

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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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.

Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires. Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 55 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.

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

Rateable
property.

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.

A comparatively small number of municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

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.

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.

New Municipalities. A portion of the Shire of Nunawading was excised on 26th May, 1925, and a new shire entitled Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted. The remaining portion of the Shire of Nunawading was proclaimed a borough with the name of Box Hill Borough on 15th December, 1925, which was subsequently constituted a city on 28th April, 1927. A portion of the Shire of Shepparton was excised on 31st May, 1927, and a new borough entitled Borough of Shepparton created.

Municipalities : 1922-23 to 1926-27. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1926 was 194. Of these, 29 ranked as cities, 4 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 1926-27 :—

MUNICIPALITIES : 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
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	3,354,343
1924-25 ..	1,031,670	291,910	233,400	1,689	288,230,793	16,388,842	3,763,373
1925-26 ..	1,072,510	314,386	244,164	2,061	314,333,446	17,778,661	4,191,063
1926-27 ..	1,106,010	319,568	253,471	1,917	339,221,826	19,020,312	..
Shires—							
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24 ..	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,646,410
1924-25 ..	635,340	221,345	148,717	1,887	250,480,405	12,588,177	1,815,707
1925-26 ..	632,550	246,161	148,546	1,703	257,350,043	12,933,459	1,921,483
1926-27 ..	643,950	254,403	151,568	1,730	267,100,576	13,426,424	..
Total—							
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	5,000,753
1924-25 ..	1,667,010	513,255	382,117	3,576	538,711,193	28,977,019	5,579,080
1925-26 ..	1,705,060	560,547	392,710	3,764	571,633,489	30,712,120	6,112,546
1926-27 ..	1,749,960	573,971	405,039	3,647	606,322,402	32,446,736	..

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.		
	1926-27 over 1922-23.		1925-26 over 1922-23.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	105,635,625	5,903,723	1,198,904
Shires	45,476,803	2,225,599	424,719
Total Increase	151,112,428	8,129,322	1,623,623

The number of ratepayers returned for 1926-27 was 573,971, and the total capital value of rateable property £606,322,402, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £32,446,736.

Unimproved
Value of
Rateable
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1926-27 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £169,610,913, and in shires £178,067,050. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

Properties
rated in
municipalities.

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

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962
1924-25	343,462	310,250	653,712
1925-26	366,494	339,421	705,915
1926-27	374,095	353,632	727,727

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, 1926-27, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1925-26 :—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1926-27.

Name.	Estimated Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1925-26.	Annual Endow- ment pay- able by the Govern- ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
GREATER MELBOURNE.							
Box Hill ..	11,280	5,660	s. d. 2 8	£ 3,972,320	£ 198,616	£ 59,189	£ ..
Brighton ..	27,060	8,000	2 6	9,279,920	463,996	72,366	..
Brunswick ..	51,300	11,296	*0 7	9,380,532	607,446	180,727	..
Camberwell ..	39,770	17,600	*0 5	13,540,146	759,643	143,335	..
Caulfield ..	63,960	18,560	*0 4½	17,113,497	965,821	156,940	..
Colburg ..	33,850	11,000	*0 5	7,080,720	354,036	104,429	..
Collingwood ..	33,700	7,632	2 3	9,954,580	497,729	64,932	..
Essendon ..	41,400	12,323	*0 5	10,303,278	634,538	99,855	..
Fitzroy ..	33,930	7,620	2 2	7,887,630	525,842	63,328	..
Footscray ..	45,100	13,500	2 6	10,600,200	530,010	156,664	..
Hawthorn ..	32,220	8,258	2 8	11,308,920	565,446	85,427	..
Kew ..	24,500	6,195	2 6	5,214,705	347,647	66,347	..
Malvern ..	44,000	12,911	2 6	16,423,960	821,198	145,078	..
Melbourne ..	103,600	32,405	2 0	88,861,620	4,443,081	1,275,873	..
Northcote ..	39,380	10,550	2 6	8,655,640	432,782	115,716	..
Oakleigh ..	9,500	3,182	*0 5	2,280,447	156,362	32,910	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,200	2,887	2 3	2,064,125	165,130	44,119	..
Prahran ..	52,000	13,243	1 11	13,484,400	1,123,700	131,943	..
Preston ..	23,500	16,000	2 6	6,012,160	300,608	86,829	..
Richmond ..	43,540	9,202	2 5	10,259,352	569,964	77,395	..
Sandringham ..	19,500	6,683	*0 3½	5,500,000	293,007	75,094	..
South Melbourne ..	47,300	10,560	2 6	17,163,020	858,151	133,980	..
St. Kilda ..	41,600	10,226	2 0	11,743,092	978,591	114,951	..
Williamstown ..	23,500	5,240	2 6	3,111,700	218,000	108,246	..
Total ..	898,690	260,733	..	301,195,964	16,811,344	3,595,673	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
OUTSIDE MELBOURNE.							
CITIES.			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ballarat ..	37,550	8,997	2 9	5,617,485	374,499	88,728	..
Bendigo ..	26,300	6,417	2 9	4,017,885	287,859	61,796	..
Geelong ..	16,000	4,800	2 8	5,234,720	261,736	52,567	..
Mordialloc ..	7,760	4,077	*0 3½	2,645,540	132,277	40,739	..
Warrnambool ..	8,050	1,781	2 9	1,626,509	95,677	45,292	..
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	11,390	2,832	2 9	1,958,640	97,932	21,280	..
Mildura ..	6,000	1,462	3 0	1,402,520	70,126	31,555	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	8,750	2,295	*0 5½	2,122,465	107,974	17,829	..
Sale ..	3,980	1,069	2 9	761,280	38,064	13,506	..
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,010	998	2 3	656,500	32,825	19,132	25
Carrum ..	6,750	4,688	*0 3	1,645,800	82,290	27,553	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,700	3 0	589,800	47,184	11,061	25
Clunes ..	1,230	476	1 6	77,854	11,122	3,028	37
Creswick ..	1,750	540	1 9	76,220	7,622	2,457	38
Daylesford ..	3,440	812	2 6	544,440	27,222	6,164	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,750	1,350	2 6	265,980	22,165	8,690	25
Echuca ..	4,000	875	3 0	775,450	42,100	10,113	25
Hamilton ..	5,260	1,268	2 6	1,110,140	55,522	11,612	25
Horsham ..	4,500	1,500	2 6	1,015,995	67,733	13,568	50
Inglewood ..	1,100	290	2 0	94,200	7,850	2,895	25
Koroit ..	1,860	406	2 6	450,240	22,512	6,115	25
Maryborough ..	4,860	1,148	2 9	360,000	36,000	14,599	25
Port Fairy ..	2,060	522	2 8	425,040	21,252	7,269	25
Portland ..	2,720	1,136	*0 4½	583,399	30,806	8,580	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,780	711	2 6	460,800	23,040	5,019	50
Ringwood ..	3,500	2,073	2 0	1,159,060	57,953	13,100	50
Sebastopol ..	1,900	472	2 9	191,280	9,564	2,541	40
St. Arnaud ..	3,200	854	3 0	582,000	29,100	7,781	25
Stawell ..	4,670	1,014	2 9	306,120	30,612	16,743	25
Wangaratta ..	3,900	990	3 0	820,000	41,000	14,605	25
Wonthaggi ..	6,800	1,302	3 0	448,200	37,350	9,473	46
Total ..	1,106,010	319,568	..	339,221,826	19,020,312	4,191,063	711

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Shires,
1926-27.

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

SHIRES, 1926-27.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,740	1,356	2 0	2,105,560	105,278	15,033	697
Alexandra ..	3,560	890	2 0	1,253,000	62,650	9,819	389
Arapiles ..	2,450	640	1 6	1,270,400	63,520	5,732	153
Ararat ..	6,050	1,690	1 6	4,334,180	216,709	22,386	641
Avoca ..	3,370	1,254	2 0	928,160	46,408	5,956	239
Avon ..	2,600	781	1 9	1,501,060	75,053	7,225	301
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,430	862	2 0	1,466,000	73,300	11,087	204
Bairnsdale ..	8,140	2,430	1 6	2,794,440	139,722	16,444	705
Ballan ..	3,200	1,220	2 0	1,124,480	56,224	5,734	286
Ballarat ..	4,000	1,200	1 6	1,236,940	61,847	6,308	286
Bannockburn ..	2,760	735	2 0	1,060,400	53,020	6,559	203
Barrabool ..	1,870	519	2 0	1,100,000	55,000	6,818	212
Beechworth ..	4,550	1,418	2 0	640,000	40,000	10,482	271
Belfast ..	2,620	680	2 0	1,635,540	81,777	9,413	323
Bellarine ..	4,180	2,013	1 9	1,310,000	65,500	6,540	240
Benalla ..	8,100	3,213	1 9	3,102,300	155,115	27,201	715
Berwick ..	9,550	3,650	2 0	2,776,480	138,824	21,768	495
Bet Bet ..	3,570	1,240	1 6	837,600	41,880	5,902	236
Birchip ..	2,080	584	1 6	1,036,200	51,810	6,359	199
Blackburn and Mitcham ..	5,970	3,715	2 9	1,976,220	98,811	14,585	329
Borong ..	5,140	1,500	1 6	2,680,560	134,028	14,165	492
Braybrook ..	6,240	8,500	1 9	3,129,860	156,493	24,944	129
Bright ..	4,140	1,370	2 0	719,000	35,950	6,921	370
Broadford ..	1,400	411	1 9	500,120	25,066	3,678	148
Broadmeadows ..	4,540	10,807	1 9	2,296,700	114,835	17,183	251
Bulla ..	2,670	424	1 6	874,980	43,749	6,967	172
Buln Buln ..	6,050	1,600	2 6	1,460,100	73,005	14,267	616
Bungaree ..	3,200	976	2 0	799,720	39,986	5,134	395
Buninyong ..	5,150	1,663	1 9	1,323,060	66,153	7,703	296
Charlton ..	2,650	750	2 0	1,556,740	76,837	7,572	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	710	1 6	693,160	34,658	4,628	216
Cohuna ..	3,200	710	1 6	1,179,600	58,980	17,006	114
Colac ..	13,000	2,960	1 7	6,651,320	332,566	43,750	138
Corio ..	4,120	4,237	2 6	2,850,520	117,526	17,174	255
Cranbourne ..	6,050	1,940	2 6	2,424,540	121,227	16,838	342
Creswick ..	3,070	919	1 6	1,135,020	56,751	5,123	383
Dandenong ..	8,900	9,000	* 0 2½	2,660,200	133,010	25,630	209
Deakin ..	4,250	1,200	1 6	1,973,380	98,669	9,341	219
Dimboola ..	6,570	1,366	2 0	3,461,620	173,081	19,603	305
Donald ..	3,650	1,040	1 6	2,258,680	112,934	20,516	323
Doncaster and Templestowe ..	3,000	1,500	1 9	1,100,000	55,000	13,145	194
Dundas ..	3,670	1,313	2 0	2,969,400	148,470	14,438	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,860	1,160	1 6	2,896,980	144,849	21,521	612
East Loddon ..	1,850	460	1 6	1,566,920	78,346	7,184	271
Eitham ..	4,420	3,160	2 0	1,200,000	60,000	12,220	208
Euroa ..	4,040	1,140	2 0	1,429,720	71,486	11,307	321
Ferntree Gully ..	9,000	6,300	3 0	2,924,800	146,240	30,750	444
Flinders ..	5,000	5,500	1 9	1,668,820	83,441	14,722	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	5,600	4,250	3 0	1,950,640	97,532	48,482	213
Gisborne ..	2,450	1,056	2 0	805,200	40,260	6,694	168
Glenelg ..	5,600	1,800	2 0	3,114,500	155,725	20,971	591
Glenlyon ..	3,620	1,426	1 9	884,600	44,230	4,626	223
Gordon ..	3,370	902	1 6	1,898,700	94,935	9,116	365
Goulburn ..	2,260	634	1 6	1,126,280	56,314	4,652	172
Grenville ..	3,310	1,210	1 6	960,030	64,002	7,167	299
Hampden ..	11,330	2,332	2 6	6,654,100	332,705	55,372	370
Healesville ..	3,786	1,346	3 0	888,960	44,448	12,269	332
Heidelberg ..	24,460	16,000	2 0	7,204,060	360,203	116,044	245
Heytesbury ..	4,560	1,085	2 0	2,226,780	111,339	13,644	530

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Huntly ..	3,200	1,084	1 6	1,247,060	62,353	5,787	198
Kara Kara ..	3,160	1,290	1 9	2,180,400	109,020	10,264	316
Karkarocoe ..	5,750	1,300	1 6	4,580,000	229,000	16,806	469
Kellor ..	1,800	5,000	1 9	1,328,180	66,409	5,605	49
Kerang ..	9,000	2,177	1 6	3,798,700	189,935	32,328	380
Kilmore ..	1,810	513	2 0	273,370	27,337	5,342	136
Korong ..	5,030	1,566	1 6	2,033,360	101,668	10,170	321
Korumburra ..	7,600	2,045	2 0	2,708,720	135,436	18,741	982
Kowree ..	3,500	1,219	1 9	1,968,580	98,429	12,341	430
Kyneton ..	8,100	2,180	2 0	1,766,080	88,304	20,752	365
Lawloit ..	2,310	652	1 9	1,277,985	85,199	10,070	196
Leigh ..	1,370	500	1 6	1,245,760	62,288	5,292	272
Lexton ..	1,680	564	1 9	990,140	49,507	4,959	198
Lillydale ..	9,500	3,600	2 6	2,652,920	132,646	22,537	345
Lowan ..	3,800	1,300	2 3	2,072,000	103,600	17,713	296
Maffra ..	6,100	1,220	1 6	3,187,120	159,356	14,237	483
Maldon ..	3,170	1,069	1 6	703,120	35,156	3,777	185
Mansfield ..	4,100	1,340	2 6	1,716,060	85,803	12,404	542
Marong ..	5,930	1,400	2 0	2,032,540	101,627	12,180	454
Melton ..	1,480	457	1 9	1,086,160	54,306	5,947	145
Metcalfe ..	2,760	1,000	1 6	807,320	40,366	3,911	162
Mildura ..	9,000	2,500	2 0	2,760,380	138,019	18,000	184
Minhamite ..	2,020	765	2 0	1,849,390	92,465	12,303	321
Mirboo ..	1,640	430	3 0	678,060	33,903	7,334	355
Moorabbin ..	11,470	9,500	2 6	4,062,600	203,130	33,042	296
Mornington ..	2,820	2,331	2 0	1,295,720	64,786	14,480	114
Mortlake ..	3,100	852	1 9	3,590,060	179,503	17,356	346
Morwell ..	4,000	897	2 3	1,805,300	65,265	11,354	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,810	746	1 6	2,082,640	104,132	10,058	198
Mulgrave ..	4,270	2,980	2 6	1,488,060	74,403	11,075	221
McIvor ..	3,550	950	1 6	1,212,000	60,600	7,561	221
Narracan ..	7,130	1,392	2 0	2,172,360	108,618	14,176	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,260	720	2 0	643,500	32,175	7,150	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,700	884	1 9	539,340	26,967	2,880	166
Numurkah ..	5,930	1,280	1 6	3,160,880	158,044	18,951	591
Omeo ..	2,520	776	2 3	970,500	48,525	8,456	836
Orbost ..	4,050	1,046	2 6	1,290,000	64,500	11,598	472
Otway ..	4,360	1,047	3 0	894,000	44,700	10,423	471
Oxley ..	4,040	1,020	1 9	1,437,000	71,850	8,055	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	5,560	1,490	2 6	1,601,620	80,081	13,070	545
Portland ..	5,480	2,089	1 6	2,255,040	112,752	10,551	494
Pyalong ..	760	275	1 6	585,060	29,250	2,354	113
Ripon ..	3,620	1,100	2 0	2,474,400	123,720	16,767	221
Rochester ..	6,460	1,684	1 6	2,986,460	149,323	14,950	246
Rodney ..	8,200	1,950	2 3	3,303,580	165,179	24,386	432
Romsey ..	3,300	850	2 0	1,252,940	62,647	8,076	320
Rosedale ..	4,620	1,220	0 1½	3,000,000	150,000	11,004	537
Rutherford ..	4,120	1,125	1 9	1,018,000	50,900	7,440	257
Seymour ..	3,950	1,082	2 0	1,059,020	52,951	11,857	420
Shepparton ..	8,150	1,910	1 6	3,062,900	153,145	20,276	469
South Barwon ..	3,800	2,473	2 9	1,172,020	58,601	9,175	137
South Gippsland ..	4,800	1,142	2 3	1,390,240	69,512	9,661	517
Stawell ..	3,500	1,270	2 0	2,045,880	102,294	12,304	308
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,460	1,005	2 0	541,320	27,066	3,132	137
Swan Hill ..	12,400	3,960	1 6	5,559,480	277,974	32,482	272
Talbot ..	1,460	553	1 4	578,780	28,939	3,395	134
Tambo ..	4,340	1,080	2 9	1,120,840	56,042	9,741	513
Towong ..	4,500	1,200	2 0	1,817,200	90,860	15,064	578
Traralgon ..	3,460	741	2 3	1,356,840	67,842	12,202	441
Tullaroop ..	3,000	864	1 9	690,675	46,045	5,452	206
Tungamah ..	4,700	1,598	1 6	3,200,400	160,020	11,010	444
Upper Murray ..	2,300	515	1 9	1,060,360	53,018	6,536	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,760	1,415	2 6	790,740	39,537	16,112	221
Violet Town ..	1,980	652	1 9	761,720	38,086	5,670	221
Walpeup ..	5,770	1,665	1 6	2,535,880	126,794	12,073	300

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Wangaratta ..	2,520	902	1 6	968,820	48,441	5,119	146
Wannon ..	3,200	1,042	1 6	2,467,360	123,368	19,560	426
Waranga ..	5,700	1,656	2 0	2,013,260	100,663	13,996	370
Warragul ..	5,160	1,315	2 6	1,926,840	96,342	18,046	885
Warrnambool ..	8,460	1,780	1 9	4,750,460	237,523	31,120	678
Werribee ..	5,750	6,500	2 3	2,619,880	130,994	18,115	296
Whittlesea ..	3,600	1,042	2 0	1,520,000	76,000	10,866	226
Wimmera ..	4,340	1,070	1 0	3,935,360	196,768	13,556	360
Winchelsea ..	4,480	1,640	2 6	1,873,660	93,683	15,243	413
Wodonga ..	2,900	670	1 9	754,440	37,722	4,806	169
Woorayl ..	6,300	1,800	2 9	2,182,580	109,129	17,780	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,360	1,309	1 6	3,083,480	154,174	16,780	328
Yackandandah ..	3,020	948	2 0	1,217,560	60,878	6,315	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,740	790	1 6	1,220,020	61,001	6,973	281
Yea ..	2,840	692	*0 2½	1,189,916	60,411	9,230	371
Total ..	643,950	254,403	..	267,100,576	13,426,424	1,921,483	47,716

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
<i>s. d.</i>										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	4	3	1
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	1	..	..
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	1
1 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	53	53	47	45	40
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	1
1 8 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	3	3	2	1	1	19	18	24	27	25
1 10 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
1 11 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 ..	7	4	3	4	4	26	27	31	30	39
2 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
2 2 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 3 ..	6	8	6	6	3	7	6	7	7	7
2 4 ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
2 5 ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	21	18	15	18	14	9	11	13	14	18
2 7 ..	1	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	1	2	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	2	5	7	6	8	..	..	1	4	4
2 10 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 0 ..	1	2	3	4	6	..	1	4	4	5
Total ..	44	44	44	46	44	136	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1926-27 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. 5½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 9¾d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7½d. 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 eleven 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.

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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1924 TO 1926.

Sources of Revenue.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Taxation—			
Rates	2,847,282	3,152,570	3,380,749
Licences	155,009	162,430	161,682
Dog Fees	26,211	27,836	28,131
Government Endowment and Grants	87,783	88,335	147,014
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	180,502	264,996	320,582
Market and Weighbridge Dues	97,794	111,548	114,773
Sanitary Charges	175,520	185,091	202,360
Rents	125,544	133,623	137,941
Electric Light and Gas Works	913,471	986,101	1,057,596
Other Sources	391,637	466,550	561,718
Total	5,000,753	5,579,080	6,112,546
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	359,493	381,815	407,009
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	433,220	457,885	454,107
Lighting	134,025	144,064	153,292
Contributions to Fire Brigades	55,412	58,250	64,508
Public Works—			
Construction	404,661	479,690	454,247
Maintenance	1,845,278	2,104,402	2,195,045
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	343,978	426,689	446,961
Electric Light and Gas Works	680,568	715,498	757,456
Redemption of Loans	180,987	211,152	229,913
Interest on Loans	386,946	457,669	513,222
Charities	28,550	30,187	35,469
Other Expenditure	393,545	433,154	581,493
Total	5,246,663	5,900,455	6,292,722

As compared with 1925, the revenue of 1926 increased by £533,466, as follows:—Rates increased by £228,179, sanitary charges by £17,269, rents by £4,318, dog fees by £295, electric light and gas works by

£71,495, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £55,586, market and weighbridge dues by £3,225, Government endowment and grants by £58,679, and "other sources" by £95,168. Licences decreased by £748. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £392,267. Most of the items showed increases as under :—Salaries, £25,194; lighting, £9,228; contributions to fire brigades boards, £6,258; public works maintenance, £90,643; electric light and gas works, £41,958; formation of private streets, &c., £20,272; redemption of loans, £18,761; interest on loans, £55,553; charities, £5,282; and other expenditure, £148,339. Public works construction decreased by £25,443, and sanitary work and street cleansing by £3,778.

Fifty-six per cent. of municipal revenue in 1926 was derived from rates, 17 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, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from rents, and 9 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1926 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £407,009, or nearly 7 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £35,469, or a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

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, 1924 TO 1926.

Assets.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	231,623	282,495	286,338
Other Assets	1,098,843	1,390,966	1,049,190
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ...	500,214	496,522	545,712
Arrears Due ...	127	724	210
Unexpended Balances ...	501,858	495,980	587,609
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	3,956,760	4,254,220	4,782,140
Waterworks ...	264,630	258,890	340,920
Gasworks ...	174,660	176,330	185,690
Electric Light Works... ..	1,816,760	1,966,810	2,060,140
Total Assets	8,545,475	9,322,937	9,837,949

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1924 TO 1926—continued.

Liabilities.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	161,031	144,677	145,051
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	127	724	210
Overdue Interest	7,445	8,440	9,475
Bank Overdrafts	892,893	1,106,264	902,820
Other Liabilities	767,691	990,177	819,356
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	7,574,523	8,146,750	9,076,787
Due on Loan Contracts	237,695	256,794	359,496
Total Liabilities	9,641,405	10,653,826	11,313,195

Municipal assets and liabilities compared. The total of the assets of municipalities in 1926 was £9,837,949 and of the liabilities £11,313,195. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,876,912, against which there were assets amounting to £1,335,528. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £9,436,283, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £8,302,752. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£7,368,890), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £933,862.

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

cipal Endowment Act 1907, No. 1229, but this has been altered from time to time by adjustments rendered necessary owing to various changes in municipalities.

The allocation of amounts paid to municipalities in 1925-26 is shown on pages 206 to 209 *ante*.

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Rating on
Unimproved
Values.

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

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

of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of such votes forms at least one-third of the number of votes for which voters are inscribed on the roll.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22, 12 for each of the years 1922-23 to 1925-26 inclusive, and 14 for 1926-27. The following

table gives for these municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1926-27:—

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1926-27.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Collectible in 1927 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	9,380,532	2,952,700	607,446	0 7	2 10	86,120	31·48
Camberwell City ..	13,540,146	5,047,903	759,643	0 5	2 9½	105,165	37·28
Carrum Borough ..	1,645,800	928,578	82,290	0 3*	2 9½	11,607	56·42
Caulfield City ..	17,113,497	5,683,455	965,821	0 4½	2 2½	106,565	33·21
Coburg City ..	7,080,720	2,285,850	354,036	0 5	2 8½	47,622	32·28
Essendon City ..	10,303,278	3,816,164	634,538	0 5	2 6	79,503	37·04
Mordialloc City ..	2,645,540	1,243,512	132,277	0 3½†	2 9	18,135	47·00
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	2,122,465	625,593	107,974	0 5½	2 6½	13,685	29·47
Oakleigh City ..	2,280,447	976,644	156,362	0 5	2 7	20,347	42·83
Portland Borough ..	583,399	237,645	30,806	0 4½	2 9	4,208	40·73
Sandringham City ..	5,500,000	2,888,541	293,007	0 3½	2 10½	42,125	52·52
Dandenong Shire ..	2,660,200	1,323,000	133,010	0 2½‡	2 0½	13,781	49·73
Rosedale Shire ..	3,000,000	1,506,000	150,000	0 1¼§	1 0½	7,844	50·20
Yea Shire ..	1,189,916	592,516	60,411	0 2¾||	2 0½	6,172	49·79

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—

* ½d. in the Centre and North Wards.

† ½d. in the Mordialloc Ward.

‡ 1½d. in the Centre Riding, and of ½d. in the South Riding.

§ 3d. in the township of Rosedale.

|| 4d. in the township of Yea.

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, 1923	..	..	813
do. do. 1924	..	..	806
do. do. 1925	..	..	549
do. do. 1926	..	..	594
do. do. 1927	..	..	758

The position at 30th June, 1927, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	3,786
In course of erection	..	..	..	345
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	383

Total number of applications approved 4,514

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, 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, 1927, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 3,017 War Service Homes buildings, of which 2,881 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 166 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 25 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Country Roads Board. With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowered the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,550, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £1,200 (Act No. 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 follow :—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; £1,000,000 (by Act No. 3334) over a period of three years from 1st July, 1923, and £822,000 over five years commencing on 1st July, 1925. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; 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, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

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 £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

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

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 1925-26 constructional work to the value of £302,844, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £788,332 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1926, for permanent works was £3,464,603, and for developmental roads £3,775,618.

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 £1 ; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s. ; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight ; of motor cars, 3s. to 5s. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car ; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

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, £1,000,000 and £1,475,000 by Acts Nos. 3255, 3334 and 3,425 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £155 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £658,409 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1926.

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

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

RECEIPTS.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			PAYMENTS.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
To Balance, 1st July, 1925						94,138 4 4											
„ Motor Car Act No. 2702—																	
Registration Fees .. 609,325 11 0												792,449 14 5					
Licence Fees .. 31,788 6 0												3,259 13 8					
Fines .. 16,458 17 6																	
667,572 14 6												789,190 0 9					
Less Refunds and Cost of Administration .. 25,485 16 3						632,086 18 3						258,311 13 11					
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—																	
Licence Fees .. 22,132 18 11												305,099 0 7					
Less Refunds and Cost of Administration .. 2,175 0 0						19,957 18 11						9,294 2 9					
„ Country Roads Act No. 2635—																	
Registration of Traction Engines .. 1,566 0 0												1,113 19 10					
Width of Tires Administration, Fines and Costs .. 136 11 0						1,702 11 0											
„ Municipalities Repayments—																	
Permanent Works .. 88,147 10 0												15,007 12 4					
Maintenance .. 178,091 15 6						266,239 5 6						5 4 8					
„ Appropriation for Maintenance—												15,002 7 8					
Main Roads Act No. 2986 50,000 0 0												Advances under Prov. 73, Construction of Roads for Isolated Settlers .. 1,424 7 1					
Less Amount Appropriated under Act 3379 40,000 0 0						10,000 0 0						Advances for Construction of Roads under Migration Grant .. 3,042 6 3					
„ Hire of Plant .. 15,729 12 11												Advances for Construction of Williamstown Short Road .. 26,351 3 9					
„ Stores and Materials .. 7,347 15 3												Less Refunds .. 476 7 6					
„ Sundries .. 11,627 8 10						34,704 17 0						25,874 16 3					
						964,691 10 8						7,183 16 11					
„ Advance to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works, refunded .. 307,889 9 0																	
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Act No. 3235, Item 4, Tourist Vote, refunded .. 10,422 1 2																	
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Prov. 73, Mt. Buffalo Road, refunded .. 1,271 13 10																	
„ Advances under Prov. 73 for Relief of Unemployment, refunded .. 15,247 10 3																	
„ Advance under Prov. 73, Construction of Roads for Isolated Settlers, refunded .. 1,374 7 1																	
„ Advance for Construction of Williamstown Short Road, refunded .. 20,501 15 8																	
						£1,415,536 12 0						£1,415,536 12 0					

Ordinary receipts and payments.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1925-26 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, 1926, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1925 ..	17,243	1	0	By Permanent Works	305,099	0	7
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	310,995	11	7	<i>Deduct</i> Refunds	2,254	14	9
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	305,099	0	7				
„ Transfers ..	23	13	7	„ Temporary Advance from Country Roads Board Fund, refunded ..	307,889	9	0
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1926	22,627	11	11
	<u>£633,381</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£633,361</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

Developmental
Roads Loan
Account.

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1926, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985, 3255, and 3334 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT—

(ACTS Nos. 2944, 2985, 3255, AND 3334).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1925 ..	35,624	7	1	By Expenditure	661,509	0	11
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	1,168,877	0	9	<i>Less</i> Refund	2,943	13	6
„ Transfers ..	2,115	6	9				
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1926	658,565	7	5
	<u>£1,206,616</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>548,051</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>
					<u>£1,206,616</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
Fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1926 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1925-1926.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
£ s. d.				£ s. d.			
Balance, 30th June, 1925	...	...	20,714 10 0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.	6,323 15 7		
Fees	...	...	3,216 6 6	Incidental Expenses	13,319 8 3		
Fines	...	...	9,786 3 8	Annual payment to municipalities	63,853 0 0		
Sale of confiscated liquor	...	...	118 7 1	Compensation	61,650 0 0		
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	...	37,163 2 0	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000 0 0		
	Victuallers	...	288,248 0 8	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	192,040 12 1		
	Temporary	...	4,451 7 6	Balance	£381,714 10 0		
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	...	1,813 9 0	Deduct			
	Packet	...	124 9 6	Investments			
	Australian Wine	...	4,868 13 0	in Stock	341,000 0 0		
	Billiard-table	...	5,800 0 0		40,714 10 0		
	Brewers	...	113 15 0				
	Vignerons	...	80 0 0				
	Club certificates	...	7,369 5 0				
	Permits—Extra Bars	...	1,460 0 0				
	„ Extended Hours	...	1,333 10 0				
	Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	...	19 17 0				
	Interest	...	14,170 0 0				
	Cost of taking Poll	...	50 0 0				
	Sale of Rolls	...	0 10 0				
Total				Total			
£400,901 5 11				£400,901 5 11			

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1925-26 a sum of £63,853 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., 1925-26.

					£
Paid to Cities	...	...	...	...	30,476
„ Towns	...	...	...	...	1,037
„ Boroughs	...	...	...	...	6,911
„ Shires—					
1st Class	...	...	...	...	228
2nd „	...	...	...	...	10,364
3rd „	...	...	...	...	9,156
4th „	...	...	...	...	743
5th „	...	...	...	...	3,132
6th „	...	...	...	...	1,197
Total					63,244
Add payments on account of 1924-25					609
Amount paid in 1925-26					£63,853

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 1925-26 was £9,076,787, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1926.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			903,144	6,585,384
Shires	...	...	...	134,380	1,453,879
Total	...	...	...	1,037,524	8,039,263

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

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1926.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	1,111,649	292,917	1,404,566
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	384,513	116,717	501,230
Expenditure during the year	1,060,690	257,497	1,318,187
Balance unexpended at the end of 1926 ...	435,472	152,137	587,609

Municipal loan expenditure, 1922 to 1926. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1926 amounted to £1,318,187, of which £1,060,690 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £257,497 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,858	885,303
1924	1,289,041	1,281,423
1925	1,527,690	1,535,960
1926	1,404,566	1,318,187

Loans raised by municipalities, 1926. The loan receipts for the year 1925-26 amounted to £1,404,566, and the loan expenditure to £1,318,187. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1925-26 was £587,609—£435,472 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £152,137 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars :—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926.

	Loans from Government.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGH—					
In GREATER MELBOURNE—		£	£	£	£
Box Hill	4,216	5,235	1,019
Brighton	10,418	22,788	12,370
Brunswick	57,300	24,380	13,045	45,965
Camberwell	35,000	16,467	31,552	50,085
Caulfield	76,750	31,307	31,212	76,655
Coburg	25,245	29,109	3,864
Collingwood	35,000	19,817	817	16,000
Essendon	28,000	29,298	5,844	4,546
Fitzroy	30,000	28,506	873	2,367
Footscray	15,617	22,248	6,631
Hawthorn	23,500	10,533	9,719	22,686
Kew	19,000	12,920	17,902	23,982
Malvern	61,051	37,312	16,591	40,330
Melbourne	493,073*	493,073	..	..
Northeote	36,000	48,853	18,407	5,554
Oakleigh	3,758	8,772	5,014
Port Melbourne	11	983	972
Prahran	612	11,472	10,860
Preston	33,100	17,644	981	16,437
Richmond..	30,000	42,018	22,637	10,619
Sandringham	2,500	17,261	14,761	..
South Melbourne	70,000	57,576	13,454	25,878
St. Kilda	13,000	23,700	43,960	33,260
Williamstown	2,566	5,058	2,492
Total	1,043,274	973,108	347,420	417,586

* Of this amount £80,806 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £22,382 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account. The amount of £39,885 due to Loan Account is also included.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—*continued*.

	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGH— <i>continued</i> .					
OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—		£	£	£	£
Ballarat	2,625	2,625	..
Bendigo	5,525	7,305	1,780
Carrum	375	422	220	173
Castlemaine	642	1,365	723
Daylesford	3,166	4,130	964
Echuca	4,000	3,040	103	1,063
Geelong West	3,627	3,627	..
Horsham	1,463	1,463	..
Maryborough	2,500	1,746	365	1,119
Mildura	7,000	6,996	602	606
Mordialloc	39,000	38,986	6,824	6,838
Portland	62	62
Queenscliffe	1,511	2,878	1,367
Ringwood	7,000	6,513	..	487
Sale	372	399	27
St. Arnaud	2,410	2,470	60
Stawell	3,500	3,726	226	..
Wangaratta	245	245
Warrnambool	687	722	35
Wonthaggi	5,000	4,125	1,462	2,337
Total	68,375	87,582	37,093	17,886
Total Cities, Towns and Boroughs	1,111,649	1,060,690	384,513	435,472

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—*continued*.

	Loans from Government.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
SHIRES—		£	£	£	£
Alberton	2,836	2,836	..
Alexandra	1,800	1,800	..	..
Arapiles	18	18	..
Beechworth	3,000	839	..	2,161
Berwick	4,145	5,651	1,506
Borong	4,000	603	..	3,397
Braybrook	47	47	..
Bright	1,250	653	1,105	1,702
Broadford	3,000	3,000	..	..
Chiltern	332	332
Colac	32	152	120
Corio	2,000	3,728	4,747	3,019
Cranbourne	9,529	11,600	2,071
Dandenong	3,630	7,181	4,547	996
Donald	147	147
Doncaster and Templestowe	1,800	1,800	..	..
Dunmunkle	1,200	1,200	..	..
Eltham	1,050	1,199	289	140
Euroa	1,500	1,914	917	533
Ferntree Gully	3,129	5,700	2,571
Flinders	3,500	3,500	..	..
Frankston and Hastings	4,500	8,328	7,961	4,133
Glenelg	1,000	917	..	83
Healesville	2,000	2,000	..	..
Heidelberg	82,101	62,302	5,981	25,780
Heytesbury	93	93
Huntly	569	569
Kara Kara	1,425	1,425	..
Karkaroc	746	758	12
Keilor	2,800	2,681	50	169
Kerang	10,000	4,525	..	5,475
Korong	7,000	5,882	..	1,118
Kyneton	1,944	1,944	..
Lillydale	19,500	13,903	3,275	8,872
Mansfield	500	1,270	774	4
Melton	2,900	4,429	2,116	587
Mildura	1,526	2,561	1,035
Moorabbin	47,736	33,698	16,795	30,833
Mornington	5,000	3,463	114	1,651
Mulgrave	12,450	6,351	..	6,099
Omeo	1,000	1,000	..	..
Phillip Island and Woolamai	5,950	8,533	2,583
Portland	2,000	2,000	..	..
Rochester	192	773	581
Rodney	85	2,844	2,759
Romsey	1,500	53	..	1,447

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—*continued*.

-----	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
SHIRES—continued.		£	£	£	£
Seymour	5,000	5,000	..	..
Shepparton	3,000	3,040	1,950	1,910
South Barwon	254	254
Stawell	7,000	3,693	..	3,307
Swan Hill	27,000	5,576	6,265	27,689
Traralgon	2,500	5,184	2,684	..
Tungamah	700	24	35	711
Violet Town	361	361	..
Walpeup	3,000	2,435	314	879
Wangaratta	87	87
Warragul	1,856	1,856	..
Werribee	3,852	6,625	2,773
Whittlesea	16	217	201
Winchelsea	379	379
Wodonga	756	756
Woorayl	9,000	9,250	250	..
Yea	6,000	5,387	..	613
Total	292,917	257,497	116,717	152,137

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, 1926, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1926.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1925-26.	To 30th June, 1926.		1925-26.	To 30th June, 1926.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1925 .. ..	..	..	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 .. ..	..	309,133
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 ..	40,745	538,668
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,942	423,705	Redeemable in instalments ..	7,349	76,394
Stock realized .. ..	..	90,748	Ordinary loans	1,600	98,225
Other receipts .. ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1352 and 2591 ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund	3,248	10,353
			Sundries .. ..	..	19
			Balance, 30th June, 1926 ..	..	..
Total	52,942	1,341,753	Total	52,942	1,341,753

* 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, 1926, was £167,305.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926—*continued*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued</i> .							Amount.
							£
Interest on Bank Overdrafts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,739
Contributions to Charitable Institutions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,840
" " Infectious Diseases Hospital .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,376
" " Heatherton Sanatorium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,655
Law Costs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,241
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,296
Miscellaneous—							
Rat Destruction .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,334
Hydraulic Power .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,853
Fees—Dog Act .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	721
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,021
Libraries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	425
Town Planning Commission .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	622
Band Performances .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500
Milk Supply .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	785
Ceremonials .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,453
Ambulance Service .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	500
National War Memorial .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,020
Retiring Allowance to Employees .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,649
Visit of American Fleet .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	412
Sundries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,909
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,202,742

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1926, about 36 per cent. was derived from rates, 38 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 6 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—6 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 5 per cent. from licences, 2 per cent. from hydraulic power, and 7 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 14 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 31 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 7 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 9 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

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

**Municipal
Officers'
Guarantee
Fund.**

that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. At any time after the fund has reached £3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be maintained at that sum, and, in the event of the amount at credit being at any time insufficient to pay all the liabilities and expenses, the difference must be made up by payments from all the contributors, each paying *pro ratâ* to its contribution. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years. Payment of contributions is to be made within one month after a written notification has been sent by the secretary. Full and accurate accounts are to be kept of all moneys received and expended, and of the details of the transactions. A balance-sheet, made up to the 30th September of each year, must be prepared, exhibiting a true statement of receipts and expenditure and the balance to the credit of the fund.

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1926, amounting to £279,725, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £921. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1926, was £14,612. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1926, amounted to £2,868.

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, 1926, was £2,968,970. 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: 1922 TO 1926.**

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	510,240	600,161	630,992	632,018	658,944
Rents	37,449	39,725	36,391	35,804	37,116
Interest	80	328	669	285	79
Other Revenue	50,836	46,194	56,391	64,363	60,111
	598,605	686,408	724,443	732,470	756,250
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	114,986	135,520	140,382	136,494	143,002
Total	483,619	550,888	584,061	595,976	613,248
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	40,502	35,175	42,484	37,527	68,442
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	35	750	5	10	15
Maintenance—Dredging ..	90,129	39,774	74,564	96,759	81,128
„ Harbor	3,183	4,613	4,478	4,027	4,240
„ Wharfs	21,475	25,725	32,978	45,555	43,451
„ Approaches	11,264	15,345	18,214	20,269	14,098
Interest on Loans*	131,516	112,659	119,526	151,891	140,318
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	100,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Total	398,104	447,041	505,249	569,038	564,692
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	85,515	103,847	78,812	26,938	48,556
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	11,906	33,407	560	37,699	30,962
Deepening Waterways	98,331	150,885	137,488	145,808	169,053
Wharfs Construction	45,613	67,360	194,318	285,072	129,382
Approaches Construction ..	9,084	7,519	25,483	46,130	15,412
Other Harbor Improvements ..	25,311	8,204	23,826	18,631	40,416
Floating Plant	1,708	632	3,192	97,354	9,221
General Plant	925	2,025	3,429	2,718	4,891
Stock Account .. ..	..	..	..	..	6,119
Total	192,878	270,032	388,296	633,412	405,456

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

**Geelong
Harbor Trust**
—receipts and
expenditure.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £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.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	21,737	26,387	30,571	40,137	35,468
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	4,363	4,563	5,487	5,589	5,559
Sparrovale Farm ..	7,852	8,952	6,799	4,880	5,381
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	16,752	15,754	15,475	15,766	16,318
Other Revenue	3,530	3,024	3,024	19,958	4,347
Total	54,234	58,680	61,356	86,330	67,073
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	7,856	8,362	6,368	6,239	6,657
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	2,325	4,311	3,282	4,518	8,210
" Harbor ..	505	669	530	824	952
" Floating Plant ..	710	405	987	650	615
" Other ..	925	1,421	1,649	2,386	2,564
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	25,087	27,849	27,755	27,756	27,755
Sparrovale Farm	5,768	6,601	5,324	4,797	7,312
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	3,240	3,361	4,599	7,969	6,622
Corio Quay Power-house ..	4,377	2,332	888	..	..
Miscellaneous	1,274	754	933	1,888	5,543
Total	52,067	56,065	52,315	57,027	66,230
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	8,541	7,915	10,056	2,209	2,564
Deepening Waterworks ..	..	341	14,991	20,587	15,716
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	115	10	95	3,283	8,973
Other Harbor Improvements ..	..	..	746	810	955
Floating and General Plant ..	..	14	11	..	29
Total	8,656	8,280	25,899	26,889	28,237

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Creation and
constitution
of Board.

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

It consists of 40 members, of whom one is the Chairman, who is elected every four years by the other members, the retiring Chairman being eligible for re-election. The other members, called commissioners, must also be members of the respective councils which they represent, and are each elected for three years in the following order of numbers, viz.:—Nine by the Melbourne City Council, four by the South Melbourne Council, three by the Prahran Council, two each by the Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, and St. Kilda Councils, and one each by the other fifteen suburban municipal councils returning a representative, viz., Footscray, Hawthorn, Brunswick, Essendon, Malvern, Brighton, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Williamstown, Caulfield, Camberwell, Kew, Coburg, Heidelberg (part of), and Preston. The 39 Commissioners therefore represent 22 municipalities or part municipalities.

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

Functions of
the Board.

The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage; to provide for the commerce and recreation of the inhabitants of the metropolis in so far as the vesting powers of the Board's principal Act, together with the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act* 1923, relate to the bed, soil and banks of the River Yarra; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and certain other rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and for other purposes. 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, 1926, comprised 22 cities and part of another, 1 town, 1 borough and parts of 13 shires, or 38 municipalities in all. Sixteen of these municipalities—or part municipalities—are without representation on the Board. The whole of the city of Mordialloc

and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1926, was 1,009,772.

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

The Board is authorized to borrow £16,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £17,037,090 on 30th June, 1926. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £2,102,844 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 1925-26 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 £15,455,814 in 1925-26, and £16,359,213 in 1926-27.

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £664,926, as against £579,502 in the previous year. The cost in 1925-26 of maintenance and management was £105,597, and the amount of interest was £326,476, the total charge being £432,073, as compared with a payment in 1924-25 of £97,992 for maintenance and management, and of £294,845 for interest, or a total charge of £392,837.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1926, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	£
Yan Yean system	84,885
Maroondah system	637,508
O'Shanassy system	1,385,608
Service reservoirs	1,176,880
Large mains.. .. .	365,630
Reticulation	1,439,438
	<hr/> 2,095,256
Total	<hr/> £7,185,205

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

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

Total area.

The total area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 108,840 acres, the whole of which is vested in the Board, and free from settlement or grazing.

Total daily supply.

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

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

Yan Yeau system.

The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{8}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1926 was 21 ft. $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. on 1st January, and the minimum depth, 14 ft. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. on 3rd, 13th and 14th April. 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, 1926, the total intake of the Reservoir was 3,850,058,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,500,097,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

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

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed.

The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 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. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir, near Mount Dandenong, is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1926.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1926 was as follows:—

			Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	..	..	4,500,097,000
„ Maroondah Streams	..	..	8,807,509,000
„ O'Shanassy River ..	..	..	6,201,054,000
Total Output			19,508,660,000

Storage and service reservoirs. There are two storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 6,460,000,000 gallons and fifteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), with a total capacity of 176,900,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, two other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the then capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1926 was 990,561, and the average daily consumption was 53.91 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 1926:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1926.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	2,070,805,000	66,800,161
February	2,056,889,000	73,460,321
March	1,700,449,000	54,853,193
April	1,316,056,000	43,868,533
May	1,260,776,000	40,670,193
June	1,216,128,000	40,537,600
July	1,277,061,000	41,195,516
August	1,268,362,000	40,914,903
September	1,394,982,000	46,499,400
October	1,636,855,000	52,801,774
November	1,995,597,000	66,519,900
December	2,298,450,000	74,143,548
Total for the year	19,492,410,000	...
Daily average for the year	...	53,403,863

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1926 occurred on 16th December and the minimum daily consumption on 30th May of that year. The consumption was 96,996,000 gallons on the former and 31,539,000 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, 1917 TO 1926.**

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses sup- plied 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.	
1917 ...	700,321	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	716,521	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	731,154	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	755,536	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45
1924 ...	918,485	207,333	182,987	50,187,508	54·64
1925 ...	954,558	215,476	191,318	55,633,000	58·28
1926 ...	990,561	223,603	199,918	53,403,863	53·91

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 8,127 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1926.

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 1926-27 was £16,659,372, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1925-26 was 9d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 9d. rate was £14,177,912 in 1925-26.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1925-26 amounted to £546,402.

The sewerage revenue for 1925-26 was £600,445, as against £537,657 in the previous year. The outlay in 1925-26 for management, working expenses and repairs was £133,988, and for interest £520,508, the total charges being £654,496, compared with an outlay in 1924-25 of £129,050 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £485,027 for interest, or a total expenditure of £614,077.

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, 1926, was £10,029,988, divided as follows:—

	£
Farm purchase and preparation	916,574
Rising Mains and outfall sewer	451,088
Pumping station buildings and engines	285,873
Main and branch sewers	2,443,055
Street reticulation	3,118,807
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,535,223
House connexions branches	650,663
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	583,590
Night soil depots	45,115
<hr/>	
Cost of sewerage system	£10,029,988
Householders' debts for house connexions	291,535
River improvements	7,493
<hr/>	
Total	£10,329,016

Main Sewers and Subsidiary Main. The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood. The two main sewers are the North Yarra main sewer (Northern system) and the Hobson's Bay main sewer (Southern system). The subsidiary main, which takes in Williamstown, 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, 1926.

On 31st December, 1926, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities, viz.:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon.

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

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

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1926, work has progressed more particularly in Camberwell, Heidelberg, Malvern, Kew, Moorabbin and Oakleigh, and in a lesser degree in Coburg, Sandringham, Footscray and Brighton.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Deepdene Branch Main, Kew and Camberwell; Well-street Branch Section 3, Brighton; Kilby-road Intercepting Sewer Section 1, Kew; Grenville-street Branch Section 1, Sandringham; Dry Creek Branch Section 2, Heidelberg; Surrey Hills Branch, Camberwell; and Youell-street Branch Section 5, Footscray, have been constructed to meet the requirements of reticulation areas in the respective municipalities mentioned.

Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Moorabbin, Oakleigh, Sandringham, and Williamstown. A reticulation area was also constructed by day labor in Coburg. Contract and day labor reticulation extensions have been carried out, principally in Caulfield, Camberwell, Preston, Malvern, Northcote, Essendon, and Hawthorn, and in a lesser degree in Heidelberg, Brighton, Brunswick, Footscray, Williamstown, Sandringham, Coburg, Melbourne, St. Kilda, Kew, Oakleigh, and Prahran.

Work in progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Merri Creek Main Sewer Sections 5 and 6, day labor, Coburg and Preston; Burleigh-street Branch, day labor, Williamstown; and Gilbert-road Branch, Coburg and Preston, are now in course of construction. *Reticulation contracts* are now being carried out in Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Heidelberg, Preston and Sandringham; while day labor reticulation alterations and extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Footscray, Hawthorn, Malvern and Prahran.

In all 1,832 miles 33 chains of reticulation and 188 miles 30 chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of 2,020 miles 63 chains.

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

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1926.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1926, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 202,229, including 607 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1925-26, 7,589 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,600 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1926 :—

**NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31st DECEMBER, 1926.**

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1926.
Melbourne City	27,372
South Melbourne City	10,917
Prahran City	12,718
Fitzroy City	8,128
Richmond City	10,463
St. Kilda City	9,403
Collingwood City	8,715
Footscray City	8,636
Hawthorn City	7,977
Brunswick City	12,108
Essendon City	9,979
Malvern City	9,775
Caulfield City	14,041
Northcote City	9,422
Camberwell City	7,262
Brighton City	6,242
Port Melbourne City	3,095
Williamstown City	4,704
Kew City	4,443
Coburg City	4,709
Sandringham City	2,882
Preston City	3,764
Oakleigh Town	1,548
Box Hill Borough	413
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	3,393
Moorabbin Shire (part of)	189
Werribee Shire (part of)	1
Total	202,229

In addition to the above, the total area comprises part of a city and parts of ten shires, or 38 municipalities, or part municipalities, in all, in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

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

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively below low-water mark through straining wells, 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 *débris* and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are 1½

**Pumping
station.**

inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes. There are seven steam driven reciprocating pumping engines installed of about 300 horse-power each, with a daily capacity of about 8,000,000 gallons. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 134,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low water mark at the pumping station to 67 feet above low water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be from 120 feet to 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. rising mains (one of mild steel and one of wrought iron) and one 4-ft. rising main with $3\frac{3}{4}$ chains of concrete at the top end. The three mains run side by side, each about 2 miles $63\frac{1}{2}$ chains long. Only two of them are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. There are also two 6-ft. exterior by-pass rising mains laid north and south of the pumping station and having a total length of 14 chains 3 feet. These are provided so that the flow can be by-passed and cleaning and repairs effected to the mains and valves in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station. The total length of all the rising mains is 8 miles $44\frac{1}{2}$ chains. From Brooklyn the sewage gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The present maximum capacity of the outfall sewer (which is only half of the full amount) is 12,500 cubic feet a minute, or $112\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of sewage per day.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

Sewage farm. The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 21,311 acres 2 roods and $12\frac{1}{2}$ perches (33.3 square miles) of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall for the past 33 years to 31st December, 1926, of 17.50 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about 6 miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road, the land gradually sloping from the north, and the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37.25 feet above low-water mark. To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1925-26, or as at 30th June, 1926, are as follows:—

Total area of farm	21,312 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1925-26 = in gallons	35,477,863
= 130·688 acre-feet per day = 4·9161 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 9,703 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1926 ..	£916,574
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..	£33,945
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,257 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £41,578, interest on capital cost)	£24,890
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	6·54d.
Population served by sewerage system	885,637
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1926	12·90 inches
" " " 31st December, 1926	13·37 "
Average rainfall for 33 years to 31st December, 1926	17·50 "

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 £309,709 as at 31st December, 1926. The annual revenue is £33,800.

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 completed, and progress has been made with branch and reticulation sewers and with the treatment or disposal works. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The method of disposal of sewage is by sedimentation, oxidation and sludge digestion. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, the latter being 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the former is about 2 1-10th miles long. Branch and reticulation sewers have been constructed to the extent of 18 miles. Nineteen sewered areas have been declared, as at 1st July, 1927, comprising 2,268 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from financial institutions, £170,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1926, for constructional works, and £50,000 for house connexions.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923, 3d. in the £; 1924–25–26, 6d. in the £ on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district. A special rate of 4d. in the £ on all rateable property was imposed for the year 1927.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

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

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

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £220,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1926, was:—Water supply, £552,159; sewerage, £520,075; and sewerage installation, £197,661. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £48,677 on account of waterworks and £41,655 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 40,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 10,500; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 10,000; and the number connected with the sewers, 9,501.

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

Sewerage.—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 9,489 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. 1d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with minimum rates of £1 per annum for properties supplied and 5s. for vacant land.

The sewerage rate is :—

A general sewerage rate of 1s. 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.

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 for 1927 is Cr. G. D. Garvin, 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 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Owing to an extension of the sewered area, and an increase in the cost of labour and materials, it was found necessary during the year 1924 to borrow an additional amount of £50,000 from the Commonwealth Bank at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. A further loan of £80,000 for extensions in hand has recently been authorized, the interest rate being $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with repayment in 20 years on a 30 years' basis of equal half-yearly payments. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value is levied upon all property within the Sewerage District, 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 25th February, 1927.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer has been completed to the end of sewerage area No. 1, a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 35 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 3,400 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1927, 2,631 houses had been connected, while 147 others were in course of being sewered.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by liquefying tanks, with land filtration, the effluent being used for growing grass and fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 2s. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 quarterly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., and a further advance of £35,000 were 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 1 per cent. more than the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £380,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

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

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

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

**Outfit of the
Metropolitan
Fire Brigade.**

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1927, had under its control the following :—Forty stations, 281 members of permanent staff, 76 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 64 men engaged in the workshops, 14 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 175 partially paid firemen, 1 steam motor fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage wagons, 22 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 21 motor hose wagons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 4 pompier ladders, 9 inspection cars, 104,000 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 467 fire alarm circuits having 1,437 street fire alarms, all of which were with telephones. There were also 1,203 auxiliary boxes and 245 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 192 direct telephone lines, 64 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 107 watchmen's clock systems.

During 1926-27 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £207,707, 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 808d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £17,902,810, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 13s. 1·8d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1925 amounted to £1,036,816, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1926-27 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £59,256.

**Country Fire
Brigades
Board.**

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £29,733, which was obtained from the following sources :—(a) Government, £9,573 ; (b) municipalities, £9,595 ; (c) insurance companies, £9,573 ; and (d) other sources, £992. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £31,113. There are 114 municipal councils and 93 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1924 amounted to £316,205. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1925 was £2,733,051. 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 143 registered

brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,428. 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.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works **Water Supply.** 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, 1926, the Board had fixed to its 265 miles $50\frac{1}{4}$ chains of leading mains and 1,798 miles $76\frac{3}{4}$ chains of reticulation mains, 6,317 pillar hydrants, 29 Tregear patent hydrants, and 17,023 ball fire plugs (viz., 17,002 Bateman and Moore, of which 3,654 are with spring, and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 23,369. 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, 1926, are as follows:—

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

	1922.	1923.	1924.*	1925.	1926.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Government, Municipal, and Insurance ...	148,139	144,587	148,576	175,977	186,613
Receipts for Services ...	12,300	14,028	16,486	20,138	21,180
Interest and Sundries ...	13,751	9,778	9,881	12,120	17,567
Total ...	174,190	168,393	174,943	208,235	225,360
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	106,046	103,416	105,749	130,723	139,087
Fire Expenses ...	4,022	4,205	2,196	4,133	4,315
Administrative Charges, &c.	25,403	29,699	28,433	32,282	39,676
Plant—Purchase and Repairs ...	8,255	9,394	17,383	16,950	19,551
Interest ...	9,213	7,468	7,746	7,753	8,823
Repayment of Loans ...	12,052	2,959	3,115	3,946	4,185
Firemen's Accident Fund ...	250	...	...	...	...
Superannuation Fund ...	...	4,684	3,900	4,880	5,046
Miscellaneous ...	11,143	7,737	3,095	4,230	7,904
Total ...	176,384	169,562	171,617	204,897	228,587
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	25,205	1,443	1,201	19,047	14,236

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