

## MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early  
legislation.

Amongst the various enactments which became law for Victoria on its separation from New South Wales was a provision in the Imperial Act authorizing the Governor to incorporate the inhabitants of every county, to form districts for the purpose of local government, and to establish elective District Councils with power to frame by-laws for making and maintaining roads, establishing schools, levying local tolls and rates, &c. Many of the provisions of the Act were found to be unworkable and expensive in the details, and the District Councils therefore discontinued their meetings and practical working under the Act. Improved legislation being required, an Act was passed in 1853, establishing a central Road Board for the whole Colony, with an Inspector-General and staff, and also providing for the creation of local Road Districts under the management of Road Boards. This Act made provision chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act. In the meanwhile suburban districts and towns were growing up, and in 1854 an Act was passed for the establishment of municipal institutions in Victoria. This Act also continued in force till 1863, when its chief provisions were merged into the Municipal Corporations Act. Further improvements and extensions have been made from time to time in the Acts dealing with local government, and such government is now practically universal throughout Victoria, the whole area of the State (except French Island) being divided into urban or rural municipal districts. The former are called cities, towns, and boroughs and the latter shires.

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

**Office, towns, boroughs, and shires.** Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 53 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

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

**Municipal councillors.** Each municipality existing at the commencement of the original Act, 29th December, 1854—now incorporated in the Act of 1915—is allowed the number of councillors then assigned to it; but in other cases the number must be some multiple of three, not less than six nor more than 24. The number is usually nine. If the district is subdivided, the number of councillors is three for each subdivision. If at any time in any municipality there is no council or there are not enough councillors to form a quorum, a commissioner may be appointed by the Governor in Council to exercise the powers of the council. Every person of either sex liable to be rated in respect of property in the municipal district of the rateable annual value of £20 at least, whether consisting of one or more tenements, is qualified to hold the office of councillor, with the exception of (a) undischarged bankrupts or insolvents; (b) persons attainted of treason or convicted of felony or perjury or any infamous crime; (c) persons of unsound mind; and (d) persons holding an office of profit under the council or participating directly or indirectly in a contract with the council. The election of councillors takes place annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor; in the case of shires, the president.

**Municipal electors.** Every person (male or female) 21 years of age or upwards, liable to be rated in respect of property within a municipal district in respect of which all rates, made before 10th March of the year, have been paid by the 10th June, is entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Plurality of votes is allowed upon the following scale :—

## IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

## IN SHIRES.

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

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

**Rateable property.** All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following :—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes; lands dedicated by the trustees of agricultural colleges as sites for agricultural colleges or experimental farms; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics’ institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, technical schools subsidized by Government, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality or council thereof, or any authority under the *Water Act 1915*; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression “land” includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants’ rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and expenses (if

any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz. :—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and must not exceed in any one year 3s. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 3s. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, a "separate rate" may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The separate rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or a sinking fund for a loan raised on the security of such rate.

Several municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 23th November, 1922.

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Rates Recovery Act 1916* power is given to any municipality to sell vacant land charged with rates unpaid for not less than 10 years and which has been unoccupied for more than 5 years. Prior to the sale the owner of the land must be informed by registered letter, and notices must be posted on the land and at the municipal offices for not less than one month.

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

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

**Municipalities:** The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1923 was 192. Of these, 25 ranked as cities, 6 as towns, 22 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1923-24 :—

MUNICIPALITIES : 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In-habited.	Un-inhabited.	Total.	Annual.	
<b>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—</b>							
1919-20 ..	877,880	228,518	197,753	1,394	£ 172,838,636	£ 9,687,320	£ 2,053,584
1920-21 ..	886,030	237,037	202,581	865	193,947,624	10,864,184	2,314,017
1921-22 ..	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		210,501,055	11,869,636	2,648,855
1922-23 ..	963,180	270,058	217,518	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,992,159
1923-24 ..	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	..
<b>Shires—</b>							
1919-20 ..	628,420	188,892	140,049	1,869	£ 184,599,186	£ 9,340,172	£ 1,171,379
1920-21 ..	628,970	198,801	142,684	1,586	205,555,121	10,360,524	1,279,099
1921-22 ..	610,987*	201,956	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,778	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24 ..	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	..
<b>Total—</b>							
1919-20 ..	1,506,300	417,410	337,802	3,263	357,437,822	19,027,492	3,224,963
1920-21 ..	1,515,000	435,838	345,265	2,451	399,502,745	21,214,703	3,593,116
1921-22 ..	1,525,358*	447,545	345,936*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23 ..	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24 ..	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	..

\* Census figures.

Increases in value of rateable properties and municipal revenue.

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

### INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1923-24 over 1919-20.		1922-23 over 1919-20.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ... ..	91,854,728	5,277,025	938,575
Shires ... ..	50,675,411	2,475,902	325,385
Total Increase ... ..	142,530,139	7,752,927	1,263,960

The number of ratepayers returned for 1923-24 was 492,609, and the total capital value of rateable property £499,967,961, which is equivalent to about 18 $\frac{2}{3}$  years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £26,780,419.

Unimproved Value of Rateable Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1923-24 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £132,346,682, and in shires £156,849,732. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

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

### NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1919-20	266,559	263,106	529,665
1920-21	278,357	279,731	558,088
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962

The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1923-24, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1922-23:—

### CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1923-24.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
<b>CITIES.</b>							
Ballarat ..	36,000	8,954	s. d. 2 9	£ 4,773,285	£ 318,219	£ 70,853	£
Bendigo ..	26,000	6,402	2 6	3,400,880	242,920	55,089	..
Brighton ..	24,470	7,592	2 6	6,690,256	364,491	54,427	..
Brunswick ..	47,170	10,061	*0 6	7,801,577	507,270	125,088	..
Camberwell ..	29,170	8,972	*0 4	9,366,832	483,099	79,678	..
Caulfield ..	52,490	15,660	*0 4½	14,039,439	789,357	97,065	..
Coburg ..	25,000	9,000	*0 4	3,813,795	254,253	58,219	..
Collingwood ..	34,200	7,620	2 3	3,905,480	415,274	43,971	..
Essendon ..	37,960	11,415	*0 5	8,656,743	500,671	67,484	..
Fitzroy ..	34,850	8,048	2 0	8,437,518	468,751	51,137	..
Footscray ..	40,000	12,200	2 6	7,790,960	389,548	102,001	..
Geelong ..	15,100	4,600	2 7	3,924,380	196,219	42,420	..
Hawthorn ..	30,810	7,828	2 6	9,678,640	483,932	67,115	..
Kew ..	20,400	5,100	2 5	4,347,135	239,809	41,974	..
Malvern ..	40,850	10,234	2 6	13,237,400	661,870	93,825	..
Melbourne ..	103,600	32,308	2 0	66,033,360	3,301,668	1,005,061	..
Northcote ..	33,920	9,150	2 6	6,840,650	342,034	80,534	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,150	2,868	2 3	1,714,612	136,369	34,452	..
Prahran ..	51,000	13,087	1 9	11,928,000	994,000	103,390	..
Richmond ..	43,550	9,310	2 3	8,925,444	495,858	62,693	..
Sandringham ..	15,000	4,021	2 6	3,120,000	208,000	41,407	..
South Melbourne ..	47,100	10,530	2 6	13,791,400	689,570	105,552	..
St. Kilda ..	40,500	9,865	2 0	10,165,320	847,110	89,626	..
Warrnambool ..	7,950	1,683	2 9	1,487,109	87,477	44,478	..
Williamstown ..	20,570	4,785	2 6	2,750,000	194,694	61,041	..

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

## CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	10,000	2,392	s. d. 2 8	£ 1,618,520	£ 80,926	£ 16,201	£ ..
Mildura ..	5,550	1,273	2 6	1,300,000	65,000	24,009	..
Mordialloc ..	6,900	2,275	2 6	2,366,700	118,335	28,940	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	7,450	1,961	*0 5½	1,695,494	87,186	14,126	25
Oakleigh ..	7,100	3,242	*0 3½	1,889,021	121,189	19,650	50
Preston ..	12,050	14,050	2 6	3,971,080	198,584	40,615	..
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,500	980	2 3	642,160	32,108	17,550	25
Carrum ..	6,000	4,190	*0 3	1,643,625	81,385	17,580	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,420	3 0	595,025	40,402	8,377	25
Clunes ..	1,220	484	1 9	54,649	7,807	2,072	38
Creswick ..	1,740	542	1 9	76,540	7,654	2,416	37
Daylesford ..	3,410	790	2 6	535,580	26,779	4,899	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,720	1,412	2 6	279,624	23,302	8,816	25
Echuca ..	3,900	1,210	2 9	489,753	31,597	9,470	25
Hamilton ..	5,110	1,333	2 3	1,026,440	51,322	9,519	25
Horsham ..	4,030	1,021	2 6	840,000	42,000	8,825	50
Inglewood ..	1,160	297	2 0	79,248	6,604	2,290	25
Koroit ..	1,850	410	2 6	429,880	21,494	5,680	25
Maryborough ..	4,800	1,145	2 6	303,700	30,370	6,745	25
Portland ..	2,650	985	*0 4	536,580	26,829	7,036	25
Port Fairy ..	2,020	494	2 8	386,960	19,348	6,313	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,530	641	2 9	316,320	15,816	2,932	50
Sale ..	3,880	1,036	2 3	649,160	32,458	11,563	25
Sebastopol ..	1,870	466	2 6	109,380	9,115	1,936	40
Stawell ..	4,600	627	2 3	288,840	28,884	10,652	25
St. Arnaud ..	2,950	838	2 3	450,960	22,548	4,492	25
Wangaratta ..	4,050	950	3 0	783,000	39,150	9,871	25
Wonthaggi ..	5,600	1,235	2 6	404,280	33,690	5,695	46
Total ..	998,950	279,292	..	264,693,364	14,964,345	2,992,159	761

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

## SHIRES, 1923-24.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Alberton ..	5,680	1,309	s. d. 2 0	£ 2,087,000	£ 104,350	£ 12,524	£ 695
Alexandra ..	3,520	870	2 0	1,005,680	50,284	8,565	387
Arapiles ..	2,380	635	1 3	1,265,840	63,292	4,754	151
Ararat ..	6,020	1,675	1 6	3,265,800	163,290	15,276	639
Avoca ..	3,370	1,300	2 0	922,680	46,134	4,505	237
Avon ..	2,500	827	1 6	1,338,000	66,900	6,858	299
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,380	850	2 0	1,025,000	51,250	9,348	202
Bairnsdale ..	8,020	1,830	1 6	2,565,000	128,250	14,652	703
Ballan ..	3,150	1,214	1 6	1,112,960	55,649	5,265	283
Ballarat ..	4,010	912	1 6	1,218,460	60,923	6,097	283
Bannockburn ..	2,680	700	2 0	1,058,800	52,940	5,985	200



Municipal Statistics.

SHIRES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Barrarbool ..	1,850	474	2 0	889,400	44,470	5,445	209
Beechworth ..	4,660	1,420	1 9	533,632	33,352	9,797	268
Belfast ..	2,600	670	1 10	1,557,760	77,888	8,286	320
Bellarine ..	4,120	1,105	1 9	1,262,900	63,145	7,046	237
Benalla ..	7,800	3,000	1 9	3,087,980	154,399	24,057	713
Berwick ..	9,400	3,600	2 0	2,468,660	123,433	16,207	493
Bet Bet ..	3,560	1,241	1 6	843,460	42,173	4,487	234
Birchip ..	1,910	571	1 6	1,022,720	51,138	3,894	197
Borong ..	4,960	1,442	1 0	2,573,520	125,676	11,917	429
Braybrook ..	4,900	2,470	1 9	1,489,320	74,466	11,816	190
Bright ..	4,100	1,400	2 0	734,600	36,730	5,294	370
Broadford ..	1,350	370	1 9	380,000	19,000	2,189	148
Broadmeadows ..	5,830	3,500	1 9	1,692,900	84,645	7,054	251
Bulla ..	2,640	573	1 6	867,360	43,368	6,422	172
Buln Buln ..	6,000	1,550	2 3	1,260,600	63,030	9,340	616
Bungaree ..	3,170	740	2 0	685,960	34,298	4,188	395
Buninyong ..	5,050	1,745	1 9	1,276,800	63,840	6,800	296
Charlton ..	2,530	835	1 6	1,512,980	75,649	7,466	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	729	1 6	622,000	31,100	3,546	216
Cohuna ..	3,130	701	1 6	1,134,320	56,716	6,602	114
Colac ..	12,560	2,935	1 7	6,585,780	329,289	35,802	138
Corio ..	4,020	1,516	2 6	1,767,840	88,392	12,654	342
Cranbourne ..	5,950	1,875	2 0	2,007,200	100,380	10,852	255
Creswick ..	3,060	916	1 4	1,139,380	56,969	4,620	383
Dandenong ..	7,400	5,000	* 0 2½	2,042,140	102,107	24,833	209
Deakin ..	4,100	1,173	1 6	1,988,000	99,400	5,812	219
Dimboola ..	6,450	1,343	1 6	3,346,460	167,323	16,597	305
Donald ..	3,500	1,036	1 6	2,187,880	109,394	10,467	323
Doncaster ..	2,900	903	1 9	1,058,700	52,955	6,371	194
Dundas ..	3,630	1,179	1 6	2,826,600	141,330	10,976	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,730	1,170	1 6	2,690,240	134,512	15,170	612
East Loddon ..	1,830	513	1 9	1,211,600	60,580	6,222	271
Eltham ..	4,300	1,650	2 6	897,900	44,895	7,794	208
Euroa ..	4,000	1,136	1 6	1,407,600	70,380	8,294	321
Ferntree Gully ..	8,000	7,000	2 6	2,160,000	108,000	18,670	444
Flinders ..	4,880	5,220	1 9	1,406,020	70,301	14,830	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	4,900	3,558	2 3	1,408,400	70,420	19,707	213
Gisborne ..	2,430	720	1 9	685,200	34,260	5,293	168
Glenelg ..	5,580	1,647	1 6	2,507,320	125,366	13,175	591
Glenlyon ..	3,520	1,095	1 6	814,880	40,744	3,960	223
Gordon ..	3,250	880	1 6	1,928,400	96,420	5,685	365
Goulburn ..	2,240	620	1 0	768,480	38,424	4,307	172
Grenville ..	3,280	1,200	1 6	808,080	53,872	7,220	299
Hampden ..	10,920	2,420	2 0	6,237,060	311,853	43,851	370
Healesville ..	3,630	1,292	2 6	643,780	32,189	10,079	236
Heidelberg ..	19,000	12,000	2 0	5,006,820	250,341	72,597	245
Heytesbury ..	4,530	1,032	2 0	2,125,060	106,253	12,133	530
Huntly ..	3,160	965	1 6	1,292,100	64,605	4,146	198
Kara Kara ..	3,150	1,265	2 0	1,134,600	56,730	6,553	316
Karkaroc ..	5,650	1,480	1 6	3,076,420	153,821	14,850	460
Kellor ..	1,270	750	1 6	648,980	32,449	2,607	49
Kerang ..	8,200	1,998	1 3	3,722,160	186,108	31,946	380
Kilmore ..	1,800	535	2 0	204,680	20,468	4,319	136
Korong ..	4,500	1,550	1 6	2,023,420	101,171	9,020	382
Korumburra ..	7,400	1,954	1 9	2,614,100	130,705	19,951	921
Kowree ..	3,450	1,230	2 0	1,956,550	97,636	10,212	430
Kyneton ..	8,040	2,165	1 6	1,746,120	87,306	16,584	366
Lawloit ..	2,250	640	1 9	754,650	50,310	5,771	196
Leigh ..	1,570	530	1 6	1,037,900	51,895	4,511	272
Lexton ..	1,680	620	1 6	1,000,000	50,000	4,998	198
Lilydale ..	10,000	3,980	2 6	2,656,000	132,800	23,692	395
Lowan ..	3,750	1,300	2 0	1,936,460	96,823	12,432	296
Maffra ..	5,850	1,200	1 6	2,875,700	143,785	15,294	483
Maldon ..	3,160	1,103	1 6	708,380	35,419	3,537	185
Mansfield ..	4,070	1,332	2 6	1,711,400	85,570	9,460	542
Marong ..	5,920	1,434	1 7	2,039,880	101,984	9,426	454
Melton ..	1,460	403	1 6	1,069,720	53,486	5,963	145

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

## SHIRES, 1923-24—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1922-23.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Metcalfe ..	2,700	1,000	1 6	797,680	39,884	3,542	162
Mildura ..	8,400	1,870	2 6	2,160,000	108,000	17,655	184
Minhamite ..	1,960	667	1 6	1,840,880	92,044	14,385	321
Mirboo ..	1,620	380	2 0	520,000	26,000	4,914	355
Moorabbin ..	8,530	6,800	2 6	2,918,760	145,938	21,806	296
Mornington ..	2,350	1,274	2 3	609,900	30,495	8,205	114
Mortlake ..	3,040	809	1 6	3,556,560	177,823	17,480	346
Morwell ..	3,900	880	2 1	1,253,220	62,661	9,533	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,800	725	1 6	2,050,480	102,524	8,645	198
Mulgrave ..	3,650	2,124	2 6	919,520	45,976	6,535	221
McIvor ..	3,450	1,122	1 3	1,138,780	56,939	5,474	221
Narraean ..	7,040	1,370	2 0	2,120,000	106,000	13,677	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,220	650	1 6	596,220	29,811	5,357	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,750	913	1 6	539,880	26,994	2,994	166
Numurkah ..	5,900	1,265	1 0	3,156,400	157,820	15,976	591
Nunawading ..	14,320	7,000	2 6	4,877,720	243,886	43,407	469
Omeo ..	2,500	819	2 3	887,880	44,394	8,885	836
Orbost ..	3,940	1,002	2 0	1,271,440	63,572	8,579	472
Otway ..	4,320	1,054	3 0	915,940	45,797	7,028	471
Oxley ..	4,000	1,001	1 6	1,436,560	71,828	5,926	370
Phillip Island and Woolamal ..	5,400	1,339	2 0	1,465,560	73,278	9,648	545
Portland ..	5,400	1,991	1 6	1,794,100	89,705	8,046	494
Pyalong ..	740	330	1 6	423,540	21,177	1,723	113
Ripon ..	3,560	1,100	2 0	1,822,260	91,113	11,903	221
Rochester ..	6,420	1,666	1 6	2,566,560	128,328	13,088	246
Rodney ..	7,700	1,850	1 6	3,211,380	160,569	17,163	432
Romsey ..	3,280	850	2 0	1,249,040	62,452	7,523	337
Rosedale ..	4,500	1,160	* 0 1	2,860,000	143,000	8,643	520
Rutherglen ..	4,080	964	1 6	1,021,480	51,074	6,714	257
Seymour ..	3,900	994	1 6	1,016,280	50,814	9,418	420
Shepparton ..	7,940	1,775	1 6	2,657,720	132,886	16,381	469
South Barwon ..	3,300	1,945	2 6	936,880	46,844	7,029	137
South Gippsland ..	4,770	1,173	2 0	1,388,400	69,420	7,328	517
Stawell ..	3,420	1,255	1 6	2,021,520	101,076	8,463	308
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,450	1,003	1 6	520,000	26,000	2,583	137
Swan Hill ..	12,000	2,650	1 6	3,660,280	183,014	21,347	272
Talbot ..	1,450	585	1 4	473,720	23,686	3,185	134
Tambo ..	4,300	1,030	2 0	1,142,000	57,100	7,180	513
Towong ..	4,420	1,200	2 0	1,793,120	89,656	12,411	578
Traralgon ..	3,460	717	1 9	1,235,000	61,750	9,781	441
Tullaroop ..	2,900	948	1 6	575,145	38,343	3,918	206
Tungamah ..	4,630	1,587	1 0	2,564,560	128,228	9,570	444
Upper Murray ..	2,300	526	1 9	1,019,080	50,954	5,579	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,700	1,305	2 6	768,980	38,449	6,470	221
Violet Town ..	1,940	756	1 6	760,240	38,012	3,514	221
Walpeup ..	5,700	1,750	1 6	1,528,146	76,407	7,924	300
Wangaratta ..	2,500	902	1 6	681,420	34,071	3,018	146
Wannon ..	3,050	959	1 6	2,232,420	111,621	9,319	426
Waranga ..	5,550	2,000	1 6	1,666,760	83,338	8,686	370
Warragul ..	5,100	1,278	2 4	1,852,680	92,634	14,767	885
Warrnambool ..	8,450	1,947	1 6	4,403,920	220,196	29,025	678
Werribee ..	5,200	3,840	2 3	1,873,120	93,906	17,991	296
Whittlesea ..	3,580	1,016	1 9	1,510,000	75,500	7,706	226
Wimmera ..	4,320	1,074	1 0	2,400,000	120,000	8,824	360
Winchelsea ..	4,450	1,500	2 0	1,815,140	90,757	12,280	413
Wodonga ..	2,850	598	1 9	722,920	36,146	3,975	169
Woorayl ..	6,110	1,430	2 3	2,134,600	106,730	14,934	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,300	1,277	1 6	2,075,240	103,762	12,384	328
Yackandandah ..	3,010	903	1 9	838,440	41,922	4,722	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,710	858	1 6	1,219,560	60,978	7,293	281
Yea ..	2,800	830	* 0 2	1,172,420	58,621	6,900	377
Total ..	627,420	213,317	..	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,496,764	47,719

\* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
s. 0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	23	14	12	9	5
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	27	16	9	9	3
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	1	1	2
1 6 ..	4	3	..	..	..	50	60	55	53	58
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	2
1 8 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	5	4	3	3	3	13	15	20	19	18
1 10 ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
2 0 ..	5	7	6	7	4	11	19	19	26	27
2 1 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1
2 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
2 3 ..	17	9	7	6	8	3	1	6	7	6
2 4 ..	5	3	2	1	1	1	..	..	1	1
2 5 ..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	12	20	23	21	18	1	6	12	9	11
2 7 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..
3 0 ..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1
Total ..	52	47	46	44	44	138	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the four years ended 1923-24 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 3½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 7¼d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 8¼d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only three municipalities.

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

**Municipal revenue and expenditure.** The ordinary revenue and expenditure of municipalities for each of the last three financial years were as follows:—

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,  
1921 TO 1923.**

Sources of Revenue.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates ... ..	2,083,931	2,303,664	2,559,847
Licences ... ..	126,952	137,036	152,437
Dog Fees ... ..	23,682	24,316	24,832
Government Endowment and Grants ... ..	65,581	75,627	60,607
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ... ..	84,936	111,983	141,484
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	91,448	99,485	99,337
Sanitary Charges ... ..	133,244	146,559	162,129
Rents ... ..	92,717	102,784	108,502
Electric Light and Gas Works ... ..	599,010	722,088	794,544
Other Sources ... ..	291,615	308,235	385,204
Total ... ..	3,593,116	4,031,777	4,488,923
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c. ... ..	284,158	319,430	340,319
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ... ..	345,834	363,706	396,524
Lighting ... ..	115,968	130,722	131,342
Contributions to Fire Brigades ... ..	46,512	48,526	49,225
Public Works—			
Construction ... ..	238,165	271,007	294,711
Maintenance ... ..	1,181,897	1,324,845	1,366,202
Electric Light and Gas Works ... ..	501,722	540,704	582,380
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ... ..	130,125	147,612	163,660
Redemption of Loans ... ..	133,786	136,090	165,675
Interest on Loans ... ..	276,065	305,289	343,164
Charities ... ..	29,468	26,436	26,288
Other Expenditure ... ..	315,085	332,067	356,199
Total ... ..	3,598,785	3,946,434	4,215,689

As compared with 1922, the revenue of 1923 increased by £457,146, as follows:—Rates increased by £256,183, licences by £15,401, sanitary charges by £15,570, rents by £5,718, dog fees by £516, electric light and gas works by £72,456, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £29,501, and “other sources” by £76,969. The revenue from Government endowment and grants decreased by £15,020, and from market and weighbridge dues by £148. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £269,255. All the items, except charities, showed increases as under:—Salaries, £20,889; sanitary work and street cleansing, £32,818; lighting, £620; contributions to fire brigades boards, £699; public works construction, £23,704; public works maintenance, £41,357; electric light and gas works, £41,676; formation of private streets, &c., £16,048; redemption of loans, £29,585; interest on loans, £37,875; and other expenditure, £24,132. The expenditure on charities decreased by £148.

**Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources.** Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1923 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues,  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. from dog fees, 1 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 3 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. from all other sources.

**Salaries.** In 1923 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £340,319, or about 8 per cent. of the entire revenue.

**Local charities.** A sum of £26,288, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1921 TO 1923.

Assets.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates ... ..	158,301	176,830	202,251
Other Assets ... ..	591,508	636,509	730,603
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ... ..	523,834	430,689	455,766
Arrears Due ... ..	483	511	670
Unexpended Balances ... ..	331,561	442,360	526,622
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ... ..	3,117,266	3,254,042	3,470,951
Waterworks ... ..	256,169	253,520	255,737
Gasworks ... ..	123,454	129,020	145,874
Electric Light Works... ..	1,340,261	1,549,966	1,699,120
Total Assets ... ..	6,442,837	6,873,447	7,487,594
Liabilities.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts ... ..	102,191	88,936	155,233
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ... ..	483	511	670
Overdue Interest ... ..	5,379	6,026	8,054
Bank Overdrafts ... ..	542,462	858,733	665,866
Other Liabilities ... ..	352,518	389,340	440,031
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding ... ..	5,595,614	5,714,570	6,601,731
Due on Loan Contracts ... ..	158,009	177,755	380,839
Total Liabilities ... ..	6,756,656	7,235,871	8,252,424

**Municipal assets and liabilities compared.** The total of the assets of municipalities in 1923 was £7,487,594, and of the liabilities £8,252,424. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,269,854, against which there were assets amounting to £932,854.

The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £6,982,570, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £5,999,512. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c., (£5,571,682), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £427,830.

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

**Endowment of municipalities.** An annual endowment to municipalities of £310,000 was authorized by the *Local Government Act* 1874, and it ceased to be payable in 1879. A subsidy, however, in lieu of such endowment, amounting to £310,000, was voted by Parliament annually, and this vote was gradually increased until £450,000 was reached in 1889-90 and 1890-91. Under the *Local Government Act* 1891, £450,000 was provided as an annual endowment for the municipalities. This amount was reduced to £405,000 per annum from 1st January, 1893; to £310,000 from 1st July, 1893; to £100,000 from 1st July, 1894; and to £50,000 from 1st July, 1902. Under Act No. 2025 the endowment was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-07, and from 1st July, 1907, it was increased under Act No. 2129 to £100,000. Payments were made on the basis of this amount to 30th June, 1915, but the sum payable was reduced to £50,000 for the year ended 30th June, 1916, and was maintained at that amount in the eight succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received during the twelve months ended on the preceding 30th September, according to the following scale:—

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

### RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

**Rating on  
Unimproved  
Values.**

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. It did not come into operation until 1st October, 1915. Amendments were made by Act No. 3045, passed on 6th January, 1920, and Act No. 3060, passed on 14th September, 1920. The law on the subject has been consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199), which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

The Act may be adopted in any municipality by determination of the council or by a proposal for the adoption thereof being carried at a poll of the ratepayers. If the council, by special order, passes a resolution that it proposes to adopt this method of rating, a provisional valuation of all rateable properties within the municipal district (except "special rateable properties") computed at the unimproved capital value, the improved capital value and the net annual value thereof must be made. To the valuation must be added a statement setting forth the amount in the pound of the general rate last made on the basis of the net annual value of rateable properties, and the amount in the pound of a rate on the basis of the unimproved capital value of rateable properties which in its total revenue producing capacity corresponds with the amount in the pound of the said general rate. With respect to each rateable property a statement must be prepared showing the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the net annual value thereof under a general rate of the same amount in the pound as the general rate last made, and the sum which would be leviable on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the property. Notice must be given to each occupier or owner or in a newspaper circulating in the district that such valuation has been made, and a statement containing particulars must be prepared, and must be open for inspection at the municipal offices during office hours by any ratepayer free of charge. After this has been done the municipality must publish in the *Government Gazette*, and in a newspaper generally circulating in the district, a notice that the council proposes to adopt the Act. If, within one month after the date of the last publication of the notice, one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll, the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of such votes forms at least one-third of the number of votes for which voters are inscribed on the roll.

Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act, one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll.

If a proposal is adopted or rescinded, it cannot again be submitted to the ratepayers for three years.

Special rateable properties, such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the rateable property, and other land, works or other rateable properties declared to be "special rateable properties" pursuant to the Act are not rateable on unimproved values.

New valuations showing the unimproved capital value, capital improved value, and net annual value are to be made at least once in every five years.

"Unimproved capital value" of land is defined as the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might in ordinary circumstances be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might be expected to require and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made.

"Capital improved value" of land means the sum which the land, if it were held for an estate in fee simple unencumbered by any mortgage, might be expected to realize at the time of valuation if offered for sale on such reasonable terms and conditions as a *bonâ fide* seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require.

"Improvements" in land means all work actually done or material used thereon by the expenditure of capital or labour on or for the benefit of the land, but in so far only as the effect of such work done or material used is to increase the value of the land, and the benefit thereof is unexhausted at the time of the valuation; it does not include work done or material used on or for the benefit of land by the Crown, or by any statutory public body, unless such work has been paid for by the contribution of the owner or occupier for that purpose.

"Net annual value" of rateable property means the net annual value thereof computed as provided in the Local Government Acts, and (in the case of the city of Melbourne and the city of Geelong) includes the annual value thereof computed as provided in any Act or enactment relating to the city of Melbourne or the city of Geelong.

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22 and 12 for each of the years 1922-23 and 1923-24. The following table gives for these



## RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1923-24.

Municipality.	Capital Improved Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Value.	Amount Collectable in 1924 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	7,801,577	2,393,864	507,270	0 6	2 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	59,847	30·68
Camberwell City ..	9,366,832	3,624,915	483,099	0 4	2 6	60,415	38·70
Carrum Borough ..	1,643,625	918,326	81,385	0 3*	2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	11,479	55·87
Caulfield City ..	14,039,439	5,106,204	789,357	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5	95,741	36·37
Coburg City ..	3,813,795	1,817,154	254,253	0 4	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	30,286	47·65
Essendon City ..	8,656,743	2,900,415	500,671	0 5	2 5	60,425	33·50
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	1,695,494	496,820	87,186	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6	10,868	29·30
Oakleigh Town ..	1,889,021	909,668	121,189	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	13,266	48·16
Portland Borough ..	536,580	202,104	26,829	0 4	2 6	3,368	37·66
Dandenong Shire ..	2,042,140	948,864	102,107	0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ †	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	9,884	46·46
Rosedale Shire ..	2,860,000	1,500,000	143,000	0 1	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,250	52·44
Yea Shire ..	1,172,420	622,862	58,621	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	5,190	53·13

\* In addition, there is an extra rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ in the Centre Ward, and of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in part of the North and Centre Wards.

† In addition, there is an extra rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the Centre Riding, and of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the South Riding.

‡ In addition, there is an extra rate of 2d. in the township of Yea, and of  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the West Riding.

municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1923-24:—

## HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.

## ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.

An Act (No. 3088) to provide dwellings for eligible persons, and for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or overcrowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3317) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 22nd December, 1923, respectively. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year. Power is given to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to acquire land and to erect dwelling-houses thereon, the capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house, together with the land on which it is erected, not to exceed £850 for houses of wood, or £950 for brick, stone or concrete dwellings.

A person who purchases a dwelling-house from the Commissioners is permitted to occupy it as a weekly tenant, and is required to pay a rental at such rate per cent. per annum on the capital cost, or (where the Commissioners have required the payment of a deposit) on the difference between the capital cost and the amount of deposit paid, as may be determined by the Commissioners, also to pay all rates and taxes, and the cost of insurance, repairs, and maintenance. An appropriation is made from the rent to cover interest on the amount of the capital cost outstanding, and the remainder of the rent is allotted towards payment of such capital cost.

When the purchaser has paid 20 per cent. of the purchase money and the amount due by him up to that time by way of instalments he may, if he so desires, execute a mortgage of the property in favour of the Commissioners. Payments in respect of purchase money are to be made in equal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments in accordance with the contract of sale or mortgage entered into, but the period of repayment is not to exceed 28 years.

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

For year ended 30th June, 1922	..	..	622
do. do. 1923	..	..	813
do. do. 1924	..	..	806

The position at 23rd September, 1924, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	2,078
In course of erection	..	..	..	347
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	166

Total number of applications approved 2,591

## ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Part XXVI: of the *Local Government Act* 1915 dealing with the erection of "workers' dwellings" by municipalities is repealed, but power is given to a municipality to purchase or take compulsorily any land in the municipal district regarded as suitable for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon for persons of small means. Power is also given to erect or purchase dwelling-houses at a cost not exceeding £800 including the cost of the land. These may be sold by the municipality to eligible persons under conditions similar to those existing in the case of the sales by the Savings Bank Commissioners referred to above. They may also be let upon such terms as the council of the municipality thinks fit. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted.

For the purposes of any housing scheme the municipal council may, out of the municipal fund, advance any money required, if necessary increase the amount of the general rate to an extent not exceeding 6d. in the pound notwithstanding any statutory limit for such rate, and may borrow £100,000 over and above the amount authorized under the *Local Government Act* or any other Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet and statement of accounts must be prepared, setting out full particulars of the operations of the scheme.

Power is given to municipalities to borrow money for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or over-crowded areas. The amount that may be borrowed for this purpose by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. The cities of Melbourne and Geelong are separately dealt with as regards borrowing powers. The amounts that may be borrowed by them are as follows:—For housing schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £100,000; for reclamation schemes—City of Melbourne, £300,000; City of Geelong, £50,000.

When the council of any municipality desires to carry out any housing scheme or reclamation scheme it must prepare a general plan or description of the scheme, showing the character and extent of the works proposed, the mode in which it is proposed to obtain funds for the scheme, an estimate of the cost, the area affected, and a description of the betterment area (if any), *i.e.*, the area within which it is proposed to impose a betterment charge. Power is given to a council to impose a betterment charge amounting to one-half of the amount of the enhanced market value derived by lands from reclamation after making all fair and proper deductions for rates, taxes, assessments and impositions on or in respect of such lands according to such enhanced value.

## WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, dated 8th July, 1922, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are

building dwellings for returned soldiers and other eligible persons under the War Service Homes Acts, the funds being provided by the Commonwealth Government. The dwellings erected or being erected under this agreement are based on the same plans as are used in accordance with the Housing Act, and as nearly as possible they are built under the same conditions.

Up to 30th June, 1924, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 1,521 War Service Homes buildings, of which 1,008 have been completed. In addition to this the Bank had up to the middle of September, 1924, made advances to 65 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 16 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,250, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £900 (Act No. 3255).

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

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

**Finance.** For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal

and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. Additional sums were made available as follows:—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; and (by Act No. 3334) £1,000,000 over a period of three years from 1st July 1923. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasurer, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in  $31\frac{1}{2}$  years; the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, &c.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act* 1903 (incorporated in the *Local Government Act* 1915), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £50,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is half the amount expended; the contribution is due on the first day of January following the financial year in which the expenditure is incurred and it must be paid before the succeeding first day of July. Power is given by Act No. 2986 to reduce contributions in respect of maintenance where the Board is satisfied that the cost of maintenance is excessive and that such cost is due to motor traffic not of local origin, or to timber traffic.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1922-23 constructional work to the value of £266,046, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £288,129 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1923, for permanent works was £2,732,155, and for developmental roads £1,950,240.

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

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

**Developmental roads.** Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000 and £1,000,000 by Acts Nos. 3255 and 3334 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £265,032 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £99,079 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1923.

## COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

	RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Motor Car Act No. 2702—						
Registration Fees ..	150,622	7	6			
Licence Fees ..	8,915	18	6			
Fines ..	6,278	7	11			
	165,816	13	11			
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	7,567	11	3			
		158,249	2 8			
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—						
Licence Fees ..	21,457	12	0			
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration ..	1,524	7	6			
		19,933	4 6			
Country Roads Act No. 2635—						
Registration Traction Engines ..	954	9	0			
Width of Tyres Administration, Fines and Costs ..	84	5	9			
		1,038	14 9			
Municipalities Repayments—						
Permanent Works ..	68,607	8	3			
Maintenance Works ..	123,819	5	7			
		192,426	13 10			
Appropriation for Maintenance of Main Roads, Act No. 2986 ..		50,000	0 0			
Advance under Special Loan Act No. 3161 ..		70,000	0 0			
Hire of Plant ..	8,590	16	11			
Stores and Materials ..	8,184	1	9			
Sundries ..	6,046	12	0			
		22,821	10 8			
		514,469	6 5			
Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure refunded ..		265,752	0 9			
Advances on account of Expenditure under Federal State Grant No. 1 refunded ..		75,996	14 9			
Balance, 30th June, 1923 ..		26,299	11 10			
		£882,517	13 9			
				52,766	6	6
By Balance 1st July, 1922 ..				289,455	0	11
Maintenance Works ..				1,325	17	2
<i>Less</i> Refunds ..						
				288,129	3	9
Miscellaneous ..						
Advances under Special Loan, Act No. 3161, repaid ..				126,245	19	4
Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure ..				269,170	4	9
Advances on account of Expenditure under provisions of Federal State Grant No. 1 ..				76,805	9	0
<i>Less</i> Refunds ..				613	8	3
				76,192	0	9
Similar Advances, Grant No. 2 ..				13	18	8
					76,205	19 5
				£882,517	13	9

Ordinary receipts and payments.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1922-23 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—

Municipal Statistics.

Loan receipts  
and  
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1923, is shown below :—

### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Balance, 1st July, 1922	4,533	7 0	By Permanent Works	269,170	4 9			
„ Proceeds of Loans	236,550	3 1	<i>Deduct Refunds</i>	3,124	1 8			
„ Transfers	385	16 8				266,046	3	
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund	269,170	4 9	„ Temporary Advance from Country Roads Board Fund refunded			265,752	0 9	
„ Advance from Public Account	44,616	18 9	„ Public Account—Advance Account			20,658	8 4	
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1923			2,804	18 1	
	<u>£555,261</u>	<u>10 3</u>				<u>£555,261</u>	<u>10 3</u>	

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1923, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985 and 3255 :—

### DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT— (ACTS Nos. 2944 AND 2985).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Proceeds of Loans	344,690	0 0	By Balance 1st July, 1922			19,338	3 0	
„ Adjustment Account	68	11 7	„ Expenditure	309,927	14 8			
			<i>Less Refunds</i>	44,895	12 10			
						265,032	1 10	
			„ Public Account—Advances Account			25,543	17 4	
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1923			34,844	9 5	
	<u>344,758</u>	<u>11 7</u>				<u>£344,758</u>	<u>11 7</u>	

(Act No. 3255.)

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1923.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Proceeds of Loans	42,482	7 0	By Expenditure	99,405	11 11			
„ Public Account—Advances Account	39,809	14 7	<i>Less Refunds</i>	325	18 5			
„ Balance, 30th June, 1923	16,787	11 11				99,079	13 6	
	<u>£99,079</u>	<u>13 6</u>				<u>99,079</u>	<u>13 6</u>	



## LICENSING FUND.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1923:—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,  
1922-1923.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£	s.	d.
Balance, 30th June, 1922	13,714	10	0
Fees	3,597	4	6
Fines	7,279	15	0
Sale of confiscated liquor	214	9	3
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	31,088	10 6
	Victuallers	246,841	12 8
	Temporary	3,887	16 4
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,229	13 0
	Packet	149	18 6
	Australian Wine	4,943	2 6
	Billiard-table	4,892	10 0
	Brewers	216	17 0
	Vignerons	75	0 0
	Club certificates	6,335	0 0
	Permits—Extra Bars	1,046	0 0
	„ Extended Hours	867	0 0
	Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	40	9 6
Interest	11,520	0 0	
Cost of taking Poll	50	0 0	
Sale of Rolls	0	9 0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£338,989</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.	5,570	2	8
Incidental Expenses	10,704	10	7
Annual payment to municipalities	64,340	0	0
Compensation	44,455	0	0
Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0	0
Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	157,205	14	6
Balance £321,714 10 0			
Deduct Investments in Stock 288,000 0 0			
		33,714	10 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£338,989</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>

## Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1922-23 a sum of £64,340 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

and forfeitures incurred under the *Licensing Act* 1915. The particulars of this payment are as follows :—

### EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1922-23.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities ... ..	31,868	0	0
„ Towns ... ..	428	0	0
„ Boroughs ... ..	7,568	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class ... ..	228	0	0
2nd „ ... ..	10,624	0	0
3rd „ ... ..	9,316	0	0
4th „ ... ..	767	0	0
5th „ ... ..	3,132	0	0
6th „ ... ..	1,185	0	0
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>65,116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Add payments on account of 1921-22 ... ..	230	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1922-23 ... ..	1,006	0	0
<b>Amount paid in 1922-23 ... ..</b>	<b>64,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### MUNICIPAL LOANS.

Moneys may be borrowed by municipalities for permanent works or undertakings or to liquidate the principal moneys owing by the municipality on account of any previous loan. Permanent works include the construction or alteration of streets, roads, bridges, culverts, levees, ferries, jetties, sewers, and drains; the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric light works and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, sheep dips, market places and houses, weighbridges, workers' dwellings, baths, pleasure grounds, libraries, museums, and places of public resort and recreation; the construction and establishment of hospitals, asylums, and other buildings for charitable purposes;

the construction and laying down of any track, way, or pavement of iron, steel, wood, or stone; the erection of machinery for the treatment of refuse or night-soil, or for quarrying or crushing stone; the works and undertakings connected with the reclamation and improvement of low-lying or over-crowded areas; and the purchase of land or any easement, term, or privilege in, over, or affecting land compulsorily taken for any of the foregoing purposes.

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

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

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

Power is given to any twenty persons whose names are inscribed on the municipal roll to demand the submission of any loan proposal to a poll of the ratepayers.

**Municipal indebtedness.** The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1922-23 was £6,601,731, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows:—

## MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1923.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			1,050,804	4,348,964
Shires	...	...	...	172,087	1,029,876
Total	...	...	...	1,222,891	5,378,840

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

### MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year ... ..	882,188	211,670	1,093,858
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	263,873	54,194	318,067
Expenditure during the year ... ..	733,369	151,934	885,303
Balance unexpended at the end of 1923 ...	412,692	113,930	526,622

**Municipal loan expenditure, 1919 to 1923.** The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1923 amounted to £885,303, of which £733,369 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £151,934 by shires. The following return shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years:—

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

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1919 ... ..	162,602	194,627
1920 ... ..	275,708	259,498
1921 ... ..	572,851	504,016
1922 ... ..	797,676	706,677
1923 .. ..	1,093,85	885,303

Loans raised  
by municipa-  
lities,  
1923.

The loan receipts for the year 1922-23 amounted to £1,093,858. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1922-23 was £526,622—£412,692 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £113,930 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

## LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1923.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—	£	£	£
Ballarat .. .. .	..	40,000	32,124
Brighton .. .. .	..	..	1,350
Brunswick .. .. .	..	40,000	42,585
Camberwell .. .. .	..	40,000	27,909
Carrum .. .. .	..	3,600	775
Caulfield .. .. .	..	..	29,208
Coburg .. .. .	..	20,000	5,208
Collingwood .. .. .	..	..	817
Essendon .. .. .	..	3,000	1,337
Fitzroy .. .. .	..	..	877
Footscray .. .. .	..	104,000	68,849
Geelong West .. .. .	..	25,500	13,212
Hawthorn .. .. .	..	..	7,322
Kew .. .. .	..	..	5,529
Malvern .. .. .	..	15,000	9,223
Maryborough .. .. .	..	4,000	1,257
Melbourne .. .. .	..	404,773*	..
Mildura .. .. .	..	8,215	790
Mordialloc .. .. .	..	15,000	14,494
Northcote .. .. .	..	12,750	3,298
Oakleigh .. .. .	..	6,850	2,931
Portland .. .. .	..	..	224
Port Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	1,211
Prahran .. .. .	..	..	40,561
Preston .. .. .	..	20,000	20,000
Queenscliffe .. .. .	..	..	125
Richmond .. .. .	..	12,000	13,279
Sale .. .. .	..	..	532
Sandringham .. .. .	..	..	773
South Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	2,099
St. Arnaud .. .. .	..	1,500	1,096
St. Kilda .. .. .	..	75,000	48,755
Stawell .. .. .	..	15,500	2,576
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	1,500	1,428
Warrnambool .. .. .	..	..	6,460
Williamstown .. .. .	..	9,000	1,210
Wonthaggi .. .. .	..	5,000	3,268
Total .. .. .	..	882,188	412,692

\* Of this amount, £49,010 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £5,763 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1923—*continued.*

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
SHIRES—	£	£	£
Barrabool .. .. .	..	1,100	19
Benalla .. .. .	..	..	7,926
Berwick .. .. .	..	6,000	3,128
Bet Bet .. .. .	..	..	66
Borong .. .. .	..	3,000	203
Braybrook .. .. .	..	2,300	730
Bright .. .. .	..	..	1,051
Colac .. .. .	..	..	488
Corio .. .. .	..	..	307
Dandenong .. .. .	..	18,450	10,049
Donald .. .. .	..	3,500	63
Dunmunkle .. .. .	..	5,000	..
Eltham .. .. .	..	4,500	3,599
Euroa .. .. .	..	600	..
Ferntree Gully .. .. .	..	10,200	5,641
Frankston and Hastings .. .. .	..	10,000	9,728
Healesville .. .. .	..	6,000	4,798
Heidelberg .. .. .	..	47,528	18,074
Heytesbury .. .. .	..	2,000	93
Huntly .. .. .	..	..	930
Kilmore .. .. .	..	592	..
Kyneton .. .. .	..	3,800	1,400
Lillydale .. .. .	..	3,000	1,932
Lowan .. .. .	..	5,000	..
Mansfield .. .. .	..	..	27
Melton .. .. .	..	..	200
Mildura .. .. .	..	5,000	4,294
Moorabbin .. .. .	..	11,650	5,885
Mornington .. .. .	..	3,250	3,250
Morwell .. .. .	..	500	..
Mulgrave .. .. .	..	4,000	747
McIvor .. .. .	..	6,000	5,940
Nunawading .. .. .	..	..	377
Rochester .. .. .	..	1,200	1,553
Shepparton .. .. .	..	..	2,169
South Barwon .. .. .	..	3,500	2,791
Swan Hill .. .. .	..	20,000	4,677
Traralgon .. .. .	..	2,000	332
Tungamah .. .. .	..	2,000	28
Walpeup .. .. .	..	10,000	7,883
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	..	87
Warragul .. .. .	..	2,500	252
Werribee .. .. .	..	6,900	1,777
Whittlesea .. .. .	..	..	606
Winchelsea .. .. .	..	..	457
Wycheproof .. .. .	..	1,500	373
Total .. .. .	..	211,670	113,930

### MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918*, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act 1915*, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898*, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans, the amounts of which were expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1923, are given hereunder :—

#### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1923.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1922-23.	To 30th June, 1923.		1922-23.	To 30th June, 1923.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1922 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,188
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured ..	53,442	397,136
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,952	264,881	Redeemable in instalments ..	..	61,443
Stock realized ..	490	84,193	Ordinary loans .. ..	..	95,310
Other receipts ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund .. ..	..	4,372
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1923 ..	..	..
Total .. ..	53,442	1,176,374	Total .. ..	53,442	1,176,374

\* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1923, was £213,681.

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

**City of Melbourne, revenue and expenditure under various heads.** Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1923 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

**CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923.**

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General .. .. .	320,750
Lighting .. .. .	27,111
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act .. .. .	9,836
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees .. .. .	56,348
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors .. .. .	408
Other Licences .. .. .	1,082
Fees under Dog Act .. .. .	561
Baths .. .. .	6,321
Market and Weighbridge Fees .. .. .	58,345
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c. .. .. .	411,363
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges .. .. .	9,922
Fines and Costs .. .. .	5,097
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .	47,948
Town Hall Premises and Rooms .. .. .	6,721
Other .. .. .	5,132
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c. .. .. .	2,481
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators—Sale of Manure .. .. .	14,035
Fees under Building Act .. .. .	4,327
Sundries .. .. .	17,273
Total .. .. .	1,005,061

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.) .. .. .	£ 49,478
Allowance to Lord Mayor .. .. .	1,500
Closet Cleansing .. .. .	1,140
Street Cleansing, &c. .. .. .	75,042
Lighting—Electric and Gas .. .. .	28,209
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution .. .. .	10,085
Public Works—	
Roads and Bridges .. .. .	163,340
Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .	29,479
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) .. .. .	68,621
Parks and Planting trees in streets .. .. .	44,718
Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995 .. .. .	2,258
Interest on Loans from the Public .. .. .	117,000
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public .. .. .	17,230
Repayment of Public Loans .. .. .	10,000
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c. .. .. .	307,711
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans .. .. .	142
Interest on Bank Overdrafts .. .. .	8,184
Contributions to Charitable Institutions .. .. .	3,250



CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>	Amount.
	£
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital .. .. .	6,978
"    "    Heatherton Sanatorium .. .. .	1,209
Law Costs .. .. .	1,843
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery .. .. .	5,196
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction .. .. .	1,217
Gas Conference .. .. .	205
Fees—Dog Act .. .. .	645
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums .. .. .	3,609
Libraries, Museums, &c. .. .. .	375
Elections .. .. .	166
Town Planning Commission .. .. .	656
Band Performances .. .. .	1,500
Milk Supply .. .. .	1,685
Baby Health Centre .. .. .	391
Ceremonials .. .. .	1,286
Ambulance Service .. .. .	500
Soldiers' Memorial .. .. .	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution .. .. .	8,193
Retiring Allowance to Employees .. .. .	2,946
Sundries .. .. .	4,424
Total .. .. .	985,411

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1923, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 41 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 6 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—6 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 13 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 31 per cent.; for lighting, 3 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.**

**Municipal  
Officers'  
Guarantee  
Fund.**

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

£3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro ratâ* to its contribution. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1923, amounting to £251,445, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £859. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1923, was £11,468. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1923, amounted to £2,545.

#### MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Melbourne  
Harbor Trust  
—receipts and  
expenditure.

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

are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st. December, 1923, was £2,657,107. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1919 TO 1923.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	255,234	310,805	415,737	510,240	600,161
Rents .. .. .	33,740	35,238	37,445	37,449	39,725
Interest .. .. .	193	45	43	80	328
Other Revenue .. .. .	43,453	41,885	45,148	50,836	46,194
	332,620	387,973	498,373	598,605	686,408
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	62,460	75,554	96,224	114,986	135,520
Total .. .. .	270,160	312,419	402,149	483,619	550,888
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses .. .. .	31,622	31,802	36,882	40,502	35,175
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses ..	12,455	300	30,140	35	750
Maintenance—Dredging ..	47,382	71,017	78,689	90,129	39,774
" Harbor .. .. .	2,418	3,721	3,814	3,183	4,613
" Wharfs .. .. .	17,121	19,018	23,383	21,475	25,725
" Approaches .. .. .	10,845	11,391	14,526	11,264	15,345
Interest on Loans* .. .. .	94,698	96,961	104,342	131,516	112,659
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund .. .. .	52,500	52,500	65,000	100,000	213,000
Total .. .. .	269,041	286,710	356,776	398,104	447,041
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	1,119	25,709	45,373	85,515	103,847
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property .. .. .	964	3,221	2,461	11,906	33,407
Deepening Waterways .. .. .	68,746	80,720	81,699	98,331	150,885
Wharfs Construction .. .. .	77,305	50,084	79,206	45,613	67,360
Approaches Construction .. .. .	3,774	2,364	1,565	9,084	7,519
Other Harbor Improvements .. .. .	3,068	2,936	14,099	25,311	8,204
Floating Plant .. .. .	1,435	834	2,957	1,708	632
General Plant .. .. .	509	883	1,131	925	2,025
Total .. .. .	155,801	141,042	183,118	192,878	270,032

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

**GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.**

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £591,000 (the whole of which has been raised), and to issue debentures, which may be made payable in London or Melbourne. The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure for the last five years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure:—

**GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.**

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
—					
<b>REVENUE.</b>					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	13,004	12,772	17,415	21,737	26,387
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	5,125	4,237	4,189	4,363	4,563
Sparrovale Farm .. ..	7,403	9,375	8,789	7,852	8,952
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. ..	20,999	19,548	15,042	16,752	15,754
Other Revenue .. ..	1,682	4,088	4,200	3,530	3,024
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>48,213</b>	<b>50,020</b>	<b>49,635</b>	<b>54,234</b>	<b>58,680</b>
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE.</b>					
General Management and Expenses .. ..	6,381	7,765	7,909	7,856	8,362
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	670	3,393	2,733	2,325	4,311
" Harbor .. ..	701	493	874	505	669
" Floating Plant ..	1,204	278	467	710	405
" Other .. ..	1,397	1,972	1,213	925	1,421
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund .. ..	27,755	25,540	25,501	25,087	27,849
Sparrovale Farm .. ..	4,894	6,511	6,507	5,768	6,601
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. ..	2,845	3,383	3,451	3,240	3,361
Corio Quay Power-house ..	9,826	10,109	3,755	4,377	2,332
Miscellaneous .. ..	533	1,181	1,194	1,274	754
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>56,206</b>	<b>60,625</b>	<b>53,604</b>	<b>52,067</b>	<b>56,065</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.</b>					
Land and Property .. ..	22,911	16,896	5,707	8,541	7,915
Deepening Waterworks .. ..	..	..	..	..	341
Wharfs and Approaches Construction .. ..	270	113	135	115	10
Other Harbor Improvements .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Floating and General Plant ..	48	260	..	..	14
Miscellaneous .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>23,229</b>	<b>17,269</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>8,656</b>	<b>8,280</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 must also be members of the respective councils which they represent, and are each elected for three years in the following order of numbers, viz.:—Nine by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne Council, three by the Prahran Council, two each by the Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, and St. Kilda Councils, and one each by the other fifteen suburban municipal councils returning a representative, viz., Footscray, Hawthorn, Brunswick, Essendon, Malvern, Brighton, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Williamstown, Caulfield, Camberwell, Kew, Coburg, Heidelberg, and Preston.

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

**Functions of the Board.** The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called for and pressing want.

**Area under Board's control, and population.** Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1923, comprised 21 cities, 1 town, and part of another, 1 borough, and parts of 13 shires, or 37 municipalities in all. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1923, was 892,857.

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

The Board is authorized to borrow £13,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891. Under The Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act, No. 3284, it is also empowered to borrow £500,000 for works carried out in accordance with that Act.

The liability under Government loans on 30th June, 1923, was £938,182, and under loans raised by the Board, £13,252,170, a portion of the latter amount having been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £1,949,582 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

**WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.****Water supply assessments and rates.**

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1922-23 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

**Water meters.**

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

**Garden rate.**

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

**Assessed value of property.**

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £10,948,582 in 1922-23, and £12,189,013 in 1923-24.

**Water rate receipts.**

In 1922-23 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears) ..	258,139	4	0
Meters ..	196,946	9	7
Special rates ..	3,928	15	2
Total .. ..	£459,014	8	9

**Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.** The total revenue was £507,475, as against £438,399 in the previous year. The cost in 1922-23 of maintenance and management was £5,407, and the amount paid in interest was £217,723, the total charge being £303,130, as compared with a payment in 1921-22 of £86,925 for maintenance and management, and of £196,746 for interest, or a total charge of £283,671.

**Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.** The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1923, was as follows:—

Original water supply station, &c.	..	..	..	..	£84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	..	636,338
Maroondah system	..	..	..	..	1,020,688
O'Shanassy system	..	..	..	..	543,606
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	..	318,648
Large mains..	..	..	..	..	1,302,899
Reticulation	..	..	..	..	1,769,208
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>£5,676,272</u>

#### DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

**The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.** The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

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

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

## YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yeau system.** The Yan Yeau watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1923 was 25ft. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th November, and the minimum depth, 15ft. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. on 7th and 10th May. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1923, the total intake of the Reservoir was 5,038,016,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,786,632,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

## MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about  $41\frac{1}{4}$  miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons) which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

## O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed.** The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 33,000 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line, of an aggregate length of  $48\frac{3}{4}$  miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries.



## OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1923.

The total output of water from the various sources of  
 Output of Water. supply in 1923 was as follows :—

	Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir .. ..	4,786,632,000
„ Maroondah Streams .. ..	8,777,377,000
„ O'Shanassy River .. ..	4,943,633,000
Total Output .. ..	18,507,642,000

Storage and service reservoirs. There are two storage and fourteen service reservoirs, and it is proposed to have three other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1923 was 867,230, and the average daily consumption was 53.45 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1923 :—

## TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1923.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January .. ..	1,951,454,000	62,950,129
February .. ..	1,957,515,000	69,911,250
March .. ..	1,938,128,000	62,520,258
April .. ..	1,814,101,000	60,470,033
May .. ..	1,345,261,000	43,395,516
June .. ..	1,205,011,000	40,167,033
July .. ..	1,237,893,000	39,932,032
August .. ..	1,265,774,000	40,831,419
September .. ..	1,231,844,000	41,061,467
October .. ..	1,396,560,000	45,050,323
November .. ..	1,457,030,000	48,567,667
December .. ..	1,701,693,000	54,893,323
Total for the year .. ..	18,502,264,000	...
Daily average for the year .. ..	...	50,691,134

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1923 occurred on 22nd February and the minimum daily consumption on 5th August of that year. The consumption was 87,267,000 gallons on the former and 34,109,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

The following table shows for each of the last ten years the daily average consumption of water, and the daily average per head :—

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN  
MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1914 TO 1923.

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64
1915 ...	674,000	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·73
1916 ...	713,957	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	727,196	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	744,018	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	759,212	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	784,530	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 11,310 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1923.

### SEWERAGE FINANCE.

In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1923-24 was £12,406,203, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £ in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1922-23 was 1s. in the £ in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 1s. rate was £10,118,636 in 1922-23.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1922-23 amounted to £518,170.

The sewerage revenue for 1922-23 was £552,643, as against £441,516 in the previous year. The outlay in 1922-23 for management, working expenses and repairs was £116,894, and for interest £433,577, the total charges being £555,381, compared with an outlay in 1921-22 of £121,045 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £422,295 for interest, or a total expenditure of £543,340.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.

**Cost of the  
Melbourne and  
Metropolitan  
sewerage  
system.**

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1923, was £8,585,840, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation .. ..	£640,510
Outfall sewer and rising mains .. ..	447,388
Pumping station buildings and engines .. ..	257,226
Main and branch sewers .. ..	2,275,670
Street reticulation .. ..	2,705,323
Reticulation of rights-of-way .. ..	1,231,031
House connexions branches .. ..	518,710
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital .. ..	509,959
Night soil sites .. ..	23
Cost of sewerage system .. ..	£8,585,840
Householders' debts for house connexions .. ..	149,019
River improvements .. ..	3,977
Total .. ..	£8,738,836

**Main Sewers  
and Subsidiary  
Main.**

The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (North Yarra system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (South Yarra system). The subsidiary main, which takes in Williams-town, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station. Further information regarding these is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 222.

#### PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

On 31st December, 1923, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon, Nunawading and Sandringham. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Caulfield, Malvern, the

older portions of Footscray and the thickly populated portions of Brunswick, Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown. Considerable progress had been made in the municipality of Heidelberg, and a small portion of Oakleigh had been completed.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1923, work was carried out principally in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Essendon, Footscray, Kew, Northcote, Oakleigh, and Sandringham, and in a lesser degree in Coburg, Malvern, Preston, and Williamstown.

*Mains and Branch Sewers.*—Mains have been extended and branch sewers constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas as follows:—Hobson's Bay Main Section 14, Sandringham; Moonee Ponds Main Section 5, Brunswick, Coburg and Essendon; Camberwell South Branch Sewer and Golf Links Branch, Camberwell; Five Mile Creek Branch Section 1, Coburg and Essendon; South Crescent Branch, Brighton. Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, Oakleigh, Preston, Sandringham, and Williamstown. Reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Caulfield, Malvern, Brighton, Camberwell, Essendon, Northcote, Coburg, Brunswick and Hawthorn, and in a lesser degree in Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Prahran, Preston, Sandringham, St. Kilda, and Williamstown.

*Work in progress.*—Five Mile Creek Branch Sewer Section 2, Essendon, and North Road East Intercepting Sewer, Caulfield, are now in course of construction. Reticulation contracts are being carried out in Camberwell, Caulfield, Essendon, Footscray, Kew and Nunawading, while contract and day labor reticulation extensions, to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh sub-divisions, are being carried out in Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Collingwood, Malvern, Prahran and other municipalities.

In all  $1,637\frac{9}{16}$  miles of reticulation and  $174\frac{3}{16}$  miles of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of  $1,811\frac{12}{16}$  miles.

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

Number of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st Decr., 1923.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1923, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 179,183, including 264 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1922-23, 10,337 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,508 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1923 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1923.
Melbourne City ... ..	27,763
South Melbourne City ... ..	11,084
Prahran City ... ..	12,616
Fitzroy City ... ..	8,219
Richmond City ... ..	10,639
St. Kilda City ... ..	8,927
Collingwood City ... ..	8,755
Footscray City ... ..	7,459
Hawthorn City ... ..	7,377
Brunswick City ... ..	10,654
Essendon City ... ..	8,516
Malvern City ... ..	8,229
Caulfield City ... ..	10,844
Northcote City ... ..	7,482
Camberwell City ... ..	4,501
Brighton City ... ..	5,280
Port Melbourne City ... ..	3,099
Williamstown City ... ..	4,078
Kew City ... ..	3,773
Coburg City ... ..	3,114
Preston Town ... ..	1,848
Sandringham City (part of) ... ..	1,710
Oakleigh Town ... ..	517
Heidelberg Shire (part of) ... ..	2,398
Nunawading Shire (part of) ... ..	301
Total ... ..	179,183

The house connexions pipes join the reticulation pipes, and these are gradually collected into branch sewers, which connect with the sub-mains and mains.

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 45 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid *debris* and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, and is transferred to a drier, which is situated in the building over the wells.

**Pumping station.**

It is there subject to steam pressure, and, consequently, to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial value, and is carted away. There are seven steam pumping engines installed, of about 300 horse-power each, which are together capable of pumping a maximum of 54,000,000 gallons of sewage daily. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 132,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low-water mark at the pumping station to 67 feet above low-water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through wrought-iron and mild steel rising mains, two 6-ft. and one 4-ft.—the three lengths running side by side, each 2·794 miles long (an aggregate length of 8·38 miles). Only two of these rising mains are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. From Brooklyn the sewage gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

#### METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs **Sewage farm.** is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 13,218 acres 3 roods 16½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall to 31st December, 1923, of 17·96 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37·25 feet above low-water mark.

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

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an-acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main

carriers and drains which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south, through the farm.

The area under irrigation in the year 1922-23 included 246 acres of maize harvested for grain, which were estimated to yield about 60 bushels per acre, 133 acres of lucerne which were cut for hay, and yielded approximately 367 tons or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  tons to the acre, and 8,471 acres which were available for grazing live stock.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1922-23 were— from sheep, profit £2,878; from cattle, profit £11,761. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £4,448.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1923 :—Lucerne (chaff and hay), £1,522; maize, £2,374; wheat and barley, £38; other, £73. Total, £4,007.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1922-23, or as at 30th June, 1923, are as follows :—

Total area of farm .. .. .	13,219 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1922-23 = in gallons .. .. .	36,335,140
= 133·85 acre-feet per day = 5·532 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 8,831 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1923 .. .. .	£640,510
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm .. .. .	£11,285
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,444 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £29,744, interest on capital cost) .. .. .	£35,903
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years .. .. .	3·68d.
Population served by sewerage system .. .. .	776,929
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1923 .. .. .	13·73 inches
"    "    "    31st December, 1923 .. .. .	14·63    "
Average rainfall for 30 years to 31st December, 1923 .. .. .	17·96    "

## THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, by Act 44 Vict. No. 656 (Consolidated Act No. 2747). The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commission shall be the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

*Water Supply.*—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

*Finance.*—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £314,120 as at 31st December, 1923. The annual revenue is £32,000.

*Rating.*—The water rate is 1s. in the £ on the net annual value of properties, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

*Sewerage.*—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been practically completed, and branch and reticulation sewers and sewage disposal works are in progress. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The outfall sewer is 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the main sewer is about 2 1-10th miles long. The method of sewage disposal proposed is by sedimentation and digestion tanks and oxidising beds. One mile of branch sewers and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of reticulating sewers have been laid.

*Finance.*—The scheme is being financed by loans from the Commonwealth Bank, £130,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1924.



*Rating.*—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923–24, 3d. in the £, on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district.

It is anticipated that the progress of the work will enable the connecting of houses with the sewerage system to commence early in 1925.

### GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted under the *Geelong Municipal Water Act* 1907, and gazetted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act* No. 2230 (Consolidated Act No. 2661).

The Commissioners number five. Two of these represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio and South Barwon.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking; £510,000 for sewerage undertaking and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1923, was:—Water supply, £477,479; sewerage, £429,261; and sewerage installation, £143,330. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1923, was £40,525 on account of waterworks and £32,457 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 36,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 9,000; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 7,600; and the number connected with the sewers, 7,150.

*Water Supply.*—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pages 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,355,280 gallons.

*Sewerage.*—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 8,081 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon and Bellarine.

*Rating.*—The water rate is 1s. 3d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.
- (b) An additional rate of 4d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 4d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

In addition to the general and additional rates, the Trust, to prevent or minimize the pollution of the river Barwon, has power to strike a differential or special rate on properties which drain into that river.

### BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. M. G. Giudice, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at 5½ per cent. It is secured by debentures repayable in twenty years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 11th January, 1924, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial year ending 30th September, 1924, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 11th January, 1924.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 15 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 1,600 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1924, 440 houses had

been connected, while 86 others were in course of being sewered. The maximum number of men employed was 224, and the number in June, 1924, was 100.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom-road, and 4 miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 half-yearly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., has been arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays, viz., 6 per cent. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £250,000.

### FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

The arrangements for fire extinction in the metropolis are closely allied to those for the Melbourne water supply, provision for the service being made by the *Fire Brigades Act 1915*.

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of 10 miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, as well as certain districts outside of that area. The districts referred to are portions of the shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, beyond the 10-mile radius. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc (16 miles from Melbourne), that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board is composed of nine members, of whom three are appointed by the Governor in Council, three by the municipal councils, and three by the fire insurance companies.

**Outfit of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.** The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1924, had under its control the following:—Forty-one stations, 271 members of permanent staff, 69 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 35 men engaged in the workshops, 110 partially paid firemen, 5 motor-drawn steam fire engines, 3 steam fire engines, 4 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage waggons, 7 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 35 motor hose waggons, 3 motor cycles, 2 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompier ladders, 7 inspection cars, 102,926 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 397 fire alarm circuits having 1,201 street fire alarms, of which 1,184 were with telephones and 17 were fire alarms only. There were also 1057 auxiliary boxes and 27 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 141 direct telephone lines, 61 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 82 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 141 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1923-24 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £131,868, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to '00364d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £12,052,503, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £4 14s. 4d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1922 amounted to £931,689, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1923-24 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £43,956.

**Country Fire Brigades Board.** The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1923 was £22,088, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £7,301; (b) municipalities, £7,286; (c) insurance companies, £7,299; and (d) other sources, £202. The expenditure for the year amounted to £22,813. There are 114 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1923

amounted to £315,529, and the total contribution by the companies in that year for the upkeep of the brigades was £7,301. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1923 was £2,375,303. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 140 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,710. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

**Powers of the Boards.** The general duties of the Fire Brigades Boards are defined to be those "of taking superintending and enforcing all necessary steps for the extinguishment of fires and for the protection of life and property in case of fire, and the general control of all stations and of all fire brigades shall be vested in the Boards for the metropolis and country districts respectively." The Boards may purchase or lease property for fire brigade stations, control the formation of permanent and volunteer fire brigades and schools of instruction, maintain fire alarms, and establish communication, telephonic and other.

**Water Supply.** The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1923, the Board had fixed to its 244 miles 64 chains of leading mains and 1,555 miles 49 chains of reticulation mains 4,865 pillar hydrants, 36 Tregear patent hydrants, and 16,167 ball fire plugs (viz., 16,146 Bateman and Moore—of which 2,730 are with spring—and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 21,068. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

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

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1923, are as follows:—

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

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ... ..	100,442	112,976	137,626	148,139	144,587
Receipts for Services ...	7,200	9,651	10,808	12,300	14,028
Interest and Sundries ...	3,180	4,658	12,059	13,751	9,778
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>110,822</b>	<b>127,285</b>	<b>160,493</b>	<b>174,190</b>	<b>168,393</b>
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ... ..	66,767	74,038	101,392	106,046	103,416
Fire Expenses ... ..	3,439	3,349	3,834	4,022	4,205
Administrative Charges, &c. Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ... ..	17,655	17,942	28,844	25,403	34,283
Interest ... ..	6,607	9,443	9,653	8,255	9,394
Sinking Fund ... ..	9,255	9,156	9,595	9,213	7,468
Firemen's Accident Fund Miscellaneous ... ..	5,727	3,814	4,666	12,052	2,959
	...	...	250	250	...
	2,812	7,808	3,732	11,143	7,837
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>112,262</b>	<b>125,550</b>	<b>161,966</b>	<b>176,384</b>	<b>169,562</b>
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	8,344	7,046	23,782	25,205	1,443