

## 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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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 1859 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 it 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* 1903, passed on 24th December, 1903. 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.

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 61 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 147 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 out-lying 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 1903—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. Male persons 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, are qualified to hold the office of councillor. 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, shall be 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. The *Voting by Post Act* 1900 may be made applicable to the elections for any municipality on the petition of the councillors.

**Rateable property.** All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following:—Crown lands; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics' institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, and charitable purposes; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality, local governing body, or commissioners under the Water Acts; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Harbor Trust Commissioners, and Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. 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 other expenses (if any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent: provided that no rateable property shall be computed

as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. In the case of certain Crown lands, held 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, but 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 shall not exceed in any one year 2s. 6d. 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 2s. 6d. 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 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 sinking fund for, the loan raised on the security of such rate.

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.

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.

The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1914 was 208. Of these, 18 ranked as cities, 7 as towns, 36 as boroughs, and the remainder (147) as shires. The following is a summary of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and

**Rates—  
general,  
separate, &c.**

**Improvement  
charge.**

**Incorporation  
of Melbourne  
and Geelong.**

**Municipalities:  
1910-11 to  
1914-15.**

uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1914-15.

## MUNICIPALITIES: 1910-11 TO 1914-15.

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—							
1910-11	742,070*	187,562	158,611	3,878	£ 114,113,507	£ 6,508,534	£ 1,056,575
1911-12		194,391	154,083*	4,682*	119,400,893	6,804,697	1,149,044
1912-13	777,696	200,679	..	..	127,743,501	7,270,972	1,259,569
1913-14	802,479	203,773	173,646	2,895	137,649,219	7,790,654	1,320,545
1914-15	825,078	209,276	180,410	3,725	147,205,224	8,218,040	..
Shires—							
1910-11	568,494*	163,916	123,729	3,222	150,970,220	7,716,815	761,853
1911-12		168,229	118,552*	6,549*	155,677,624	7,969,963	796,472
1912-13	583,909	173,271	..	..	180,128,933	8,152,473	840,080
1913-14	600,451	175,637	152,654	3,748	184,268,467	8,255,505	854,483
1914-15	608,828	181,480	134,349	3,530	167,405,523	8,517,938	..
Total—							
1910-11	1,310,564*	351,478	282,340	7,100	265,083,727	14,225,349	1,818,428
1911-12		362,620	272,635*	11,231*	275,078,517	14,774,660	1,945,516
1912-13	1,361,605	373,950	..	..	287,872,434	15,423,445	2,099,649
1913-14	1,402,910	379,410	326,300	6,643	301,917,686	16,046,159	2,175,028
1914-15	1,433,906	390,756	314,759	7,255	314,610,747	16,735,978	..

\* Census figures.

Increases in  
value of  
rateable  
properties and  
municipal  
revenue.

It will be observed from the following figures 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.		
	1914-15 over 1910-11.		1913-14 over 1910-11.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	£ 33,091,717	£ 1,709,506	£ 263,970
Shires	16,435,303	801,123	92,630
Total Increase	49,527,020	2,510,629	356,600

The number of ratepayers returned for 1914-15 was 390,756, and the total capital value of rateable property £314,610,747, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £16,735,978.

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

### NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1910-11 TO 1914-15.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1910-11	219,723	216,571	436,294
1911-12	227,327	222,348	449,675
1912-13	233,939	231,904	465,843
1913-14	240,077	241,823	482,000
1914-15	247,802	249,434	497,236

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 £1 in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1914-15, except as regards the item "revenue," which is for 1913-14:—

### CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1914-15.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1913-14.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2562.
				Total.	Annual.		
<b>CITIES.</b>							
			<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Ballarat ..	21,524	5,856	2 3	2,605,095	173,673	35,407	..
Bendigo ..	23,000	6,384	2 0	2,976,652	212,618	40,518	..
Brunswick ..	38,230	8,513	2 4	5,090,820	254,541	39,417	..
Camberwell ..	16,670	4,922	2 0	3,747,420	187,371	28,020	..
Caulfield ..	21,500	8,619	2 1	4,992,520	249,626	32,918	..
Collingwood ..	36,350	8,000	2 0	5,295,860	264,793	31,590	..
Essendon ..	30,000	8,875	2 0	4,575,120	228,756	29,956	..
Fitzroy ..	35,750	7,689	1 8	6,153,360	341,850	32,883	..
Footscray ..	23,660	6,393	2 4	4,226,050	211,303	34,243	..
Geelong ..	16,130	4,307	2 2	2,809,380	140,469	25,405	..
Hawthorn ..	23,250	6,230	2 0	5,583,540	279,177	30,985	..
Malvern ..	22,500	6,955	2 3	5,456,480	272,824	37,135	..
Melbourne ..	107,090	23,475	1 2	42,493,940	2,124,697	439,139	..
Northcote ..	23,160	6,400	2 3	3,175,100	158,755	26,390	..
Prahran ..	43,200	11,620	1 8	7,123,372	593,631	62,286	..
Richmond ..	41,800	9,169	2 0	5,819,580	323,310	39,503	..
South Melbourne ..	43,500	10,464	2 0	9,320,000	466,000	63,359	..
St. Kilda ..	30,160	6,763	2 0	4,252,140	354,345	38,829	..
<b>TOWNS.</b>							
Ballarat East ..	14,284	3,928	2 0	1,269,225	84,615	14,755	..
Brighton ..	16,000	3,416	2 3	3,341,680	167,034	22,250	..
Coburg ..	12,900	6,300	2 3	1,228,800	85,920	17,846	..
Kew ..	12,980	2,997	2 0	1,927,185	128,479	16,902	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,760	2,909	2 3	1,177,200	98,100	4,199	..
Warrnambool ..	7,400	1,643	2 0	1,206,120	60,306	20,237	..
Williamstown ..	17,400	6,200	2 3	1,730,240	129,763	16,400	..

## CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGH—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1913-14.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2562.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
<b>BOROUGH.</b>							
Ararat ..	4,500	1,060	2 6	268,400	26,840	9,886	50
Browns and Scarsdale ..	850	225	1 0	31,130	2,707	404	25
Bunlayong ..	1,102	353	1 6	120,400	6,020	952	50
Carisbrook ..	866	219	1 0	49,000	4,028	558	50
Castlemaine ..	5,550	1,890	2 0	456,012	36,481	6,348	50
Chewton ..	950	246	1 6	37,304	4,668	793	50
Clunes ..	1,800	557	1 6	64,827	9,261	2,004	75
Creswick ..	2,230	602	1 9	84,620	8,462	2,404	75
Daylesford ..	3,920	823	2 3	287,070	10,138	4,005	50
Dunolly ..	1,200	350	1 6	60,410	6,041	1,149	50
Eaglehawk ..	7,766	2,069	2 0	409,812	34,151	7,378	50
Echuca ..	4,000	1,073	2 0	306,775	24,542	7,067	50
Geelong West ..	3,759	1,913	2 0	825,741	48,578	6,357	50
Hamilton ..	5,000	1,147	2 3	733,720	36,786	7,394	50
Horsham ..	4,500	788	2 6	456,059	26,327	5,667	100
Inglewood ..	1,373	330	1 6	79,152	6,656	2,043	50
Koroit ..	2,420	405	2 0	321,560	16,079	3,499	50
Majorca ..	680	178	1 0	24,728	3,091	386	30
Malden ..	800	232	1 6	39,630	3,963	740	50
Maryborough ..	5,300	1,100	1 6	276,300	27,630	4,713	50
Newtown and Chittwell ..	6,800	1,544	2 0	841,820	42,091	4,747	50
Oakleigh ..	4,250	1,814	2 0	707,440	39,872	5,892	50
Portland ..	2,240	600	2 0	374,240	18,712	16,065	100
Port Fairy ..	2,000	514	2 0	289,200	14,460	4,630	50
Queenscliff ..	1,610	543	2 0	244,540	12,227	2,429	100
Raywood ..	475	144	1 6	44,415	2,061	352	20
Rutherglen ..	1,500	384	1 3	126,930	12,693	2,472	80
Sale ..	3,492	899	1 9	395,640	19,782	8,224	50
Sebastopol ..	2,420	520	1 6	87,420	7,285	1,163	80
Smythesdale ..	430	138	1 0	18,340	1,834	270	20
Stawell ..	4,550	982	2 3	198,180	19,818	7,511	50
St. Arnaud ..	4,020	810	1 6	219,430	21,943	3,701	50
Talbot ..	1,040	294	1 0	48,500	4,850	1,273	50
Tarnagulla ..	905	214	1 0	105,080	5,254	629	50
Wangaratta ..	4,030	899	1 9	593,360	29,668	4,590	50
Wonthaggi ..	3,550	963	2 0	248,490	20,700	3,314	..
<b>Total</b> ..	<b>825,078</b>	<b>209,276</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>147,205,224</b>	<b>8,218,040</b>	<b>1,320,545</b>	<b>1,905</b>

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

## SHIRES, 1914-15.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1913-14.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2562.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,300	1,317	1 3	1,660,180	83,459	8,632	1,500
Alexandra ..	2,610	827	1 3	923,400	46,420	5,157	750
Arapiles ..	2,698	757	1 0	834,760	41,738	2,825	304
Ararat ..	7,700	2,040	1 0	3,228,060	161,403	11,545	1,300
Avoca ..	4,000	1,479	1 0	812,280	40,614	3,867	485
Avon ..	2,910	741	1 0	787,560	39,378	3,036	578
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,030	695	1 6	584,430	41,745	4,020	385
Bairnsdale ..	8,450	1,940	1 0	1,906,320	95,316	9,650	1,440
Ballan ..	4,125	950	1 3	727,460	36,373	4,070	575
Ballarat ..	4,330	924	1 0	1,213,020	60,651	4,368	575
Bannockburn ..	1,357	450	1 0	750,000	39,000	2,345	265
Barrabool ..	2,010	475	1 4	755,340	37,767	3,323	425
Beechworth ..	6,000	1,500	1 3	376,668	31,389	7,574	545
Belfast ..	2,615	684	1 4	1,050,120	52,506	4,707	650

## SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1913-14.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2562.
				Total.	Annual.		
Bellarine ..	4,800	1,908	s. d. 1 3	£ 1,034,420	£ 51,721	£ 4,197	£ 485
Benalla ..	8,300	2,200	1 0	2,426,280	121,314	10,634	1,450
Berwick ..	7,350	2,455	1 6	1,619,660	80,983	7,997	1,000
Bet Bet ..	3,750	870	1 0	519,500	25,975	2,020	375
Birchip ..	1,900	509	1 0	1,039,400	51,970	3,759	400
Borong ..	6,000	1,350	1 0	2,519,180	125,959	9,269	1,080
Braybrook ..	2,850	2,140	1 6	954,260	47,713	4,862	320
Bright ..	5,600	1,440	1 3	675,520	33,776	5,342	750
Broadford ..	2,130	564	1 0	305,840	15,292	1,781	300
Broadmeadows ..	2,210	1,231	1 3	735,680	36,784	2,664	365
Bulla ..	2,646	395	1 3	617,060	30,853	3,528	350
Buln Buln ..	4,800	1,389	1 3	1,065,180	53,259	5,547	1,250
Bungaree ..	4,900	1,022	1 9	648,340	32,417	4,293	800
Buninyong ..	5,650	1,740	1 3	1,151,480	57,574	4,662	550
Charlton ..	3,350	825	1 0	1,053,420	52,671	4,469	550
Chiltern ..	2,600	762	1 0	223,180	22,318	2,552	230
Colac ..	14,500	3,190	1 3	5,244,840	262,242	24,920	1,200
Corio ..	3,100	394	1 6	1,220,520	61,026	7,200	500
Cranbourne ..	4,390	1,279	1 6	1,137,800	56,890	5,266	700
Creswick ..	5,000	1,118	1 0	1,108,620	55,431	4,255	775
Dandenong ..	5,820	4,162	1 9	1,367,600	68,380	10,318	525
Deakin ..	3,300	1,144	1 0	1,110,080	55,504	3,861	446
Dimboola ..	6,350	1,284	1 0	1,709,200	85,460	8,116	618
Donald ..	3,261	766	1 0	855,960	42,798	5,073	575
Doncaster ..	1,200	343	1 6	287,380	14,369	1,461	216
Dundas ..	3,575	1,114	1 3	2,552,360	127,618	9,023	1,050
Dunmunkle ..	5,050	1,014	1 0	1,712,080	85,604	6,356	1,200
East Loddon ..	1,700	475	1 3	911,900	45,595	4,029	550
Eltham ..	3,550	1,375	1 6	757,940	37,897	2,733	425
Epping ..	1,320	500	1 3	388,600	19,430	1,688	550
Euroa ..	5,500	1,354	1 6	1,125,620	56,281	6,886	750
Ferntree Gully ..	5,000	2,100	2 0	861,120	43,056	5,638	900
Flinders ..	3,600	2,044	1 3	806,380	40,310	3,918	260
Frankston and Hastings ..	3,600	1,886	1 6	658,880	32,944	3,976	425
Gisborne ..	2,517	665	1 0	596,300	29,815	2,340	340
Glenelg ..	5,900	1,590	1 0	2,427,980	121,399	9,926	1,200
Glenlyon ..	2,700	468	1 3	165,570	10,557	2,085	250
Gordon ..	4,000	870	1 0	1,030,660	51,533	4,410	740
Goulburn ..	3,000	560	1 0	674,100	33,705	3,208	350
Grenville ..	4,700	1,300	1 3	672,870	44,858	4,407	560
Hampden ..	9,850	2,312	1 6	5,530,420	276,521	30,279	750
Healesville ..	1,950	803	2 0	324,520	16,226	3,503	450
Heidelberg ..	10,134	4,200	1 6	2,131,680	106,584	27,932	500
Heytesbury ..	5,000	1,400	1 6	1,697,820	84,891	8,564	1,160
Howqua ..	1,400	312	1 6	81,200	4,060	945	200
Huntly ..	3,500	1,019	1 0	902,320	45,116	3,295	400
Kara Kara ..	4,200	1,373	1 6	1,180,080	59,004	5,798	676
Karakooc ..	5,500	1,070	1 0	2,318,320	115,916	10,183	950
Kellar ..	1,025	520	1 3	420,740	21,037	1,597	100
Kerang ..	9,250	2,243	1 0	2,938,060	149,403	14,672	1,000
Kilmore ..	2,000	556	1 6	204,640	20,464	2,435	275
Korong ..	6,400	1,350	1 3	814,710	54,314	5,435	650
Kowree ..	3,800	1,326	1 0	1,339,200	83,700	5,787	870
Kyneton ..	7,020	1,896	1 0	1,320,640	66,032	8,989	685
Lancefield ..	1,000	269	1 0	262,420	13,121	1,019	151
Lawloit ..	3,300	619	1 3	544,200	36,280	3,226	396
Leigh ..	1,634	617	1 3	1,019,600	50,980	4,143	550
Lexton ..	1,900	602	1 0	804,620	40,231	2,842	400
Lillydale ..	6,550	2,466	1 9	1,332,720	66,636	7,828	800
Lowan ..	4,100	1,300	1 0	812,040	40,602	4,760	600
Maffra ..	4,250	1,090	1 0	1,431,960	71,598	7,647	1,000
Maldon ..	4,400	1,370	1 0	750,400	37,520	3,135	375
Mansfield ..	3,550	987	1 3	1,173,880	58,694	5,668	900
Marong ..	6,652	2,215	1 3	1,740,760	87,038	6,866	900
Melton ..	1,520	327	1 0	433,590	28,906	2,160	236
Meredith ..	1,200	350	1 3	425,840	21,292	1,943	190
Merriang ..	1,050	295	1 0	360,000	18,000	1,757	176
Metcalfe ..	2,600	756	1 0	373,935	24,929	1,907	278



## SHIRES—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1913-14.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government under Act No. 2562.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Mildura ..	6,350	1,975	1 9	1,329,420	66,471	10,633	470
Afghanistan ..	2,000	561	1 0	1,301,360	65,068	5,753	650
Mirboo ..	1,450	300	1 6	400,000	20,000	2,526	700
Moorabbin ..	15,202	6,200	2 0	3,026,960	151,348	29,036	600
Mornington ..	1,820	575	1 9	389,340	19,467	3,121	230
Mortlake ..	3,175	700	1 3	2,209,900	110,495	9,023	700
Morwell ..	3,465	869	1 3	919,300	45,965	5,099	900
Mount Alexander ..	1,835	504	1 0	122,100	9,768	1,085	126
Mount Franklin ..	2,760	792	1 3	159,990	15,999	1,749	204
Mount Rouse ..	2,470	700	1 0	1,564,580	78,229	5,694	400
Mulgrave ..	2,744	860	2 0	511,040	25,552	3,709	450
McIvor ..	4,125	1,145	1 0	749,960	37,498	3,631	450
Narracan ..	5,600	1,418	1 6	1,218,580	60,929	6,690	1,400
Newham and Woodend ..	2,500	547	1 3	445,440	22,272	3,125	300
Newstead ..	2,000	559	1 0	842,340	17,117	1,590	210
North Ovens ..	2,600	805	1 0	657,180	32,859	2,412	296
Numurkah ..	6,890	1,720	1 0	2,447,660	122,383	9,873	1,200
Nunawading ..	8,954	3,325	2 2	1,614,400	80,720	10,661	950
Oneco ..	3,700	1,534	1 6	854,480	42,724	6,114	1,700
Orbost ..	3,000	679	1 6	716,320	35,816	4,741	1,100
Oxley ..	4,610	1,064	1 0	1,086,400	54,320	4,068	750
Phillip Island and Woolamal ..	3,867	2,282	1 6	1,129,180	56,459	6,881	1,100
Poowong and Jeetho ..	7,400	1,591	1 3	1,823,960	91,198	10,754	2,000
Portland ..	5,300	1,811	1 0	1,724,660	86,233	8,342	1,000
Preston ..	7,050	2,824	2 0	1,073,400	53,670	8,166	650
Pyalong ..	1,150	350	1 0	335,280	16,764	1,492	229
Ripon ..	4,385	1,350	1 3	1,749,080	87,454	7,715	450
Rochester ..	5,038	1,522	1 0	1,229,760	61,488	5,015	575
Rodney ..	6,718	1,611	1 0	2,032,300	101,615	7,885	800
Romsey ..	2,000	478	1 3	482,900	24,145	2,426	274
Rosedale ..	4,000	1,096	1 0	1,440,000	72,000	5,511	1,000
Ruthglen ..	4,800	1,069	1 3	780,920	39,046	3,723	450
Seymour ..	4,050	1,104	1 0	822,420	41,121	4,951	850
Shepparton ..	8,300	1,695	1 0	2,112,000	106,000	10,221	850
South Barwon ..	2,850	1,302	1 9	550,800	27,540	3,579	277
South Gippsland ..	4,125	1,029	1 6	983,180	49,159	6,033	1,050
Springfield ..	700	188	1 6	269,400	13,470	1,621	189
Stawell ..	3,698	1,229	1 3	1,454,640	72,732	5,825	624
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,798	1,084	1 3	439,180	21,959	2,162	278
Swan Hill ..	6,800	2,500	1 0	2,151,380	107,569	8,539	550
Talbot ..	1,100	392	1 0	382,120	19,106	1,302	221
Tambo ..	3,000	1,002	1 6	617,205	33,000	5,154	895
Templestowe ..	950	421	1 3	307,380	15,369	1,397	177
Towong ..	7,420	1,605	1 0	1,903,620	95,181	9,360	1,800
Traralgon ..	3,250	856	1 3	901,120	45,056	6,065	893
Tullaroop ..	3,007	823	1 0	392,130	26,142	2,141	337
Tungamah ..	5,568	1,562	1 0	1,768,700	88,435	6,584	900
Upper Yarra ..	3,485	851	1 6	437,900	21,895	3,302	450
Violet Town ..	3,000	757	1 0	785,840	38,292	3,123	450
Walhalla ..	2,300	494	2 0	64,200	8,025	1,660	570
Walpeup ..	3,075	1,450	1 0	1,342,360	67,118	2,496	..
Wannoo ..	2,700	734	1 0	1,972,020	98,601	7,052	862
Waranga ..	4,670	1,793	1 0	1,655,760	82,788	6,027	750
Warragul ..	4,000	1,072	1 6	1,094,985	58,048	7,116	1,800
Warrnambool ..	8,700	1,951	1 0	3,885,740	194,437	17,497	1,380
Werribee ..	4,320	3,778	1 0	1,721,800	86,090	7,465	600
Whittlesea ..	1,950	500	1 3	583,200	29,160	2,006	235
Wimmera ..	4,250	1,021	1 0	1,636,060	81,803	5,931	733
Winchelsea ..	4,250	1,352	1 3	1,450,960	72,548	6,632	850
Wodonga ..	2,100	633	1 0	497,020	24,851	2,637	288
Woorayl ..	4,457	1,220	1 9	1,328,800	66,440	9,865	2,000
Wycheproof ..	4,306	1,111	1 0	1,310,340	65,517	5,876	665
Yaakandandah ..	4,000	974	1 0	752,920	37,646	4,409	933
Yarrowongah ..	3,310	800	1 0	754,720	37,736	5,589	570
Yea ..	2,509	694	1 3	877,760	43,888	4,465	800
Total ..	608,828	181,480	..	167,405,523	8,517,938	854,483	96,539

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

**RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1910-11 TO 1914-15.**

Amount levied in the £1.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
s. 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
0	8	7	6	6	6	77	72	68	60	67
1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
1	1	2	2	1	1	33	38	38	30	30
1	3	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	3	2
1	4	..	..	..	..	21	20	26	31	25
1	6	11	11	11	10	..	..	..	..	..
1	7	13	11	11	10	..	..	..	..	..
1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	9	..	..	..	..	6	5	7	8	7
1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	11	..	..	..	..	5	5	5	5	6
2	0	18	15	19	22	..	..	..	..	..
2	1	..	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	..
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..
1	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	60	61	61	61	61	146	146	147	147	147

\* These amounts refer to Melbourne City. The rating for the North Melbourne and Flemington and Kensington portions of Hopton Ward was different from that for the rest of the city.

These figures give an average rating of 1s. 10d. in the £1 in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 3d. in shires. The rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7d. in the £1 more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality during the last five years imposed the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., but that several reached the maximum of 2s. 6d. in the £1.

The following return shows the proportion of properties at the different rateable values at three dates. It will be seen that there was very little alteration in the eight years intervening between the first and last dates:—

**PROPORTION OF PROPERTIES AT DIFFERENT RATEABLE VALUES, 1901-2, 1905-6, AND 1909-10.**

Rateable Values.	Number of Properties in every 100 Rated.								
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			In Shires.			In Victoria.		
	1901-2.	1905-6.	1909-10.	1901-2.	1905-6.	1909-10.	1901-2.	1905-6.	1909-10.
Under £25 ...	72.6	72.9	70.1	63.1	64.6	63.9	67.8	68.8	67.0
£25 to £50 ...	18.3	18.0	20.3	23.4	20.6	18.8	20.9	19.3	19.5
£50 " £75 ...	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.6	6.2	7.3	4.9	5.2	6.1
£75 " £100 ...	1.7	1.8	1.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2.6	2.6	2.5
£100 " £200 ...	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.1	3.6	4.6	2.5	2.8	3.3
£200 " £300 ...	.6	.5	.5	.6	.7	1.0	.6	.6	.8
£300 " £400 ...	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.3	.2	.2	.3
£400 " £500 ...	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1
£500 and upwards	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4

Municipal  
revenue and  
expenditure.

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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,  
1912 TO 1914.

Sources of Revenue.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	£	£	£
Taxation—			
Rates ... ..	1,103,210	1,199,874	1,251,649
Licences ... ..	102,297	103,528	108,106
Dog Fees ... ..	20,438	21,483	21,807
Government Endowment and Grants ... ..	161,513	160,949	144,374
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ... ..	64,646	59,172	63,260
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	74,029	71,937	70,620
Sanitary Charges ... ..	74,058	80,194	83,982
Rents ... ..	81,725	78,016	76,803
Other Sources ... ..	263,600	324,496	354,427
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>1,945,516</b>	<b>2,099,649</b>	<b>2,175,028</b>
<b>Heads of Expenditure.</b>			
Salaries, &c. ... ..	176,489	187,180	192,066
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ... ..	198,006	203,757	206,271
Lighting ... ..	84,410	87,395	89,926
Contributions to Fire Brigades ... ..	25,946	27,101	28,361
Public Works—			
Construction ... ..	335,717	339,158	315,480
Maintenance ... ..	736,457	753,083	814,459
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ... ..	66,735	56,600	70,465
Redemption of Loans ... ..	61,782	70,506	80,576
Interest on Loans ... ..	217,933	224,479	239,737
Charities ... ..	18,441	16,429	18,026
Other Expenditure ... ..	129,190	126,376	151,613
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>2,051,106</b>	<b>2,092,064</b>	<b>2,206,980</b>

As compared with 1913, the revenue of 1914 increased by £75,379, as follows:—Rates increased by £51,775, sanitary charges by £3,788, dog fees by £324, licences by £4,578, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £4,088, and “other sources” by £29,931. The revenue from market and weighbridge dues decreased by £1,317, Government endowment and grants by £16,575, and rents by £1,213. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £114,916. The following items showed increases:—Salaries, £4,886; sanitary work and street cleaning, £2,514; public works maintenance, £61,376; interest on loans, £15,258; lighting, £2,531; redemption of loans, £10,070; formation of private streets, £13,865; contributions to Fire Brigades, £1,260; charities, £1,597, and other expenditure £25,237. There was a decrease under the heading of public works construction of £23,678.

Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1914 was derived from rates, 5 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 3 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 7 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 3 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 4 per cent. from rents, and 16 per cent. from all "other sources."

**Salaries.** In 1914 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £192,066, or 9 per cent. of the entire revenue.

**Local charities.** A sum of £18,026, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

#### MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1912 TO 1914.

Assets.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates ... ..	111,405	108,686	120,260
Other Assets ... ..	522,911	582,451	652,530
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ... ..	896,185	924,952	878,322
Arrears Due ... ..	1,759	438	1,327
Unexpended Balances ... ..	237,202	167,952	351,923
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ... ..	3,365,638	3,534,691	3,799,038
Waterworks ... ..	182,835	184,842	180,485
Gasworks ... ..	86,872	96,963	103,435
<b>Total Assets</b> ... ..	<b>5,404,807</b>	<b>5,600,975</b>	<b>6,087,260</b>
Liabilities.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts ... ..	73,768	74,770	74,451
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ... ..	1,759	438	1,327
Overdue Interest ... ..	15,619	18,005	19,771
Bank Overdrafts ... ..	234,154	201,142	203,694
Other Liabilities ... ..	288,368	364,287	356,884
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding ... ..	5,011,950	5,259,138	5,617,056
Due on Loan Contracts ... ..	102,135	128,051	69,181
<b>Total Liabilities</b> ... ..	<b>5,727,753</b>	<b>6,045,831</b>	<b>6,345,364</b>

**Municipal  
assets and  
liabilities  
compared.**

The total assets of municipalities in 1914 amounted to £6,087,260, and the total liabilities to £6,345,364. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £659,127, against which there were assets amounting to £772,730. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £5,686,237, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £4,454,665. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, waterworks, &c. (£4,082,958), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £371,707.

The valuation of municipal properties is probably an underestimate as the particulars furnished under this heading were not in every case 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 it was increased to £75,000 for the year 1906-7, and from the 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, under the authority of Act No. 2562, assented to on 30th December, 1914. The endowment is payable in equal moieties in March and September of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is based on the amount of general and extra rates received in the twelve months ended on the last day of September next preceding the financial year 1907-8, according to the following scale:—

To every borough or first-class shire	..	3s. in the £1
„ second-class shire	..	5s. „
„ third-class shire	..	6s. „
„ fourth-class shire	..	8s. „
„ fifth-class shire	..	10s. „
„ sixth-class shire	..	12s. „

### RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

**Rating on  
unimproved  
values.**

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. This measure does not come into operation until proclaimed by the Governor in Council, which proclamation may be made when the values of land made by assessors in the various parts of the State under the *Land Act* 1910 are available for adoption.

Any municipality may adopt the method of rating set forth in the Act, but two months before doing so must publish in the *Government Gazette* and twice in some newspaper circulating in the district a notice of its intention to take such course. If 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 valid votes recorded forms at least one-third of the number of persons 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 be again submitted to the ratepayers for three years. Special 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 property, are not rateable on unimproved values.

#### WORKERS' DWELLINGS.

Workers' dwellings.

An Act to enable municipal councils to provide workers' dwellings was passed by the State Parliament in February, 1914.

The houses are to be leased to persons who are not owners of dwelling houses in Victoria or elsewhere and who are not in receipt of incomes of more than £200 a year. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted. In fixing rents of dwelling houses account is to be taken of interest, depreciation, rates, repairs, and insurance. Before constructing new houses plans showing the classes of houses to be built are to be submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council. The amount that may be borrowed for the purposes of the Act by any one municipality is not to exceed £50,000. Power is given to increase the general rate to recoup advances from the municipal fund, but so far as practicable all advances are to be repaid out of the profits accruing from transactions under the Act. Once in every year a balance-sheet has to be prepared showing receipts and expenditure and assets and liabilities relating to all operations undertaken during the previous year.

#### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Country Roads Board.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act (No. 2415) was passed on 23rd December, 1912, which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £800, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £600.

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.

**Finance.** The construction of permanent works and the maintenance of main roads are likewise to be carried out by the municipalities to the satisfaction of the board. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is to be paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended on permanent works and maintenance is to be refunded by the municipalities affected.

For the purpose of making permanent works, power is 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 are a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised is to be placed to the credit of an account to be called "the Country Roads Board Loan Account," which will be debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. 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. An annual payment to the Treasurer of 6 per cent. on the amount due by each municipality in respect of permanent works is provided for, and the cost of maintenance, allocated to each municipality, must be paid before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the £1 on the net annual value of rateable property to meet the cost of permanent works and maintenance 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. 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 after the 30th June, 1912, under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903*, are to be credited to the Country Roads Board Fund.

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.

In a majority of municipalities permanent works are in progress, contracts amounting to £595,059 having been let, while many more important proposals of this nature are under consideration.

A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads is also gradually being evolved, by which it is hoped that those that are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those that are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

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

The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines have been altered. The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of 5s.; of traction engines, £3 3s.; and of motor cars, £1 1s. to £6 6s., according to the horse-power of the vehicles.

Registration of motors, &c.

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditure during 1913-14 of the fund established under sections 38 and 39 of the Country Roads Act:—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.  
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1914.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance 30th June, 1913	43,669	1 6	Maintenance of Main Roads	9,490	0 10
Motor Car Act No. 2237—			Purchase of Plant	4,232	11 2
Registration Fees	26,010	15 9	Salaries	3,877	10 4
Licence Fees	1,800	3 3	Wages	296	7 0
Fines	1,142	18 6	Travelling Expenses	638	12 1
	28,953	17 6	Horse and Vehicle Hire	184	18 3
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—			Printing and Stationery	508	13 5
Licence Fees	19,193	1 11	Sundries	19	6 9
Country Roads Act No. 2415—			Petty Cash	31	0 0
Registration Fees—			Motor Car Equipment	84	19 6
Traction Engines	1,127	14 0	Motor Car Expenses	254	19 4
Fine	1	0 0	Postage	42	7 6
Sale of Plans	3	7 0	Office Furniture	24	19 5
Repayment	0	17 9	Surveying Instruments	418	9 6
	92,948	19 8	Plans	109	16 2
			Advertising	30	6 3
			Oil, Fuel, &c.	32	1 0
			Office Telephone	31	0 2
			Camp Equipment	157	11 6
			Purchase of Motor Cycle	80	10 6
			Balance	72,402	19 0
				92,948	19 8

Loan receipts and expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works for the year ended 30th June, 1914, is shown below:—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT.

Receipts.		Expenditure.			
£	s.	£	s.		
By proceeds of Government 3½ per cent. Stock	26,550	0 0	To Permanent Works	24,439	17 8
	26,550	0 0	Balance	2,110	2 4
				26,550	0 0



## LICENSING FUND.

Licensing  
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1914:—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,  
1913-1914.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Licences ... ..	90,952	0 0	Expenses of officers carrying out the Licensing Act ...	7,296	18 6
Fees ... ..	2,858	10 6	Equivalent to municipalities (see previous table) ... ..	79,161	0 0
Fines ... ..	2,505	17 0	Cost of taking poll of electors	163	9 0
Sale of confiscated liquor ... ..	12	3 6	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 108 of Act No. 2068	22,290	3 4
Club certificates and percentage fees ...	1,367	15 3			
Permits ... ..	2,140	0 0			
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court ...	30	7 6			
Compensation assessments ...	9,044	17 1			
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	£108,911	10 10		£108,911	10 10

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £100,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1913-14 a sum of £79,161 out of the Licensing Fund, under Act No. 2068, Section 108, 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 1876*. The particulars of this payment are as follows:—

## EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1913-14.

	£	s. d.
Paid to Cities ... ..	33,199	0 0
„ Towns ... ..	5,333	0 0
„ Boroughs ... ..	11,122	0 0
„ Shires—		
1st Class ... ..	288	0 0
2nd „ ... ..	12,189	0 0
3rd „ ... ..	10,301	0 0
4th „ ... ..	825	0 0
5th „ ... ..	3,452	0 0
6th „ ... ..	1,519	0 0
Total ... ..	£78,228	0 0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1913-14	£884	0 0
Add payments on account of 1912-13	1,817	0 0
	<hr/>	
	933	0 0
Amount paid in 1913-14 ...	£79,161	0 0

## MUNICIPAL LOANS.

In connexion with loans raised by municipalities, Section 375 of the *Local Government Act 1903* 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.

The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £5,617,056, due to the Government and the public respectively as follows:—

#### MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1914.

	Due to the Government.		Due to the Public.	
	£		£	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ...	107,076		4,670,483	
Shires ... ..	67,212		772,285	
	174,288		5,442,768	
<b>Total</b> ... ..		<b>5,617,056</b>		

The succeeding statements show the loan receipts and expenditure:—

#### MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1914.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.		Shires.		Total.	
	£		£		£	
Receipts during the year ... ..	487,196		86,095		573,291	
Balance unexpended from previous year ... ..	144,485		44,774		189,259	
Expenditure during the year ... ..	270,470		78,191		348,661	
Balance unexpended at the end of 1914 ... ..	299,528		52,678		352,206	

Of "Receipts during the year" £61,683 was expended in repayment of an overdraft carried forward from 1913.

The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1914 amounted to £348,661, of which £270,470 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £78,191 by shires.

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

Year.	Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£	
1910 ... ..	396,335		155,607	
1911 ... ..	101,918		191,538	
1912 ... ..	284,234		311,956	
1913 ... ..	276,544		407,477	
1914 ... ..	573,291		348,661	

Loans raised  
by municip-  
alities,  
1914.

The loan receipts for the year amounted to £573,291, of which £1,000 was obtained from the Government. The following are the particulars:—

### LOAN RECEIPTS BY MUNICIPALITIES, 1914.

Loans from the Public—				Amount.
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—				£
Bendigo .. .. .	..	..	..	23,203
Brunswick .. .. .	..	..	..	11,500
Caulfield .. .. .	..	..	..	20,000
Collingwood .. .. .	..	..	..	12,000
Footscray .. .. .	..	..	..	12,000
Hawthorn .. .. .	..	..	..	15,000
Kew .. .. .	..	..	..	20,500
Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	300,147
Northcote .. .. .	..	..	..	10,273
Prahran .. .. .	..	..	..	32,573
South Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	15,000
St. Kilda .. .. .	..	..	..	9,000
Wonthaggi .. .. .	..	..	..	5,000
<b>Total .. .. .</b>				<b>486,196</b>
<b>Shires—</b>				
Borong .. .. .	..	..	..	1,600
Braybrook .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000
Buninyong .. .. .	..	..	..	1,500
Colac .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000
Corio .. .. .	..	..	..	3,200
Dandenong .. .. .	..	..	..	9,500
Ferntree Gully .. .. .	..	..	..	945
Goulburn .. .. .	..	..	..	600
Heidelberg .. .. .	..	..	..	20,000
Keilor .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000
Lilydale .. .. .	..	..	..	4,600
Mansfield .. .. .	..	..	..	1,500
Mildura .. .. .	..	..	..	2,100
Numurkah .. .. .	..	..	..	5,000
Nunawading .. .. .	..	..	..	1,100
Preston .. .. .	..	..	..	8,000
Rutherglen .. .. .	..	..	..	1,150
Swan Hill .. .. .	..	..	..	3,000
Tungamah .. .. .	..	..	..	3,000
Upper Yarra .. .. .	..	..	..	100
Walpeup .. .. .	..	..	..	7,000
Waranga .. .. .	..	..	..	3,700
Wycheproof .. .. .	..	..	..	5,000
Yarrawonga .. .. .	..	..	..	500
<b>Total .. .. .</b>				<b>86,095</b>
<b>Loans from Government—</b>				
<b>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—</b>				
Dunolly .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000
<b>Grand Total .. .. .</b>				<b>573,291</b>

Loan moneys  
to the credit  
of muni-  
cipalities,  
1914.

At the end of the year 1913-14 the amount of loan money in hand was £352,206—£299,528 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £52,678 to the credit of shires.

The following return shows the municipalities having such credits, and the amounts thereof:—

### LOANS UNEXPENDED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1914.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—			SHIRES—		
		£			£
Ballarat .. ..	..	932	Beechworth .. ..	..	162
Bendigo .. ..	..	21,569	Buninyong .. ..	..	574
Brighton .. ..	..	2,539	Colac .. ..	..	4,671
Brunswick .. ..	..	5,530	Corio .. ..	..	1,020
Camberwell .. ..	..	4,228	Dandenong .. ..	..	6,494
Caulfield .. ..	..	8,079	Ferntree Gully .. ..	..	170
Coburg .. ..	..	110	Healesville .. ..	..	149
Collingwood .. ..	..	10,848	Heidelberg .. ..	..	13,861
Dunolly .. ..	..	66	Huntly .. ..	..	1,026
Essendon .. ..	..	6,702	Keilor .. ..	..	27
Fitzroy .. ..	..	876	Leigh .. ..	..	265
Footscray .. ..	..	6,246	Lillydale .. ..	..	3,002
Geelong West .. ..	..	2,046	Mansfield .. ..	..	220
Hawthorn .. ..	..	8,856	Melton .. ..	..	209
Kew .. ..	..	19,406	Mildura .. ..	..	2,222
Malvern .. ..	..	8,427	Minhamite .. ..	..	35
Maryborough .. ..	..	365	Mulgrave .. ..	..	74
Melbourne .. ..	..	133,022	Numurkah .. ..	..	6,136
Newtown and Chilwell .. ..	..	39	Nunawading .. ..	..	1,506
Port Fairy .. ..	..	12	Phillip Island and Woolamai .. ..	..	190
Portland .. ..	..	2,350	Preston .. ..	..	2,094
Port Melbourne .. ..	..	3,928	Rutherglen .. ..	..	985
Prahran .. ..	..	33,755	Shepparton .. ..	..	283
Queenscliff .. ..	..	130	South Barwon .. ..	..	154
South Melbourne .. ..	..	10,763	Tungamah .. ..	..	163
St. Kilda .. ..	..	7,065	Upper Yarra .. ..	..	560
Williamstown .. ..	..	477	Walpeup .. ..	..	6,152
Wonthaggi .. ..	..	1,162	Wycheproof .. ..	..	274
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total Cities, &c. .. ..	..	299,528	Total Shires .. ..	..	52,678
		<hr/>			<hr/>
			Grand Total .. ..	..	352,206



CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1914—  
continued.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c. .. .. .	7,082
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators .. .. .	6,904
Public Conveniences, Cleansing Streets, &c. .. .. .	4,257
Tree Planting .. .. .	186
Fees under Building Act .. .. .	1,490
Sundries .. .. .	6,123
Total .. .. .	439,139

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
	£
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.) .. .. .	21,290
Allowance to Lord Mayor .. .. .	1,500
Closet Cleansing and Sanitary Works .. .. .	151
Street Cleansing, &c. .. .. .	36,602
Lighting—Electric and Gas .. .. .	20,899
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution .. .. .	6,758
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges .. .. .	66,587
Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .	25,901
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.) .. .. .	23,081
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets .. .. .	9,155
Interest on Loan from the Government .. .. .	240
"  "  Loans from the Public .. .. .	83,612
Repayment of Public Loans .. .. .	10,000
"  "  Government Loan .. .. .	210
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public .. .. .	14,293
Electric Supply—Depreciation and Renewal Funds, &c. .. .. .	100,424
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans .. .. .	489
Interest on Bank Overdrafts .. .. .	391
Contributions to Charitable Institutions .. .. .	1,315
"  "  Infectious Diseases Hospital .. .. .	1,363
Law Costs .. .. .	609
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery .. .. .	1,786
Miscellaneous—	
Bat Destruction .. .. .	656
Gas Conferences .. .. .	181
Fees—Dog Act .. .. .	511
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums .. .. .	1,647
Elections .. .. .	144
Analyst's Salary .. .. .	188
Sundries .. .. .	6,299
Total .. .. .	436,282

City of Ballarat revenue and expenditure, 1914.

Of the total revenue received by the City of Ballarat in 1914, about 54 per cent. was obtained from rates, 8 per cent. from licences, 13 per cent. from sanitary rates, 8 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 5 per cent. from rents, and 12 per cent. from all other sources. The expenditure was incurred in connexion with the following services:—42 per cent. for public works, 13 per cent. for interest, sinking funds, and repayment of loans, 12 per cent. for sanitary work, 7 per cent. for lighting, 6 per cent. for salaries and allowances, 7 per cent. for street cleaning, &c., and 13 per cent. for all other items.

CITY OF BALLARAT: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1914.

Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Special Grants—From Government ... ..	1,143	Salaries ... ..	1,644
General Rates ... ..	19,207	Allowance to Mayor ... ..	400
Licences—From Licensing Fund... ..	2,684	Sanitary Expenses ... ..	4,707
"    Other ... ..	191	Street Cleaning, &c. ... ..	2,470
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	2,747	Lighting ... ..	2,481
Contributions for Formation of Private Streets, Roads, Lanes, &c. ... ..	264	Fire Brigades Board—Contribution ... ..	897
Dog Fees ... ..	262	Public Works { Construction ... ..	2,470
Pound Fees ... ..	102	Maintenance ... ..	13,155
Closest Cleansing and Sanitary Rates and Fees	4,719	Repayments of Loans—	
Rents ... ..	1,546	To the Public ... ..	1,342
Interest ... ..	127	"    Government ... ..	407
Botanic Gardens ... ..	295	Payment to Sinking Funds—	
Other Sources ... ..	2,120	Loans from the Public ... ..	250
		Interest—Government Loan ... ..	139
		"    Loans from the Public ... ..	2,556
		"    Bank Overdraft ... ..	180
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions ... ..	357
		Printing, Advertising, and Stationery ... ..	334
		Agricultural College ... ..	500
		Other Expenditure ... ..	2,639
Total ... ..	£35,407	Total ... ..	£36,928

Revenue and expenditure of City of Bendigo, 1914.

In the City of Bendigo in 1914, the following were the proportions of total revenue obtained under the different headings:—General rates, 52 per cent.; licences, 13 per cent.; sanitary rates and fees, 16 per cent.; market and weighbridge dues, 8 per cent.; rents, 7 per cent.; and other sources, 4 per cent. The proportions of the total expenditure on various services were:—Public works, construction and maintenance, 38 per cent.; sanitary expenses, 16 per cent.; interest on loans and payments to sinking funds, 11 per cent.; salaries and

allowances, 7 per cent.; lighting, 9 per cent.; street cleansing, 8 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 11 per cent.

CITY OF BENDIGO: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1914.

Revenue.	Amount. £	Expenditure.	Amount. £
Special Grants—From Govern- ment .. .. .	114	Salaries .. .. .	2,162
General Rates .. .. .	21,288	Allowance to Mayor .. .. .	400
Licences—From Licensing Fund .. .. .	3,288	Sanitary Expenses .. .. .	6,128
"    Other .. .. .	2,008	Street Cleansing .. .. .	3,175
Market and Weighbridge Dues	3,197	Lighting .. .. .	3,316
Dog Fees .. .. .	223	Fire Brigades Board—Contri- bution .. .. .	560
Closet Cleansing and Sani- tary Rates and Fees .. .. .	6,456	Public Works { Construc- { tion .. .. .	1,105
Rents .. .. .	2,761	{ Mainte- { nance .. .. .	13,302
Interest .. .. .	222	Payment to Sinking Funds— Loans from the Public .. .. .	1,900
Sports Grounds .. .. .	312	Interest on Loans from the Public .. .. .	1,723
Other Sources .. .. .	649	Interest on Bank Overdraft .. .. .	383
		Contributions to Charitable Institutions .. .. .	487
		Street Trees .. .. .	499
		Grant for High School .. .. .	100
		Printing, Advertising, and Stationery .. .. .	350
		Other Expenditure .. .. .	2,106
Total .. .. .	40,518	Total .. .. .	37,696

**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 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 rata* to its contributions. If the association determines to discontinue business, the funds are to be divided proportionately to the sums contributed during the preceding five years.

**Municipal  
Officers'  
Guarantee  
Fund.**



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 cooperate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Guarantee policies have been applied for and granted to the whole of the municipalities in the State. The operation of the fund 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 ending 30th September, 1915, 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, 1914, municipalities will obtain like guarantees for about £635 per annum, and similarly reduced rates will be charged in the case of waterworks authorities and Weights and Measures Unions. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1914 (including amount invested in purchase of debentures and accrued interest, £5,041), was £5,428. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1914, amounted to £1,027 12s. 6d.

### MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent, 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. Instead of 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 are substituted five Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Other than the chairman, one member is to 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, one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one 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, the remuneration not to exceed £250 in any year. The borrowing power of the Trust is increased from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000. The payment to the Consolidated Revenue

Melbourne  
Harbor Trust  
—receipts and  
expenditure.

is not to be greater than £60,000 per annum for five years from 1st January, 1913. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure during each of the last five years :—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1910 TO 1914.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Quayage Rates .. ..	£ 297,081	£ 312,616	£ 314,447	£ 312,151	£ 315,721
Rents .. ..	17,004	17,336	19,001	20,424	22,833
Interest .. ..	410	2,039	2,375	665	2,284
Other Revenue .. ..	1,505	2,210	3,792	4,299	11,194
	316,000	334,201	339,615	337,539	352,032
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue ..	62,603	65,413	68,344	60,960	60,000
Total .. ..	253,397	268,788	271,271	276,579	292,032
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses .. ..	19,352	20,841	27,453	28,622	34,180
Maintenance—Dredging ..	13,750	13,267	32,559	32,014	24,758
" Harbor .. ..	1,410	2,266	1,159	2,107	1,698
" Wharfs .. ..	11,558	12,489	17,350	20,583	13,370
" Approaches .. ..	8,847	9,430	11,666	9,207	10,835
Interest on Loans .. ..	69,409	69,366	69,264	59,494	69,981
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund ..	32,000	35,000	17,500	29,188	30,114
Total .. ..	156,326	162,659	176,951	181,215	184,936
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	97,071	106,129	94,320	95,364	107,096
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property .. ..	54	..	1,119	46,007	5,534
Deepening Waterways .. ..	23,559	31,531	21,845	49,620	96,198
Wharfs Construction .. ..	9,842	14,202	85,227	115,244	87,885
Approaches Construction ..	311	454	9,854	16,354	7,029
Other Harbor Improvements .. ..	6,254	787	2,735	2,713	1,376
Floating Plant .. ..	490	16,721	72,078	9,744	33,451
General Plant .. ..	369	5,214	102	2,910	3,364
Stock Account .. ..	3,518	9,096	14,543	44,572	32,070
Total .. ..	44,397	78,005	207,503	287,164	266,907

## GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £500,000 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 two years, the expenditure from ordinary revenue being distinguished from loan expenditure:—

## GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1913.	1914.
	£	£
REVENUE.		
Wharfage and Quayage Rates .. .. .	15,182	13,495
Rents, Fees, and Licences .. .. .	3,423	3,750
Sparrovale Farm .. .. .	5,459	7,281
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. .. .	5,592	12,404
Other Revenue .. .. .	1,146	1,064
	30,802	37,994
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	619	..
Total .. .. .	30,183	37,994
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.		
General Management and Expenses .. .. .	5,665	6,610
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches .. .. .	1,663	2,101
" Harbor .. .. .	685	831
" Floating Plant .. .. .	161	326
" Other .. .. .	480	676
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund .. .. .	17,091	19,167
Sparrovale Farm .. .. .	4,927	6,221
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. .. .	3,789	1,934
Corio Quay Power-house .. .. .	..	2,548
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	894
Total .. .. .	34,461	41,308
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.		
Land and Property .. .. .	13,919	19,611
Deepening Waterworks .. .. .	10,619	11,970
Wharfs and Approaches Construction .. .. .	11,026	7,303
Other Harbor Improvements .. .. .	6,440	9,480
Floating and General Plant .. .. .	1,702	2,137
Stock Account .. .. .	567	455
Miscellaneous .. .. .	2,219	696
Total .. .. .	46,492	51,652

### THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

**Creation and constitution of Board.**

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

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

Thirteen of the members retire annually in 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 watersheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis.

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

The District over which the Board exercises control consists of fifteen cities, five towns, two shires, and parts of three other municipalities, or twenty-five municipalities in all, embracing a total area of 109,009 acres, and containing an estimated population (including that supplied with water outside the Board's sewerage area), on 31st December, 1914, of 662,500.

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

The Board is authorized to borrow £9,750,000, exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 contracted by the Government and taken over by the Board.

The liability for Government loans on 30th June, 1914, was £1,559,786, and for loans raised by the Board, £10,175,160, a portion of which has been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £404,988 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 tenements for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the £1 on the annual valuation of the lands and tenements served. The water rate levied in the year 1913-14 was 7d. in the £1 on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £17 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 £6,217,841 in 1913-14.

**Water rate receipts.** In 1913-14 the water rate receipts were as follows :—

		£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears)	..	157,153	7	3
Meters	..	139,962	9	10
Special rates	..	4,140	3	5
		<hr/>		
Total	..	301,256	0	6

**Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.** The total revenue amounted to £332,930, as against £287,342 in the previous year. The cost in 1913-14 of maintenance and management was £56,873, and of interest £128,292, the total charges being £185,165, compared with a cost in 1912-13 of £52,151 for maintenance and management, and of £114,440 for interest, or a total charge of £166,591. The net profit in 1913-14 was thus £147,765, being equivalent to 3·2 per cent. of the mean capital cost, as compared with £120,751, or 2·7 per cent. in 1912-13.

**Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.** The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1914, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	..	..	..	..	£84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	..	631,269
Maroondah system	..	..	..	..	778,944
O'Shanassy system	..	..	..	..	399,296
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	..	230,314
Large mains	..	..	..	..	1,091,390
Reticulation	..	..	..	..	1,398,114
		<hr/>			
Total	..	..	..	..	£4,614,212*

\* £516 written off for Depreciation.

## 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 1914-15 is £6,833,120 inclusive of assessments on vacant lands.

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 present general sewerage rate is 1s. 1d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 1s. 1d. rate was, in 1913-14, £5,680,481.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1913-14 amounted to £311,178.

The sewerage revenue for 1913-14 amounted to £338,459, as against £303,376 in the previous year. The cost in 1913-14 of management, working expenses, repairs, and renewals, was £67,580, and of interest £314,126, the total charges being £381,706, compared with a cost in 1912-13 of £67,874 for management, working expenses, repairs, and renewals, and £298,964 for interest, or a total charge of £366,838.

The deficiency in 1913-14 was £43,247, as against £63,462 for the previous year.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1914, was £6,983,757, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation .. ..	£501,260
Outfall sewer and rising mains .. ..	423,024
Pumping station buildings and engines .. ..	207,748
Main and branch sewers .. ..	2,027,067
Street reticulation .. ..	2,038,343
Reticulation of rights-of-way .. ..	915,917
House connexions branches .. ..	363,599
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital .. ..	384,556
Cost of sewerage system .. ..	£6,861,514*
Householders' debts for house connexions .. ..	118,563
River improvements .. ..	3,680
Total .. ..	£6,983,757

## DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

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

\* £42,317 written off for Depreciation.

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  
catchment  
area.**

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

#### YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yeau  
system.** The Yan Yeau watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles northerly from the city, and 602 feet above sea-level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1914 was 22 ft.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. on the 1st January, and the minimum depth 12 ft.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. on the 12th May. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1914, the total intake of the Yan Yeau Reservoir was 3,474,036,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,566,194,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation. The mean evaporation from the surface is about 3 feet during the year. The intake for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1914, was the lowest on record.

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 33,000 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct, and in tunnels, syphons, and pipe line of an aggregate length of 48 miles  $24\frac{1}{2}$  chains. The complete length will be 49 miles  $53\frac{3}{4}$  chains. 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.

Storage and  
service  
reservoirs.

There are two storage and thirteen service reservoirs (also four other service reservoirs proposed) as under:—

## STORAGE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	
Yan Yean .. .. .	6,400,000,000*	602 feet above L.W.M.
Toorourrong .. .. .	60,000,000	747 " " "
Total (storage) .. .. .	6, 60,000,000	

\* Of this quantity 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption.

## SERVICE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	
Preston No. 1 .. .. .	13,500,000	326·50 feet
" No. 2 .. .. .	24,500,000	326·50 "
" No. 3 .. .. .	26,300,000	326·50 "
Essendon No. 1 .. .. .	1,000,000	209·25 "
" No. 2 .. .. .	4,000,000	209·25 "
Caulfield .. .. .	10,000,000	166·00 "
Kew .. .. .	3,000,000	281·50 "
Surrey Hills No. 1 .. .. .	9,000,000	429·50 "
" No. 2 .. .. .	15,000,000	429·50 "
Morang (Pipe Head) .. .. .	3,000,000	485·00 "
Heidelberg .. .. .	1,000,000	325·00 "
Notting Hill .. .. .	10,000,000	332·50 "
Olinda .. .. .	11,000,000	671·00 "
Total (service) .. .. .	131,300,000	.. .
North Essendon (proposed provision for 10,000,000 gallons)	..	290·00 " (approx.)
Mitcham (proposed provision for three reservoirs with a capacity of from 20 to 25 million gallons each)	..	515·00 " "



**Aqueducts, &c., mains, and reticulation pipes.** The following is the mileage return of aqueducts, &c., mains, and reticulation pipes up to the 30th June, 1914 :—

	Miles	Chs.	Miles	Chs.
<b>YAN YEAN SYSTEM—</b>				
Aqueducts, &c., between watersheds and Yan Yeau Reservoir .. .. .	23	62		
Aqueduct—Yan Yeau Reservoir to Morang .. .. .	6	33½		
Total .. .. .			30	15½
<b>MAROONDAH SYSTEM—</b>				
Main Maroondah Aqueduct .. .. .	41	28		
Tributary Aqueducts .. .. .	6	8		
Scours at Preston Reservoirs .. .. .	2	52½		
Total .. .. .			50	8½
<b>O'SHANASSY SYSTEM—</b>				
O'Shanassy Weir to Olinda Pipe Head Reservoir (incomplete) .. .. .	22	54		
Olinda Pipe Head Reservoir to Surrey Hills Reservoir (36-in. steel main) .. .. .	25	1½		
Scour at Surrey Hills Reservoir .. .. .	0	49		
Total .. .. .			*48	24½
Grand Total, Aqueducts, &c. .. .. .			128	48½
Large Mains, 54-in to 12-in. diameter (inclusive) .. .. .			†220	60½
Reticulation under 12-in. diameter .. .. .			1,209	72½
Grand Total, Aqueducts, Mains, &c., Mains and Reticulation .. .. .			1,559	21½

**Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs.** The average number of people supplied with water during 1914 was 651,000, and the average daily consumption was 62·64 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 during 1914 :—

**TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1914.**

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January .. .. .	1,709,221,000	55,136,161
February .. .. .	1,700,213,000	60,721,893
March .. .. .	1,664,040,000	53,678,710
April .. .. .	1,116,521,000	37,217,367
May .. .. .	1,112,114,000	35,874,645
June .. .. .	999,467,000	33,315,567
July .. .. .	934,091,000	30,131,968
August .. .. .	996,365,000	32,140,806
September .. .. .	1,011,747,000	33,724,900
October .. .. .	1,283,258,000	41,395,419
November .. .. .	1,187,355,000	39,578,500
December .. .. .	1,169,886,000	37,738,258
Total for the year .. .. .	14,884,278,000	...
Daily average for the year .. .. .	...	40,773,844

\* Length unfinished, 65 chains. † Exclusive of O'Shanassy Main Pipe line.

The following table shows for each year since the establishment of the Board in 1891 the daily average consumption of water, and the daily average per head :—

**DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1891 TO 1914.**

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Tenements Connected with Sewerage System to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1891 ...	482,600	99,364	...	25,747,761	53·35
1892 ...	486,620	106,772	...	23,476,780	48·24
1893 ...	469,390	107,125	...	24,290,041	51·75
1894 ...	449,560	107,764	...	27,071,106	60·22
1895 ...	444,340	107,260	...	26,689,683	60·07
1896 ...	452,210	106,486	...	23,837,695	52·71
1897 ...	458,300	105,710	...	24,665,607	53·82
1898 ...	466,895	104,861	3,899	28,253,294	60·51
1899 ...	480,390	103,981	13,593	27,068,465	56·37
1900 ...	489,600	104,050	23,300	28,230,690	57·66
1901 ...	494,905	104,548	38,696	29,427,589	59·46
1902 ...	501,580	105,051	47,172	29,080,027	57·98
1903 ...	502,840	106,176	55,929	28,858,633	57·39
1904 ...	505,760	107,701	64,487	29,523,153	58·37
1905 ...	511,520	109,393	71,689	32,400,286	63·34
1906 ...	519,925	111,494	79,597	33,479,900	64·39
1907 ...	530,655	114,049	87,853	35,212,222	66·36
1908 ...	543,115	116,781	94,067	31,559,830	58·11
1909 ...	557,350	119,650	99,955	33,047,340	59·29
1910 ...	573,255	123,227	105,993	33,272,490	58·04
1911 ...	588,000	128,036	112,293	36,110,115	61·41
1912 ...	604,275	133,122	118,350	38,569,566	63·83
1913 ...	628,430	140,351	125,103	41,642,926	66·27
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64

**DESCRIPTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM.**

**Sewerage system.**

While the Board took over from the State Government the branch which had the management of the Melbourne Water Supply, still the chief object of its creation was to carry out the long-called-for and pressing want of an efficient system of sewerage in the Metropolitan area. The plans and estimates of the cost of the Metropolitan sewerage scheme were originally prepared by the late Mr. James Mansergh, an expert civil engineer from England, and were furnished to the Board on its creation. The scheme recommended by the designer and selected by the Board's Engineer-in-Chief (the late Mr. William Thwaites) was estimated to cost £5,030,000, but was modified by Mr. Thwaites, with the concurrence of the Board, so as to reduce the estimated cost to £3,451,000.

The original Act of Parliament contemplated only the construction of sewers in the streets, but this was altered by an Act passed in 1897, which added the duty of constructing sewers in rights-of-way and the branches from the sewers to the building line of each property, and in consequence has added considerably to the original estimate of cost.

Tenements  
connected  
with the  
sewerage  
system.

The first tenement was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1914, 140,614 tenements had been gazetted as within sewerage areas, and applications received *re* 433 outside gazetted areas, making a total of 141,047 tenements. Out of this number 140,594 were provided with sanitary fittings which required to be connected with the sewerage system, and 134,590 had been connected, including the 433 outside gazetted areas. Of the remaining 6,004 tenements, 2,436 were in progress of connexion, while on 3,568 tenements connexions work had not been commenced.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1914:—

**PROGRESS OF HOUSE CONNEXIONS WITH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.**

Municipality.	No. of Tenements connected on 31st December, 1914.
Melbourne City ... ..	26,245
South Melbourne City ... ..	10,659
Prahran City ... ..	11,344
Fitzroy City ... ..	7,777
Richmond City ... ..	10,037
St. Kilda City ... ..	6,359
Collingwood City ... ..	8,189
Footscray City ... ..	5,651
Hawthorn City ... ..	5,890
Brunswick City ... ..	7,486
Essendon City ... ..	6,350
Malvern City ... ..	4,154
Caulfield City ... ..	3,225
Northcote City ... ..	4,088
Camberwell City ... ..	2,597
Brighton Town ... ..	3,149
Port Melbourne Town ... ..	2,965
Williamstown Town ... ..	2,885
Kew Town ... ..	2,300
Coburg Town ... ..	921
Heidelberg Shire ... ..	76
Preston Shire ... ..	680
Moorabbin Shire ... ..	1,014
Nunawading Shire, ... ..	116
Total in Gazetted Areas ... ..	134,157
„ outside Gazetted Areas ... ..	433
Grand Total ... ..	134,590

**PROGRESS REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK.**

On the 31st December, 1914, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following districts within the Board's Metropolitan area, viz.:—

Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, Prahran, St. Kilda, Moorabbin, Nunawading, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon and Malvern.

The system was nearly completed in Brighton, Hawthorn, Footscray, and Williamstown, and the more densely settled parts of Camberwell and Northcote, as well as in the greater portions of Brunswick, Coburg, Kew, and Preston, and, in a lesser degree, Caulfield; a small portion of Heidelberg has also been completed.

During the preceding twelve months the work progressed principally in Coburg, Williamstown, Camberwell, and Brunswick; also in Kew, Preston, and Malvern, and, in a lesser degree, in Moorabbin, Essendon, Footscray, Northcote, and Caulfield. Main and branch sewers have been extended to meet the requirements of the new reticulation areas, and further extensions are being carried out.

Reticulation area contracts have been completed in Coburg, Kew, Williamstown, Camberwell, Malvern, and Preston; also in Essendon, Footscray, Brunswick, Northcote, and Heidelberg; and reticulation extensions by contract and day labour have been carried out to provide for new buildings, or fresh subdivisions in various districts of the Metropolitan area.

Reticulation area contracts are now being carried out in Brunswick, Caulfield, and Heidelberg; also reticulation extensions by contract and day labour in Malvern, Caulfield, Footscray, Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, and several other parts of the Metropolitan area.

The whole system was so far advanced that on the date mentioned above the sewage from 141,047 tenements could be collected, including those inside and outside gazetted areas, and 140,594 tenements could be connected. Of these, 134,590 tenements were connected, and work was in progress on 2,436 other premises. The total number of fittings connected with the system was as follows:—52 public conveniences and 77 public urinals, 154,896 water closets, 114,450 baths, 88,166 sinks, 85,212 sets of wash troughs, 40,688 lavatories, 15,016 stables, 8,937 urinals, 7,264 polluted areas and paved yards, 1,900 cellars, 1,026 slop hoppers, 295 latrines, and 303 dairies, there being also 453 tenements with no fittings to connect. The house connexions pipes join the 9-inch reticulation pipes, which are gradually collected into 12-inch, 15-inch, and 18-inch pipes, and then again into brick and concrete branch sewers, which join the sub-mains and mains. In all 1,311½ miles of reticulation and 143¾ miles of mains and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of 1,454¾ miles.

Particulars of the system are as follows:—

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—

1. The North Yarra main sewer (North Yarra system), which commences with Heidelberg, and thence takes up East Kew, Preston, Coburg, Northcote, Brunswick, the Clifton Hill part of Collingwood, also Fitzroy, and the North Carlton, North Melbourne, and Flemington and Kensington parts of Melbourne, together with Essendon and Footscray.

2. The Hobson's Bay main sewer (South Yarra system), which starts at Sandringham, picking up Brighton, Caulfield, Malvern, St. Kilda, Camberwell, and a small part of Nunawading, besides the remaining part of Kew, also Hawthorn, Prahran, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond, and the remaining part of Collingwood, with East Melbourne, and other remaining parts of Melbourne.

The subsidiary main, which takes in Williamstown, joins the Hobson's Bay main before it enters the pumping station.

### PUMPING STATION, RISING MAINS, AND OUTFALL SEWER.

**Pumping station.** When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 50 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. The solid matter caught in them is transferred to a drier in the building over the wells, where it is subject to steam pressure and consequently to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial value and is destroyed in a furnace. The sewage is raised by the pumps 125 feet through two 6-foot and one 4-foot wrought-iron rising mains—the three lengths running side by side, each 2·794 miles long (an aggregate length of 8·38 miles)—to the head of the outfall sewer, at Brooklyn, 75 feet above low-water mark, whence it gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

### METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

**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 11,153 acres 1 rood 5½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, enjoys an average rainfall of 18 inches, and has for its eastern boundary the Werribee River, with a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south, (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is 75 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, and in the meantime most of the high land is being used for dry farming, cereal crops being grown.

The farm originally comprised 8,847 acres 0 roods 5½ perches of virgin unimproved land, which (together with a strip 11½ miles long, containing 168¼ acres, on which the greater portion of the main outfall sewer from the pumping station to the farm is constructed) cost the Board £159,873 in 1892. By an Act of Parliament passed on 11th August, 1911, the Crown was authorised to sell to the Board at £2 per acre an area of 305 acres 3 roods 11 perches of low-lying Crown land along the foreshore of the bay adjoining the sewage farm. By another Act of Parliament, passed on 11th December, 1912, a further area of 815 acres 1 rood 8 perches of foreshore land was acquired from the Government at £2 per acre. This land, extending westerly to the mouth of the Little River, gave the Board a frontage to the bay, extending from that river to the Werribee River. An area of 252 acres 3 roods 7 perches of irrigable land adjoining the sewage farm on the south-west was acquired by private treaty at £15 per acre during 1913; 120 acres 2 roods 38 perches of private land adjoining the above area has since been acquired at £5 12s. 6d. per acre, and 811 acres 2 roods 16 perches at the north-east corner of the original farm area has been purchased from the Lands Purchase and Management Board at £25 per acre. The last two purchases were made in 1914. The acquirement of these areas has increased the size of the Sewage Farm to 11,153 acres 1 rood 5½ perches.

Before being required for sewage disposal the greater portion of the farm was leased by the Board to hay and grain growers, and proved highly productive under wheat, oats, and barley. The rents ranged up to about 30s. per acre, and for a number of years averaged over £1 per acre over the whole area let.

The method followed by the Board was to gradually resume the land from the tenants as it was required for sewage filtration purposes in order to keep pace with the progress of the sewerage house connexions work in the Metropolis. It has now all been resumed, but there is a considerable area yet to be brought under irrigation, preparation for which is carried on continuously.

The process of preparation generally followed is as follows:—After being divided by roads into rectangular blocks of 80 acres the blocks are again subdivided into paddocks of 20 acres (20 chains by 10 chains). The soil is broken up by steam ploughs, the bottom being subsoiled to a depth of about 2 ft. 6 in., and, where necessary, underdrained with agricultural pipes. The blocks are then graded into bays of about half an acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding—where the natural contour of the country is uneven it is found necessary to grade the blocks in small terraces; deep drainage channels are cut, the earth from same being thrown up to form embankments to carry the main supply carriers along the boundaries of these 20-acre blocks, which are at the same time securely fenced, and planted with trees for shelter and breakwinds. The main carriers and drains run

parallel north to south through the farm being half a mile apart; the sub-carriers and drains branch east and west every 10 chains. The available area of the 20-acre block is reduced to about 18 acres by the space occupied by the carriers, drains, roads, and plantations. The prepared blocks are generally sown with lucerne or perennial grasses (chiefly prairie or rye) or a mixture of lucerne and prairie grass, and in a few months are ready to be flooded with sewage. The resultant growth is very rapid, and (with the exception of a few hundred acres of lucerne reserved for hay) the irrigated lucerne and grasses are pastured with sheep, cattle, and horses; the practice being to keep the stock shifting from block to block (in flocks of about 500 sheep or an equivalent number of horses or cattle to each 18 acres) to eat the feed down in front of the sewage water. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel north and south through the farm.

A large proportion of the farm lands will necessarily never be available for irrigation purposes. One hundred and twenty-nine acres have been devoted to sites for townships and manager's and workmen's cottages, of which last there are 56 on the farm. There are at present 431 acres of plantations and reserves, and the private roads and channels account for a further 445 acres; the area so utilized must of course increase as additional sections of the farm are brought under irrigation. These three items—cottage and township sites (129 acres), plantations and reserves (431 acres), and private roads and channels (445 acres)—at present account for 1,005 acres.

As each acre of properly prepared land under irrigation suffices to deal with the sewage of only 100 persons, and as there are upwards of 6,000 additional tenements connected with the sewerage system each year (in 1913-14 there were 6,065 additional tenements connected), it will be seen that it is only a matter of a few years before all the available land of the original purchase will be under intense irrigation; hence the necessity for the acquirement of the additional areas previously referred to.

The total area available for sewage disposal at 30th June, 1914, was 7,119 acres, and the average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to this area during the year 1913-14 was 31,851,181 gallons =  $117\frac{1}{2}$  acre-feet per day = 6 feet per annum over the whole of the prepared part of the farm.

Of the area under irrigation, 214 acres were sown with maize for grain, and 435 acres of lucerne were cut for hay, leaving 5,288 acres of grasses, and small areas under fodder crops of maize and rape (totalling 290 acres) to be depastured with stock.

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

of 1913 was 19,626 sheep, 361 horses, and 2,186 cattle; and in the winter of 1914, 2,324 sheep, 924 horses, and 2,842 cattle, the general practice being to gradually reduce the stock from the spring maximum to the minimum in winter. The profits from transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1913-14 were—from sheep, £8,595; from cattle, £6,199. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £2,603. The fat stock from the farm always excite keen competition from butchers and freezers, and command high prices.

In the year ended 30th June, 1914, 447 tons of lucerne hay and chaff were sold for a gross return of £1,439; while from 214 acres of maize an average yield of 38 bushels of grain per acre was harvested, which brought an average price of 4s. 1½d. per bushel.

Experiments are being carried on to ascertain the varieties of lucerne and maize best suited for growing on the sewage farm, and the varieties of grasses likely to flourish under the largest amount of winter irrigation.

The total capital cost of the farm for purchase and preparation was at 30th June, 1914, £501,260, and after paying interest on this sum and all charges in connexion with the disposal of the sewage the profits resulting from the various farming operations and the receipts from rents of cottages, &c., reduced the net cost of sewage purification for the year 1913-14 to £10,504 for an estimated population served by the sewerage system of 579,145 persons, or 4·35d. per head. The profitableness of the farming and grazing operations is largely influenced by the climatic conditions of the State generally, and the net cost of sewage purification varies accordingly from year to year. The average for the five years 1909-10 to 1913-14 was 5·38d. per head per annum.

The sewage farm is supplied with water for stock and domestic purposes from the metropolitan water supply system.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1913-14 or as at 30th June, 1914, are as follows:—

	Acres.
Total area of farm .. .. .	11,153
Area sown with grasses .. .. .	5,288
Area of settling pits under fodder crops other than lucerne or grasses—	
Maize, 135 acres; Rape, 155 acres ..	290
Total area of irrigated pasture available for grazing .. .. .	5,578
Area under lucerne for hay .. .. .	435
„ „ maize for grain .. .. .	214
Total area under irrigation and intensive culture...	6,227



	Acres.
Area prepared for settling pits for winter sewage ..	892
Total area prepared for irrigation and sewage disposal .. .. .	7,119
Area under preparation for irrigation .. .. .	430
Total .. .. .	7,549
Area under cereal crops (wheat, barley, and oats) not included above .. .. .	715
Area under bare fallow .. .. .	961
„ of swampy ground reserved for settling pits ..	923
Areas reserved for cottage sites (102 acres) and town-ship sites (27 acres) .. .. .	129
„ „ plantations and reserves .. .. .	431
„ „ private roads and channels .. .. .	445
Total area of farm .. .. .	11,153
Lucerne hay—area cut .. .. Acres	435
Total yield of lucerne hay for season .. Tons	1,500
Maize for grain—area harvested .. Acres	214
Average yield per acre .. .. Bushels	38
Fodder crops (other than lucerne or grasses)—	Acres.
Maize .. .. .	135
Rape .. .. .	155
Total .. .. .	290
Irrigated pasture available for grazing .. .. .	5,288
Portion of area under lucerne for hay .. .. .	145
„ „ „ maize for grain .. .. .	71
Total area available for stock .. .. .	5,794
Acreage carrying sheep .. .. .	3,000
„ „ cattle .. .. .	2,000
„ „ horses (on agistment) .. .. .	794
	5,794
Number of sheep and cattle purchased and sold for year ended 30th June, 1914—	
Purchased .. .. .	Sheep. 37,779 Cattle. 4,140
Sold .. .. .	35,221 3,905

Stock carried—		No.
Maximum in spring—Sheep	.. ..	19,626
Horses	.. ..	361
Cattle	.. ..	2,186
Minimum in winter—Sheep ..	.. ..	2,324
Horses	.. ..	924
Cattle	.. ..	2,842
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Profits from transactions in live-stock—		
Sheep .. .. .	.. ..	£8,595
Cattle .. .. .	.. ..	6,199
Agistment (principally horses)	.. ..	2,603
Total .. .. .	.. ..	£17,397
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		No.
Men employed by Board	.. ..	154
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Population resident on farm over 21 years of age	..	158
"    "    "    under 21 years of age		142
Total .. .. .	.. ..	300
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Houses on farm owned by Board	.. ..	56
"    "    "    tenant	.. ..	1
Total .. .. .	.. ..	57
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Working horses on farm hired by Board	.. ..	38
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Horses owned by Board—		
Working horses—Draught	.. ..	49
"    "    Light	.. ..	16
Brood mares	.. ..	24
Foals	.. ..	4
Total .. .. .	.. ..	93
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*Progress of Construction Works.*

		Acres.
Area steam ploughed for irrigation	.. ..	6,805
"    "    "    for plantations and reserves		182
"    mole-drained by steam plant	.. ..	1,145
"    underdrained with pipes	.. ..	619

	Miles.	Chains.
Length of main carrier embankments—cement lined	8	10
"      "      "      "      unlined ..	20	45
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>
Length of subsidiary carriers—		
C.I. flumes .. .. .	15	62
C.C. flumes .. .. .	4	72
Embankments unlined .. .. .	34	77
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>
Length of main drains .. .. .		
"      subsidiary drains .. .. .	85	58
"      pipe drains .. .. .	27	1
"      agricultural pipes .. .. .	32	49
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>6</b>
Length of water pipes laid—6-inch .. .. .		
"      "      4-inch .. .. .	11	7
"      "      3-inch .. .. .	0	7
"      "      2-inch .. .. .	14	7
"      "      1½-inch .. .. .	2	33
"      "      1-inch .. .. .	3	53
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>52</b>
Length of roads formed.. .. .		
"      fencing erected .. .. .	307	34
"      "      wire netted .. .. .	6	23
No.		
Trees planted .. .. .	208,000	
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1913-14 = in gallons .. .. .	31,851,181	
= 117½ acre-feet per day = 6 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 7,119 acres.		
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1914 ..	£501,260	
Net cost of sewage purification for year 1913-14..	£10,504	
Population served by sewerage system .. .. .	579,145	
Net cost per head of sewage purification for year 1913-14 .. .. .	4·35d.	

### 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* 1890, 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, the service having been provided under the clauses of the *Fire Brigades Act* 1890, and its amendments.

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of ten miles from the General Post Office. The area vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is included in this area, but the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board has jurisdiction over portions of the shires of Wyndham, Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Templestowe, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, within the 10-mile radius, which are not vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Metropolitan Fire District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and it extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc, that township being included.

The Metropolitan Fire 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 insurance companies.

**Powers of  
the Board.** A section of the *Fire Brigades Act* provides that for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, the chief officers of the fire brigades may in the areas under their respective control "cause water to be shut off from any main or pipe in order to obtain a greater pressure and supply of water for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, and no person or body having the management of any water supply shall be liable to any penalty or claim by reason of any interruption of the supply of water occasioned by compliance with the provisions of this section."

Another section of the Act provides that "each Board, its officers and servants, any local committee, its officers and servants, and any brigade registered under this Act shall have the use of all water mains, water plugs, valves, pipes, vested in or belonging to the Board of Land and Works or any public or municipal corporation, or local body whatsoever, and of all water therein, or in any well or tank, free of charge, for the purpose of extinguishing any fire, or for the purpose of drills, competitions, and practice, conducted under the authority of either board or any local committee."

Local councils have the right, in the interests of fire prevention, with the approval of the Governor in Council, of making, altering, or repealing by-laws for the purpose of regulating the height of all buildings erected in their own municipality, or in any part of it, and also for providing means of escape from such buildings during a fire.

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, and control the formation of permanent and volunteer fire brigades, and schools of instruction, the maintenance of fire alarms, and the establishment of communication, telephonic and other."

The Metropolitan and Metropolitan Board of Works under the *Water Act* 1890 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 and maintenance.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and shall allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1914, the Board had fixed to its 220 miles  $60\frac{3}{4}$  chains of leading mains and 1,209 miles  $72\frac{1}{2}$  chains of reticulation mains, 2,525 pillar hydrants, 123 Tregear patent hydrants, and 14,586 ball fire plugs, viz., 14,564 Bateman and Moore (of which 1,241 are with spring) and 22 Fowler patent—a grand total of 17,234. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 31st December, 1914, had under its control the following:—Forty-seven stations, 241 members of permanent staff, 35 members of special service staff, 7 members of clerical staff, 10 men engaged in the workshops, 130 partially paid firemen, 10 steam fire engines, 5 gasolene engines, 3 petrol motor fire engines, 1 motor chemical engine and hose waggon combined, 1 motor salvage waggon and chemical engine combined, 2 motor combination appliances, 6 motor hose waggons, 2 motor cycles, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 34 horse hose reels, 33 hand hose reels, 8 extension ladders and fire escapes, 6 Pompier ladders, 10 exercise and supply carts, 1 salvage van, 1 brake, 69 horses, 110,395 feet of hose, 46 hand pumps, 6 smoke helmets, 2 smoke jackets, and 268 fire alarm circuits having 851 street fire-alarms, of which 791 contained telephones, and the remaining 60 were fire alarms only. There were also 418 auxiliary boxes and 19 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 136 direct telephone lines, 58 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 28 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 58 sprinkler call transmitting instruments. The total length of wire in use outside stations for fire alarms and telephones is about 600 miles.

During 1914 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £79,369, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the insurance companies carrying on

business in that district. The municipalities' contribution is equal to 78d. in the £1 over an area wherein the property is valued at £6,954,190, and that of the insurance companies is equal to £4 17s. 7d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1913 amounted to £465,526, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1914 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £22,724.

**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 are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The Board annually elects one of its members as president. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1914 was £16,699, which was obtained from the following sources :—(a) Government, £5,755; (b) municipalities, £5,164; (c) insurance companies, £5,684; and (d) other sources, £96. The expenditure for the year amounted to £16,561. There are 104 municipal councils and 66 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1913 amounted to £197,473, and the total of their contributions in 1914 for the upkeep of the brigades was £5,684. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1914 was £1,765,763. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large towns a few permanent stationkeepers and watchmen are also employed. There are 124 registered brigades, and four more are about to be registered. The number of registered firemen is 2,444, but in many brigades there is, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members." The Chief Officer and the Deputy Chief Officer of the Board frequently inspect the brigades, and also pay them "surprise visits." They report monthly to the Board as to the efficiency of the service, and in regard to the equipment necessary to be supplied. In 1914 the chief items of the plant consisted of 5 steam engines, 1 motor engine, 63 manual engines, 11 horse brakes, 61 apparatus carriages, 3 fire escapes, about 280 hose reels, and approximately 180,000 feet of canvas hose.

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Boards during the five years ended 30th June, 1914, are as follows:—

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

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ... ..	69,375	69,837	78,206	82,540	85,036
Receipts for Services ...	3,226	3,106	5,172	5,941	3,241
Interest and Sundries ...	2,141	3,039	2,109	3,725	1,361
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>74,742</b>	<b>75,982</b>	<b>85,487</b>	<b>92,206</b>	<b>94,538</b>
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ... ..	36,589	40,930	48,798	50,426	54,285
Fire Expenses ... ..	3,216	3,297	3,183	3,233	3,312
Administrative Charges, &c.	14,653	13,874	16,517	15,584	19,515
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ... ..	6,011	4,185	7,176	4,592	4,112
Interest ... ..	5,838	5,806	5,995	5,928	7,317
Sinking Fund ... ..	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,430	2,215
Firemen's Accident Fund	450	500	550	550	650
Miscellaneous ... ..	4,112	6,456	6,243	4,580	4,624
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>72,869</b>	<b>77,057</b>	<b>90,462</b>	<b>87,323</b>	<b>95,930</b>
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	155	72	417	14,796	19,373