

Hobson's Bay Railway Company have, as a matter of course, borne the expense of maintaining their own lines:—

AMOUNT EXPENDED, 1873-4.					£	s.	d.
Public works	...	...	...	...	390,955	4	7
Roads and bridges	...	...	...	...	98,365	10	8
Railways construction	...	...	...	...	741,616	9	2
" maintenance	...	...	...	...	74,999	1	3
Total	...	...	...	...	1,305,936	5	8

216. Since 1858, the year in which Government railways were first commenced in Victoria, the amounts spent on their construction and maintenance were as follow:—

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS—EXPENDITURE, 1858 TO 1873-4.

					£	s.	d.
Construction	...	...	...	...	11,557,483	19	6
Maintenance	...	...	...	...	698,548	2	0
Total	...	...	...	...	12,256,032	1	6

217. During the last ten and a half years £2,612,726 have been spent by the Government on public works, and £801,100 on roads and bridges.

PART III.—POPULATION.

218. Between the census periods an estimate of the population of the colony is made up quarterly by the Government Statist from the returns of births and deaths and of arrivals and departures. At the end of 1874 the population estimated in this manner was as follows:—

POPULATION, 31ST DECEMBER 1874.*					
Males	439,159
Females	369,278
Total	808,437

219. Subjoined is the average population of 1874, made up by taking the mean of the population estimates at the beginning and end of the year and the three intermediate quarters:—

MEAN POPULATION, 1874.					
Males	434,073
Females	364,615
Total	798,688

* The latest estimate of population up to the time of this work going to press was for the 30th June 1875, and was as follows:—Males 441,742, females 371,846; total 813,588.

220. The increase of population during 1874 amounted to 17,945. Increase of population, 1874. Of this increase, 14,578, or more than four-fifths, resulted from excess of births over deaths; 3,367, or less than a fifth, was due to excess of immigration over emigration.

221. The increase of population was less than in any year of the previous ten years, except 1866 and 1867, as will be seen by the following figures:— Increase of population, 1864-1874.

INCREASE OF POPULATION.

1864	...	...	29,784	1870	...	...	26,809
1865	...	...	19,752	1871	...	...	25,846
1866	...	...	15,887	1872	...	...	18,282
1867	...	...	14,589	1873	...	...	19,765
1868	...	...	23,043	1874	...	...	17,945
1869	...	...	25,176				

222. The proportions of the sexes in 1874 were the same as they were in 1873, viz., 84 females to 100 males, or 119 males to 100 females. Males and females.

223. It is estimated that at the first colonization of Port Phillip the Aborigines numbered about 5,000. When Victoria became an independent colony, in 1851, the number was officially stated to be 2,693. According to the report of the Central Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, dated 15th May 1875, the numbers now amount to 1,553. The number of either sex is not given in the Board's estimate, but taking the proportions obtaining at the census of 1871,* when, however, it was found impossible to enumerate all the Aborigines, the males should number 915 and the females 638. Aborigines.

224. The Board reports that 557 Aborigines, viz., 302 males and 255 females, or more than a third, are living on Aboriginal stations, which are under the control and partial support of the Government. The remainder wander about the colony at large. Every effort is made to induce them to pursue profitable employments, and the education of the young is attended to. They are trained to labor, but they are also taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and they are, as a rule, apt scholars. Attempt to civilize Aborigines.

225. The amount spent by the Government on the Aborigines during the year 1874 was £7,797, of which £4,900 was expended on clothing and provisions. Expenditure on Aborigines.

226. The estimated gross value of the produce raised on Aboriginal stations during the year was £2,644. The most profitable article produced was hops, of which over $8\frac{1}{4}$ tons, valued at £1,780, were grown on one station. Produce raised by Aborigines.

* See page 63 ante.

Immigration
and emigra-
tion, 1874.

227. The immigration and emigration during the year under review were as follow :—

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1874.

	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Arrivals	30,732	21,876	8,856
Departures	27,365	19,424	7,941
Immigration in excess	3,367	2,452	915

Excess of
immigration
over emigra-
tion.

228. The excess of immigration over emigration was less in 1874 than in any year of the previous decenniad, except 1867, 1872, and 1873. This will be seen by the following figures :—

EXCESS OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES.

1864	14,377	1870	11,467
1865	5,684	1871	8,382
1866	4,549	1872	1,752
1867	2,100	1873	3,166
1868	7,253	1874	3,367
1869	11,152		

Arrivals and
departures
of males and
females.

229. Of the persons who landed in the colony during 1874, 21,876 were males and 8,856 were females. Of those who left it, 19,424 were males and 7,941 were females. The excess of arrivals over departures of males was thus 2,452, that of females was 915.

Adults, chil-
dren, and
infants
arriving and
departing.

230. It is the custom of the immigration authorities to classify the immigrants and emigrants as adults, or those from 12 years of age upwards; as children, or those between 1 year of age and 12 years; and as infants, or those under 1 year. Adopting this classification, adults arriving exceeded those departing by 3,841, but children and infants taken away from the colony exceeded those brought there by 169 and 305 respectively.

Arrivals
from and
departures
to various
places.

231. The increase of population by excess over departures to, of arrivals from, the United Kingdom was 1,415; from Tasmania it was 3,769, from New Zealand and the South Seas it was 166, and from foreign ports it was 108. The decrease by excess of departures to New South Wales and Queensland was 1,404, and to South and Western Australia it was 687.

Assisted
immigra-
tion.

232. The only assisted immigration which took place in the year under review was that of 64 male and 85 female "warrant passengers."

Arrivals and
departures
of Chinese.

233. The arrivals of Chinese in the year numbered 386, viz., 377 males and 9 females. The departures of Chinese numbered 531, viz., 530 males and 1 female. The excess of departures of Chinese males was therefore 153, and the excess of arrivals of Chinese females was 8.

234. The mining population, according to an estimate made by the Secretary for Mines, numbered 45,151. Of these, 30,678, or 68 per cent., were working in alluvial mines, and 14,473, or 32 per cent., in quartz reefs; 32,971, or 73 per cent. of the number, were Europeans, and 12,180, or 27 per cent., were Chinese. All the Chinese except 124 were employed in alluvial mining. Mining population, 1874.

235. The following figures give the numbers of the mining population for each year of the decenniad prior to the year under review. It will be observed that a gradual falling off has been taking place, with but little interruption, over the whole period:— Mining population, 1864-1874.

NUMBER OF MINERS.							
1864	...	...	84,986	1870	...	...	59,247
1865	...	...	79,457	1871	...	...	58,279
1866	...	...	70,794	1872	...	...	52,965
1867	...	...	63,053	1873	...	...	50,595
1868	...	...	64,658	1874	...	...	45,151
1869	...	...	63,787				

236. Melbourne, the metropolis of Victoria, was incorporated as a town on the 12th August 1842, under Act 6 Vict. No. 7. It was afterwards made a city on the 3rd August 1849, under 13 Vict. No. 14. Geelong, then the second place in point of importance in the colony, was incorporated as a town on the 12th October 1849, under Act 13 Vict. No. 40. Incorporation of Melbourne and Geelong.

237. But on the 29th December 1854 an Act was passed (18 Vict. No. 15) providing that any place in Victoria, of a certain limited size, containing a given number of inhabitants, might be erected into a municipality upon the petition of a stated number of its resident householders. The proclamation of district road boards had previously been provided for on the 8th February 1853, under Act 16 Vict. No. 40. Out of these two systems of local self-government have sprung the present municipal institutions in Victoria. Act for creating municipalities.

238. The existing municipal bodies are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, or boroughs, and the second shires. Both these bodies are regulated under the Local Government Act (38 Vict. No. 506), and are called municipal districts.* Each municipal district is a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and is capable of suing and being sued, purchasing, holding, and alienating land, &c. Local Government Statute.

* Up to the end of 1874, a portion of the present shires were, under former Acts, called road districts. The powers these were entitled to exercise were somewhat less than those of shires. The Local Government Act, which came into force on the 1st January 1875, superseded former Acts, and constituted all the then road districts shires. The former have therefore been treated and alluded to as shires in the following paragraphs.

IN SHIRES.

Properties rated at an annual value of less than £25 ... One vote.
 " " " " " from £25 to £75 ... Two votes.
 " " " " " over £75... ... Three votes.

248. No person is entitled to vote for property of less than £10 annual value, unless he is the occupier thereof. In other cases, either the owner or the occupier, but not both, may vote. Ten pounds rating insufficient without occupation.

249. Where any municipal district is subdivided, the ratepayers are enrolled for the subdivision in which the property in respect of which they are enrolled is situated. Enrolment in subdivisions.

250. All land situated in a municipal district, except land used for public purposes, is rateable property. Rateable property.

251. General rates are made and levied once at least in every year on all the rateable property in each municipal district. They must not be more than 2s. 6d. or less than 6d. in the pound of the net annual value of such property. Separate rates in addition, not exceeding 6d. in the pound, may, by consent of one-third of the ratepayers in a particular portion of the district, be levied upon the property within such portion, for the execution of works intended for its special benefit. General and separate rates.

252. In the year 1874, including Melbourne and Geelong, there were 60 cities, towns, and boroughs and 110 shires in existence. The area, estimated population, number of ratepayers, and estimated number of dwellings they contained were as follow:— Municipal districts, 1874.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS—AREA, POPULATION, RATEPAYERS, AND DWELLINGS, 1874.

Municipal Districts.	Number of Districts.	Estimated Area in Acres.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.
Cities, towns, and boroughs	60	240,966	395,238	88,222	87,314
Shires	110	47,277,920	378,473	83,524	81,900
	170	47,518,886	773,711	171,746	169,214

253. The estimated area of Victoria is 56,446,720 acres. The estimated average population during 1874 was 798,688. It therefore follows that five-sixths of the area of the colony is contained within the limits of municipal districts, and twenty-nine thirtieths of its inhabitants enjoy the benefits of local self-government. The houses in Victoria have not been enumerated since 1871. At that time the number of edifices of all descriptions amounted to 158,481. The houses in municipal districts, therefore, now exceed by 10,733 the whole number returned at the census. Area, population, and houses in municipalities.

Amount of
rates levied.

254. The following is the number of boroughs and the number of shires in which rates were struck at the amounts set down in the first column. It will be observed that no municipal district levied rates up to the full amount allowed by law, viz., 2s. 6d. in the pound; also that no borough and but two shires levied rates at the lowest amount, viz., 6d. in the pound:—

RATINGS OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS, 1874.

Amount Levied in the Pound.		Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Number of Shires.
s.	d.		
0	6	...	2
0	9	2	2
0	10	...	1
1	0	22	98
1	3	7	3
1	4	3	1
1	6	17	3
1	9	3	...
1	10	2	...
2	0	4	...
Total ...		60	110

Properties
rated,

255. The number of properties rated was 191,042, of which 103,706 were in cities, towns, and boroughs, and 87,336 in shires. The following table gives a classification of the amounts at which the respective properties were rated:—

CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTIES RATED, 1874.

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
Under £50	91,320	75,852	167,172
£50 to £100	7,981	7,537	15,518
£100 to £200	2,964	2,398	5,362
£200 to £300	764	552	1,316
£300 to £400	289	268	557
£400 to £500	153	117	270
£500 and upwards	235	612	847
Total	103,706	87,336	191,042

Value of
rateable
property.

256. The estimated total value of property rated was £60,215,443, and the estimated annual value was £5,995,477. The property in shires was set down as of somewhat higher value than that in boroughs. This will be observed in the following table, which shows the total and

annual value of rateable property in the two descriptions of districts at different amounts of rating :—

CLASSIFICATION OF VALUE OF RATEABLE PROPERTY, 1874.

Rateable Values.	Estimated Total Value of Rateable Property.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Under £50	12,620,396	12,352,195	24,972,591
£50 to £100	5,201,090	4,778,797	9,979,887
£100 to £200	3,717,516	3,128,595	6,846,111
£200 and upwards	5,785,603	12,631,251	18,416,854
Total	27,324,605	32,890,838	60,215,443

Estimated Annual Value of Rateable Property.			
Under £50	1,352,679	1,220,327	2,573,006
£50 to £100	537,885	492,313	1,030,198
£100 to £200	381,885	315,056	696,941
£200 and upwards	584,033	1,111,299	1,695,332
Total	2,856,482	3,138,995	5,995,477

257. It will be found that the average total value of properties in the colony was about £315, and the average annual value was £31 8s.; that the average total value of properties in cities, towns, and boroughs was £263, and the average annual value was £27 11s.; that the average total value of properties in shires was £377, and the average annual value was £35 19s.

Average values of rateable property.

258. The revenue and expenditure in municipal districts were as follow in the year under notice :—

Revenue and expenditure of municipalities.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS, 1874—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
REVENUE :			
From Government	28,327	232,801	261,128
„ rates	175,911	141,904	317,815
„ deposits on contracts	10,270	29,339	39,609
„ other sources	235,067	131,395	366,462
Total	449,575	535,439	985,014
EXPENDITURE :			
Public works	247,309	460,475	707,784
Salaries, &c.	40,507	55,062	95,569
Deposits returned	12,366	30,344	42,710
Other expenditure	168,404	79,577	247,981
Total	468,586	625,458	1,094,044

259. About 6½ per cent. of the revenue of boroughs, and 43½ per cent. of that of shires, was derived from grants from the General Government.

Government grants to municipalities.

Working expenses of municipalities.

260. Payments for salaries, &c., formed $8\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the total expenditure of boroughs, and nearly 9 per cent. of the total expenditure of shires.

Naturalization.

261. Letters of naturalization are granted to aliens residing in Victoria, upon their taking an oath of allegiance to the Crown before any judge or police magistrate, as prescribed by an Act of the Legislature (26 Vict. No. 166). But without becoming naturalized, alien friends resident in the colony may acquire real and personal property, and may convey, devise, and bequeath it in the same manner as if they had been natural-born subjects of Her Majesty. Alien women, being married to British subjects, thereby become naturalized. The following table shows the number of persons of different countries who have obtained letters of naturalization in the year under review and the ten previous years:—

NATURALIZATION, 1864-74.

Native Countries.	Numbers Naturalized in each Year.										
	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
France	8	8	4	1	2	4	7	2	3	2	2
Belgium ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Holland	1	2	1	1	3	2	...	...	...	1	1
Austria ... ..	...	3	1	2	1	2	...	...	2	2	...
Prussia	26	34	27	12	23	18	19	13	18	21	31
Other German States ...	39	50	40	26	44	33	26	52	33	44	24
Italy	2	6	1	2	8	1	3	2	2	3	1
Spain ... ..	...	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Portugal ... ..	...	1	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...
Russia	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	4	...
Other European countries	49	23	21	7	59	11	11	23	22	29	16
United States	5	1	1	2	8	1	2	...	...	2	4
South and Central American States ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
China... ..	6	2	4	...	4	1	4	2	3	5	2
Other countries	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	...
	139	133	104	54	154	73	78	97	86	116	83

Electoral provinces.

262. The number of districts and members for the representation of the Upper House, or Legislative Council, remains the same as when the Constitution Act became law. The districts are called provinces. Of these there are six, each of which returns five members. A member for each province retires every two years, but is eligible for re-election.

Qualification of members of Legislative Council.

263. The qualification of members and electors of the Upper House was reduced by the Act 32 Vict. No. 334, which came into force on the 1st January 1869. The qualification of a member now is that he be of the full age of 30 years, a natural-born subject of the Queen, and possessed of freehold property in Victoria of the value of £2,500

absolute or £250 annual value, above all charges or encumbrances affecting the same. Judges and ministers of religion are incapable of being elected, as also are criminals.

264. The qualification of an elector is that he be at least 21 years of age, a natural-born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty, and be possessed of freehold or leasehold property or be the occupier of property as a tenant rated in some municipal district or districts within the province at not less than £50 a year. Graduates of any university in the British dominions, matriculated students of the Melbourne University, members of the learned professions, certificated teachers, military and naval officers, have also a right to vote at the election of members of the Legislative Council in the province in which they reside.

Qualification of electors of Legislative Council.

265. The number of members of the Lower House, or Legislative Assembly, was increased on the 17th December 1858, by Act 22 Vict. No. 64, from 60, as named in the Constitution Act, to 78, who are returned for 49 districts. Of these districts, 4 are represented by three members, 21 by two members, and 24 by one member.

Number of members of Legislative Assembly.

266. That part of the Constitution Act providing for a property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly was repealed on the 27th August 1857, by Act 21 Vict. No. 12. The only qualification now necessary for a member is that he be either a natural-born subject of the Queen, or an alien legally naturalized for the space of five years and resident in Victoria for the space of two years, and that he be of the full age of 21 years.

No property qualification of members of Legislative Assembly.

267. The property qualification of electors for the Legislative Assembly, provided for by the Constitution Act, was abolished by the Act 21 Vict. No. 33. Since then, universal manhood suffrage has obtained so far as this House is concerned.

Universal suffrage.

268. The number of electors on the roll of the two Houses of Legislature at the end of the year under review was as follows:—

Electors on the rolls.

NUMBER OF ELECTORS, 1874.

Legislative Council	24,930
Legislative Assembly...	146,937

269. At the biennial election of members of the Legislative Council which took place in 1874, one province only was contested, and in this 46 per cent. of the electors recorded their votes. At the general election for the Legislative Assembly which took place in the same year, contests took place in all the districts except nine, and 61 per cent. of the electors of the contested districts recorded their votes.

Proportion of electors who voted at last elections.

270. The voting at elections for both Houses of the Legislature is by ballot, as also is that at elections of municipal councillors.

Voting by ballot.