

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early
legislation.

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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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

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

Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 55 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires.

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

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

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

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

IN SHIRES.

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

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

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

Rateable property.

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Municipalities. A portion of the Shire of Nunawading was excised on 25th May, 1925, and a new shire entitled Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted. The remaining portion of the Shire of Nunawading was proclaimed a borough with the name of Box Hill Borough on 15th December, 1925.

Municipalities: 1921-22 to 1925-26. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1925 was 194. Of these, 27 ranked as cities, 5 as towns, 23 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1925-26 :—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

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—							
1921-22 ..	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		£ 210,501,055	£ 11,869,636	£ 2,648,855
1922-23 ..	963,180	270,058	217,518	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,992,159
1923-24 ..	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	3,354,343
1924-25 ..	1,031,870	291,910	233,400	1,689	288,230,793	16,388,842	3,763,373
1925-26 ..	1,072,510	314,386	244,164	2,061	314,333,446	17,778,661	..
Shires—							
1921-22 ..	610,987*	201,956	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24 ..	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,646,410
1924-25 ..	635,340	221,345	148,717	1,837	250,480,405	12,588,177	1,815,707
1925-26 ..	632,550	246,161	148,546	1,703	257,350,043	12,933,459	..
Total—							
1921-22 ..	1,525,358*	447,545	345,986*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23 ..	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24 ..	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	5,000,753
1924-25 ..	1,667,010	513,255	382,117	3,576	538,711,198	28,977,019	5,579,080
1925-26 ..	1,705,060	560,547	392,710	3,764	571,683,489	30,712,120	..

* Census figures.

Increases in value of rateable properties and municipal revenue.

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1925-26 over 1921-22.		1924-25 over 1921-22.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	103,832,391	5,909,025	1,114,518
Shires	41,365,715	2,057,511	432,785
Total Increase	145,198,106	7,966,536	1,547,303

The number of ratepayers returned for 1925-26 was 560,547, and the total capital value of rateable property £571,683,489, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £30,712,120.

Unimproved Value of Rateable Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1925-26 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £157,166,723, and in shires £171,566,696. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

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

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	30,168	632,962
1924-25	343,462	310,250	653,712
1925-26	366,494	339,421	705,915

The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1925-26, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1924-25 :—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1925-26.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1924-25.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
Ballarat	37,000	8,940	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Bendigo	26,200	6,399	2 9	5 067,090	337,806	77,575	..
Brighton	26,390	8,100	2 6	3,138,912	261,576	56,857	..
Brunswick	50,000	10,648	2 6	7,500,000	439,746	64,120	..
Camberwell	36,290	17,000	*0 7	8,715,574	577,074	160,816	..
Caulfield	59,640	18,150	*0 4	12,488,540	719,806	118,552	..
Coburg	31,350	10,400	*0 4½	16,099,894	914,426	147,155	..
Collingwood	33,900	7,600	*0 4½	6,481,100	324,055	92,527	..
Essendon	40,000	12,250	2 3	9,324,040	466,202	56,898	..
Fitzroy	34,300	7,678	*0 5	9,243,436	527,674	88,492	..
Footscray	43,500	13,250	2 2	7,709,055	513,937	63,226	..
Geelong	15,650	4,720	2 6	10,080,560	504,028	140,926	..
Hawthorn	31,880	8,774	2 7	4,959,980	247,999	52,237	..
Kew	22,700	5,950	2 6	10,846,860	542,343	78,691	..
Malvern	43,000	12,720	2 6	4,969,995	331,333	64,588	..
Melbourne	103,600	32,040	2 6	13,806,060	690,303	138,205	..
Mordialloc	7,220	3,218	2 0	83,343,300	4,167,165	1,174,618	..
Northcote	38,200	10,000	2 6	2,448,700	122,435	40,554	..
Port Melbourne	13,150	2,885	2 6	8,181,420	409,071	110,053	..
Prahran	51,800	13,163	2 3	1,984,325	158,746	42,191	..
Preston	18,000	15,000	2 6	12,864,000	1,072,000	123,413	..
Richmond	43,600	9,301	2 6	5,332,160	266,608	70,948	..
Saundringham	18,500	8,629	2 3	9,998,370	555,465	71,452	..
South Melbourne	47,250	10,500	2 6	3,846,945	256,463	56,465	..
St. Kilda	41,200	10,114	2 6	16,040,780	802,039	124,607	..
Warrnambool	8,020	1,713	2 0	11,227,272	935,606	105,665	..
Williamstown	23,000	5,060	2 9	1,591,727	93,631	42,982	..
			2 6	2,943,700	212,000	90,580	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1925-26—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1924-25.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	10,540	2,415	s. d, 2 9	£ 1,793,820	£ 89,691	£ 19,796	£
Mildura ..	5,850	1,445	3 0	1,360,000	68,000	29,572	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	8,270	2,129	* 0 5½	1,986,516	101,227	14,853	..
Oakleigh ..	8,470	3,138	* 0 4½	2,059,687	133,715	29,959	..
Sale ..	3,920	1,058	2 3	702,100	35,105	13,111	..
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,000	990	2 3	653,820	32,691	18,475	25
Box Hill† ..	10,520	5,560	2 7	3,778,480	188,924	..	..
Carroll ..	6,500	4,548	* 0 3	1,681,116	83,009	25,273	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,500	3 0	574,800	45,984	10,482	25
Clunes ..	1,200	475	1 6	79,156	11,308	2,141	37
Creswick ..	1,750	542	1 9	76,560	7,656	2,664	37
Daylesford ..	3,420	750	2 6	538,860	26,943	6,336	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,730	1,350	2 6	267,600	22,300	8,532	25
Echuca ..	3,940	865	2 10	769,486	41,962	10,426	25
Hamilton ..	5,200	1,279	2 6	1,067,240	53,362	11,219	25
Horsham ..	4,160	1,369	2 6	1,154,020	57,701	11,402	50
Inglewood ..	1,100	297	2 0	92,268	7,689	2,921	25
Koroit ..	1,860	424	2 6	444,220	22,211	5,749	25
Maryborough ..	4,840	1,148	2 9	346,700	34,670	13,300	25
Port Fairy ..	2,040	510	2 8	411,840	20,592	7,005	25
Portland ..	2,710	1,116	* 0 4½	574,562	30,494	7,744	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,600	703	2 9	345,040	17,252	4,145	50
Ringwood ..	3,000	2,000	2 0	1,113,740	55,687	6,688	50
Sebastopol ..	1,890	474	2 6	191,600	9,580	2,221	40
St. Arnaud ..	3,150	847	2 3	496,820	24,841	5,826	25
Stawell ..	4,660	1,012	2 9	303,000	30,300	17,462	25
Wangaratta ..	3,850	980	3 0	804,600	40,230	13,433	25
Wonthaggi ..	6,500	1,260	3 0	432,000	36,000	8,245	46
Total ..	1,072,510	314,386	..	314,333,446	17,778,661	3,763,373	710

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

† Constituted a Borough on 15th December, 1925. Revenue included with Nunawading Shire for 1924-25.

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

Shires,
1925-26.

SHIRES, 1925-26.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1924-25.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Alberton ..	5,720	1,289	s. d, 2 0	£ 2,105,800	£ 105,290	£ 13,705	£ 697
Alexandra ..	3,550	880	2 0	1,028,100	51,405	9,220	389
Arapiles ..	2,450	640	1 6	1,272,300	63,615	5,219	153
Ararat ..	6,040	1,690	1 6	4,318,700	215,935	18,874	641
Avoca ..	3,370	1,254	2 0	928,000	46,400	5,879	239
Avon ..	2,560	772	1 6	1,464,000	73,200	6,325	301
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,410	862	2 0	1,054,000	52,700	10,772	204
Bairnsdale ..	8,100	2,421	1 6	2,696,020	134,801	15,911	705
Ballan ..	3,190	1,223	1 6	1,118,880	55,944	5,542	236
Ballarat ..	4,030	1,200	1 6	1,240,560	62,028	5,883	286
Bannockburn ..	2,690	730	2 0	1,058,600	52,930	6,326	203
Barrabool ..	1,860	470	2 0	895,780	44,7-9	5,482	212
Beechworth ..	4,670	1,420	1 9	536,464	33,529	11,527	271

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SHIRES, 1925-26—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1924-25.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Belfast ..	2,610	672	2 0	1,601,020	80,051	9,201	£
Bellarine ..	4,160	2,000	1 9	1,307,000	65,350	6,726	240
Benalla ..	8,050	3,134	1 9	3,088,260	154,413	25,212	715
Berwick ..	9,540	3,640	2 0	2,756,260	137,813	17,977	495
Bet Bet ..	3,570	1,243	1 6	838,000	41,900	5,337	236
Birchtp ..	2,040	581	1 6	1,035,040	51,752	5,977	199
Blackburn and Mitcham ..	5,650	3,640	2 6	1,928,240	96,412	†	†
Borong ..	5,070	1,467	1 6	2,649,800	132,490	12,100	492
Braybrook ..	5,360	3,000	1 9	2,783,180	139,159	23,239	129
Bright ..	4,130	1,329	2 0	730,000	36,500	5,896	370
Broadford ..	1,370	380	1 9	498,840	24,942	3,246	148
Broadmeadows ..	4,030	10,422	1 9	2,213,580	110,679	14,136	251
Bulla ..	2,660	1,445	1 6	873,760	43,688	6,910	172
Buln Buln ..	6,830	1,600	2 6	1,452,680	72,634	11,717	616
Bungaree ..	3,220	760	2 0	710,900	35,545	4,687	395
Buninyong ..	5,100	1,646	1 9	1,302,040	65,102	6,985	296
Charlton ..	2,600	730	1 6	1,516,920	75,846	7,424	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	712	1 6	615,600	30,780	4,446	216
Cohuna ..	3,190	710	1 6	1,163,760	58,188	11,879	114
Colac ..	12,750	2,946	1 7	6,646,320	332,316	40,164	138
Corio ..	4,100	3,760	2 6	2,338,520	116,926	14,884	255
Cranbourne ..	6,000	1,930	2 6	2,407,900	120,395	14,838	342
Creswick ..	3,060	919	1 6	1,134,940	56,747	4,593	383
Dandenong ..	8,500	9,000	* 0 2½	2,500,000	125,000	32,051	209
Deakin ..	4,200	1,186	1 6	1,969,380	98,469	8,682	219
Dimboola ..	6,520	1,345	1 6	3,373,980	168,699	20,424	305
Donald ..	3,620	1,030	1 6	2,213,800	110,690	17,259	323
Doncaster and Templestowe ..	3,000	999	1 9	1,027,800	51,390	8,517	194
Dundas ..	3,670	1,269	1 9	2,937,920	146,896	13,280	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,800	1,200	1 6	2,885,740	144,287	19,104	612
East Loddon ..	1,840	460	1 6	1,588,000	79,400	7,054	271
Eltham ..	4,400	2,169	2 6	943,000	47,150	9,843	208
Euroa ..	4,030	1,140	2 0	1,422,160	71,108	10,623	321
Ferntree Gully ..	8,850	6,900	3 0	2,704,000	135,200	23,518	444
Flinders ..	4,920	5,500	1 9	1,518,820	75,941	12,848	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	5,100	4,213	3 0	1,869,360	93,468	31,992	213
Gisborne ..	2,450	1,050	1 9	805,200	40,260	5,576	168
Glenelg ..	5,580	1,644	2 0	3,115,600	155,780	17,059	591
Glenlyon ..	3,560	1,108	1 9	851,020	42,551	4,445	223
Gordon ..	3,310	880	1 6	1,895,520	94,776	9,003	365
Goulburn ..	2,260	630	1 0	771,380	38,569	4,464	172
Grenville ..	3,300	1,200	1 9	812,100	54,140	7,491	299
Hampden ..	11,120	2,390	2 6	6,601,480	330,074	49,996	370
Healesville ..	3,750	1,344	2 9	876,760	43,838	11,907	236
Heidelberg ..	22,300	15,000	2 0	6,798,880	339,944	110,187	245
Heytesbury ..	4,550	1,077	2 0	2,172,840	108,642	14,216	530
Huntly ..	3,190	810	1 6	1,254,120	62,706	6,322	198
Kara Kara ..	3,160	1,281	1 6	2,178,900	108,945	9,895	316
Karkaroc ..	5,700	1,500	1 6	3,136,320	156,816	17,332	469
Kellor ..	1,360	5,000	1 9	1,282,620	64,131	4,627	49
Kerang ..	8,700	2,100	1 6	3,756,580	187,829	32,4 7	330
Kilmore ..	1,810	540	2 0	273,970	27,397	5,023	136
Korong ..	5,030	1,565	1 6	2,028,280	101,414	9,292	321
Korumburra ..	7,500	2,000	2 0	2,676,000	133,800	18,571	982
Kowree ..	3,490	1,220	1 9	1,972,640	98,632	11,760	430
Kyneton ..	8,070	2,178	2 0	1,764,460	88,223	19,852	365
Lawliot ..	2,300	652	1 9	1,275,915	85,001	9,306	196
Leigh ..	1,570	520	1 6	1,046,800	52,340	5,132	272
Lexton ..	1,680	585	1 6	992,440	49,622	5,156	198
Lillydale ..	9,400	3,550	2 6	2,346,140	117,307	25,895	345
Lowan ..	3,800	1,300	2 3	2,048,000	102,400	16,793	296
Maffra ..	6,050	1,220	1 6	2,928,760	146,438	12,801	463
Maldon ..	3,170	1,085	1 6	702,000	35,100	3,940	185
Mansfield ..	4,100	1,340	2 0	1,715,520	85,776	11,544	542
Marong ..	5,930	1,400	2 0	2,040,620	102,031	11,649	454

* Levied on unimproved value of land.
† Revenue included with Nunawading Shire for 1924-25.

SHIRES, 1925-26—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1924-25.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Melton ..	1,470	436	1 9	1,077,040	53,852	6,069	145
Metcalfe ..	2,760	1,000	1 6	799,960	39,998	3,347	..
Mildura ..	8,600	2,450	2 0	2,530,500	126,525	16,664	184
Minhamite ..	2,000	723	2 0	1,848,260	92,413	12,993	321
Mirboo ..	1,630	428	3 0	682,460	34,123	5,711	355
Moorabbin ..	10,160	8,400	2 6	3,326,680	166,334	31,777	296
Mornington ..	2,560	1,695	2 0	1,177,140	58,857	12,096	114
Mortlake ..	3,050	853	1 9	3,577,280	178,864	15,868	346
Morwell ..	3,980	890	2 3	1,311,480	65,574	12,550	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,800	730	1 6	2,114,300	105,715	9,991	198
Mulgrave ..	3,950	2,370	2 6	1,475,920	73,796	9,741	221
McIvor ..	3,550	1,101	1 6	1,204,920	60,246	6,746	221
Narracan ..	7,120	1,370	2 0	2,174,640	108,732	13,957	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,250	680	2 0	640,000	32,000	6,872	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,710	886	1 6	538,560	26,928	2,788	166
Nunurkah ..	5,920	1,260	1 6	3,154,000	157,703	18,518	591
Nunawading ..	..	..	..	..	..	69,384	469
Omeo ..	2,510	804	2 3	898,380	44,919	7,678	836
Orbost ..	3,970	1,026	2 6	1,211,360	60,568	9,587	472
Otway ..	4,360	1,047	3 0	896,560	44,828	7,065	471
Oxley ..	4,030	1,028	1 9	1,439,000	71,950	8,134	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	5,530	1,481	2 6	1,585,400	79,270	12,246	545
Portland ..	5,460	2,020	1 6	2,265,380	113,269	10,461	494
Pyalong ..	760	275	1 6	584,280	29,214	1,761	113
Ripon ..	3,610	1,100	2 6	1,334,020	91,701	13,529	221
Rochester ..	6,450	1,676	1 6	2,981,800	149,090	14,718	246
Rodney ..	8,100	1,920	2 3	3,262,960	163,148	18,864	432
Romsey ..	3,300	850	2 0	1,251,820	62,591	7,362	320
Rosedale ..	4,620	1,220	* 0 1½	3,000,000	150,000	10,733	537
Rutherglen ..	4,100	974	1 9	1,022,000	51,100	7,645	257
Seymour ..	3,930	1,075	2 0	1,048,560	52,428	11,214	420
Shepparton ..	8,050	1,855	1 6	2,701,000	135,050	18,014	469
South Barwon ..	3,400	2,445	2 9	1,092,880	54,644	9,074	187
South Gippsland ..	4,790	1,176	2 3	1,387,300	69,365	8,547	517
Stawell ..	3,500	1,270	1 9	2,022,360	101,118	10,107	308
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,460	1,003	1 9	533,520	26,676	3,211	137
Swan Hill ..	12,350	3,922	1 6	5,554,860	277,743	31,405	272
Talbot ..	1,460	552	1 4	578,900	28,945	3,759	134
Tambo ..	4,330	1,156	2 9	1,116,360	55,818	7,730	513
Towong ..	4,480	1,200	1 9	1,808,000	90,400	20,548	578
Traralgon ..	3,480	716	2 3	1,346,380	67,319	12,056	441
Tullaroop ..	2,970	865	1 6	574,200	38,280	4,423	206
Tungamah ..	4,680	1,600	1 0	3,195,140	159,757	9,828	444
Upper Murray ..	2,340	515	1 9	1,060,360	53,018	6,073	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,700	1,376	2 6	785,800	39,290	6,312	221
Violet Town ..	1,950	652	1 9	761,100	38,055	3,686	221
Walpeup ..	5,760	1,650	1 6	2,505,540	125,277	11,480	300
Wangaratta ..	2,510	902	1 6	968,820	48,441	4,261	146
Wannon ..	3,150	1,060	1 6	2,433,560	121,678	13,014	426
Warraga ..	5,650	1,698	2 0	2,130,800	106,540	14,357	370
Warragul ..	5,150	1,291	2 6	1,906,300	95,315	16,219	885
Warrnambool ..	8,460	1,769	1 9	4,739,900	236,995	30,669	678
Werribee ..	5,550	6,000	2 3	2,647,740	132,387	17,808	296
Whittlesea ..	3,600	1,040	2 0	1,520,000	76,000	10,141	226
Wimmera ..	4,340	1,072	1 0	3,600,000	180,000	10,684	360
Winchelsea ..	4,470	1,618	2 0	1,866,920	93,346	14,022	413
Wodonga ..	2,880	644	1 9	737,420	36,871	4,889	169
Woorayl ..	6,160	1,600	2 9	2,163,000	108,150	15,669	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,330	1,256	1 6	3,056,660	152,833	14,376	328
Yackandandah ..	3,020	903	1 9	832,040	41,602	5,009	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,740	798	1 6	1,220,020	61,001	8,290	281
Yea ..	2,830	692	* 0 2½	1,203,854	61,435	8,762	377
Total ..	632,550	246,161	..	257,350,043	12,933,459	1,815,707	47,554

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
s. d.										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	12	9	5	4	3
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	3	1	..
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	1
1 6 ..	..	..	..	..	1	55	53	58	47	45
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	1
1 8 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	3	3	3	2	1	20	19	18	24	27
1 10 ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
1 11 ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 ..	6	7	4	3	4	19	26	27	31	30
2 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
2 2 ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 3 ..	7	6	8	6	6	6	7	6	7	7
2 4 ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
2 5 ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	23	21	18	15	18	12	9	11	13	14
2 7 ..	1	1	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	1	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	..	2	5	7	6	..	..	..	1	4
2 10 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
3 0 ..	..	1	2	3	4	..	..	1	4	4
Total ..	46	44	44	44	46	136	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1925-26 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 5d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 9d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 8d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only eight municipalities.

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

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

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1923 TO 1925.**

Sources of Revenue.	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Taxation —			
Rates	2,559,847	2,847,282	3,152,570
Licences	152,437	155,009	162,430
Dog Fees	24,832	26,211	27,836
Government Endowment and Grants	60,607	87,783	88,335
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ...	141,484	180,502	264,996
Market and Weighbridge Dues	99,337	97,494	111,548
Sanitary Charges	162,129	175,520	185,091
Rents	108,502	125,544	133,623
Electric Light and Gas Works	794,544	913,471	986,101
Other Sources	385,204	391,637	466,550
Total	4,488,923	5,000,753	5,579,080
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	340,319	359,493	381,815
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ...	396,524	433,220	457,885
Lighting	131,342	134,025	144,064
Contributions to Fire Brigades	49,225	55,412	58,250
Public Works—			
Construction	294,711	404,661	479,690
Maintenance	1,366,202	1,845,278	2,104,402
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ...	163,660	343,978	426,689
Electric Light and Gas Works	582,380	680,568	715,498
Redemption of Loans	165,675	180,987	211,152
Interest on Loans	343,164	386,946	457,669
Charities	26,288	28,550	30,187
Other Expenditure	356,199	393,545	433,154
Total	4,215,689	5,246,663	5,900,455

As compared with 1924, the revenue of 1925 increased by £578,327, as follows :—Rates increased by £305,288, licences by £7,421, sanitary charges by £9,571, rents by £8,079, dog fees by £1,625, electric light and gas works by £72,630, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £84,494, market and weighbridge dues by £13,754, Government endowment and grants by £552, and “other sources” by £74,913. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £653,792. All the items showed increases as under :—Salaries, £22,322; sanitary work and street cleansing, £24,665; lighting, £10,039; contributions to fire brigades boards, £2,838; public works construction, £75,029; public works maintenance, £259,124; electric light and gas works, £34,930; formation of private streets, &c., £82,711; redemption of loans, £30,165; interest on loans, £70,723; charities, £1,637; and other expenditure, £39,609,

Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1925 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from dog fees, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from rents, and 8 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1925 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £381,815, or about 7 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £30,187, 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.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1923 TO 1925.

Assets.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	202,251	231,623	282,495
Other Assets	730,603	1,098,843	1,390,966
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	455,766	500,214	496,522
Arrears Due	670	127	724
Unexpended Balances	526,622	501,858	495,980
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	3,470,951	3,956,760	4,254,220
Waterworks	255,737	264,630	258,890
Gasworks	145,874	174,660	176,330
Electric Light Works... ..	1,699,120	1,816,760	1,966,810
Total Assets	7,487,594	8,545,475	9,322,937
Liabilities.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	155,233	161,031	144,677
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ...	670	127	724
Overdue Interest	8,054	7,445	8,440
Bank Overdrafts	665,866	892,893	1,106,264
Other Liabilities	440,031	767,691	990,177
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	6,601,731	7,574,523	8,146,750
Due on Loan Contracts	380,839	237,695	256,794
Total Liabilities	8,252,424	9,641,405	10,653,826

**Municipal
assets and
liabilities
compared.**

The total of the assets of municipalities in 1925 was £9,322,937 and of the liabilities £10,653,826. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £2,250,282, against which there were assets amounting to £1,673,461.

The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £3,403,544, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £7,410,318. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£6,656,250), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £754,038.

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

**Endowment of
municipalities.**

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

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

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1925-26.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Collectible in 1926 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	8,715,574	2,702,740	577,074	0 7	2 9	78,830	31·01
Camberwell City ..	12,488,540	4,907,346	719,806	0 4*	2 3½	81,789	39·29
Carrum Borough ..	1,681,116	934,498	83,009	0 3†	2 9‡	11,681	55·59
Caulfield City ..	16,099,894	5,431,396	914,426	0 4‡	2 2‡	101,839	33·74
Coburg City ..	6,481,100	2,128,364	324,055	0 4½	2 5½	39,907	32·84
Essendon City ..	9,243,436	2,900,213	527,674	0 5	2 3½	60,421	31·38
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	1,986,516	598,539	101,227	0 5¼†	2 7	13,093	30·13
Oakleigh Town ..	2,059,687	928,394	133,715	0 4½	2 7¼	17,407	45·07
Portland Borough ..	574,562	237,796	30,494	0 4¼	2 9	4,211	41·39
Dandenong Shire ..	2,500,000	1,209,232	125,000	0 2½§	2 0¼	12,596	48·37
Rosedale Shire ..	3,000,000	1,506,000	150,000	0 1½||	1 0½	7,844	50·20
Yea Shire ..	1,203,854	603,263	61,435	0 2¼¶	2 0½	6,284	50·11

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—
 * 2s. 3¼d. on the net annual value of special rateable property.
 † ¼d. in the Centre and North Wards.
 ‡ 2. 7d. on the annual value of special rateable property.
 § 1½g. in the Centre Riding, and of ¼d. in the South Riding.
 || 3d. in the township of Rosedale.
 ¶ 4d. in the township of Yea.

these municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the ratings, &c., for the year 1925-26 :—

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.**ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.**

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

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

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

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

For year ended 30th June, 1923	..	..	813
do. do 1924	..	..	806
do. do. 1925	..	..	549
do. do. 1926	..	..	594

The position at 30th June, 1926, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	3,102
In course of erection	..	..	..	295
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	280

Total number of applications approved 3,677

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

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

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

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

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

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are building dwellings for

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

Up to 30th June, 1925, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 2,655 War Service Homes buildings, of which 2,454 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 119 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 25 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

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

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

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

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost

of permanent works. Additional sums were made available as follow :—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920-21 and 1921-22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; £1,000,000 (by Act No. 3334) over a period of three years from 1st July, 1923, and £822,000 over five years commencing on 1st July, 1925. A sinking fund of 1 per cent per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

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

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to

have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed, and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1924-25 constructional work to the value of £228,872, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £468,182 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1925, for permanent works was £3,161,783, and for developmental roads £3,119,168.

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

Registration of motors, &c. The rates of fees on registration or renewal of registration of motor cars, motor cycles, and traction engines are as follows:—The owners of motor cycles must pay an annual registration fee of £1; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s.; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight; of motor cars, 3s. to 5s. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

Developmental roads. Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000, £1,000,000 and £1,475,000 by Acts Nos. 3255, 3334 and 3425 respectively. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. An amount of £2,105 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £600,413 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1925.

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

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
							21,919	14	7							
To Balance, 30th June, 1924										By Maintenance	471,732	3	6			
„ Motor Car Act No. 2702—										<i>Less</i> Refunds	3,550	12	5	468,181	11	1
Registration Fees	387,217	1	1							„ Miscellaneous				178,844	9	3
Licence Fees	18,982	16	6							Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure				229,646	15	9
Fines	13,699	14	7							Advances under Act No. 3235, Item 4—						
	419,899	12	2							Tourist Vote	13,902	16	11			
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration	16,928	13	10	402,970	18	4				<i>Less</i> Refunds	28	9	9	13,874	7	2
„ Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1394—										„ Advances under Prov. 72 Mount Buffalo Road				2,289	14	0
Licence Fees	21,747	2	7							Advances under Prov. 72 Works for Relief of—						
<i>Less</i> Refunds and Costs of Administration	1,946	0	0	19,801	2	7				Unemployment	19,303	6	8			
„ Country Roads Act No. 2635—										<i>Less</i> Refunds	20	8	0	19,282	18	8
Registration of Traction Engines	1,561	2	0							„ Balance, 30th June, 1925				94,138	4	4
Width of Tyres Administration, Fines and Costs	82	8	0	1,643	10	0										
„ Municipalities Repayments—																
Permanent Works	82,930	10	7													
Maintenance Works	154,557	7	9	237,487	18	4										
„ Appropriation for Maintenance of Main Roads, Act No. 2986	50,000	0	0													
<i>Less</i> Amount Appropriated under Act 3379	20,000	0	0	30,000	0	0										
„ Hire of Plant	10,888	16	1													
„ Stores and Materials	18,340	5	0													
„ Sundries	6,734	8	11	35,963	10	0										
							727,866	19	3							
„ Advances to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works Expenditure refunded							222,176	11	3							
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Act 3235, Item 4, Tourist Vote refunded							13,137	11	10							
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Prov. 72, Mt. Buffalo Road refunded							2,132	0	0							
„ Advances under Pro. 72 for Relief of Unemployment refunded							19,025	8	4							
							£1,006,258	0	3					£1,006,258	0	3

Ordinary receipts and payments during 1924-25 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—
 The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1924-25 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—

Loan receipts and expenditure. The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1925, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Balance, 1st July, 1924 ..	1,064	5 6	By Permanent Works	229,646	15 9			
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	231,169	5 10	<i>Deduct</i> Refunds	774	11 3	228,872	4 6	
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	229,646	15 9	„ Temporary Advances from Country Roads Board Fund refunded ..			222,176	11 3	
„ Transfers ..	859	19 11	„ Public Account—Advance Account ..			44,448	10 3	
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1925 ..			17,243	1 0	
						<u>£512,740</u>	<u>7 0</u>	
	<u>£512,740</u>	<u>7 0</u>						

Developmental Roads Loan Account. The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1925, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985 and 3255 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT—

(ACTS Nos. 2944, 2985 AND 3255).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Proceeds of Loans ..	800,691	7 10	By Balance, 1st July, 1924 ..			39,571	3 3	
			„ Expenditure ..	603,701	13 4			
			<i>Less</i> Refunds	1,182	6 8			
						602,519	6 3	
			„ Public Account—Advances Account ..			121,976	10 10	
			„ Balance, 30th June, 1925 ..			35,624	7 1	
	<u>£800,691</u>	<u>7 10</u>				<u>£800,691</u>	<u>7 10</u>	

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1925 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1924-1925.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Balance, 30th June, 1924	714	10	0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c.	6,141	11	8	
Fees	3,123	4	6	Incidental Expenses	12,618	3	2	
Fines	7,805	3	4	Annual payment to municipalities	63,771	0	0	
Sale of confiscated liquor	62	18	0	Compensation	24,903	0	0	
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	36,190	1	6	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0	0
	Victuallers	279,536	13	6	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	218,333	19	0
	Temporary	4,481	2	0	Balance	£361,714	10	0
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	2,181	9	0	Deduct			
	Packet	128	14	0	Investments			
	Australian Wine	5,174	4	0	in Stock	341,000	0	0
	Billiard-table	5,909	10	0				
	Brewers	153	18	0				
	Vignerons	75	0	0				
	Club certificates	7,259	4	0				
Permits—Extra Bars	1,300	0	0					
„ Extended Hours	1,134	0	0					
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	7	10	0					
Interest	14,170	0	0					
Cost of taking Poll	75	0	0					
Sale of Rolls	0	2	0					
Total	£369,482	3	10	Total	£369,482	3	10	

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1924-25 a sum of £63,771 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

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

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1924-25.

	£
Paid to Cities	31,056
„ Towns	1,061
„ Boroughs	6,923
„ Shires—	
1st Class	228
2nd „	10,516
3rd „	9,196
4th „	743
5th „	3,132
6th „	1,209
Total	64,064
Add payments on account of 1923-24	316
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1924-25	609
Amount paid in 1924-25	£63,771

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1924-25 was £8,146,750, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows:—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1925.

	Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ...	935,728	5,625,227
Shires	160,109	1,425,686
Total	1,095,837	7,050,913

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

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1925.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	1,218,053	309,637	1,527,690
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	389,590	114,660	504,250
Expenditure during the year	1,233,779	302,181	1,535,960
Balance unexpended at the end of 1925 ...	373,864	122,116	495,980

Municipal loan expenditure, 1921 to 1925. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1925 amounted to £1,535,960, of which £1,233,779 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £302,181 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years:—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1921	572,851	504,016
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,858	885,303
1924	1,289,041	1,281,423
1925	1,527,690	1,535,960

Loans raised by municipalities, 1925. The loan receipts for the year 1924-25 amounted to £1,527,490, and the loan expenditure to £1,535,960. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1924-25 was £495,980—£373,864 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £122,116 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1925.

CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGH—	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1924.	1925.
		£	£	£	£
Ballarat	14,538	17,163	2,625
Bendigo	10,000	2,695	..	7,305
Brighton	31,000	45,042	31,475	17,433
Brunswick	16,000	26,203	23,248	13,045
Camberwell	40,000	25,845	17,397	31,552
Carrum	20,000	19,996	2,604	2,608
Castlemaine	1,653	3,018	1,365
Caulfield	40,800	31,031	21,443	31,212
Coburg	56,000	30,129	4,929	30,800
Collingwood	817	817
Daylesford	8,000	3,901	..	4,099
Essendon	20,000	15,721	1,565	5,844
Fitzroy	1	875	874
Footscray	46,331	66,808	20,477
Geelong	19,000	19,073	73	..
Geelong West	5,000	6,525	2,980	1,455
Hawthorn	27,061	36,580	9,519
Horsham	2,000	3,151	2,259	1,108
Kew	16,000	20,292	21,805	17,513
Malvern	20,000	7,565	4,156	16,591
Maryborough	365	365
Melbourne	616,546*	644,333	27,787	..
Mildura	10,000	10,331	973	642
Mordialloc	12,025	6,826	1,625	6,824
Northcote	58,750	36,729	1,342	23,363
Oakleigh	11,320	9,288	2,110	4,142
Portland	62	62
Port Melbourne	228	1,211	983
Prahran	11,830	23,302	11,472
Preston	25,000	24,860	842	982
Queenscliffe	3,000	246	125	2,879
Richmond	53,500	43,493	12,630	22,637
Sale	265	405	140
Sandringham	40,612	25,851	..	14,761
South Melbourne	15,000	10,986	9,430	13,444
St. Arnaud	14,000	13,170	2,440	3,270
St. Kilda	30,000	14,074	28,034	43,960
Stawell	4,101	4,310	209
Wangaratta	642	887	245
Warrnambool	12,500	12,636	858	722
Williamstown	12,000	15,855	8,913	5,058
Wonthaggi	1,282	2,744	1,462
Total	1,218,053	1,233,779	389,590	373,864

* Of this amount £72,636 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £19,832 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account. The amount of £174,078 due to Loan Account is also included.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1925—continued.

	Loans from Government.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1924.	1925.
SHIRES—		£	£	£	£
Alberton		1,550	7,658	8,944	2,836
Arapiles		2,600	2,600	..	..
Avoca		2,000	..	..	2,000
Bacchus Marsh		2,000	2,000	..	..
Benalla		3,000	3,000	..	..
Berwick		6,000	3,354	2,985	5,631
Borong .. .. .		..	140	140	..
Braybrook		3,000	3,000	48	48
Bright		1,500	524	128	1,104
Broadford		3,000	2,979	..	21
Chiltern		1,000	668	..	332
Cohuna .. .. .		..	4,054	4,054	..
Colac		14,000	14,064	216	152
Corio		12,250	10,044	2,541	4,747
Cranbourne		18,244	6,674	..	11,570
Dandenong		6,430	8,079	5,791	4,142
Dimboola		3,800	1,565	..	2,235
Donald		1,800	1,672	19	147
Dunmunkle .. .. .		..	1,102	1,102	..
Eltham		2,000	2,017	293	276
Euroa		800	3,353	3,500	947
Ferntree Gully		14,500	9,828	1,028	5,700
Frankston and Hastings		8,000	9,860	8,697	6,837
Gisborne		900	368	..	532
Glencelg .. .. .		..	9,167	9,167	..
Heidelberg		81,696	88,890	13,175	5,981
Heytesbury		3,000	3,000	..	..
Huntly .. .. .		..	..	930	930
Kara Kara .. .. .		..	1,846	3,272	1,426
Karkaroc		6,000	5,372	..	628
Keilor		200	150	..	50
Kerang		1,700	1,700	..	..
Kyneton		3,000	1,056	..	1,944
Lawloit		5,000	5,000	..	..
Leigh	189	..	189	..	..
Lillydale		6,500	3,898	673	3,275
Mansfield		5,500	4,726	..	774
Melton		3,000	1,095	200	2,105
Mildura		3,000	2,316	1,882	2,566
Moorabbin		25,000	8,683	478	16,795
Mornington .. .. .		..	1,164	1,278	114
Nunawading .. .. .		..	11,381	16,380	4,999
Phillip Island and Woolamai		9,500	966	..	8,534
Rochester .. .. .		..	31	804	773
Rodney .. .. .		..	530	1,796	1,266
Shepparton		2,985	3,880	2,847	1,952
South Barwon		2,500	2,593	348	255

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1925—*continued.*

	Loans from Government.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—		
				1924.	1925.	
SHIRES— <i>continued.</i>				£	£	£
Swan Hill	18,500	12,235	..	6,265	
Talbot	300	..	300	..	..
Tambo	588	588	..	
Traralgon	5,662	4,069	1,000	2,593	
Tungamah	28	28	
Upper Yarra	973	973	..	
Violet Town	4,000	3,648	..	352	
Walpeup	2,000	3,764	2,233	469	
Wangaratta	87	87	
Waranga	1,600	1,600	..	..
Warragul	5,000	3,144	..	1,856	
Werribee	9,776	16,401	6,625	
Whittlesea	22	239	217	
Winchelsea	395	395	..	
Woorayl	5,000	5,000	..	..
Yea	431	..	431	..	..
Total	920	308,717	302,181	114,660	122,116	

**MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS
REDEMPTION FUND.**

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1918, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act* 1915, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act* 1898, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain

other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans, the amounts of which were expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1925, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO
30TH JUNE, 1925.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1924-25.	To 30th June, 1925.		1924-25.	To 30th June, 1925.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1924 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,188
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured ..	45,398	497,923
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,949	370,763	Redeemable in instalments ..	7,602	69,045
Stock realized ..	4,100	90,748	Ordinary loans	1,316	96,625
Other receipts .. ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 ..	..	13,922
			Interest on debit balance of fund	2,733	7,165
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1925 ..	..	..
Total	57,049	1,288,811	Total	57,049	1,288,811

* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1925, was £177,131.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

City of Melbourne, revenue and expenditure under various heads. Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1925 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	391,444
Lighting	17,029
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	9,476
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees	60,123
Drays, Hackney Carriages, and Motors	365
Other Licences	1,067
Fees under Dog Act	595
Baths	6,660
Market and Weighbridge Fees	62,740
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c.	465,761
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges	11,375
Fines and Costs	5,283
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges	65,260
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	2,418
Other	7,259
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	2,202
Miscellaneous—	
Hydraulic Power	24,566
Desiccators—Sale of Manure	14,962
Fees under Building Act	4,118
Sundries	21,915
Total	1,174,618

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.)	£ 54,008
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	1,182
Street Cleansing, &c.	88,894
Lighting—Electric and Gas	16,962
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	12,376
Public Works—	
Roads and Bridges	192,346
Markets and Weighbridges	42,480
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	70,311
Parks and Planting trees in streets	50,344
Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995	2,258
Interest on Loans from the Public	154,992
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	21,082
Repayment of Public Loans	10,000
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	362,656
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	204

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>	Amount.
	£
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	336
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	3,440
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital	8,025
" " Heatherton Sanatorium	1,491
Law Costs	851
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	4,714
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	1,314
Hydraulic Power	17,337
Fees—Dog Act	669
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	4,707
Libraries	425
Town Planning Commission	608
Band Performances	1,440
Milk Supply	790
Ceremonials	887
Ambulance Service	500
Soldiers' Memorial	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution	3,421
Retiring Allowance to Employees	2,290
Visit of American Fleet	3,465
Sundries	9,963
Total	1,153,268

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1925, about 35 per cent. was derived from rates, 40 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 6 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—5 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 8 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 14 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 31 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 7 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

**Municipal
Officers'
Guarantee
Fund.**

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

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

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any Waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1925, amounting to £265,715, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £878. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1925, was £13,662. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1925, amounted to £2,717.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, which was established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent thereto, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in Commissioners.

On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. For seventeen commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there were substituted five commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Of the commissioners other than the chairman, one must be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, and one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one must be identified

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1925, was £2,964,288. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1921 TO 1925.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	415,737	510,240	600,161	630,992	632,018
Rents	37,445	37,449	39,725	36,391	35,804
Interest	43	80	328	669	285
Other Revenue	45,148	50,836	46,194	56,391	64,363
	498,373	598,605	686,408	724,443	732,470
<i>Less</i> Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	96,224	114,986	135,520	140,382	136,494
Total	402,149	483,619	550,888	584,061	595,976
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	36,882	40,502	35,175	42,484	37,527
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	30,140	35	750	5	10
Maintenance—Dredging	78,689	90,129	39,774	74,564	96,759
" Harbor	3,814	3,183	4,613	4,478	4,027
" Wharfs	23,383	21,475	25,725	32,978	45,555
" Approaches	14,526	11,264	15,345	18,214	20,269
Interest on Loans*	104,342	131,516	112,659	119,526	151,891
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	65,000	100,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Total	356,776	398,104	447,041	505,249	569,038
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	45,373	85,515	103,847	78,812	26,938
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	2,431	11,906	33,407	560	37,699
Deepening Waterways	81,699	98,331	150,885	137,488	145,808
Wharfs Construction	79,206	45,613	67,360	194,318	285,072
Approaches Construction	1,565	9,084	7,519	25,433	46,130
Other Harbor Improvements	14,099	25,311	8,204	23,826	18,631
Floating Plant	2,957	1,708	632	3,192	97,354
General Plant	1,131	925	2,025	3,429	2,718
Total	183,118	192,878	270,032	388,296	633,412

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	£ 17,415	£ 21,737	£ 26,387	£ 30,571	£ 40,137
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	4,189	4,363	4,563	5,487	5,589
Sparrovale Farm ..	8,789	7,852	8,952	6,799	4,880
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	15,042	16,752	15,754	15,475	15,766
Other Revenue	4,200	3,530	3,024	3,024	19,958
Total	49,635	54,234	58,680	61,356	86,330
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	7,909	7,856	8,362	6,368	6,239
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	2,733	2,325	4,311	3,282	4,518
" Harbor ..	874	505	669	530	824
" Floating Plant ..	467	710	405	987	650
" Other	1,213	925	1,421	1,649	2,386
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	25,501	25,087	27,849	27,755	27,756
Sparrovale Farm	6,507	5,768	6,601	5,324	4,797
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	3,451	3,240	3,361	4,599	7,969
Corio Quay Power-house ..	3,755	4,377	2,332	888	..
Miscellaneous	1,194	1,274	754	933	1,888
Total	53,604	52,067	56,065	52,315	57,027
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	5,707	8,541	7,915	10,056	2,209
Deepening Waterworks .. ..	..	..	341	14,991	20,587
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	135	115	10	95	3,283
Other Harbor Improvements .. ..	..	..	..	746	810
Floating and General Plant .. ..	..	..	14	11	..
Total	5,842	8,656	8,280	25,899	26,889

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Creation and constitution of Board.

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

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

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

Functions of the Board.

The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage; to provide for the commerce and recreation of the inhabitants of the metropolis in so far as the vesting powers of the Board's principal Act, together with the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act 1923*, relate to the bed, soil and banks of the River Yarra; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and certain other rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and for other purposes. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called-for and pressing want.

Area under Board's control, and population.

Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1925, comprised 21 cities, 2 towns, and part of another, also 1 borough and parts of 13 shires, or 38 municipalities in all. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are

included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1925, was 972,560.

Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans.

The Board is authorized to borrow £14,250,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs.

These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891. Under the Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act, No. 3284, it is empowered to borrow £500,000 for works carried out in accordance with that Act, which is included in the sum of £14,250,000 above mentioned.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £15,584,650 on 30th June, 1925. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £1,055,284 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

Water supply assessments and rates.

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1924-25 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

Water meters.

Water meters may be hired from the Board at the following annual rentals, payable quarterly in advance:—

For a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. meter, 5s.; $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., 6s.; 1-in., 8s.; $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in., 10s. 6d.; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in., 14s.

Garden rate.

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

Assessed value of property.

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £14,176,872 in 1924-25, and £15,455,814 in 1925-26.

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £579,502, as against £524,165 in the previous year. The cost in 1924-25 of maintenance and management was £97,992, and the amount of interest was £294,845, the total charge being £392,837, as compared with a payment in 1923-24 of £86,853 for maintenance and management, and of £247,883 for interest, or a total charge of £334,736.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1925, was as follows:—

Original water supply station, &c.	works	tank	pumping	£
..	..	..	..	84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	636,601
Maroondah system	..	..	..	1,238,168
O'Shanassy system	..	..	..	870,034
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	353,453
Large mains..	..	..	..	1,359,311
Reticulation	..	..	..	1,961,814
Total	..	..	..	£6,504,316

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

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

Total area.

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

Total daily supply.

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

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yeau
system.**

The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ 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 1925 was 26 ft. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on 20th September, and the minimum depth, 21 ft. 9 in. on 31st December. 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, 1925, the total intake of the Reservoir was 4,507,348,000 gallons, and the total output was 5,243,740,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

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

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy
and
Upper Yarra
watershed.** The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line, of an aggregate length of 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir, near Mount Dandenong, is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1925.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1925 was as follows :—

Output of Water.	Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	5,243,740,000
„ Maroondah Streams	9,351,038,000
„ O'Shanassy River	5,719,667,000
Total Output	20,314,445,000

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

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1925 was 954,558, and the average daily consumption was 58.28 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1925 :—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1925.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	1,881,351,000	60,688,742
February	1,742,158,000	62,219,929
March	2,003,327,000	64,623,452
April	1,664,877,000	55,495,900
May	1,410,303,000	45,493,645
June	1,261,116,000	42,037,200
July	1,352,055,000	43,614,677
August	1,382,370,000	44,592,581
September	1,414,975,000	47,165,833
October	1,854,939,000	59,836,742
November	2,015,479,000	67,182,633
December	2,323,095,000	74,938,548
Total for the year ..	20,306,045,000	...
Daily average for the year .. ..	.. ..	55,633,000

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1925 occurred on 14th December and the minimum daily consumption on 24th May of that year. The consumption was 96,031,000 gallons on the former and 32,928,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1916 TO 1925.

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1916 ...	687,571	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	700,321	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	716,521	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	731,154	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	755,536	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45
1924 ...	918,485	207,333	182,987	50,187,508	54·64
1925 ...	954,558	215,476	191,318	55,633,000	58·28

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 8,143 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1925.

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 1925-26 was £15,632,760, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1924-25 was 9d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 9d. rate was £12,783,686 in 1924-25.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1924-25 amounted to £497,783.

The sewerage revenue for 1924-25 was £537,657, as against £480,748 in the previous year. The outlay in 1924-25 for management, working expenses and repairs was £129,050, and for interest £485,027, the total charges being £614,077, compared with an outlay in 1923-24 of £119,571 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £451,168 for interest, or a total expenditure of £570,739.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system. The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1925, was £9,589,073, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£695,727
Rising Mains and outfall sewer	448,821
Pumping station buildings and engines	282,718
Main and branch sewers	2,362,313
Street reticulation	2,979,720
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,400,210
House connexions branches	609,109
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	551,606
Night soil depots	34,631
<hr/>	
Cost of sewerage system	£9,364,855
Householders' debts for house connexions	216,239
River improvements	7,979
<hr/>	
Total	£9,589,073

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

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

On 31st December, 1925, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon.

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

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

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1925, work has progressed more particularly in Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg,

Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg and Sandringham, also in Maivern, Moorabbin, Northcote, Oakleigh, Prahran, Preston and Williamstown.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Five Mile Creek Branch Section 3 has been constructed in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 438, Essendon and Keilor; Golf Links Branch Section 2 has been constructed in conjunction with Reticulation Area No. 421, Camberwell; the Camberwell South Branch Sections 2 and 3, Camberwell; Gardiner's Creek Main Section 3, Malvern; Scotchman's Creek Main Section 1, Malvern and Oakleigh; North-road Relieving Sewer, Brighton; Elster Creek Branch, Brighton and Moorabbin; Essendon West Branch, Essendon; Kilby-road Intercepting Sewer Section 2, Kew; Moreland-road Branch Section 4, Coburg, and Williamstown Main Section 6, Williamstown, have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas in the respective municipalities mentioned.

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

Work in progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Kilby-road Branch Intercepting Sewer Section 1, Kew; Deepdene Branch, Kew and Camberwell; and Well-street Branch, Section 3, Brighton and Sandringham, are now in course of construction. *Reticulation contracts* are now being carried out in Camberwell, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, and Oakleigh; while contract and day labour reticulation extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Prahran (Glen Bervie Estate), Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Footscray, Hawthorn, Kew, Northcote, Sandringham, and Williamstown.

In all 1,759 miles $3\frac{1}{2}$ chains of reticulation and 184 miles $54\frac{1}{2}$ chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of 1,943 miles 58 chains.

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

Number of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st Decr., 1925.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1925, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 193,720, including 403 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1924-25, 7,666 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,331 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1925 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE PROVIDED ON 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1925.
Melbourne City	27,331
South Melbourne City	10,907
Prahran City	12,641
Fitzroy City	8,101
Richmond City	10,458
St. Kilda City	9,260
Collingwood City	8,672
Footscray City	8,101
Hawthorn City	7,793
Brunswick City	11,626
Essendon City	9,436
Malvern City	9,293
Caulfield City	13,174
Northcote City	8,980
Camberwell City	6,238
Brighton City	6,054
Port Melbourne City	3,074
Williamstown City	4,467
Kew City	4,265
Coburg City	3,910
Sandringham City	2,290
Oakleigh Town	1,120
Preston Town	3,246
Box Hill Borough	388
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	2,895
Total	193,720

In addition to the above, the total area comprises part of a town and parts of twelve shires, in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

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

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid débris and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are 1½ inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes.

Pumping station.

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

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 13,602 acres 2 roods and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ perches (21 $\frac{1}{4}$ square miles) of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall for the past 32 years to 31st December, 1925, of 17·94 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about 6 miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road, the land gradually sloping from the north, and the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37·25 feet above low-water mark. To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping.

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

about half-an acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main carriers and drains which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south through the farm. Each of the hundreds of paddocks on the farm is supplied with water drawn from a main laid from Melbourne, which also feeds a storage reservoir, recently constructed, of 2,600,000 gallons capacity, to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

The area under irrigation in the year 1924-25 included 220 acres of lucerne which were cut for hay, and yielded approximately 640 tons or about 2.91 tons to the acre, and 7,864 acres of irrigated pasture mainly used for grazing. The total area available for grazing live stock including unirrigated land, &c., was 9,156 acres.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1924-25 were— from sheep, profit £11,004; from cattle, profit £15,385. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £3,807.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1925:—Maize, £2,206.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1924-25, or as at 30th June, 1925, are as follows:—

Total area of farm	13,603 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1924-25 = in gallons	36,846,795
= 135.73 acre-feet per day = 5.330 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 9,294 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1925 ..	£695,727
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..	£21,688
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,803 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £34,471, interest on capital cost)	£30,586
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	5.42d.
Population served by sewerage system	847,538
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1925 ..	16.02 inches
" " " 31st December, 1925 ..	11.67 "
Average rainfall for 32 years to 31st December, 1925	17.94 "

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

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

Water Supply.—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about 4½ miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate 4½ miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

Finance.—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £311,278 as at 31st December, 1925. The annual revenue is £32,000.

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

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, and progress has been made with branch and reticulation sewers and with the treatment or disposal works. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The method of disposal of sewage is by sedimentation, oxidation and sludge digestion. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, the latter being 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the former is about 2 1-10th miles long. Branch and reticulation sewers have been constructed to the extent of 10 miles. Thirteen sewered areas have been declared, comprising 1,563 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from financial institutions, £160,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1925, for constructional works, and £50,000 for house connexions.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923, 3d. in the £; 1924–25–26, 6d. in the £ on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district. The rate of 1s. 6d. in the £ in respect of sewered properties connected on the 1st July, 1926.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

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

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

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £610,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £220,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1925, was :—Water supply, £508,629 ; sewerage, £482,133 ; and sewerage installation, £182,894. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £45,729 on account of waterworks and £37,928 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 38,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 10,000 ; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 9,200 ; and the number connected with the sewers, 8,657.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the Year-Book for 1920-21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs and service basins, is 2,725,570,960 gallons.

Sewerage.—The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles from Geelong. The drainage area is 9,351 acres and includes the city of Geelong, the town of Geelong West, the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

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

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.
- (b) An additional rate of 2d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 2d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

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

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. E. M. Vains, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at 5½ per cent. Owing to an extension of the sewered area, and an increase in the cost of labour and materials, it was found necessary during the year 1924 to borrow an additional amount of £50,000 from the Commonwealth Bank at 6½ per cent. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 12th February, 1926, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial years ending 30th September, 1925 and 1926, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 12th February, 1926.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer has been completed to the end of sewerage area No. 1, a length of 1½ miles. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 28 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 3,000 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1926, 1759 houses had been connected, while 184 others were in course of being sewered.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom, and 4½ miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 2s. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 quarterly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., and a further advance of £35,000 at 6½

per cent. were arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £300,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

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

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

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

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1926, had under its control the following:—Forty stations, 281 members of permanent staff, 72 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 45 men engaged in the workshops, 16 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 175 partially paid firemen, 1 steam motor fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage wagons, 18 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 25 motor hose wagons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 4 pompier ladders, 9 inspection cars, 102,174 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 445 fire alarm circuits having 1,350 street fire alarms, of which 1,331 were with telephones. There were also 1,149 auxiliary boxes and 113 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 194 direct telephone lines, 64 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 117 watchmen's clock systems.

During 1925-26 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £197,475, one-third being contributed by each of the con-

tributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to 825d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £15,322,522, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 8s. 8d. 6d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1924 amounted to £969,405, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1925-26 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £52,680.

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £25,133, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £7,927; (b) municipalities, £8,801; (c) insurance companies, £7,927; and (d) other sources, £478. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £23,684. There are 114 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1924 amounted to £316,205. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1924 was £2,580,078. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 143 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,516. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

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

Water Supply. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1925, the Board had fixed to its 257 miles $35\frac{1}{4}$ chains of leading mains and 1,709 miles 38 chains of reticulation mains, 5,804 pillar hydrants, 30 Tregear patent

hydrants, and 16,804 ball fire plugs (viz., 16,783 Bateman and Moore, of which 3,356 are with spring, and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 22,638. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

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

Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1925, are as follows:—

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

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.*	1925.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Government, Municipal, and Insurance ...	137,626	148,139	144,587	148,576	175,064
Receipts for Services ...	10,808	12,300	14,028	16,486	20,138
Interest and Sundries ...	12,059	13,751	9,778	9,881	12,120
Total ...	160,493	174,190	168,393	174,943	207,322
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	101,392	106,046	103,416	105,749	130,723
Fire Expenses ...	3,834	4,022	4,205	2,196	4,133
Administrative Charges, &c.	28,844	25,403	29,699	28,433	32,282
Plant—Purchase and Repairs ...	9,653	8,255	9,394	17,383	16,950
Interest ...	9,595	9,213	7,468	7,746	7,753
Repayment of Loans ...	4,666	12,052	2,959	3,115	3,946
Firemen's Accident Fund	250	250	...	...	...
Superannuation Fund ...	..	..	4,684	3,900	4,880
Miscellaneous ...	3,732	11,143	7,737	3,095	4,230
Total ...	161,966	176,384	169,562	171,617	204,897
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	23,782	25,205	1,443	1,201	19,047

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