

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Legislation. A statement of the provisions of the laws relating to local government appeared in the *Year Book* for 1928-29 on pages 127 to 131.

Building Permits issued. According to building permits issued by municipal councils in the metropolitan area there was a serious and increasing decline in the number and value of building operations during the three years ended 30th September, 1931. A comparison with the year 1928 shows that the value of dwellings for which building permits were issued decreased by 19 per cent. in 1929, by 59 per cent. in 1930, and by 93 per cent. in 1931.

The value of other buildings for which permission to erect was given increased by 27 per cent. in 1929 compared with 1928, but decreased in each of the years 1930 and 1931 by 38 per cent. and 77 per cent. respectively.

The severity of the economic depression on the building industry is made evident by the above comparisons. Notwithstanding that wages in the building trades have been reduced, and prices of building materials have fallen, there does not appear to be any indication of an early improvement in the condition of the industry.

In the following statement is shown the value of building permits issued for dwellings and other buildings by each municipality in Greater Melbourne during each of the four years ended on 30th September in 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931:—

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED FOR NEW BUILDINGS IN GREATER MELBOURNE DURING THE YEARS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1928 TO 1931.

Name of City.	Dwellings.				Other Buildings.			
	Year ended 30th September.				Year ended 30th September.			
	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Box Hill ..	155,684	134,746	57,763	8,115	5,676	16,168	7,924	2,191
Brighton ..	250,373	270,516	105,919	13,584	13,692	17,770	15,507	4,542
Erunswick ..	179,140	110,990	86,200	5,600	49,630	79,130	53,830	14,357
Camberwell ..	735,920	671,259	331,591	47,956	53,759	68,968	24,118	19,568
Caulfield ..	424,521	390,200	145,657	30,095	51,260	27,792	41,969	19,540
Coburg ..	442,490	253,070	106,735	11,700	26,170	46,880	41,260	15,235
Collingwood ..	17,921	5,350	8,420	..	79,365	38,231	81,497	11,486
Essendon ..	211,810	141,400	75,528	6,100	6,950	27,190	18,322	8,759
Fitzroy ..	8,015	9,260	3,680	2,480	57,641	15,480	8,580	17,233
Footscray ..	165,827	138,079	59,322	6,900	63,135	49,251	45,478	5,041
Hawthorn ..	165,600	114,345	84,705	12,769	19,035	54,615	12,355	7,665
Kew ..	235,466	147,791	104,469	10,735	41,885	18,625	14,363	21,238
Malvern ..	281,239	281,743	151,227	38,222	8,939	11,478	10,425	5,206
Melbourne ..	59,852	61,845	7,489	4,163	782,384	1,155,626	423,991	156,986
Northcote ..	74,743	79,693	38,730	2,180	47,142	44,330	19,625	2,862
Oakleigh ..	105,465	72,512	40,279	1,440	33,779	32,270	5,720	5,269
Port Melbourne ..	41,050	47,250	27,050	700	2,200	2,680	11,090	635
Prahran ..	194,270	155,115	87,755	62,200	16,013	46,237	6,961	13,845
Preston ..	356,083	239,485	117,390	6,975	10,369	4,548	5,385	1,693
Richmond ..	24,025	22,951	12,775	4,595	36,740	62,202	57,263	3,982
Sandringham ..	151,552	120,509	77,533	11,600	29,234	13,815	12,412	7,287
South Melbourne ..	13,595	21,700	13,487	2,600	69,385	90,668	21,304	6,555
St. Kilda ..	149,175	149,460	88,121	23,900	12,612	31,715	9,329	2,882
Williamstown ..	152,785	91,455	40,915	3,450	30,490	15,949	10,240	3,839
Total ..	4,596,601	3,780,724	1,872,740	318,059	1,547,485	1,971,618	958,948	357,896
Total number of permits issued ..	4,959	3,814	1,898	277	3,257	3,002	2,611	1,647

NOTE.—Permits were also issued during the four years mentioned above for Alterations and Additions to Existing Buildings. The number (in brackets) and value of these were as follows:— 1928 (2,957), £865,572; 1929 (2,927), £994,342; 1930 (2,676), £725,129; and 1931 (1,840), £339,436.

The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1930 was 196. Of these, 31 ranked as cities, 4 as towns, 21 as boroughs, and the remainder (140) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated number of

Municipalities :
1925-26 to
1929-30.

ratepayers, the estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), the number of houses built, the total and annual value of rateable property, and the annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years 1925-26 to 1929-30:—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1925-26 TO 1929-30.

Year.	Number of Rate-payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Houses built during the year.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
		In-habited.	Uninhabited.		Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—							
1925-26 ..	319,568	252,611	1,917	8,041	339,221,826	19,020,312	4,191,063
1926-27 ..	326,412	260,648	2,460	7,180	362,432,238	20,220,172	4,495,764
1927-28 ..	333,364	265,376	3,580	6,063	373,880,729	20,984,591	4,689,716
1928-29 ..	336,756	269,783	6,097	4,961	385,884,089	21,493,990	4,847,572
1929-30 ..	335,892	268,684	8,280	2,536	382,243,226	21,248,548	4,860,697
Shires—							
1925-26 ..	254,403	151,568	1,730	3,285	267,100,576	13,426,424	1,921,483
1926-27 ..	265,265	153,537	1,852	3,043	274,314,322	13,780,690	2,086,507
1927-28 ..	270,176	156,681	1,777	3,008	288,008,585	14,447,193	2,155,651
1928-29 ..	275,065	158,694	2,207	2,273	294,765,524	14,792,565	2,235,205
1929-30 ..	271,586	159,159	2,691	1,493	294,447,615	14,784,365	2,208,996
Total—							
1925-26 ..	573,971	404,179	3,647	11,326	606,322,402	32,446,736	6,112,546
1926-27 ..	591,677	414,185	4,312	10,223	636,746,560	34,000,862	6,582,271
1927-28 ..	603,540	422,057	5,357	9,071	661,889,314	35,431,784	6,845,367
1928-29 ..	611,821	428,477	8,304	7,234	680,649,613	36,286,555	7,082,777
1929-30 ..	607,478	427,843	10,971	4,029	676,690,841	36,032,913	7,069,693

The number of ratepayers returned for 1929-30 was 607,478, and the total capital value of rateable property £676,690,841, which, on the basis of the annual value of £36,032,913, is equivalent to about 18·8 years' purchase.

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:—

Properties rated in municipalities.

**NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES,
1925-26 TO 1929-30.**

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1925-26	374,095	353,632	727,727
1926-27	384,298	379,812	764,110
1927-28	389,122	388,740	777,862
1928-29	393,622	391,488	785,110
1929-30	395,131	393,196	788,327

The following is a statement of the number of ratepayers, the total and annual value of rateable property, the annual endowment payable by the Government, the total revenue, and the amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1929-30.

Name	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.	Annual Endowment payable by the Govern-ment.
			Total.	Annual.		
GREATER MELBOURNE.						
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Box Hill	7,888	2 8	4,929,360	246,468	81,087	..
Brighton	7,388	2 6	11,044,920	552,246	86,276	..
Brunswick	11,524	0 7*	10,447,970	687,119	201,835	..
Camberwell	19,490	0 4½*	16,849,478	905,307	242,734	..
Caulfield	19,752	0 4*	19,451,704	1,032,068	141,412	..
Chelsea	5,680	0 3½*	2,061,201	102,061	36,184	..
Coburg	12,150	0 5*	8,927,920	446,396	144,380	..
Collingwood	7,630	2 3	9,880,180	494,009	70,118	..
Essendon	12,717	0 5½*	11,077,615	675,793	122,673	..
Fitzroy	7,538	2 1	7,688,730	512,582	67,641	..
Footscray	13,147	2 6	12,914,220	645,711	209,953	..
Hawthorn	8,764	2 4	11,020,140	596,457	98,522	..
Kew	6,660	2 6	6,413,265	427,551	66,054	..
Malvern	12,600	2 6	17,712,720	885,636	135,059	..
Melbourne	31,724	2 0	102,884,020	5,144,201	1,444,414	..
Mordialloc	4,443	0 4*	2,829,396	149,213	49,160	..
Northcote	11,091	2 9	9,714,100	485,705	163,604	..
Oakleigh	4,144	0 5*	3,009,659	177,578	35,039	..
Port Melbourne	2,995	2 6	2,186,050	174,884	52,450	..
Prahran	13,000	1 9	14,260,080	1,188,340	147,378	..
Preston	18,400	2 6	7,429,620	371,481	100,468	..
Richmond	8,697	2 7	8,695,140	579,676	92,545	..
Sandringham	9,250	0 4*	5,231,822	337,920	69,929	..
South Melbourne	9,865	2 6	17,280,000	864,000	142,784	..
St. Kilda	11,037	2 0	12,507,564	1,042,297	122,835	..
Williamstown	5,865	2 6	5,096,020	254,801	128,043	..
Total	283,439	..	342,451,894	18,959,500	4,253,086	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1929-30—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
			Total.	Annual.		
OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE.						
CITIES.						
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Ballarat	9,023	2 9	6,003,900	400,260	86,678	..
Bendigo	6,656	2 6	4,299,645	236,643	63,154	..
Geelong	4,942	2 9	6,262,760	313,138	58,143	..
Geelong West	3,730	2 9	2,691,340	134,567	28,557	..
Warrnambool	1,799	2 6	1,828,129	107,537	48,609	..
TOWNS.						
Hamilton	1,400	2 6	1,383,360	69,168	15,997	..
Mildura	1,312	2 11	1,446,140	72,307	40,802	..
Newtown and Chilwell	2,380	0 5*	2,448,432	123,984	20,210	..
Sale	1,101	2 0	1,078,560	53,928	11,980	..
BOROUGHES.						
Ararat	1,040	2 9	800,000	40,000	25,871	25
Castlemaine	1,387	3 0	946,420	47,321	12,178	25
Clunes	840	1 9	75,887	10,841	4,012	37
Creswick	539	1 9	76,110	7,611	2,631	37
Daylesford	927	3 0	606,060	30,303	7,270	25
Eaglehawk	1,321	2 6	333,195	22,213	10,472	25
Echuca	1,032	2 9	1,050,820	52,541	11,284	25
Horsham	1,510	2 6	1,068,750	71,250	23,963	50
Inglewood	290	2 0	87,480	7,290	4,548	25
Koroit	380	2 6	443,960	22,198	4,510	25
Maryborough	1,264	3 0	420,000	42,000	19,431	25
Port Fairy	516	2 8	462,740	23,137	7,036	25
Portland	1,117	0 4½*	675,594	38,318	9,652	25
Queenscliffe	730	3 0	508,540	25,427	5,813	50
Ringwood	2,040	2 4	1,219,200	60,960	15,172	50
Sebastopol	498	2 9	207,240	10,362	2,891	40
Shepparton	900	3 0	1,359,060	67,953	15,993	..
St. Arnaud	857	3 0	316,470	31,647	11,016	25
Stawell	1,010	2 9	313,740	31,374	19,028	25
Wangaratta	1,045	3 0	901,400	45,070	10,716	25
Wonthaggi	1,387	3 0	476,400	39,700	9,994	46
Total	52,453	..	39,791,332	2,289,048	607,611	635

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Shires,
1929-30.

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

SHIRES, 1929-30.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
			Total.	Annual.		
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Alberton	1,387	2 6	2,364,780	118,239	20,439	697
Alexandra	874	2 0	1,271,600	63,580	9,751	380
Arapiles	656	1 6	1,139,500	56,975	5,898	153
Ararat	1,759	1 9	4,410,660	220,533	27,714	638
Avoca	1,800	2 0	1,081,280	54,064	6,614	239
Avon	859	1 9	1,504,000	75,200	8,254	301
Bacchus Marsh	854	1 9	1,475,200	73,760	13,318	204
Bairnsdale	2,440	1 9	3,004,320	150,216	19,071	705
Ballan	1,050	2 0	1,303,160	65,158	7,940	286
Ballarat	1,200	2 0	1,309,740	65,487	9,041	256
Bannockburn	735	2 0	1,170,660	58,533	6,982	203
Barrabool	810	2 0	1,194,600	59,730	7,592	228
Bass	2,170	3 0	1,458,000	72,900	17,228	452
Beechworth	1,408	2 0	606,960	37,935	13,702	271
Belfast	686	2 0	1,690,820	84,541	10,357	323
Bellarine	2,038	2 0	1,398,420	69,921	8,147	240
Benalla	2,672	2 0	3,540,860	177,043	26,104	715
Berwick	3,725	2 3	3,405,080	170,254	24,607	495
Bet Bet	1,240	1 6	864,160	43,208	6,080	236
Birchip	520	1 6	1,324,680	66,234	4,784	199
Blackburn and Mitcham	3,423	2 10	2,453,640	122,682	25,553	329
Borung	1,688	1 6	3,826,040	191,302	17,010	492
Braybrook	9,750	2 0	3,985,720	199,286	35,265	129
Bright	1,321	2 6	781,360	39,068	6,367	370
Broadford	473	1 6	530,220	26,511	4,045	148
Broadmeadows	14,893	1 9	2,857,300	142,865	30,804	251
Bulla	462	2 0	870,340	43,517	5,693	172
Buln Buln	1,628	2 9	1,691,680	84,584	15,737	616
Bungaree	907	2 0	880,900	44,045	7,649	395
Buninyong	1,638	1 9	1,468,200	73,410	8,534	296
Charlton	820	1 8	1,955,700	97,785	9,120	271
Chiltern	624	1 6	688,860	34,443	4,285	216
Cohuna	714	1 6	1,253,600	62,680	9,414	114
Colac	3,132	1 7	6,643,080	332,154	42,972	138
Corio	5,580	2 6	2,751,780	137,589	27,652	241
Cranbourne	2,000	2 6	2,688,580	134,429	19,202	342
Creswick	847	1 6	1,213,940	60,697	7,534	383
Dandenong	9,150	0 2½*	3,001,900	150,095	30,806	209
Deakin	1,199	1 6	1,936,660	96,833	8,397	219
Dimboola	1,560	1 6	3,579,500	178,975	19,397	305
Donald	998	1 9	2,375,980	118,709	13,653	323
Doncaster and Templestowe	1,820	2 3	1,306,500	65,325	13,004	194
Dundas	1,339	2 0	3,029,220	151,461	16,164	517
Dunmunkle	1,160	1 6	3,221,980	161,099	21,010	612
East Loddon	485	1 3	1,569,940	78,497	6,128	271
Eltham	2,550	2 6	1,295,740	64,787	15,822	208
Euroa	1,160	1 9	1,780,040	89,002	10,026	321
Ferntree Gully	6,500	3 0	3,176,820	158,841	33,240	444
Flanders	5,500	1 9	2,100,420	105,021	20,443	128
Frankston and Hastings	4,752	3 0	2,348,600	117,430	31,894	213
Gisborne	901	2 0	853,820	42,691	7,174	168
Glencig	1,800	1 9	3,115,800	155,790	20,025	591
Glenlyon	1,466	1 9	1,025,780	51,289	6,476	223
Gordon	921	1 3	2,068,060	103,403	9,458	365
Goulburn	625	1 6	1,136,420	56,821	7,291	172
Grenville	1,210	1 9	963,720	64,248	7,359	299
Hampden	2,409	2 6	6,604,800	330,240	52,933	370

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1929-30—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
			Total.	Annual.		
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Healesville	1,150	3 0	906,200	45,310	14,124	382
Heidelberg	13,662	2 6	8,468,640	423,432	165,417	245
Heytesbury	1,136	2 4	2,358,400	117,920	16,322	530
Huntly	1,091	1 6	1,263,960	63,198	5,886	198
Kara Kara	1,034	1 9	2,594,780	129,739	13,649	316
Karkaroc	1,330	1 6	4,669,720	233,486	17,223	469
Kellor	6,569	1 9	1,724,880	86,244	12,457	49
Kerang	2,233	1 6	4,318,580	215,929	32,723	380
Kilmore	565	1 8	556,020	37,068	5,678	136
Korung	1,586	1 9	2,053,400	102,670	12,812	321
Korumburra	2,060	2 0	2,760,000	138,000	24,785	982
Kowree	1,160	1 6	2,054,460	102,723	12,719	430
Kyneton	2,216	1 9	1,988,020	99,401	24,240	365
Lawloit	680	1 11	1,291,515	86,101	12,782	196
Leigh	488	1 6	1,255,280	62,764	5,326	272
Lexton	510	1 9	992,680	49,634	5,211	198
Lillydale	4,035	2 6	3,217,900	160,895	26,244	345
Lowan	1,320	1 8	2,899,200	144,960	20,823	296
Maffra	1,500	1 6	3,218,580	160,929	17,803	483
Maldon	1,064	1 6	770,000	38,500	4,345	185
Mansfield	1,200	2 0	1,810,500	90,525	13,028	542
Marong	1,400	1 6	2,252,500	112,625	12,901	454
Melton	460	1 9	990,820	49,541	6,180	145
Metcalfe	1,000	1 6	887,660	44,383	4,513	162
Mildura	3,150	2 0	5,079,820	253,991	23,805	184
Minhamite	716	2 0	1,997,500	99,375	12,082	321
Mirboo	408	3 0	673,040	33,652	8,117	355
Moorabbin	11,711	2 6	5,813,500	290,675	65,536	296
Mornington	2,677	2 3	1,597,000	79,850	20,160	114
Mortlake	907	1 9	3,772,600	188,630	19,645	346
Morwell	1,174	2 9	1,324,760	66,238	11,865	435
Mount Rouse	750	1 6	2,608,100	130,405	12,022	198
Mulgrave	4,110	2 6	2,160,240	108,012	13,828	221
McIvor	900	1 6	1,190,000	59,500	8,162	221
Narracan	1,519	2 3	2,228,880	111,444	16,978	920
Newham and Woodend	695	2 0	742,300	37,115	5,705	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	801	1 9	592,440	29,622	3,918	166
Numurkah	1,256	1 6	3,481,400	173,070	20,941	591
Omeo	765	2 3	988,780	49,439	8,666	836
Orbost	1,140	2 6	1,416,500	70,825	11,487	472
Otway	1,700	3 0	982,060	49,103	8,523	680
Oxley	1,052	2 0	1,476,640	73,832	9,948	370
Phillip Island	416	2 3	478,180	23,909	4,882	118
Portland	2,100	1 6	2,452,000	122,600	10,604	494
Pyalong	265	1 9	441,210	29,414	3,184	113
Ripon	1,100	1 9	2,499,000	124,950	18,362	221
Rochester	1,696	1 6	2,978,980	148,949	16,274	246
Rodney	1,985	2 3	3,968,700	198,435	27,265	432
Romsey	860	2 0	1,274,420	63,721	8,076	320
Rosedale	1,240	0 11*	3,300,000	165,000	11,400	537
Rutherglen	800	2 0	1,154,440	57,722	8,022	257
Seymour	1,111	1 6	1,441,880	72,094	15,803	420
Shepparton	1,270	2 0	2,454,600	122,730	18,456	274
South Barwon	2,476	2 6	1,494,040	74,702	13,156	137
South Gippsland	1,104	3 0	1,403,560	70,178	15,020	517
Stawell	1,290	1 9	2,300,000	115,000	12,345	311
Strathfieldsaye	952	1 9	635,960	31,798	3,680	137
Swan Hill	4,125	1 6	5,560,980	278,049	33,529	272
Talbot	540	1 9	579,080	28,954	3,972	134
Tambo	1,073	2 9	1,264,440	63,222	11,324	513
Towong	1,212	1 9	1,989,540	99,477	14,787	578
Traralgon	790	2 6	1,320,000	66,000	14,417	441
Tullaroop	640	1 9	903,080	45,154	5,355	206

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1929-30—continued.

Name.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
			Total.	Annual.		
		<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Tungamah	1,309	1 6	3,242,840	162,142	20,502	444
Upper Murray	510	1 9	1,254,340	62,717	7,571	307
Upper Yarra	1,451	3 0	917,600	45,880	10,703	221
Violet Town	850	1 9	1,079,000	53,950	9,013	221
Walpeup	1,780	1 6	2,899,680	144,984	10,892	300
Wangaratta	902	1 9	966,800	48,340	5,019	146
Wannon	1,044	1 6	2,648,280	132,414	11,793	426
Warang	1,577	2 0	2,054,640	102,732	17,174	370
Warragul	1,545	3 0	2,096,660	104,833	19,751	885
Warrnambool	1,991	1 9	5,327,880	266,394	34,306	678
Werribee	11,000	2 3	3,000,000	150,000	27,734	296
Whittlesea	1,326	2 0	1,825,600	91,280	11,909	226
Wimmera	1,065	1 0	3,080,000	154,000	12,266	360
Winchelsea	1,200	2 0	2,105,780	105,289	15,795	397
Woodonga	727	1 9	988,760	49,438	7,272	169
Woorayl	1,800	2 9	2,255,040	112,752	22,310	1,030
Wycheproof	1,314	1 6	3,139,360	156,968	15,366	328
Yackandandah	984	2 0	1,213,940	60,697	6,737	337
Yarrowonga	790	1 0	1,220,020	61,001	10,924	281
Yea	708	0 2½*	1,276,930	64,036	10,308	371
Total	271,586	..	294,447,615	14,784,365	2,208,996	47,741

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

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,
1927-28 TO 1929-30.

Sources of Revenue.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	£	£	£
Taxation—			
Rates	3,772,864	3,925,207	3,914,438
Licences	161,786	155,412	156,309
Dog Fees	30,258	30,445	29,966
Government Endowment and Grants	154,316	143,987	149,372
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ..	352,214	326,457	354,732
Market and Weighbridge Dues	132,977	142,968	144,363
Sanitary Charges	204,996	199,516	188,927
Rents	145,654	149,570	155,187
Electric Light and Gas Works	1,224,565	1,323,422	1,315,225
Other Sources	665,737	685,793	661,174
Total	6,845,367	7,082,777	7,069,693

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1927-28 TO 1929-30—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	£	£	£
Salaries, &c.	459,718	469,036	474,348
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	502,486	498,729	496,793
Lighting	170,721	179,167	190,395
Health Administration	56,970	87,858	118,736
Contributions to Fire Brigades	72,857	73,278	73,880
Public Works—			
Construction	415,119	426,736	371,776
Maintenance	2,195,110	2,148,727	2,107,164
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	512,586	484,388	473,753
Electric Light and Gas Works	877,374	947,504	989,328
Redemption of Loans	291,628	344,784	396,711
Interest on Loans	570,441	648,105	720,868
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	91,368	83,429	68,395
Charities	39,858	43,599	39,773
Other Expenditure	716,435	778,632	783,025
Total	6,972,671	7,213,972	7,304,945

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-five per cent. of municipal revenue in 1930 was derived from rates, 18½ per cent. from electric light and gas works, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 2½ per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weigh-bridge dues, 2 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 2 per cent. from rents, and 11 per cent. from all other sources.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1927-28 TO 1929-30.

Assets.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	381,138	424,366	592,591
Streets formed, &c., payments outstanding	786,070	841,731	848,215
Rents and Interest outstanding	26,256	21,073	20,515
Cash in hand or in Bank	408,242	437,203	409,427
Other Assets	425,035	387,629	379,635
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	626,613	697,793	617,692
Arrears Due	638	99	364
Due by other Municipalities	80,845	80,571	77,976
Unexpended Balances	597,121	750,761	534,595
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, Tramways, &c.	5,001,140	5,318 200	5,561,540
Waterworks	371,680	390,440	422,500
Gasworks	203,370	234,810	208,900
Electric Light Works	2,393,810	2,549,340	2,501,760
Plant and Machinery	601,590	599,960	669,540
Other Assets	180,130	186,290	211,010
Total Assets	12,083,678	12,920,266	13,056,260
Liabilities.			
Municipal Fund—			
Due on Current Contracts	120,397	128,795	74,295
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	638	99	364
Overdue Interest	12,415	6,340	8,545
Bank Overdrafts	1,249,262	963,850	1,024,753
Other Liabilities	1,031,115	1,026,424	1,091,057
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	11,391,767	13,345,104	13,915,019
Due on Loan Contracts	226,026	118,025	97,878
„ to other Municipalities	80,845	80,571	77,976
Total Liabilities	14,112,465	15,669,208	16,289,887

ENDOWMENTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

A statement relating to the payment of endowments and subsidies to municipalities since 1874 appeared on page 142 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

The endowments paid to municipalities in 1929-30 are shown on pages 144 to 148 *ante*.

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

The provisions of the law relating to Rating on Unimproved Values appeared on pages 143 and 144 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

Since the year 1926-27, the number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the unimproved value has remained unchanged at 14. The following table gives for these municipalities particulars

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1930-31.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Payable in 1931 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
CITIES, TOWNS, and BOROUGHES.							
<i>Greater Melbourne.</i>							
Brunswick City ..	10,447,970	3,151,200	667,119	0 7	2 9	91,910	30·16
Camberwell City ..	16,849,478	5,914,347	905,307	0 4½	2 5½	110,894	35·10
Caulfield City ..	19,451,704	6,272,817	1,032,068	0 4	2 0½	104,546	32·25
Chelsea City ..	2,061,201	1,045,725	102,061	0 3¼*	2 9¼	14,160	50·73
Coburg City ..	8,927,920	2,632,324	446,396	0 5	2 5½	54,840	29·48
Essendon City ..	11,077,615	3,431,079	675,793	0 5½	2 4	78,628	30·97
Mordialloc City ..	2,829,396	1,300,228	149,213	0 4†	2 10¾	21,670	45·95
Oakleigh City ..	3,009,659	1,135,654	177,578	0 5	2 8	23,659	37·73
Sandringham City ..	5,231,822	2,811,368	337,920	0 4	2 9½	46,856	53·74
<i>Outside Greater Melbourne.</i>							
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	2,448,432	727,434	123,984	0 5	2 5½	15,154	29·71
Portland Borough ..	675,594	240,464	38,318	0 4¼	2 2¾	4,258	35·59
SHIRES.							
Dandenong ..	3,001,900	1,474,450	150,095	0 2½†	2 0½	15,358	49·12
Rosedale ..	3,300,000	1,752,600	165,000	0 1½‡	1 1½	9,128	53·11
Yea ..	1,276,930	603,229	64,036	0 2½	1 11½	6,283	47·24

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—
 * ¼d. in the Centre and North Wards.
 † ¼d. in the Mordialloc Ward.

‡ 1d. in the Centre and South Ridings.
 § 4½d. in the township of Rosedale.

of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value the rating, &c., for the year 1930-31:—

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 *inter alia* the construction or alteration of streets, roads and bridges, and the construction or purchase of waterworks, electric-light works, and gasworks, municipal offices, pounds, abattoirs, workers' dwellings, baths, and pleasure grounds.

A Council 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 2s. in the £1. But, in addition, loans having a currency of not more than 30 years may be raised upon the security of certain income, and not upon the credit of the municipality, by the issue of debentures or by mortgage. These loans are not to exceed five times the average amount of such income.

The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1929-30 was £13,915,019, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1929-30.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			703,406	10,405,039
Shires	...	...	...	183,928	2,622,646
Total	...	...	...	887,334	13,027,685

Municipal Loan Expenditure, 1925-26 to 1929-30. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1929-30 amounted to £1,433,592, of which £1,088,913 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £344,679 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1925-26 TO 1929-30.

Year.	Loan Receipts from—			Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year.
	Government.	Public.	Total.		
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGH—					
	£	£	£	£	£
1925-26.. ..	..	1,111,649	1,111,649	1,060,690	435,472
1926-27.. ..	21,255	1,323,069	1,344,324	1,243,966	506,217
1927-28.. ..	10,078	1,254,368	1,264,446	1,337,888	433,996
1928-29.. ..	10,000	1,554,904	1,564,904	1,494,844	554,027
1929-30.. ..	..	945,713	945,713	1,088,913	439,043
SHIRES—					
1925-26.. ..	..	292,917	292,917	257,497	152,137
1926-27.. ..	..	447,231	447,231	455,641	129,554
1927-28.. ..	2,026	442,827	444,853	418,594	163,125
1928-29.. ..	321	422,050	422,371	399,014	196,734
1929-30.. ..	953	247,964	248,917	344,679	95,552
TOTAL—					
1925-26.. ..	..	1,404,566	1,404,566	1,318,187	587,609
1926-27.. ..	21,255	1,770,300	1,791,555	1,699,607	635,771
1927-28.. ..	12,104	1,697,195	1,709,299	1,756,482	597,121
1928-29.. ..	10,321	1,976,954	1,987,275	1,893,858	750,761
1929-30.. ..	953	1,193,677	1,194,630	1,433,592	534,595

The particulars of the number of bridges in the State
Bridges in Municipalities. in the year 1930 are shown below :—

NUMBER OF BRIDGES (NOT LESS THAN 30 FEET IN
LENGTH EXCLUSIVE OF APPROACHES), 1930.

	Type of Bridge.				Total.
	Wood.	Brick.	Stone and Concrete.	Iron and Steel.	
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—					
In Greater Melbourne	20	19	42	47	128
Outside Greater Melbourne	71	6	37	25	139
Shires	2,441	5	307	54	2,807
Total	2,532	30	386	126	3,074

Length of
Roads and
Streets.

The following table shows the length of all roads and streets in the State in the year 1930 :—

LENGTH OF ALL ROADS AND STREETS, 1930.

Roads and Streets.	Cities, Towns and Boroughs—		Shires.	Total.
	In Greater Melbourne.	Outside Greater Melbourne.		
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Wood or Stone Paving ..	87	20	36	143
Bitumen or Concrete ..	298	213	1,029	1,540
Tarpaving, Metal or Gravel ..	1,402	791	19,533	21,726
Formed but not metalled or otherwise prepared ..	115	185	24,702	25,002
Surveyed but not formed ..	436	373	54,051	54,860
Total	2,338	1,582	99,351	103,271

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 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.

Contributions of £52,955 by municipalities were the only receipts of the Fund during the year 1930-31; the expenditure from the Fund amounted to £52,955 of which £44,522 was used for the redemption of municipal loans and £8,433 in payment of interest on the debit balance of the Fund.

Section 71 of Act No. 2995 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, 1931, was £56,831.

Melbourne and
Metropolitan
Municipal
Loans
Redemption
Fund.

The total receipts of the Fund to the 30th June, 1931, amounted to £1,631,010. The payments out of the Fund were—Redemption of Municipal Loans, £955,985; Payment to the Treasury in reduction of Municipal Liabilities, £604,180; Interest, £70,835; and Sundries, £10.

Licensing Fund. During the year 1930-31 a sum of £61,156 was paid out of this Fund to municipalities, as provided by Section 311 of the *Licensing Act 1928*. The payments to Cities amounted to £29,905, to Towns, £866, to Boroughs, £6,760, and to Shires, £23,625.

Municipal Officers Fidelity Guarantee Fund. A statement giving the provisions of the Act under which this fund was incorporated appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 on page 163.

The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1930, was £1,083, for guarantees amounting to £322,940. The claims paid from January, 1908, the date of the inception of the fund, to 30th September, 1930, amounted to £3,587. The amount to the credit of the fund at 30th September, 1930, was £18,477.

Incorporation of Melbourne and Geelong. Melbourne and Geelong are incorporated under special statutes and are not subject to the Local Government Acts except in a few unimportant provisions. Melbourne was incorporated as a town in 1842, and was proclaimed a city in 1847. Geelong was incorporated as a town in 1849, and proclaimed a city in 1910.

Erection of Dwelling Houses by Municipalities. Power is given under Part XXVIII. of the *Local Government Act 1928* to Councils to erect or purchase dwelling houses for persons of small means at a cost not exceeding £850, including the cost of the land, if the dwelling be of wood, or £950 if it be of brick, stone, or concrete.

A full statement is given on pages 147 and 148 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 of the statutory powers and duties of municipalities in regard to housing.

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.

The Housing and Reclamation Act of 1920 and the amending Acts of 1922 and 1927 were repealed when the Statutes were consolidated in 1928, and the powers given to the Commissioners under these Acts are now embodied in Part III., Division 4, of the *State Savings Bank Act 1928*. Power is given to the Commissioners to provide

dwelling-houses for eligible persons upon such terms and subject to such covenants and conditions as are prescribed or are fixed by the Commissioners. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house in Victoria or elsewhere and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year at the time of entering into the contract of sale. The total capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house acquired or erected together with the cost of the land on which it is erected shall not exceed £1,000 if the dwelling-house be of wood and £1,300 if it be of brick, stone, or concrete.

The number of houses erected up to 30th June, 1931, under the provisions of the abovementioned Acts was 7,378.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, the State Savings Bank Commissioners had, up to 30th June, 1931, entered into contracts for the erection of 3,748 War Service Homes buildings, all of which have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 427 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 31 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. The provisions of this Act and of subsequent amending Acts are now embodied in the *Country Roads Act* 1928. The Board consists of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. The chairman is paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,550, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £1,200.

Duties. The principal 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.

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.

The total cost of permanent works is, in the first instance, paid by the Treasury, but, subsequently, half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. The amount of the municipal contribution toward the cost of maintenance works is one-third of the amount expended.

The funds established under the *Country Roads Act 1928* are the Country Roads Board Fund, the Loan Account, and the Developmental Roads Loan Account.

A statement of the moneys to be credited to the Country Roads Board Fund by Acts of Parliament appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 139.

The receipts and expenditure of that Fund for each of the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 were as follows:—

	1929-30.	1930-31.
<i>Receipts.</i>		
Payments by Municipalities	£ 280,191	£ 311,371
Fees Motor Car Act	1,137,913	1,059,194
Fees Unused Roads and Water Frontages	20,692	*
Fees Registration of Traction Engines	2,194	1,915
Fees Motor Omnibus Act	2,040	3,791
Stores and Material	121,144	126,882
Hire of Plant	53,039	38,437
Appropriation from Consolidated Revenue	10,000	..
Other Receipts (advance from Public Account advances for unemployment relief and other works, &c.)	276,492	275,641
TOTALS	1,903,705	1,817,231
<i>Expenditure.</i>		
Maintenance and reconditioning of main roads and State highways	1,270,635	831,178
Interest and sinking fund, plant, stores, administration, &c.	720,321	740,908
Repayment to Public Account .. .. .	..	100,000
Road Construction—		
To relieve unemployment	45,535	142,446
Under migrants' grant	1,555	56
Migration development roads	10,373	4,086
Extension of Great Ocean Road	5,377	497
Tourist Vote	1,180	343
Other Expenditure	17,169	20,689
TOTALS	2,072,145	1,840,203

* Since 1st July, 1930, unused roads fees have been paid to Consolidated Revenue, and water frontages fees to Rivers and Streams Fund.

The balance to the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1929, was £192,116, and at 30th June, 1931, £704.

The money received from the issue of stock or debentures under the authority of section 32 of the *Country Roads Act 1928* is placed to the credit of the Loan Account, and the Account is debited with all payments made towards the cost of permanent road works. Proceeds of loans amounted to £129,883 during the year 1929-30 and to £78,281 for the year 1930-31, and the payments for permanent works were £185,121 in 1929-30 and £54,861 during 1930-31. The credit balance of the Account at 30th June, 1931, was £13,236.

The Developmental Roads Loan Account is credited with money received from the issue of stock and debentures issued under the authority of Section 85 of the *Country Roads Act 1928*, and is debited with expenditure in connexion with the construction of developmental roads. Proceeds of loans amounted to £358,514 during the year 1929-30 and to £248,696 for the year 1930-31, and expenditure on developmental road works was £452,917 for the year 1929-30 and £155,136 during 1930-31. The amount to the credit of the Account on 30th June, 1931, was £28.

The following is a summary of the total expenditure by the Board on road construction during each of the years 1929-30 and 1930-31 :—

	1929-30.	1930-31.
State Highways—	£	£
Construction	2,496	..
Maintenance and re-conditioning	889,633†	379,862†
Total State Highways	892,129	379,862
Main Roads—		
Construction	189,417†	61,640†
Maintenance	680,177	613,729
Total Main Roads	869,594	675,369
Developmental Roads—		
Construction	543,283†	224,493†
Unemployment Relief	40,980	171,428
Roads to develop tourist resorts	1,180	343
Roads for isolated settlers	1,678	..
Migration grant—Childers Settlement Road	1,555	56
Migration—Developmental roads	10,373	4,086
Orchardists relief	2,877	..
Great Ocean Road	5,377	497
Grants to municipalities, Act 3662	43,742	38,840
Federal unemployment relief	106,586	143,128
Federal Trust	17,137	16,714
Experimental roads	4,498	1,458
Bethanga connexion	11,669	..
Miscellaneous	2,563	..
TOTAL	2,555,221	1,656,274

† Including amounts contributed by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the Federal Aid Roads Act.

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

Creation and constitution of Board. The Board was established by Act of Parliament, which came into force on 20th December, 1890. The Board entered upon its duties on 18th March, 1891.

It consists of 40 members, of whom one is the chairman. The other thirty-nine members, who are called commissioners, are from time to time elected by the councils of the various municipal districts within the metropolis. They represent 22 municipalities or parts of municipalities.

Functions of the Board. The principal functions of the Board are to control and manage the metropolitan water supply system, and to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of main and general sewerage.

Area under Board's control, and population. All land within 13 miles of the Post Office at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth streets, Melbourne, together with the remaining areas of the City of Mordialloc and the Shire of Moorabbin and a further portion of the Shire of Dandenong, but excluding 11 square miles in the Shires of Keilor and Braybrook under the control of the Keilor and St. Albans Waterworks Trust, is included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes. This territory has an area of 434 square miles, and comprises 25 cities, 1 shire, and parts of 12 other shires. The total number of houses connected with the water supply system on 30th June, 1931, was 253,118, an increase of 2,894 for the year; and the estimated population supplied with water was 1,121,313.

Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans. The Board is empowered to borrow £22,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £24,001,131 on 30th June, 1931. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £1,138,803 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

Water supply assessments and rates. 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 value of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1930-31 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.

Assessed
value of
property.

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £18,667,084 in 1929-30, and £18,845,617 in 1930-31.

Revenue and
expenditure
of water
supply
system.

During the year 1930-31 water rates and charges amounted to £726,293, meter rents to £45,362, and the total water supply revenue to £771,655, as against a total of £785,203 in 1929-30. Maintenance and repairs in 1930-31 cost £87,904, management and incidental expenses were £40,560, pumping expenses were £165, interest was £554,168, and the total charges were £682,797, as compared with £677,407 in the previous year.

Cost of the Mel-
bourne and
Metropolitan
waterworks
system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1931, was as follows:—

Original water supply station, &c.	..	..	..	..	£ 84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	..	657,896
Maroondah system	..	..	..	..	1,693,021
O'Shannassy system	..	..	..	..	2,747,326
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	..	563,116
Large mains..	..	..	..	..	2,460,667
Reticulation	..	..	..	..	2,661,704
Afforestation	..	..	..	..	23,442
Thompson River Scheme	..	..	..	..	96
Investigations, future works	..	..	..	..	707
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>£10,892,860</u>

THE MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS.

A description of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Waterworks (Yan Yean, Maroondah, and O'Shannassy systems) appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 169 to 171.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1930.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1930 was as follows:—

Output of Water.			Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	..	..	3,985,774,000
„ Maroondah Reservoir	..	..	9,627,998,000
„ O'Shannassy River	..	..	8,801,759,000
Total Output	..	..	<u>22,415,531,000</u>

Storage and
service
reservoirs.

There are four storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 14,498,305,000 gallons, nineteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), and two elevated tanks, with a total capacity of 249,050,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, one other service reservoir. 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.

The average number of people supplied with water during 1930 was 1,108,492, and the average daily consumption was 55.21 gallons per head. Some districts which are outside the Board's area are supplied with water. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1930 :—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1930.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	2,980,589,000	96,148,032
February	2,565,444,000	91,623,000
March	2,404,752,000	77,572,000
April	1,830,292,000	61,009,733
May	1,572,534,000	50,726,903
June	1,377,656,000	45,921,867
July	1,274,762,000	41,121,355
August	1,311,273,000	42,299,129
September	1,446,658,000	48,221,933
October	1,712,364,000	55,237,548
November	1,980,828,000	66,027,600
December	1,881,574,000	60,695,935
Total for the year ...	22,338,726,000	...
Daily average for the year ... ..	...	61,201,989

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1930 occurred on 5th February and the minimum daily consumption on 20th July of that year. The consumption was 129,797,000 gallons on the former and 34,197,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1926 TO 1930.

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.	
1926 ...	990,561	223,603	199,918	53,404,000	53.91
1927 ...	1,028,983	232,276	208,003	57,738,000	56.11
1928 ...	1,060,325	239,351	216,785	55,314,000	52.16
1929 ...	1,084,592	244,829	223,324	56,730,000	52.30
1930 ...	1,108,492	250,224	230,941	61,202,000	55.21

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 5,395 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1930.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts. The Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 on the net annual value of properties in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for the year 1930-31 was increased from 10d. to 11d. in the £1. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 11d. rate was £18,723,471 in 1930-31. The total annual value of the Metropolitan Area for 1930-31, inclusive of the unsewered area and undertakings, was £20,031,575.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1930-31 amounted to £869,209.

The sewerage revenue for 1930-31 was £883,450, as against £778,649 in the previous year. The charges against the Sewerage Revenue Account were cost of management and incidental expenses £29,934, maintenance and repairs £10,767, working expenses £76,983, interest £697,238, and other expenditure £3,582, making the total charges £818,504, as compared with £807,983 in 1929-30.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system. The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1931, was £12,595,981, divided as follows:—

	£
Farm purchase and preparation	1,122,327
Treatment works	119,175
Outfall Sewer and Rising Mains	470,490
Pumping station buildings and plant	325,389
Main and branch sewers	2,881,236
Street reticulation	3,662,757
Reticulation of rights-of-way	2,532,288
House connexions branches	767,096
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	654,213
Sanitary depots	61,010
Cost of sewerage system	£12,595,981
Householders' debts for house connexions	448,906
Total	£13,044,887

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 REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 30TH JUNE, 1931.

On the 30th June, 1931, the Sewerage System was completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon and Brunswick.

The Sewerage System was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, 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, Sandringham and Moorabbin.

During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1931, work has progressed more particularly in Camberwell, Coburg, Box Hill, Footscray, and Preston; also in Essendon, Braybrook, and Broadmeadows.

In all 2,156 miles 61 chains of reticulation and 219 miles 77 chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, and, adding the rising mains and outfall sewer (a length of 24 miles 59 chains), this makes a total length of 2,401 miles 37 chains of sewers.

The estimated population served by the sewerage system on the 30th June, 1931, was 1,039,278.

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

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1930.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1930, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 233,472, including 777 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1930, 1,546 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 4,304 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1930 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE PROVIDED ON 31st DECEMBER, 1930.

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1930.
Melbourne City	27,595
South Melbourne City	10,979
Prahran City	12,960
Fitzroy City	8,157
Richmond City	10,560
St. Kilda City	9,746
Collingwood City	8,783
Footscray City	10,430
Hawthorn City	8,331
Brunswick City	13,046
Essendon City	11,988
Malvern City	10,540
Caulfield City	15,925
Northcote City	10,023
Camberwell City	12,278
Brighton City	7,070
Port Melbourne City	3,333
Williamstown City	5,617
Kew City	5,528
Coburg City	7,454
Sandringham City	4,128
Preston City	6,617
Oakleigh City	2,555
Box Hill City	1,743
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	5,120
Moorabbin Shire	2,680
Werribee Shire (part of)	16
Mulgrave Shire (part of)	8
Keilor Shire (part of)	129
Broadmeadows Shire (part of)	128
Braybrook Shire (part of)	5
Total	233,472

PUMPING STATIONS.

The Pumping Stations are described on pages 177 and 178 of the *Year Book* for 1928-29.

The total volume of sewage pumped at the Spotswood Pumping Station during the year 1930-31 was 15,454,020,000 gallons—equal to 42,339,780 gallons per day, as against a total of 14,656,680,000 gallons, with a daily average of 40,155,287 for the previous year.

The unit cost of raising 1,000 gallons 100 feet was .443d. as compared with .470d. for the preceding year.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

A description of this farm is given on pages 178 and 179 of the *Year Book* for 1928-29.

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 revenue is derived from the grazing operations. The principal sources of income are from breeding of beef cattle and export lambs, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment.

The revenue from grazing for the year 1930-31 totalled £20,458, made up as follows:—

	£
Net profits from cattle	11,710
" " " sheep	4,522
Agistment of horses	4,226
	<hr/>
Total	20,458
	<hr/>

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE AND RIVERS FINANCE.

Under the provisions of Part VIII. of the Act, which relates to Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers, the Board is empowered to levy a Metropolitan Drainage and River Improvement Rate. Improvement Rate not exceeding 1d. in the £1 in respect of the properties in the metropolis rateable to any municipality. The rate was first levied on 1st July, 1927, and has remained at 1d. in the £1.

The total annual value of property assessed for Drainage and River purposes and liable to the 1d. in the £1 rate was £20,514,913.

For 1930-31 the total revenue was £89,475, as against £87,454 in the previous year. The cost in 1930-31 of maintenance, management, and working expenses was £15,149, and the interest charges were £59,097, the total charges being £74,246. In 1929-30 the cost of maintenance, management, and working expenses amounted to £20,179, interest to £47,384, the total expenditure being £67,563.

The total cost of Drainage and River Improvement works to 30th June, 1931, was £1,031,987.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The *Year-Book* for 1929-30 contains on page 145 a statement showing the powers and functions of this Trust. also information relating to the Commissioners and the borrowing power of the Trust. The amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1930, was £4,220,807. 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: 1926 TO 1930.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	658,944	716,193	625,907	671,288	512,721
Rents	37,116	37,521	36,885	29,662	29,787
Interest	79	43	2,149	3,901	12,611
Other Revenue	60,111	63,287	62,994	76,588	63,772
	756,250	817,044	727,935	781,439	618,891
<i>Less</i> Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	143,002	148,282	143,648	145,948	135,171
Total	613,248	668,762	584,287	635,491	483,720
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
Management Expenses ..	68,442	58,385	53,765	60,342	66,484
Loan Flotation Expenses, &c. ..	15	8	3,500	4,188	3,825
Maintenance—Dredging ..	81,128	74,884	49,258	45,315	21,801
" Harbor	4,240	6,357	5,587	6,115	4,766
" Wharfs	43,451	49,852	59,775	53,298	29,783
" Approaches	14,098	17,587	22,884	18,539	16,743
Interest on Loans*	140,318	144,513	167,489	183,638	208,602
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	120,000
Total	564,692	564,586	575,258	584,435	472,004
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	48,556	104,176	9,029	51,056	11,716
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	30,962	20,144	10,869	9,587	117,652
Deepening Waterways	169,053	204,536	261,634	231,884	168,515
Wharfs Construction	129,382	246,587	161,235	139,203	201,186
Approaches Construction	15,412	35,619	78,249	49,933	12,677
Other Harbor Improvements	40,416	15,735	17,253	9,716	8,297
Floating and General Plant	14,112	130,735	3,461	14,729	34,188
Total	399,337	653,356	532,701	455,052	542,515

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

Geelong Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

A short statement in regard to the constitution and borrowing powers of this Trust appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 147. 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.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage, Tonnage and Special					
Berth Rates	35,468	38,860	30,721	45,724	42,191
Rents, Fees, and Licences	10,940	10,204	7,159	6,906	13,835
Freezing Works and Abattoirs	16,318	12,498	8,000	8,000	8,082
Other Revenue	4,347	4,069	11,531	5,685	20,522
Total	67,073	65,631	57,411	66,315	84,630
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
Management Expenses	6,657	7,413	7,595	10,330	8,509
Maintenance	19,653	58,942	14,803	17,957	14,001
Interest on Loans and Sinking					
Fund	27,755	24,818	26,026	27,226	28,516*
Freezing Works and Abattoirs	6,622	4,682	4,405	5,760	5,620
Miscellaneous	5,543	4,093	2,228	2,800	983
Total	66,230	99,948	55,057	64,073	57,629
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	2,564	4,572	2,693	5,636	6,174
Deepening Waterworks	15,716	3,554	9,434	948	123
Wharfs and Approaches	8,973	17,044	84,694	9,227	6,930
Other	984	3,995	667	2,028	2,562
Total	28,237	29,165	97,488	17,839	15,789

* The amount of unpaid interest to the State Treasury on loans was, at 30th June, 1931, £235,252.

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, and the Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920.

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 42,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, which have a total storage capacity of 2,215,558,327 gallons.

The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £651,681. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £303,026 as at 31st December, 1930. The revenue for the year 1930 was £35,955.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The scheme as designed provides for a population of 90,000 persons. The capital cost of construction to 31st December, 1930, is £305,654. Forty-nine sewered areas have been declared as at 1st January, 1931, comprising 6,471 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made.

The scheme is being financed by debenture issue loans from various financial institutions, £345,090 having been provided up to 31st December, 1930, for constructional works, and £125,000 for house connexions.

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

This Trust was constituted on 15th January, 1908. It was reconstituted under the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act in 1910.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £270,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1930, was :—Water supply, £687,047 ; sewerage, £630,571 ; and sewerage

installation, £251,614. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1930, was £56,449 on account of waterworks and £42,563 on account of sewerage. Since 1913 the Trust has appropriated and set apart sums out of surplus revenues for the creation of a sinking fund to redeem loans. The amount of these sinking funds on 30th June, 1930, was—For sewerage, £43,752; for water supply, £44,003.

The population supplied is about 45,130. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 11,400; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 11,098; and the number connected with the sewers, 10,030.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs and service basins is 2,738,120,000 gallons.

The Trust has arranged to take a minimum annual quantity of 500 million gallons of water from the river Barwon to supplement the supply from the Moorabool watersheds.

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

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted in November, 1916, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Sewerage Authority.

The actual construction of the sewerage works began in January, 1921, and the first house was connected on 31st March, 1923. Branch sewers, which provide for 5,624 tenements, have now been completed, and at 30th June, 1931, 5,357 houses had been connected.

Method of Sewage Disposal and Purification.—The method of disposal is by sedimentation, oxidation, and sludge digestion. A description of the scheme appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 on page 184. While the method of treatment remains the same in principle, the capacity of the sewage tanks was increased during the year 1930-31. The increased capacity of the tanks will make provision for a population of 50,000 persons.

Finance.—Loans have been raised by the issue of debentures. The total amount so borrowed to the end of September, 1930, was £402,000, of which £34,962 has been redeemed. The capital expenditure during the same period was £304,264. For the purpose of meeting the half-yearly loan repayments, a special rate of 3d. in the £1 is levied, while the rate for properties actually sewered is 1s. 9d. in the £1.

The scheme is expected to cost £500,000.

By Act No. 3609, passed on 27th December, 1928, authority was given to certain country towns to borrow £100,000 for sewerage works. On page 185 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 the names of the towns with the amounts which may be borrowed are shown.

**Sewering
Country Towns.**

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

Under the *Fire Brigades Act* 1928 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.

**Constitution of
Fire Brigades
Boards.**

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.

**Metropolitan
Fire Brigades
Board.**

The municipal districts which comprise the Metropolitan Fire District are described in a statement which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30 on page 158.

The Board on 30th June, 1931, had under its control the following :—
 Forty-one stations, 296 members of permanent staff, 71 members of special service staff, 9 members of clerical staff, 64 men engaged in the workshops, 14 employees engaged in the tailoring department, and 175 partially paid firemen.

During 1930–31 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £186,887, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to 624d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £20,050,415, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 1s. 7d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1930 amounted to £1,050,120, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1930–31 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £53,324.

Country Fire Brigades Board. The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The Board's revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1931, was £33,500, which was obtained from the following sources :—(a) Government, £11,013; (b) municipalities, £11,069; (c) insurance companies, £11,025; and (d) other sources, £393. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £33,152. There are 120 municipal councils and 109 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1929 amounted to £494,383. The annual value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1930 was £3,680,566. 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 153 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,840. In many brigades there is, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve" members.

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years 1925-26 to 1929-30 are as follows :—

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

Heads of Receipts and Expenditure.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Government, Municipal, and Insurance ...	186,613	200,330	210,585	216,453	220,837
Receipts for Services ...	21,180	24,224	25,343	27,043	25,691
Interest and Sundries ...	17,567	21,014	25,934	30,797	32,363
Total ...	225,360	245,568	261,862	274,293	278,891
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	139,087	147,262	154,813	155,486	156,931
Fire Expenses ...	4,315	4,425	4,431	4,461	4,785
Administrative Charges, &c.	39,676	35,859	43,992	44,467	45,620
Plant—Purchase and Repairs ...	19,551	18,983	23,904	24,052	27,059
Interest ...	8,823	10,146	11,250	14,075	13,757
Repayment of Loans ...	4,185	5,133	5,089	6,351	6,590
Firemen's Accident Fund ...	...	500	500	500	500
Superannuation Fund ...	5,046	8,540	8,600	8,964	8,977
Miscellaneous ...	7,904	9,025	8,760	13,672	10,336
Total ...	228,587	239,873	261,339	272,028	274,555
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	14,236	40,823	5,917	33,365	14,040