; and the number connected with the sewers, 10,720.

*Water Supply.*—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs and service basins is 2,738,119,808 gallons.

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

*Sewerage.*—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 9,489 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the 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. 1d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with minimum rates of £1 per annum for properties supplied and 5s. for vacant land.

The sewerage rate is :—

A general sewerage rate of 1s. 3d. 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.

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, with the exception of portion of the outlying district, which has been excised, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman for 1929 is Cr. J. A. Michelsen, 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. In 1924 an additional amount of £50,000 was borrowed from the

Commonwealth Bank at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for sewer extensions. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. A further amount of £172,000 for extensions in hand has been borrowed, the interest rate being  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., with repayment in 20 years on a 30 years' basis of equal half-yearly payments. These loans have been for sewer extensions into suburban areas. The sewerage of Quarry Hill and Kennington is completed and Golden Square nearing completion. Extension into Ironbark at an estimated cost of £24,700 has been approved and the work begun. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value is levied upon all property within the Sewerage District. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 1st March, 1929.

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. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer has been completed to the end of sewerage area No. 1, a length of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and is now being extended into area No. 3, Golden Square. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 59 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 4,700 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1929, 4,056 houses had been connected, while 93 others were in course of being sewered.

*Method of Sewage Disposal and Purification.*—The method of disposal of the sewage is by first passing it through sedimentation tanks where the period of detention does not exceed 2 hours, and then over grassed land. Four tanks are used in turn, each tank after 6 weeks' use as a sedimentation tank, being rested as a sludge digestion tank, its digested contents being discharged through valves in bottom after 15 to 18 weeks' digestion, just in time for re-use as a sedimentation tank. Each tank after emptying is "seeded" from the adjacent resting tank, and active digestion of fresh contents at once begins. In summer the digested sludge is discharged into the tank effluent channel, and distributes itself as a top dressing uniformly over whatever land is being irrigated, without cost for spreading. For winter purification, a unique method is used. A special area of 14 acres 45 chains in length has been prepared by putting up low cross banks, spaced 25 feet apart centres, and from 180 to 230 feet long, transverse to the length of area and fall of ground. The settled tank effluent flows in a shallow stream in alternate directions, to and fro, between these banks, a total distance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and is then ponded in a shallow swamp 30 acres in extent, the overflow from which flows into the adjacent Bendigo Creek. The sedimentation aeration and oxidation that takes place under this system produces a final effluent that is much purer than required by law. The "Zig Zag," as

it is called, is free from nuisance, and results in a prolific growth of natural grasses for summer feeding. By this system the irrigated land has 4 months' spell from sewage application during winter rains, and the winter disposal area has 8 months' rest while irrigating.

The average daily flow from 20,000 persons now on the sewers is 600,000 gallons, which irrigates effectively only 100 acres of permanent pasture, the ground being so absorbent.

From 1,000 to 2,000 sheep and lambs are carried, the total area of farm being 370 acres.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 2s. 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 quarterly instalments. For this purpose borrowing powers to the extent of £100,000 were granted to the authority. Arrangements have been made to borrow up to this amount as required from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia at 6 per cent. The deferred repayment provision has been availed of to the extent of £144,993, of which amount £68,214 has already been repaid, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to 1 per cent. more than the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £500,000.

**Sewering  
Country  
Towns.**

Under the provisions of Act No. 3609 passed on 27th December, 1928, authority was given to raise £100,000 to be expended on sewerage works in certain country towns.

The amounts that may be borrowed by each of these towns are as under:—

| Town.                           | Amount.<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Colac Sewerage Authority ..     | 6,000        |
| Echuca Sewerage Authority ..    | 29,000       |
| Horsham Sewerage Authority ..   | 19,000       |
| Mildura Sewerage Authority ..   | 30,000       |
| Swan Hill Sewerage Authority .. | 16,000       |
| Total .. ..                     | 100,000      |

### 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 that area. The districts referred to are the Borough of Ringwood, Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, and portions of the Shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Lilydale (Croydon), Doncaster and Templestowe, 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.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1929, had under its control the following:—Forty-one stations, 291 members of permanent staff, 78 members of special service staff, 9 members of clerical staff, 66 men engaged in the workshops, 15 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 170 partially paid firemen, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage wagons, 40 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 21 petrol motor hose wagons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 4 pompier ladders, 12 inspection cars, 115,500 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 517 fire alarm circuits having 1,647 street fire alarms, all of which were with telephones. There were also 1,293 auxiliary boxes and 338 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 193 direct telephone lines, 64 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 118 watchmen's clock systems.

During 1928-29 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £185,548, 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 770d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £18,964,415, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 12s. 2½d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1927 amounted to £1,084,687, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1927-28 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £60,848.

Outfit of the  
Metropolitan  
Fire Brigade.

**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 for the year ended 30th June, 1928, was £33,327, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £10,942; (b) municipalities, £10,985; (c) insurance companies, £10,927; and (d) other sources, £473. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £33,309. There are 119 municipal councils and 108 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1927 amounted to £393,325. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1927 was £3,397,200. 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 147 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,687. In many brigades there is, 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, 1928, the Board had fixed to its 321 miles 60½ chains of leading mains and 1,955 miles 60½ chains of reticulation mains, 7,505 pillar hydrants, 25 Tregear patent hydrants, and 17,854 ball fire plugs [viz., 17,834 Bateman and Moore (of which 4,461 are with spring), and 20 Fowler patent]—a grand total of 25,384. 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.

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1928, are as follows :—

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

| —  | 1924.*         | 1925.          | 1926.          | 1927.          | 1928.          |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>  | £              | £              | £              | £              | £              |
| Contributions — Govern-<br>ment, Municipal, and<br>Insurance ... | 148,576        | 175,977        | 186,613        | 200,330        | 210,585        |
| Receipts for Services ...  | 16,486         | 20,138         | 21,180         | 24,224         | 25,343         |
| Interest and Sundries ...  | 9,881          | 12,120         | 17,567         | 21,014         | 25,934         |
| <b>Total ...</b>   | <b>174,943</b> | <b>208,235</b> | <b>225,360</b> | <b>245,568</b> | <b>261,862</b> |
| <i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>                                     |                |                |                |                |                |
| Salaries ...   | 105,749        | 130,723        | 139,087        | 147,262        | 154,813        |
| Fire Expenses ...  | 2,196          | 4,133          | 4,315          | 4,425          | 4,431          |
| Administrative Charges, &c.                                      | 28,433         | 32,282         | 39,676         | 35,859         | 43,992         |
| Plant—Purchase and Re-<br>pairs ...                              | 17,383         | 16,950         | 19,551         | 18,983         | 23,904         |
| Interest ...   | 7,746          | 7,753          | 8,823          | 10,146         | 11,250         |
| Repayment of Loans ...   | 3,115          | 3,946          | 4,185          | 5,133          | 5,089          |
| Firemen's Accident Fund  | ...            | ...            | ...            | 500            | 500            |
| Superannuation Fund ...  | 3,900          | 4,880          | 5,046          | 8,540          | 8,600          |
| Miscellaneous ...  | 3,095          | 4,230          | 7,904          | 9,025          | 8,760          |
| <b>Total ...</b>   | <b>171,617</b> | <b>204,897</b> | <b>228,587</b> | <b>239,873</b> | <b>261,339</b> |
| <i>Loan Expenditure.</i>   |                |                |                |                |                |
| Purchase of Land and<br>Erection of Buildings, &c.               | 1,201          | 19,047         | 14,236         | 40,823         | 5,917          |

\* The figures relating to the Country Fire Brigades Board included in this column are for a period of six months to 30th June, 1924.