

PART VI.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and the Legislative Council of Victoria. The Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University consists of a Council of 31 members and a Convocation consisting of all graduates. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated residential colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton.

Payment to the University of an annual endowment of £45,000 from 1st July, 1923, was provided for in the *University Act* 1923. Under the provisions of the *University (Grant) Act* 1933, a further grant of £6,000 for research in Science and University extension was made payable annually as from 1st July, 1934. Other annual grants are £6,500 for a School of Agriculture, £3,300 for a Veterinary School, and £2,500 for a Chair of Obstetrics. For the financial year 1939-40 the additional appropriations included in the Budget amount to £9,000. In addition to grants from the Government, the Council derives income from fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates and diplomas.

By Act of Parliament in 1923, a University Students' Loan Fund was established and a transfer of £10,000 thereto from the Assurance Fund under the *Transfer of Land Act* was authorized. In addition, a grant of £10,000 was made to the Fund from the Consolidated Revenue. The Fund is administered by a special committee. Each student applying for a loan must satisfy the committee that he is possessed of ability and that, without assistance from the Fund, he will be unable to continue the University course. It is provided that interest at rates of 4-5 per cent. per annum shall be charged on all advances, and that the amount lent to any one student in any year shall not exceed £100.

Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. The investments at present held as the result of private benefactions amount to £845,864. In addition, gifts, which have been spent on buildings and equipment, amount to £143,428.

The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during December, 1938, and February, 1939 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, DECEMBER, 1938, AND FEBRUARY, 1939.

Examination.	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Intermediate	3,689	1,880	50·96
Leaving	2,331	1,364	58·51
Candidates entered for Certificates by Headmasters of Approved Schools—			
Intermediate	2,893	2,027	70·06
Leaving	932	518	55·57
Total—			
Intermediate	6,582	3,907	59·36
Leaving	3,263	1,882	57·67

Candidates for degrees must matriculate as prescribed by the regulations before being admitted as undergraduates. **Undergraduates admitted and degrees conferred.** The number of undergraduates admitted during each of the five years 1934-1938 was as follows :—1934, 672 ; 1935, 686 ; 1936, 670 ; 1937, 728 ; and 1938, 888. The number of degrees taken in 1938 was 508, as against an average of 516 per annum for the preceding five years. Of the total of 16,563 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 2,888 have been conferred on women.

Students attending lectures. Of the 3,931 students who attended lectures in 1938, 875 were students in Arts ; 97 in Education ; 13 in Journalism ; 305 in Laws ; 149 in Engineering ; 743 in Medicine ; 471 in Science ; 261 in Music ; 103 in Dental Science ; 592 in Commerce ; 65 in Agriculture ; 58 in Architecture ; 6 in Veterinary Science ; 40 in Public Administration ; 35 in Medical Post-graduate courses ; 62 in Science Research Work ; and 56 in Physical Education. In addition there were 350 students not attending lectures but receiving correspondence tuition.

University
finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1938, is given below:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1938.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Government Grants—		Salaries	165,938
General Account ..	53,250	Examiners' Fees	10,179
Other	*97,171	Examination Expenses	5,275
Bequests and Donations ..	†141,193	Fellowships, Scholarships, &c.	7,384
Fees—		Apparatus	17,536
Lecture	72,474	Books and Periodicals	4,158
Examination, &c. ..	43,787	Printing and Stationery	4,535
Interest and Dividends ..	35,183	Buildings and Grounds	35,675
Other Receipts	25,399	All other	36,639
Total	468,457	Total	287,319

* Includes £75,000 building grant.

† Almost the whole of this item was for capital expenditure or for special purposes.

Affiliated
Colleges.

There are five residential colleges affiliated with the University; Trinity, Ormond, Queen's, and Newman Colleges were established by the Church of England, and by the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches respectively in Victoria. The University Women's College (not a Church foundation) was also affiliated during 1937. Information relating to the foundation and progress of the colleges is given in previous issues of the *Year-Book*.

In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control and, in return, undertook to recognize the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Science.

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

Particulars relating to the Australian College of Dentistry and the Melbourne College of Pharmacy are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 516 to 519.

University
Extension.

Tutorial and lecture classes, and study circles are organized and maintained by the University Extension Board in co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association. These classes are held in the city and suburbs and in a number of country towns. The Board also provides an extensive series of public lectures in the larger country towns, maintains reading and discussion circles in the smaller towns, and is also the means through which persons seeking advice or information from the University may be served. The Board's work is cultural and educational in the broadest sense. Its courses are not intended for those proceeding to degrees, but for the ordinary citizen of the State.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The
educational
system of
Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year.

Under the Act of 1872, education to all willing to accept it was made "free, compulsory and secular"—free, because fees were not to be charged; compulsory, in the sense that, whether the children attend or do not attend State Schools, evidence must be produced that they are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, for the reason that no teacher is allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State School building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of those parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, mid-day. In practice the actual hours of instruction in the smaller primary schools are from 9.15 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with one hour for lunch, and in the larger primary schools from 9.15 a.m. to 4 p.m. with $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours for lunch.

The *Education Act* of 1910 was a measure of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character. It further defined compulsory education and, in addition, instituted the Council of Public Education and school committees, provided for medical inspection of pupils and set in motion machinery for the establishment of junior technical schools, higher elementary schools and high schools. This Act marked a distinctive epoch in the history of education in Victoria, in that it laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State.

Free
subjects.

The following are the subjects in which instruction is free:—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, elementary algebra, practical geometry), nature knowledge (geography, general science, nature-study), health, history and civics, manual work (art, needlework, woodwork, and other forms of handwork such as modelling in clay or plasticine, paper folding and paper cutting, brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), music, and, where practicable, rural science or horticulture for boys, cookery and domestic arts for girls, and physical education including swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material. Provision, however, is made for a free supply of books and material in necessitous cases.

Compulsory attendance. Parents and guardians of children of not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children to attend a school on every school half-day in each week unless there is a reasonable excuse for their non-attendance. If they fail to cause a child to attend as provided they may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each offence, or in default may be imprisoned for a term of not more than three days. Attendance officers are appointed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the compulsory provisions of the Education Act.

Conveyance allowance. An allowance for conveyance up to fourpence per day for each day's attendance at a State or Registered primary school may be granted to a child between the ages of six and fourteen years whose residence is more than four miles distant from the nearest existing State school and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances. Special conditions apply to children who are actually in attendance at a State school which is closed on account of low attendance.

Correspondence tuition. In May, 1914, there was inaugurated in Victoria the system of correspondence tuition for children in remote districts. Sets of graded exercises are sent out fortnightly and subsequently returned to the Correspondence school for correction. All the subjects of the course of study are thus taught, and with most successful results. Many children have reached the standards of the Intermediate and Leaving Certificates without having had any teaching except that given by post. For some years this tuition has been extended to include crippled and invalid children as well as children in remote districts. The total number enrolled for correspondence tuition on 30th June, 1939, was 2,253 (Primary 782, Secondary 1,471).

School Committees. Under Act No. 2301, now incorporated in the *Education Act 1928*, No. 3671, provision was made for the appointment of a School Committee for each school. A statement of the main duties of these committees is given in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 199. The movement resulting in the formation of Mothers' Clubs has assumed great importance. The school committees and clubs have been responsible for raising many thousands of pounds for school improvement. Advisory Councils take the place of School Committees in Girls' Schools, High and Technical Schools.

Special schools Special schools have been established for those children whose disabilities make the ordinary schools unsuitable or undesirable. Such special schools include the Talbot School for Epileptics, the school for the blind, the school for the deaf and dumb, five schools for the feeble-minded (three residential), a school for child inmates of the Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases, a school for the inmates of the Convalescent Home of the Children's Hospital, and the Children's Welfare Department Schools. Two special schools for youthful prisoners have been provided (one in Pentridge Gaol and one in Castlemaine Reformatory) and a school established for young constables at the Police Depot.

Woodwork and Cookery Centres and other activities. On 30th June, 1939, there were in operation 86 woodwork centres, having an attendance of 9,532 boys; and 67 cookery centres (apart from those at Girls' Schools) with an attendance of 4,123 girls; at the same date in 1938, 9,201 boys were attending 86 woodwork centres and 3,697 girls were attending 62 cookery centres. Physical education is taught in all schools and field sports have been organized and encouraged as a successful adjunct to education. Instruction in swimming and life-saving methods is given at schools that have the necessary facilities. For the purpose of developing thrift and a spirit of social service in children, the Department fosters such activities as School Savings Banks, Junior Red Cross, Junior Safety Councils, &c.

School Savings Banks. At 30th June, 1939, there were 2,781 School Savings Banks and 200,888 depositors with £293,229 to their credit.

Free Kindergarten Union. At 30th June, 1939, there were 32 kindergartens and nursery schools affiliated with the Union in which 1,939 children below school age were enrolled. There were also two holiday homes. The movement receives from the Education Department an annual subsidy which in 1938-39 amounted to £2,500.

School forestry and horticulture. A scheme for the establishment of school tree plantations was inaugurated in 1923 with the co-operation of the Lands and State Forests Departments. Areas in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. At 30th June, 1939, there were established 345 of these plantations, with an area of 3,100 acres, of which approximately 1,550 acres were planted. During the past planting season 52,779 trees were planted. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, renders much assistance to pupils and teachers. The Society has established a nursery from which many thousands of packets of seeds, seedlings and shrubs are distributed annually to the schools throughout the State.

**Young
Farmers'
Clubs.**

These have been established to interest pupils and young people generally in the agricultural life of the community. They are controlled by local committees of experts under the leadership of the head teacher of the school concerned. In the development of these clubs, the Education Department has the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture, the Royal Agricultural Society, and the Railways Department. On the 30th June, 1939, there were 259 affiliated clubs in operation.

**Medical
Inspection.**

Medical inspection was established in 1909. The present staff consists of seven full-time medical officers; in addition some assistance is given by a district health officer, who, in conjunction with the duties performed by him as a member of the staff of the Public Health Department, examines some of the children in his district.

In 1938-39, 33,266 children and 1,734 teachers were examined by School Medical Officers.

**Work of the
School Nurses.**

Two school nurses render invaluable service in visiting the homes of the children and in persuading parents to obtain treatment for the defects notified by the School Medical Officers. In 1938-39, 7,828 homes were so visited.

**Dental
Treatment.**

In 1921 the first two school dentists were appointed. The present staff consists of nine full time fully qualified dentists, having the assistance of eleven dental attendants. Treatment is begun with children in the first year of their school life.

In 1938-39, 32,145 children received treatment by the school dentists.

**Cost of Medical
Dental and
Nursing
Services.**

The total cost of the Medical, Dental, and Nursing Services in 1938-39 was £16,226.

**Teachers'
College.**

At present Student Teachers are trained at the Melbourne Teachers' College. Those who have passed the School Leaving Examination and the Intermediate Examination in Arithmetic or its equivalent may be admitted to the College, provided they have had at least one year's teaching experience and that their teaching abilities have been satisfactorily reported on by their Inspectors.

State Schools,
teachers and
scholars 1872
to 1938,

The following table shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872:—

VICTORIA—STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1938.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.*	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (Estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1920 (31st December)	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1930	2,598	7,665	260,319	184,228	228,756
1931	2,590	7,613	261,673	187,443	232,286
1932	2,613	7,461	262,417	189,101	232,586
1933	2,609	7,371	264,697	190,977	234,174
1934	2,617	7,397	259,750	185,082	230,470
1935	2,606	7,353	256,564	182,442	226,728
1936	2,600	7,314	250,070	179,420	219,645
1937	2,589	7,394	234,228	153,381	209,043
1938	2,591	7,242	227,233	159,022	201,457

* Exclusive of teachers temporarily employed, the number of whom was 62 on 31st December, 1937, and 81 on 31st December, 1938.

VICTORIA—STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937, AND 1938.

Class of School.	Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct Children (Estimated).
Central Schools* and Classes ..	1937	29	5,302	4,372	5,156
	1938	30	5,684	4,916	5,561
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1937	48	4,352	3,394	4,231
	1938	48	4,485	3,712	4,434
Girls' Schools	1937	12	3,834	2,658	3,780
	1938	12	3,490	2,625	3,426
Junior Technical Schools† ..	1937	27	8,954	7,016	8,859
	1938	27	9,135	7,580	9,021
High Schools	1937	37	13,949	11,697	13,773
	1938	37	14,326	12,420	14,144
Total	1937	153	36,391	29,137	35,799
	1938	154	37,120	31,253	36,586

* Central Schools are not independent establishments. They are worked in conjunction with Primary Schools.

† Junior Technical Schools are worked in conjunction with Technical Schools.

Ages of State school scholars. The following table shows the number of children attending State Schools (Senior Technical Schools excepted) below, at, and above the school age (from 6 to 14 years), during the years ended 31st December, 1937, and 1938:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1937 AND 1938.

Class of School.	Year.	Under 6 Years.	From 6 to 14 Years.	Over 14 Years.	Total.
Elementary Schools ..	1937	13,246	184,872	10,925	209,043
	1938	14,902	176,910	9,645	201,457
Central Schools ..	1937 ..	..	4,126	1,030	5,156
	1938 ..	..	4,344	1,217	5,561
Higher Elementary Schools ..	1937 ..	..	2,368	1,863	4,231
	1938 ..	..	2,366	2,068	4,434
Girls' Schools ..	1937 ..	..	2,107	1,673	3,780
	1938 ..	..	1,875	1,551	3,426
Junior Technical Schools ..	1937 ..	..	3,791	5,068	8,859
	1938 ..	..	4,170	4,851	9,021
High Schools ..	1937 ..	..	5,366	8,407	13,773
	1938 ..	..	5,778	8,366	14,144
Total ..	1937	13,246	202,630	28,966	244,842
	1938	14,902	195,443	27,698	238,043
Estimated number after making allowance for duplicate enrolments between the various types of schools ..	1937	13,177	200,265	28,496	241,938
	1938	14,775	192,797	27,230	234,802

Council of Public Education. The chief functions of the Council of Public Education in relation to registered schools and teachers are to ensure that only qualified persons are employed and that such schools are adequately staffed. In accordance with the provisions of the *Education Act* 1928, all schools and teachers (other than State schools and State school teachers) are required to be registered by the Council.

Registered schools, teachers and pupils, 1937 and 1938. As at 31st December the number of registered schools was 520 in 1937 and 516 in 1938, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,492 and 2,654 respectively. The number of individual scholars was 73,099 in 1937 and 74,299 in 1938. Particulars of registered schools for the years 1872 to 1928 appear in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 203, and for successive years in subsequent issues of the *Year-Book*.

The number and ages of pupils in attendance at registered schools are shown hereunder:—

VICTORIA—NUMBER AND AGES OF PUPILS IN ATTENDANCE AT REGISTERED SCHOOLS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1937, AND 1938.

Age Groups.	Gross Enrolment.		Number of Individual Pupils (Estimated).	
	1937.	1938.	1937.	1938.
Under 6 years	5,929	6,124	5,515	5,757
From 6 to 14 years	56,137	56,519	51,372	51,466
Above 14 years	16,837	17,518	16,212	17,076
Total	78,903	80,161	73,099	74,299

Percentage of scholars attending registered schools.

Of the total number of scholars attending schools in 1938, approximately 24 per cent. attended registered schools.

Number and ages of children in all schools.

After allowance has been made for duplicate enrolment caused by the attendance of children at both State schools and registered schools, it is estimated that the number of individual children at school during the years 1937 and 1938 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—NUMBER (ESTIMATED) OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN UNDER INSTRUCTION AT SCHOOL DURING THE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1937, AND 1938.

Age Groups.	1937.	1938.
Under 6 years	18,581	20,409
From 6 to 14 years	250,610	243,133
Above 14 years	44,384	43,956
Total	313,575	307,498

STATE SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years at secondary schools, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their chosen careers in life. A statement in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 204 and 205, shows the nature of these schools.

**Higher
Elementary
Schools.**

There are 48 higher elementary schools. During the term ended 31st December, 1937, there was an average attendance at these schools of 3,394 pupils, of whom 1,721 were boys and 1,673 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1938, the attendance was 3,712, of whom 1,840 were boys and 1,872 were girls. In the higher elementary schools a four-years' course up to Intermediate Certificate is provided.

**Central Schools
and Classes.**

In 21 central schools in the metropolitan area and 9 schools with central classes in country centres a two-years' preparatory course of secondary education is provided. This course was attended by 4,372 pupils in 1937 and by 4,916 in 1938. Pupils from these schools have priority of admission to high schools.

Special provision is made for the education of girls in girls' schools, of which ten are situated in the metropolitan area, one in Ballarat and one in Bendigo. In these schools a three years' course is provided which leads to the certificate of proficiency in home arts and crafts at the age of fifteen years.

**District
High Schools.**

There are 37 district high schools, three of which, in addition to providing other courses of secondary education, have school farms attached. In high schools, a six-years' course is provided. At the end of the fifth year pupils may obtain the Leaving Certificate which, under certain conditions, qualifies for Matriculation; at the end of the sixth year pupils may sit for Leaving Certificate Honours. During the term ended 31st December, 1937, there were in attendance at these schools 11,697 pupils, of whom 6,346 were boys and 5,351 were girls. During the corresponding term in 1938, the attendance was 12,420, comprising 5,642 boys and 6,778 girls.

**University
High School.**

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers, the institution now known as the University High School was opened in 1910, and, in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools, the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching. This is the official practising school for the work of the Diploma of Education of the University of Melbourne.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS

The Minister of Public Instruction made available the following scholarships at the beginning of 1939:—

- 200 Junior Scholarships.
- 44 Senior Scholarships.
- 50 Junior Technical Scholarships.
- 125 Senior Technical Scholarships.

Particulars of the age requirement of candidates, the periods of tenure, and the annual values of the scholarships are given on pages 369 and 370 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29.

In prescribed courses at the Melbourne University the Minister also made available 75 free places of which 65 were open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools, 5 to student teachers, and 5 to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria. Each year also there is a number of free places available for specially selected certificated teachers. The total number of such teachers must not exceed 60 in any one year.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

The technical schools in the State were originally under the control of local school councils. In 1910, however, legislation was passed which provided for all schools established after that year to be under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 30th June, 1939, was 28, of which 14 have been established since the passing of the 1910 Act. The gross enrolment for the year 1937 comprised 8,954 junior and 24,130 senior students and, for the year 1938, 9,135 junior and 26,859 senior students.

Victorian technical schools provide practical laboratory and workshop training, together with instruction in the principles of Science and Art, as applied to industries. They also provide instruction in subjects connected with or preparatory to industrial, commercial, agricultural, mining, and domestic pursuits.

Full-time day and evening professional courses are provided in the various branches of engineering, mining, metallurgy, architecture, applied chemistry, applied physics, agriculture, art and applied art, commercial work, and institutional management. Full-time and part-time day and evening trade courses are also provided in trades connected with the electrical and mechanical engineering, motor, building, furniture, printing, bootmaking, and women's industries.

Associated with every technical school, with the exception of the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, is a full-time day junior technical or preparatory section, which provides for a three-years' course of study. Pupils who have completed the Sixth grade course in primary schools are eligible for admission. Prior to enrolment in metropolitan schools an entrance examination is held, which is open to pupils from all schools, both State and private.

Senior technical schools, such as the Melbourne Technical College (formerly Working Men's College), the Swinburne Technical College (Glenferrie), the Gordon Institute of Technology (Geelong), the Ballarat and the Bendigo Schools of Mines, and the Footscray Technical School, are general purpose technical schools providing generally full day and evening professional courses and full-time and part time day and evening trade and commercial courses. Specialized instruction is given at provincial centres, such as at Geelong, in wool-classing and sorting and architecture, and at Ballarat and Bendigo in chemistry and mining. The smaller country schools

have full-time or part-time farm utility courses specially adapted to the needs of the local district, in addition to the junior preparatory and certain full-time and part-time senior courses associated with engineering, building, commerce, and art and applied art.

The technical schools for women's industries are the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, the Box Hill Technical School, and women's sections at Ballarat, Brighton, Castlemaine, Glenferrie (Swinburne Technical College), Maryborough, Prahran, Sale, Sunshine, Warrnambool, and Wonthaggi technical schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject to £8 per course of subjects.

Government expenditure on each technical school during each of the five years ended 1938-39 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1934-35 TO 1938-39.

School.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bairnsdale	2,324	2,778	2,980	3,375	3,479
Ballarat	14,075	14,997	16,209	16,877	17,453
Bendigo	10,318	10,804	11,694	12,121	12,609
Box Hill	4,515	11,624	6,205	5,851	6,201
Brighton	11,141	12,487	13,586	14,358	15,161
Brunswick	8,478	10,200	12,596	13,212	13,868
Castlemaine	4,448	4,936	5,440	6,057	6,886
Caulfield	11,059	12,762	14,100	15,029	25,136
Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy	6,508	6,459	6,699	7,998	9,319
Collingwood	17,313	19,692	21,643	25,749	33,618
Daylesford	2,480	2,507	2,738	3,036	3,065
Echuca	3,598	3,947	6,759	5,454	5,333
Essendon .. .. .	..	..	..	467	29,437
Footscray	13,716	16,001	19,325	39,626	27,712
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	11,160	12,080	15,878	16,125	23,150
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	20,799	22,908	26,699	28,696	30,322
Maryborough	6,235	7,106	7,997	8,957	9,492
Melbourne (Technical College) ..	45,437	50,693	55,800	110,758	76,363
Prahran	9,102	10,221	13,927	13,021	13,820
Preston .. .. .	..	1,470	23,173	10,548	12,017
Richmond	9,010	10,893	14,812	13,348	11,985
Sale	3,706	4,033	4,763	5,566	6,017
South Melbourne	9,688	10,572	12,190	12,599	12,216
Stawell	2,832	3,147	3,704	4,218	6,175
Sunshine	4,855	5,439	6,325	6,391	19,541
Wangaratta	3,893	4,128	4,321	4,930	5,547
Warrnambool	5,089	5,707	5,753	7,138	6,673
William Angliss Food Trades ..	..	..	..	..	496
Wonthaggi	5,038	5,358	6,361	6,480	6,639
Yallourn	2,346	12,726	6,471	4,907	5,843
Other votes for technical schools	4,151	4,797	7,021	7,933	9,489
Miscellaneous	2,801	2,906	3,095	2,957	3,677
Total	256,115	303,378	358,264	433,782	468,739

The Melbourne Technical College. The Melbourne Technical College was founded in 1887, as the Working Men's College, by the late Hon. Francis Ormond. It is open to both sexes, and supplies higher technical instruction. Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

Scholarships and Prizes. Several scholarships are awarded each year to eligible students of the Junior Day School. In addition, the College Council awards scholarships annually to students of Junior Technical Schools. Various other scholarships which have been donated by manufacturers, commercial associations, and other bodies are available to senior students of the College.

Every year the Council awards a prize to the best student of each of the day courses, and in each of the evening classes. Several valuable prizes are also given annually by employers and others interested in technical education.

Day Courses and Fees. All fees are payable in advance. The year is divided into three terms. The day courses and the scale of fees per term for the year 1940 are shown in the following table:—

Diploma Courses.*	Fee per Term.	Other Day Courses.	Fee per Term.
Applied Chemistry ..	£5 10s. for the first and second years and £6 10s. thereafter	Architecture	£ s. d.
Chemical Engineering ..		Commercial—Full Day ..	4 10 0
Metallurgy		Five Half-days ..	5 0 0
Metallurgical Engineering ..		Engineering Machine Shop—	3 0 0
Mining Engineering ..		Special Full Day ..	3 0 0
Applied Science		Electrical Trades—Special	3 0 0
Mechanical Engineering ..		Full Day	4 0 0
Electrical Engineering ..		Art Course—Full Time ..	4 0 0
Civil Engineering		Five Half-days ..	3 0 0
Municipal Engineering ..		Wool-sorting—Full Courses	8 0 0
Communication Engineering ..	Special Course ..	1 15 0	
Automotive Engineering ..	Photography—Full Day ..	6 0 0	
ing	Motor Mechanics—Trade	5 0 0	
		Course	5 0 0

Evening Courses and Classes. In the evening school, the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers; geologists; aero, civil, electrical, mechanical, and structural engineers; communication and production engineering; land surveyors; mechanical draughtsmen; public analysts; art; architects; industrial chemists; heat treatment; mine managers; mine surveying; primary and secondary metallurgy; and building, constructional engineering and printing trades. An evening course for the diploma of chemistry is also in operation. The fees for evening tuition range from £1 10s. per term to £3 10s. per term according to the course taken.

The evening classes are also open to students who, instead of undertaking a full course, receive instruction in any one or more subjects of any course.* Tuition is also given by correspondence.

Details relating to the College during the years 1934 to 1938 are shown in the following table:—

MELBOURNE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, 1934 TO 1938.

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Individual students enrolled ..	6,125	7,102	8,304	8,807	9,958
Males	5,466	6,263	7,634	8,103	8,804
Females	659	839	670	704	1,154
Number of classes	369	380	382	388	396
Number of Instructors	245	284	291	306	360
Salaries paid to instructors ..£	37,672	43,461	49,134†	55,228†	63,721†
Government grant£	33,000	33,367	37,082	42,456	44,861
Fees received during the year* ..£	19,741	24,890	27,547	31,376	37,818
Average fee per student per year	64s. 6d.	70s. 0d.	66s. 4d.	71s. 3d.	75s. 11d.

* Not including fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £1,028 in 1934, £1,300 in 1935, £1,462 in 1936, £1,513 in 1937, and £1,768 in 1938. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

† Includes salaries paid to those instructors employed at the Melbourne Technical College but under the control of the Education Department.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public Library of Victoria. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz.:—the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 6,293 volumes were purchased, 2,782 volumes presented, 302 volumes obtained under the "Libraries Act," and 48,873 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1938. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 478,858 volumes and 83,065 pamphlets. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 215,667 volumes during 1938, an increase of 6,359 compared with 1937, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 10,907, which was 354 greater than the number in 1937. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of 1938 was 81,048, of which 3,795 were added during the year. At the same date there were 16,639 volumes in the Country Lending Library.

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £438,865. With the exception of the sum of £35,000 received from the McAllan bequest, the whole of the money required to meet the cost of the buildings was provided by Parliament.

National Gallery.

The National Gallery at the end of 1938 contained 27,714 works of art, viz., 925 oil paintings, 6,742 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 20,047 water color drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. During 1938, the Trustees of the Felton Bequest provided the sum of £20,000 for the purchase of works of art, the total of such purchases to the end of the year amounting to £524,733. The school of painting in connexion with the institution was attended during the year by 36 students and the school of drawing by 113 students.

National and Industrial Museums.

The National Museum and the Industrial and Technological Museum are located in the Public Library Buildings. The collections in the former comprise natural history, geology, and ethnology, while, in the latter, more than 10,000 exhibits are displayed.

FREE LIBRARIES.

There are about 420 free libraries in Victoria. Statistics for the year ended 31st December, 1938, were collected from 69 of the more important of these libraries, 26 of which are situated in the metropolitan area and 43 in the cities and chief towns in other parts of the State. The total receipts of these 69 libraries were £69,448, towards which the Government contributed £33,268 and municipal councils £17,515. The total expenditure was £68,975, of which £10,720 represented the cost of the purchase of books, magazines, &c. There were 1,057,124 volumes in these libraries on the 31st December, 1938; of that number 576,545 were in the Public Library of Victoria, Melbourne.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established in 1896, is situated on the south side of the River Yarra. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Adjoining the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Shrine, the Domain, the Observatory, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in Royal Park, on the northern side of the city of Melbourne. The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks, and spacious lawns for the convenience of visitors. Most of the large animals of the world are represented there, as well as many native animals.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

On 1st October, 1938, the area (to nearest acre) devoted to public reserves in Greater Melbourne was 9,121 acres, of which 2,741 acres were acquired by the municipal councils at a cost of £710,978.

The particulars for each municipality comprising Greater Melbourne are shown in the following table :—

GREATER MELBOURNE—PUBLIC RESERVES, ETC., AS AT 1st OCTOBER, 1938.

Municipality.	Total Area of Municipality.	Area of Public Reserves, &c.			Purchase Price of Freehold Land Used for Reserves.
		Crown Land.	Freehold Land.	Total Area.	
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	£
Cities—					
Box Hill	5,120	224	107	331	32,370
Brighton	3,308	148	97	245	44,110
Brunswick	2,719	..	74	74	19,486
Camberwell	8,352	8	464	472	92,845
Caulfield	5,600	273	84	357	3,906
Chelsea	3,040	8	21	29	6,100
Coburg	4,800	38	164	202	23,103
Collingwood	1,139	85	15	100	3,800
Essendon	4,000	106	244	350	54,486
Fitzroy	923	38	8	46	1,015
Footscray	3,982	133	52	185	17,025
Hawthorn	2,402	18	113	131	38,302
Heidelberg (excluding Greensborough Ward)	8,800	368	254	622	43,770
Kew	3,523	638	79	717	20,604
Malvern	3,996	29	321	350	52,000
Melbourne	7,740	2,027	1	2,028	550
Moorabbin	13,360	99	56	155	17,840
Mordialloc	3,351	120	24	144	9,960
Northcote	2,850	50	69	119	19,934
Oakleigh	2,658	47	31	78	10,290
Port Melbourne	2,366	49	..	49	..
Prahran	2,320	7	74	81	91,064
Preston	8,800	24	229	253	48,254
Richmond	1,430	228	1	229	7,213
Sandringham	3,740	191	103	294	38,205
South Melbourne	2,303	524	1	525	1,450
St. Kilda	2,049	307	4	311	2,807
Williamstown	2,775	502	10	512	9,009
Shire—					
Braybrook (excluding Western Riding)	8,480	90	42	132	1,480
Total	125,926	6,379	2,742	9,121	710,978

HOUSING.

The history of events leading up to the creation of the Housing Commission, together with an epitome of the provisions of the *Housing Act* 1937 and of the *Slum Reclamation and Housing Act* 1938 will be found in the *Year-Book* for 1937-38, pages 224 and 225.

The Commission has now embarked upon its initial housing project on an area of 55 acres at Fisherman's Bend, Port Melbourne, allocated by the Government of Victoria. On this area it is proposed to erect 376 houses.

Prior to embarking upon the erection of dwellings, the Commission conducted an Australia wide competition for designs for low cost housing and for the laying out on modern town planning principles of the site referred to. Successful architects in the competition and other competitors were combined to form an Architectural Panel, which was appointed to prepare plans and supervise the building programme of the Commission.

Arrangements have been made for services to the new estate and the first eight houses are in course of erection. These will be preliminary to the mass building programme which will be launched when the first houses have been observed from point of view of cost, design, construction and material.

Estates have been purchased in suburbs in close proximity to industrial areas and these will be developed simultaneously with the area at Fisherman's Bend.

When houses are ready for occupation, it is the intention of the Commission to transfer to them persons of limited means who are at present residing in houses which are unfit for occupation. These houses will then be required to be made habitable by their owners or, if they are incapable of being made so, to be demolished.

Regulations prescribing standards of habitation with which all existing houses and new dwellings must comply, have been proclaimed.

Simultaneously with the preparation of its building schemes, the Commission called upon municipalities in the metropolis to furnish plans and schemes for the zoning of their districts into residential and industrial areas. These plans are designed to protect residential districts from further encroachment by factories and industrial premises.

When the first stage of the building programme on new areas is complete, reclamation and rebuilding of areas in the inner industrial suburbs in which a preponderance of insanitary houses exists will follow.

A novel feature of the Commission's operations will be the erection of houses for persons with large families and meagre incomes who, by reason of the reluctance of landlords to let houses to them, are unable to obtain suitable dwellings.

Further information in regard to housing and building in Victoria appears in Part IV. (Local Government) of the *Year-Book*, pages 180 to 190, and in Part V. (Accumulation) in so far as the operations of the Credit Foncier Department of the State Savings Bank of Victoria and of building societies are concerned.

VICTORIA—RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

A statement showing the number of adherents to the various religious denominations and sects as ascertained at the Census of 4th April, 1921, and of 30th June, 1933, appears in the *Year-Book* for 1937-38, page 226.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Legislation
1928-1939.

The principal legislative provisions relating to friendly societies are contained in the *Friendly Societies Act* 1928, a summary of which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 (pages 383-387). Under the provisions of this legislation the total amount which a member could claim from a registered friendly society was limited to 60s. per week; consequently societies which had contracted to pay a sickness benefit of that amount were unable to afford members an opportunity of making provision for the cost of hospital treatment. This restriction was removed by the *Friendly Societies Act* 1934, the main provisions of which are given in the *Year-Book* for 1934-35, page 213. The principal Act was further amended in 1938 and again in 1939. The amending Act of 1938 required every society which accumulated reserves to register, before 1st June, 1939, an amendment of rules embodying a scheme whereby members, who became compulsory contributors under the *National Health and Pensions Insurance Act* of 1938 of the Commonwealth, would not forfeit their equities in the reserves if they were unable to continue paying contributions to their societies. This Act also extended, from £100 to £300, the limit to the aggregate amount which a society is permitted to contract with a member to pay on his death and on the deaths of his wife, children, or kindred. The amending Act of 1939 provides that every member of a society who becomes engaged outside Australia or the territorial waters thereof in service with His Majesty's naval or military forces or the forces of the Commonwealth in connexion with the present war shall, while so engaged, retain his membership so far as relates to medical benefits and hospital benefits for his wife, children, kindred,

or dependants, and shall retain also his membership so far as relates to the payment of a sum of money at his death and the death of his wife, but the amount is limited to £20 in the case of the death of the member, and £10 in the case of the death of the wife. The Act provides also that, while so engaged, the member shall, if he was a member on 3rd September, 1939, be relieved of payment of all contributions and levies, and that, if he joined the society after that date, a limited contribution shall be payable by him.

The legislative supervision exercised over friendly societies has had a very beneficial effect. There are twenty-nine friendly societies in Victoria which are required by the statute to have made a quinquennial valuation of their assets and liabilities by an actuary. The latest valuation reports show that there were only five societies with a ratio of assets to liabilities of less than 20s. in the £.

Since the year 1908, all the actuarial valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies have been made by the Government Statist, who is required by statute to be a fully qualified actuary.

**Progress of
Friendly
Societies.**

At 30th June, 1938, the total membership of Victorian Friendly Societies was 220,520, classified as follows:—

Members entitled to—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Sick and Funeral benefit	169,157	19,885	189,042
Medical benefit only (including widows) .. ..	..	..	24,510
No benefits (honorary) .. ..	..	..	6,968
Grand Total .. ..	..	..	220,520

Between 30th June, 1933, and 30th June, 1938, the total number of members entitled to sick and funeral benefits increased by 30,526—more than 19 per cent. During the same period the total funds (other than those of dispensaries) increased by £677,297 to £6,163,347—more than 12 per cent. At 30th June, 1938, the total assets of the dispensaries amounted to £198,142. The funds of the societies are well invested: the average rate of interest obtained on the capital of the sick and funeral funds during 1937-38 was 4.73 per cent.

With the exception of a few small societies, dividing societies, and special societies, all the societies have established special funds to provide for payments to hospitals for treatment received by members and their dependants. The benefit payments from these funds in the year 1937-38 amounted to £16,097.

The statement which follows contains information (exclusive of that relating to dispensaries) in regard to the societies for the five years, 1933-34 to 1937-38:—

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1933-34 TO 1937-38.

NOTE.—The figures given below for "Other Funds" include all monetary transactions of societies other than ordinary friendly societies, and, for each of the years 1935-36 to 1937-38, they include also transactions similar to some which, in earlier years, were included in Medical and Management Funds.

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Number of societies	49	55	59	67	76
Number of branches	1,449	1,444	1,449	1,459	1,478
Number of members contributing for sick and funeral benefits at end of year	160,816	166,180	172,290	180,462	189,042
Number of members who received sick pay	37,117	41,057	41,777	40,451	41,883
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed	446,617	460,787	468,648	471,676	478,305
Deaths of members contributing for sick and funeral benefits	1,699	1,833	1,777	1,929	1,985
Deaths of wives entitled to funeral benefits	670	633	626	646	669
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	434,116	441,648	465,365	469,383	516,639
Medical and Management Funds	454,440	428,771	404,720	414,964	439,968
Other Funds	46,247	39,299	97,761	143,628*	118,224
Less inter-fund transfers	— 92,689	— 28,688	— 43,748	— 79,697	— 56,225
Total Receipts	842,114	881,030	924,098	948,278*	1,018,606
Expenditure—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	400,713	349,200	330,105	329,986	352,024
Medical and Management Funds	387,320	411,572	389,521	410,281	425,479
Other Funds	43,051	34,655	104,044	156,803	113,122
Less inter-fund transfers	— 92,689	— 28,688	— 43,748	— 79,697	— 56,225
Total Expenditure	738,395	766,739	779,922	817,373	834,400
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure	103,719	114,291	144,176	130,905*	184,206
Amount of Funds—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,482,394	4,574,842	4,710,102	4,840,499	5,014,114
Medical and Management Funds	979,555	996,754	209,595	214,278	228,767
Other Funds	127,820	132,464	928,539	915,364*	920,466
Total Funds	5,589,769	5,704,060	5,848,236	5,979,141*	6,163,347
Disposal of Funds—					
Amounts invested—					
Sick and Funeral Funds	4,469,210	4,560,403	4,692,657	4,834,827	4,994,356
Medical and Management Funds	969,034	988,360	200,110	205,461	218,525
Other Funds	124,797	129,299	925,652	910,534*	912,544
Amounts uninvested—					
All Funds	26,728	25,998	29,817	28,319	37,922

NOTE.—There are juvenile branches connected with some of the societies, but the information in regard to these has not been considered of sufficient importance to be included in the above statement.

* After the deduction of an overstatement of £407.

Secessions and expenses.

During the twelve months ended June, 1938, the societies lost by secession 8,246 sick and funeral benefit members; this was equal to about 4.6 per cent. of the membership at the beginning of that period. The corresponding rates of secession in 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, and 1936-37 were 6.1, 5.1, 5.0, and 5.0 respectively. As a rule, most of the secessions were those of new members who allowed their membership to lapse before they appreciated its value. The cost of management per member in the year 1937-38, was 14s. 8d., which was 1d. less than the cost in the year 1936-37.

Sickness and mortality experience.

The following statements show in regard to members of societies (other than dividing societies and societies of a special nature) the number of weeks' sickness in respect of which claims for sick pay were granted in 1927-28 and 1928-29—the years immediately preceding the financial depression—and in subsequent years; also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member, the number of deaths of members, and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

MALE BRANCHES.

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.		Deaths.	
		Number.	Per Average Effective Member.	Number.	Per 1,000 Average Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks. Days.		
1927-28 ..	128,924	290,583	2 2	1,423	11.04
1928-29 ..	130,733	315,499	2 2	1,484	11.35
1929-30 ..	131,655	321,799	2 3	1,515	11.51
1930-31 ..	129,596	345,687	2 4	1,331	10.27
1931-32 ..	126,228	393,315	3 1	1,615	12.79
1932-33 ..	124,970	395,222	3 1	1,562	12.50
1933-34 ..	126,471	411,979	3 2	1,599	12.64
1934-35 ..	130,152	424,341	3 2	1,732	13.31
1935-36 ..	134,336	432,467	3 1	1,671	12.44
1936-37 ..	139,413	434,234	3 1	1,794	12.87
1937-38 ..	143,583	434,073	3 0	1,823	12.70

FEMALE BRANCHES.

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.		Deaths.	
		Number.	Per Average Effective Member.	Number.	Per 1,000 Average Effective Members.
1927-28	9,957	Weeks. 17,571	Weeks. Days. 1 5	50	5.02
1928-29	10,228	19,510	1 5	47	4.60
1929-30	10,717	21,288	2 0	45	4.20
1930-31	10,897	22,250	2 0	51	4.68
1931-32	10,935	25,103	2 2	47	4.30
1932-33	11,245	27,248	2 3	40	3.56
1933-34	11,759	28,448	2 3	44	3.74
1934-35	12,318	30,414	2 3	56	4.55
1935-36	12,761	30,553	2 2	56	4.39
1936-37	13,166	30,441	2 2	64	4.86
1937-38	14,940	36,054	2 2	86	5.76

NOTE.—Effective members are those entitled to claim sick and funeral benefits.

After 1928-29 the rate of sickness per average effective male member rose steadily until it became three weeks and two days in 1933-34, at which it remained during the following year. In each of the succeeding two years the rate was three weeks and one day—the same figure as in 1919. The rate in the last-mentioned year was abnormal; this was due chiefly to members who had been on active service in the Great War having deferred until their return to Victoria their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

The trend of sickness per average effective female member followed closely that of male members during the corresponding period.

At the end of 1937-38 there were 33 United Friendly Societies' Dispensaries registered, under the Friendly Societies Acts of Victoria, as separate friendly societies. The chief object for which these dispensaries are established is to provide the societies with a means of supplying medicine and medical and surgical appliances to their members and to persons claiming through members. Some of the dispensaries provide also the services of medical officers. The number of members connected with the dispensaries at the end of 1937-38 was 141,292. As the greater portions of the receipts and expenditure of the dispensaries are interwoven with those of the medical and management funds of the ordinary friendly societies, they are not given here. The assets and liabilities of the dispensaries at the end of 1937-38 amounted to £198,142 and £31,654 respectively. The assets consisted of freehold property, £126,512; stock, fittings, and sundry debtors, £48,727; cash, £20,077; and securities, £2,826. The liabilities consisted of sundry creditors, £11,764; bank overdrafts, £11,390; and mortgages £8,500.

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Labour legislation. The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female in a factory for more than eight hours in any day.

The abovementioned Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working. That definition has since been broadened until now it includes any place in which mechanical power exceeding one-half horse power is in use or in which four or more persons are engaged in any handicraft or in preparing articles for trade or sale. (In some circumstances, notably where bread or pastry is baked for trade as well as for sale, or where a process involving the use of a compound of lead is employed, one or more persons constitutes a factory even where no mechanical power is used.)

Since the passing of the original Act, the general recognition of the necessity of securing the health, the comfort and the safety of the workers has been expressed in many further legislative enactments.

Number of Factories. In 1938 there were registered 12,610 factories in which 184,509 persons were employed.

Amending Factory Legislation. The *Factories and Shops Act* 1934 made important alterations in the law relating to the supervision and regulation of factories and shops. The principal alterations (apart from those described under Wages Boards) are as follow:—

Work in the manufacture of boots and shoes in factories from Monday to Friday before 7.30 a.m. or after 6 p.m., on a Saturday before 7.30 a.m. or after 2 p.m., or on a Sunday is prohibited. To meet the exigencies of trade, power is given to the Minister of Labour to suspend, for not more than two months, the operation of this prohibition.

The carting or delivery in the Metropolitan District of bread on sale before 6 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on any day and of the making (other than dough-making) or baking of bread on a Sunday is prohibited.

The carting of goods, &c., on a Sunday, except perishable and certain other goods, unless a permit to do such carting has been obtained from the Chief Inspector of Factories, is prohibited.

A premium for employing any person under the age of 21 years in work to which a determination of any Wages Board (other than the Chemists' Board) applies is forbidden. The sum of £100 is fixed as the maximum amount of premium payable to a chemist under any apprenticeship agreement.

The conditions have been amended under which material may be issued from factories or other places for the manufacture of wearing apparel or of boots to licensed outside workers. No person shall issue or give out material for the purpose of its being prepared or manufactured outside a factory as a fabric of linen, wool, silk or cotton or as articles of wearing apparel or boots or shoes for trade or sale except to a person licensed as an outside worker. An outworker is not permitted to employ any person (other than members of his own family) who is under 14 years of age or has been granted permission by the Secretary for Labour. Factory occupiers are not permitted to employ a greater number of licensed outside workers than one for every ten or fraction of ten workers employed in the factory. Occupiers of factories are required to keep a complete record of work issued to outside workers.

The occupier of every factory where more than 600 persons are employed, or where work of a hazardous nature is performed and more than 300 persons are employed, shall, if directed, provide an ambulance room properly equipped and under the charge of a qualified attendant.

One of the most important provisions of the Act is designed to prevent the contravention of the determination of Wages Boards in the Bread Trade by the performance of work under contract. A Bread Trade Tribunal may be established consisting of a judge of the County Court, one representative of employers and one of employees. Power is given to the Tribunal to deal with any case where proceedings are taken against any person for contravention of a determination in which such person alleges that, under the contract, the relation between himself and the person in respect of whom such determination is alleged to have been contravened is not the relation of employer and employee. All questions of law, or of the amount of any penalty to be imposed or of the costs to be awarded, shall be decided by the President alone, but in all other matters the decision of the majority shall be the decision of the Tribunal. Penalties varying from £20 to £200 may be imposed for breaches of determinations. The Governor in Council may by proclamation extend to other trades the provisions relating to the Bread Trade Tribunal and such extensions have been made in connexion with seven other trades, namely:—Boot, Butchers, Carters and Drivers, Electrical and Radio Goods, Fibrous Plasterers, Musicians, and Quarry.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 provides that the Chief Inspector of Factories, after due inquiry, may refuse to register or may cancel the registration of any factory or shop. The object of this provision is to give power to the Chief Inspector to deal with any deliberate attempt to evade the provisions of the Factories and Shops Acts or the determinations thereunder. If the Chief Inspector refuses to register, or if he cancels the registration of a factory or shop, the occupier thereof may appeal in respect of such refusal or cancellation

to a Court of Petty Sessions consisting of a police magistrate sitting alone. The decision of the Court is final. As mentioned previously the provisions of earlier Acts which restricted the powers of Wages Boards have been repealed, and the 1936 Act gives the Boards authority to deal with any industrial matter other than the preferential employment of unionists. An important provision in this Act is that all legal proceedings for offences against the Factories and Shops Acts within the Metropolitan District shall be heard by the Metropolitan Industrial Court instead of by various Courts of Petty Sessions as formerly. The legislation has as its object uniformity in the manner of dealing with offenders and in the imposition of penalties.

The *Factories and Shops Act 1938* (No. 4578) which became operative on the 28th November, 1938, deals with two matters only—restriction of the hours of trading in motor spirit, motor oil, and motor accessories, and restriction of the hours of carting aerated waters, cordials, or ice cream.

Section 2 restricts the sale of motor spirit, motor oil, and motor accessories to definite hours set out in the Act, but allows the trade in case of emergency to supply petrol, &c., outside the hours fixed, on the signed statement by the traveller as to the circumstances. The traveller's statement must be written and signed in a prescribed book. Penalties are provided both for selling in contravention of the Act and for making a false statement in the emergency book.

The hours during which petrol may be sold other than in case of emergency are as follows:—

Metropolitan District—

Saturdays, Sundays, and Public Holidays	7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fridays	7 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Outside Metropolitan District—

Sundays, Public Holidays, and days on which half-holiday is observed locally	7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
On the usual late trading day ..	7 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.
On other days of the week	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Both within and outside the Metropolitan District, petrol, oil, and accessories may be sold until midnight on the days immediately preceding Good Friday and Anzac Day, but on these two holidays, shops must be closed and no sales effected.

Section 3 of the 1938 Act places further restrictions on the carting and delivery of goods. The Section amends the original provisions of Section 130 of the Principal Act and Section 18 of Act 4275 (1934) by providing that aerated waters, cordials or ice cream may not be carted on Sunday from the place of manufacture or any depot of the manufacturer to any shop. On days other than Sundays, from the 16th April to the 31st October, the goods referred to may not be carted outside the hours fixed for carting ordinary merchandise.

The hours for closing of shops in both metropolitan and country districts, as defined in the Factories and Shops Acts, are as set out in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—CLOSING HOURS FOR ALL SHOPS SITUATED WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, AS DEFINED BY THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS.

Class of Shop.	Hours of Closing.						Effect of Closing Shop for the whole of a Public Holiday which falls on any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.	
	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.		
1. Booksellers and Newsagents*	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 8	p.m. 9.30	p.m. 1 Can re-open 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. 12.30	May remain open on half-holiday	
2. Butcher	5	5	5	5	6		May remain open on preceding day till 8 p.m.	
3. Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	Closing hours not fixed by law. The shopkeeper may therefore decide for himself when his shop shall close						No effect	
4. Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)*	6	6	6	6	9	1	Same as No. 1	
5. Fish and Oyster	Same as No. 3						No effect	
6. Flower	Same as No. 3						No effect	
7. Fruit and Vegetable* †	During May, June, July, August, September, and October Other months						1	No effect
8. Hairdressers and Tobacconists	7	7	7	7	9	1	No effect. May remain open on preceding day till 9 p.m.	
9. Motor oil, motor spirit and accessories	Special provisions, see under <i>Factories and Shops Act 1938</i> (page 244.)							
10. All shops of any kind not mentioned above	6	6	6	6	9	1	May remain open on preceding day till 9 p.m.	

NOTE.—On the Thursday preceding Good Friday and on the last day on which the shop is open preceding Christmas Day a shopkeeper may keep his shop open one hour later than the hour fixed for closing.

* These hours were fixed by Regulation under section 84.

† Regulation not applicable to central portion of City of Melbourne.

VICTORIA—CLOSING HOURS FOR ALL SHOPS OUTSIDE
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN
THE FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACTS.

Class of Shop.	Hours of Closing.						Effect of Closing Shop for the whole of a Public Holiday which falls on any Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.	
	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.		
1. Booksellers and Newsagents	p.m. 7	p.m. 7	p.m. 7	p.m. 7	p.m. 9	p.m. 1	No effect	
2. Butchers	7	7	7	7	9	1	May remain open preceding day until 9 p.m.	
3. Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	Same as No. 1						No effect	
4. Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)	Same as No. 1						No effect	
5. Fish and Oyster	Same as No. 1						No effect	
6. Flower	Same as No. 1						No effect	
7. Fruit and Vegetable	Same as No. 1						No effect	
8. Hairdressers or Tobacconists at Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool, Geelong, District, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk, Sebastopol, and Kyneton	7	7	7	7	10	1	May remain open preceding day until 10 p.m.	
9. Hairdressers or Tobacconists in } } If Wednesday chosen for half-holiday } If Saturday chosen for other parts of half-holiday } If Saturday chosen for Victoria half-holiday	7	7	1	7	7	10	} May remain open preceding day until 10 p.m.	
	7	7	7	7	10	1		
10. Motor oil, motor spirit and accessories	Special provisions, see under <i>Factories and Shops Act 1938</i> (page 244.)							
11. All shops of any kind not mentioned above	7	7	7	7	9	1	May remain open preceding day until 9 p.m.	

NOTE.—The hours given in this table are the shop closing hours as fixed by law. The Factories Acts, however, provide for their alteration and variation by regulation wherever a majority of shopkeepers sign a petition. There are so many regulations in force throughout the country districts of Victoria applying to different localities that it would be impracticable to print them here. The hours given above must therefore be taken to be varied wherever such a regulation is in force.

On the Thursday preceding Good Friday and on the last day on which the shop is open preceding Christmas Day a shopkeeper may keep his shop open one hour later than the hour fixed for closing. The Minister has power to vary the hours of closing in certain circumstances when Christmas Day is observed on a Monday.

Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. At the end of that year there were 26,401 registered shops with 25,632 employees. The annual registration fee, which is based on the number of persons employed in the shop, varies from 2s. 6d. to £10.

Registration of Shops.

Registered shops are divided into 26 classes. During the year 1938, there was an increase compared with 1937 of 328 shops and of 2,893 employees. Particulars of the shops registered and number of employees are given below:—

VICTORIA—SHOPS REGISTERED AND NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, 1938.

Class of Shop.	Metropolitan.		Provincial Cities and Country.		Whole State.	
	No. of Shops.	No. of Employees.	No. of Shops.	No. of Employees.	No. of Shops.	No. of Employees.
Bread, Confectionery, and Pastry	4,311	1,503	2,485	871	6,796	2,374
Booksellers, Newsagents	967	762	471	355	1,438	1,117
Boot Dealers	318	947	297	364	615	1,311
Boot Repairers	842	39	573	67	1,415	106
Butchers	1,236	2,456	1,087	1,651	2,323	4,107
Chemists	562	837	357	440	919	1,277
Crockery	50	133	17	16	67	149
Cycle and Motor, and Motor Requisites	1,046	1,747	1,276	1,317	2,322	3,064
Dairy Produce and Cooked Meat	812	626	157	154	969	780
Drapery and Men's Clothing	2,013	10,223	1,391	3,022	3,404	13,245
Electrical and Radio	327	605	237	234	564	839
Fancy Goods Dealers	272	1,387	213	373	485	1,760
Fish	414	174	139	54	553	228
Florists	366	229	115	64	481	293
Fruit and Vegetable	1,673	398	1,004	382	2,677	780
Fuel and Fodder	1,107	508	320	299	1,427	807
Furniture	397	1,361	176	351	573	1,712
Grocers	2,719	2,545	1,471	1,662	4,190	4,207
Hairdressers	1,513	1,291	1,046	489	2,559	1,780
Hardware	480	1,401	499	789	979	2,190
Jewellery	242	318	189	106	431	424
Leather Goods	116	175	234	57	350	232
Musical Instruments	39	212	39	38	78	250
Tobacconists	1,308	142	280	49	1,588	191
Mixed	342	115	1,442	3,123	1,784	3,238
Shops not classified	1,267	1,635	873	489	2,140	2,124
Total 1938	24,739	31,769	16,388	16,816	41,127	48,585
Total 1937	24,659	30,223	16,140	15,469	40,799	45,692
Total 1936	24,364	28,197	16,205	14,905	40,569	43,102
Total 1935	24,455	27,807	15,877	13,962	40,332	41,769
Total 1934	24,464	27,356	15,824	13,864	40,288	41,220

**Wages
Boards.**

The Wages Board method of fixing wages and of settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria and was incorporated in an Act of Parliament introduced in the year 1896. A Board may be appointed for any trade or branch thereof. Each Board shall consist of not less than four nor more than ten members and a chairman (not being one of such members) nominated by the members of the Board. In the event of a nomination not being so made the chairman shall be appointed by the Minister of Labour. Originally, each Board was composed of equal numbers of employers and employees, with a qualification that each representative should be actively engaged in the trade concerned. However, under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1934, this qualification was relaxed to permit of a paid officer of any corporation, public body, or association of employers being nominated as one of the members to represent employers and, if such officer is appointed, then one of the representatives of the employees on that Board shall likewise be an officer of the trade union concerned.

The Act of 1934 empowers a Board to determine that the wages rates and piecework prices fixed in any determination made by it shall be automatically adjusted, at prescribed periods, to accord as nearly as practicable with the variation in the cost of living, as indicated by such retail price index-numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician as the Board considers appropriate. This Act, as amended by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1936, also provides that where, under any Commonwealth Act, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or a Conciliation Commissioner makes or has made an award with respect to employers and employees in any industry, the Wages Board for every trade concerned, as soon as may be, shall incorporate in any of its determinations those provisions of such award which the Board is, under the *Factories and Shops Acts*, empowered to include.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1936 gives Wages Boards the same powers relating to wages and conditions of labour as those incorporated in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. These powers enable Wages Boards to make determinations that are not inconsistent with awards of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. Any Wages Board has now the power to determine any industrial matter whatsoever in relation to any trade or branch of trade for which such board has been appointed and, in particular, to determine all matters relating to—

- (a) work and days and hours of work ;
- (b) pay, wages and reward ;
- (c) privileges, rights and duties of employers and employees ;
- (d) the mode, terms and conditions of employment or non-employment ;

- (e) the relations of employers and employees ;
- (f) the employment or non-employment of persons of any sex or age ;
- (g) the demarcation of functions of any employees or class of employees ; and
- (h) all questions of what is fair and right in relation to any industrial matter having regard to the interests of the persons immediately concerned and of society as a whole.

The Act also empowered the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Labour, to appoint a Wages Board known as the "General Board" to determine the wages, etc. of persons in any trade specified by the Governor in Council in which no Wages Board Determination was operative. This provision had for its object the protection of persons engaged in industries which previously were unregulated by any Determination.

The following trades have been specified :—

- Gold beating ;
- Ornamenting cakes, where such work is not subject to the Determination of the Pastrycooks Board ;
- Renovating carpets ;
- Preparing feathers ;
- Treating flax ;
- Treating pyrites and other metalliferous ores ;
- Mixing seed and making poultry foods ;
- Glass badging ;
- Gold stamping ;
- Ivory working ;
- Show-card and ticket-writing ;
- Manufacturing or preparing—
 - Abrasive paper or cloth ;
 - Asbestos articles ;
 - Blue prints ;
 - Buttons and buckles other than those subject to the Determination of the Plastic Moulding Board ;
 - Button badges ;
 - Carbon articles ;
 - Chalk, crayons, or other articles from mineral earth ;
 - Cinematograph film ;
 - Composition flooring ;
 - Cutlery ;
 - Artificial flowers and bouquets ;
 - Paper articles not subject to any Board heretofore appointed ;
 - Honey ;

Manufacturing or preparing—*continued*.

- Ink or adhesives ;
- Lead and shot ;
- Silk or parchment lampshades ;
- Mica products ;
- Fishing and other nets ;
- Ornaments for cakes ;
- Plaster models ;
- Sporting goods not provided for under any Board heretofore appointed ;
- Surgical instruments ;
- Toys ;
- Watch cases ;
- Designs for paper patterns or for any other paper articles whatsoever ;
- Paper crackers or bon-bons ;
- Lampshades of all types other than those made of silk, parchment, glass, metal, porcelain, earthenware, synthetic resin, casein, or other substance of a nature similar to synthetic resin or casein.
- Abrasive articles (other than abrasive paper or cloth), including carborundum wheels, emery wheels, and sharpening stones ;
- Articles made of feathers, including dress ornaments and boas ;
- Vinegar and yeast.

Wages Boards are not empowered to determine any matter relating to the preferential employment or dismissal of persons as being or as not being members of any organization, association or body.

**Enforcement
of
Determinations.**

A statement of the procedure with regard to the application and enforcement of determinations of Wages Boards appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, on page 395.

**Court of
Industrial
Appeals.**

The constitution of the Court of Industrial Appeals, and the procedure in respect of appeals against a determination are described in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 396. The president of the Court is Sir J. R. Macfarlan, K.B., Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

During 1938, the Court of Industrial Appeals dealt with only one case—that regarding the wages and conditions of Painters. The Court issued an amended Determination increasing wages rates and making other slight alterations.

New Boards
and Alterations
of Powers.

Five new Wages Boards were appointed during 1938, namely:—The Bread Trade Board, the Butter Factories Board, the Condenseries Board, the Retail Dairy Board, and the Sausage Casings Board. The Bread Trade Board was appointed, however, simply to replace a previous Board, of the same name and with the same powers, which had been declared by the Supreme Court to have been invalidly appointed. The Butter Factories, Condenseries and Retail Dairy Boards were appointed to replace the Butter Board which was deprived of its powers at the same time. The original powers of the Butter Board have been divided and distributed amongst the three new Boards so that each branch of the industry shall have adequate representation. The Sausage Casings Board was the only one which provided for employees not previously subject to a Wages Board Determination. It has power to determine wages and conditions of persons employed preparing or cleaning casings for sausages or similar products.

The following alterations were made in the powers of Boards:—

Carters and Drivers Board.—The powers of this Board were amended to include persons employed in connexion with motor assembly works, warehouses, or showrooms—

- (a) in driving mechanically propelled vehicles in the course of their sale, their delivery to purchasers, or their registration ;
- (b) as instructor drivers.

Chaffcutters Board.—Additional powers were conferred on the Chaffcutters Board to deal with persons employed at threshing when such operation is carried on in a stationary mill.

Commercial Clerks Board.—The additional power to deal with telephone switchboard attendants was conferred on this Board.

Commercial Travellers Board.—The powers of the Commercial Travellers Board were re-drafted so that it now covers employees of merchants, warehousemen, manufacturers, manufacturers' agents, indent agents, brokers, or of other employers, who are employed for the purpose of soliciting wholesale orders outside the employers place of business. The original definition of the Board's powers was found not to be sufficiently wide.

Condenseries Board.—The powers of the newly-appointed Condenseries Board were extended to include persons engaged in the treatment of bulk milk for wholesale distribution.

Dental Mechanics Board.—This Board was invested with the additional power to deal with “dentists surgical assistants granted a permit by the Dental Board of Victoria in pursuance of Section 68 of the *Medical Act* 1928.”

Electroplaters Board.—The power to deal with such metal polishing as was subject previously to the Tinsmiths Board was conferred exclusively on the Electroplaters Board.

Garden Employees Board.—Additional power was given to this Board to deal with gardeners and garden labourers engaged in connexion with guest houses, flats, and factories.

General Board.—Several additional trades or branches of trades added to the jurisdiction of this Board are set out on pages 249 and 250.

Grocers Sundries Board.—Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1936, the trade of manufacturing or preparing honey was deleted from the jurisdiction of the General Board and added to the powers of the Grocers Sundries Board.

Hotel and Restaurant Board.—The powers of this Board were extended to include persons employed in connexion with the sale of aerated waters, fruit juice drinks, cordials, coffee, chocolate, cocoa, milk or any other non-intoxicating beverage whatsoever consumed on the premises.

Shops Board No. 2 (Boot Repairers).—Persons employed in a boot repair shop selling grindery or other goods usually sold in such shops were brought within the jurisdiction of this Board by an extension of its powers.

Shops Board No. 13 (Fuel and Fodder—Country).—By a variation of its powers this Board was given additional authority to deal with persons carting, cutting or otherwise preparing firewood for use in connexion with some trade or business. Previously only persons performing such work with regard to firewood for sale were affected.

Stationery Board.—Persons preparing or manufacturing paper crackers, bon-bons, or lampshades were removed from the jurisdiction of this Board and made subject to the General Board mentioned above.

Storemen, Packers, and Sorters Board.—The list of trades exempted from the jurisdiction of this Board was amended in consequence of the appointment of certain new Boards.

Tinsmiths Board.—The Board was deprived of the power to deal with persons engaged at metal polishing, such power being conferred on the Electroplaters Board as mentioned previously.

Wages Boards, when fixing weekly wages, also determine, almost invariably, the maximum number of hours for which such weekly wages shall be payable and provide overtime rates for time worked in excess of the number of hours fixed. The Commercial Travellers Board, however, has departed from this practice.

During the year 1938, the determinations of 185 Boards were in force, in 149 of which a uniform set of hours for all employees was prescribed. In 35 determinations, however, varying sets of hours according to the class of work or to the sex of the worker were fixed by the Boards. The particulars are summarized in the following table :—

VICTORIA—WAGES BOARDS—DETERMINATIONS OF HOURS.

Boards which Determined Fixed Hours for all Employees.		Boards which Determined Differential Hours for Employees.	
Number of Boards.	Weekly Hours Adopted.	Number of Boards.	Weekly Hours Adopted.
3	Less than 44	1	44 and 35
		3	44 „ 42
98	44	1	46 „ 40
		5	46 „ 44
6	46	1	47 „ 44
		1	47 „ 46
1	46½	11	48 „ 44
		1	48 „ 46
3	47	2	48 „ 47
		4	48 and over 48
36	48	1	42, 45 and 46
		2	44, 46 and 48
2	More than 48	1	44, 47 and 48
		1	46, 48 and 50

On 31st December, 1938, there were 193 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 247,500 employees.

THE BASIC WAGE.

The first basic wage, as such, was declared in 1907 by Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The rate of wage declared was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne and by virtue of the fact that it had been determined in connexion with H. V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works it became popularly known as the "Harvester Wage".

In 1913 the Court took cognizance of the Retail Price Index-Numbers compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician covering food, groceries and the rent of all houses ("A" series) and thereafter the basic wage was adjusted in accordance with variations disclosed by that index.

An amount known as the "Powers three shillings" was added in 1922 to the weekly rate of wage for the purpose of securing to the worker, during a period of rising prices, the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. The system of making regular quarterly adjustments of the basic wage was also instituted in that year.

In 1931, in view of the depressed financial conditions prevailing, the Court reduced all wages under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent.

In consequence of continued applications from organizations of employees for the cancellation of the order providing for the 10 per cent. reduction, the Court, in its judgment of 5th May, 1933, transferred the basis of fixation and adjustment of wages to a new set of Index Numbers—Harvester—All Items Index ("D" Series). This award was made applicable only to workers who had suffered the full 10 per cent. reduction.

The Basic Wage Inquiry of 1934 made a vital change in the method of calculating the basic wage as a result of which the "Harvester" standard supplemented by the "Powers three shillings" was superseded. The judgement of the Arbitration Court, delivered on 17th April, 1934, provided that the "All Items" Index Numbers be used as the measure for assessment and adjustment of the basic wage. Appropriate tables for use in the process of adjustment are included in the schedule to the judgment. The Court also removed the 10 per cent. reduction of wages in the majority of awards as from 1st May, 1934.

As a result of the Basic Wage Inquiry of 1937, the Arbitration Court issued a retail price index series of its own. This series is based upon and corresponds with the Commonwealth Statistician's "All Items" series, but it is specially numbered for convenience in the adjustment of the basic wage. Provision was also made for the addition of a "fixed loading" of six shillings to the existing wage, payable in two instalments.

Basic weekly rates of wage and the date on which they became payable are shown hereunder for the years 1929-1939 :—

MELBOURNE—BASIC WEEKLY WAGE.

Year—	Basic Weekly Wage Payable in Melbourne on—			
	1st February.	1st May.	1st August.	1st November.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1929 ..	4 6 0	4 9 6	4 10 0	4 10 0
1930 ..	4 10 0	4 6 0	4 5 6	4 3 0
1931 ..	3 10 2*	3 8 5	3 5 8	3 3 5
1932 ..	3 3 5	3 3 11	3 3 0	3 1 8
1933 ..	3 0 4	3 3 4†	3 2 5	3 2 10
1934 ..	3 3 4	..	..	..
	1st March.	1st June.	1st September.	1st December.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1934 ..	..	3 4 0‡	3 4 0	3 4 0
1935 ..	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0
1936 ..	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 9 0
1937 ..	3 9 0	3 9 0	3 13 0§	3 17 0
1938 ..	3 17 0	3 17 0	3 18 0	3 19 0
1939 ..	3 19 0	4 1 0	4 1 0	4 0 0

* 10 per cent. reduction became operative and continued to operate until 31st May, 1934.

† "D" Series Index Numbers—Commonwealth Arbitration Court's Award of 5th May, 1933 (less 10 per cent. reduction)—operative until 31st May, 1934.

‡ "C" Series Index Numbers—Commonwealth Arbitration Court's Award of 17th April 1934—operative until 31st August, 1937.

§ Commonwealth Arbitration Court Series Index Numbers.—Award of 23rd June, 1937 (operative from 1st September onwards). The Court ordered a "fixed loading" addition of six shillings to the existing wage—three shillings to be added as from the commencement of the first pay period in July, 1937, and October, 1937, respectively.

**Basic Wage—
Outside
Metropolitan
Area.**

Prior to 1934, the basic wage for Victoria differed only slightly from that for Melbourne. In its judgment in that year, the Court made special reference to the basic wage payable in industries outside the metropolitan area, and it ruled that, except in certain specified districts where the cost of living appeared to be correctly indicated by the local "All Items" Index Numbers, or where known circumstances indicated that the general rule should not apply, the basic wage for provincial places should be a constant three shillings per week less than that for the metropolitan district in the same State. Special provision was made also for assessing or adjusting the wage in certain places.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS.

Retail Price
Index-
Numbers—
"C" Series.

The "C" Series (all items) of retail price index-numbers for Melbourne is prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician. This series comprises the costs of food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing, and miscellaneous expenditure and is applied to the majority of awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in accordance with its judgment of 17th April, 1934. It was superseded by an index number of the Court's own construction as described in the Report of the "Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937" (see page 254). The weighted average for the six Capital Cities during the five-yearly period, 1923-27, expressed as 1,000, is the basis of comparison in the following table:—

MELBOURNE—RETAIL PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS, "C"
SERIES, "ALL ITEMS", 1914-1939.

Period.	Retail Price Index-Numbers Household Expenditure. "All Items."	Year.	Retail Price Index-Numbers Household Expenditure. "All Items."
November, 1914 ..	671	1933	789
November, 1921 ..	1003	1934	801
Years 1923-1927 ..	990	1935	824
1929 ..	1017	1936	844
1930 ..	956	1937	868
1931 ..	846	1938	896
1932 ..	813	1939	924

APPRENTICESHIP COMMISSION.

Under the *Apprenticeship Act 1928* (No. 3636), which was proclaimed on 8th May, 1928, an Apprenticeship Commission was appointed to administer the Act and to supervise apprenticeship in trades proclaimed as apprenticeship trades thereunder. The provisions of the Acts apply only within the Metropolitan District as proclaimed under such Acts.

The proclaimed apprenticeship trades, and the number of probationers and apprentices employed under the Act on 30th June in each of the years 1935 to 1939 are shown in the following table:—

**VICTORIA—PROCLAIMED APPRENTICESHIP TRADES
1935 TO 1939.**

Trade.	Number of Probationers and Apprentices Employed under Act on 30th June—				
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Plumbing and Gasfitting	120	150	224	303	372
Carpentry and Joinery	100	175	230	287	314
Painting, Decorating, and Sign-writing	32	42	66	81	103
Plastering	12	13	21	26	31
Printing	463	532	568	649	690
Electrical	183	279	357	475	527
Motor Mechanics	112	151	229	293	369
Bootmaking	511	606	638	584	564
Moulding	22	116	185	250	261
Engineering .. .. .	..	49	417	815	1,095
Fibrous Plastering .. .. .	..	..	..	45	85
Boiler-making and/or Steel Construction .. .. .	..	..	..	31	63
Sheet Metal .. .. .	..	..	..	5	30
Bread Making and Baking* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	18
Pastrycooking* .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4
Total	1,555	2,113	2,935	3,844	4,526

* Proclaimed as apprenticeship trades on 14th December, 1938.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE

The Government Labour Exchange is under the control of the Labour Department. Applicants are registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. When work is available, men, if suitable, are selected for employment according to the order of their registration. The Exchange also provides workmen for private employment.

Workers who secure country employment on their own initiative, and are considered deserving, may, on application, be granted railway tickets, the cost of which is repayable from their earnings. During the financial year ended 30th June, 1939, there were advanced 3,198 rail tickets, valued at £2,179, of which £1,891 has been repaid. During the same period, £165 was repaid in respect of advances made in previous years.

The total number of rail tickets issued in the 38 years ended 30th June, 1939, was 163,156, valued at £132,565, of which £106,443 has been repaid.

The operations of the Exchange for the year 1938 in respect of registrations and applicants sent to employment are summarized in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1938.

Year and Month.	Applications for Employment in the Metropolis.		Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.	
	Number Registered during Month.	Number remaining on Register at end of Month.	In the Metropolis.	In the Country.
1938—January	2,483	10,471	514	628
February	1,970	9,989	493	652
March	2,295	9,395	592	528
April	1,978	9,466	498	441
May	2,287	9,674	599	1,431
June	2,871	9,877	695	599
July	2,924	10,825	359	555
August	2,561	10,993	495	807
September	2,592	10,929	424	887
October	2,055	10,492	496	527
November	1,895	10,281	289	569
December	2,296	10,864	219	461
Total	28,207	..	5,673	8,085

VICTORIA—PERSONS REGISTERED AND EMPLOYMENT OBTAINED, 1934-1938.

Year.	Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
	In the City.	In the Country.	
1934	58,686	14,269	17,590
1935	49,909	35,936	29,031
1936	42,487	27,591	29,890
1937	32,076	23,781	20,252
1938	28,207	22,997	13,758

It must be understood that the number of registrations effected does not represent distinct individuals as there is a large number of men who register more than once at the Exchange each year. Although it is known that these duplications are numerous, the actual extent cannot be ascertained. The fact that the figures quoted do not include the large numbers of labourers engaged "on the job" for Government earthworks in the country also requires recognition.

Unemployment. The number of male persons registered as unemployed at the Government Labour Exchange and its Branches of which there are 41 in the Metropolitan Area and 280 in the Country in the last week of each month of the period of twelve months ended on the 30th June, in each of the five years 1934-35 to 1938-39 is shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE—MONTHLY REGISTRATIONS, 1934-35 TO 1938-39.

Last Week of Month of—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
July	34,679	30,002	20,431	17,377	18,626
August	32,273	28,608	19,369	17,679	18,986
September	30,756	27,179	19,084	17,262	18,697
October	29,478	24,399	18,761	16,339	18,478
November	29,035	20,837	17,560	15,593	18,523
December	28,349	20,198	18,189	15,801	19,280
January	27,751	18,990	18,136	16,206	20,094
February	27,243	18,828	16,906	15,137	19,217
March	27,409	16,962	16,842	14,801	18,714
April	30,685	17,839	16,735	15,633	18,359
May	32,141	17,937	14,785	15,709	19,902
June	32,078	18,552	14,895	16,669	21,139

During the period under review the highest number of registrations was recorded in the month of July, 1934. The marked decrease in the number of registrations since that date reflects the improved employment condition.

The rates of tax and of stamp duties for the relief of unemployment on incomes and wages earned during the year ended 30th June, 1931, appear on pages 255 and 256 of the *Year-Book* for 1930-31. The Stamps (Unemployment Relief) Acts expired on 5th November, 1932, and legislative provision was made for the collection of relief moneys by annual assessment instead of by stamp duty. Particulars of the tax are given in Part "Finance" of this issue of the *Year-Book*.

The revenue raised by unemployment relief taxation from the date of the commencement of the operation of the tax in 1930-31 to 30th June, 1939, amounted to £15,802,827, of which £198,087 was refunded to taxpayers, the net revenue being £15,604,740. The yearly net collections of tax were as follow:—1930-31, £1,234,463; 1931-32, £1,622,400; 1932-33, £1,730,867; 1933-34, £1,615,371; 1934-35, £1,685,298; 1935-36, £1,970,334; 1936-37, £1,944,382; 1937-38, £1,927,354; and 1938-39, £1,874,270.

In addition to the revenue from the above-mentioned taxation, moneys for relief have been raised by way of loan, and contributions and grants have been made by the Commonwealth Parliament. Loans for relief purposes were first raised during the year 1932-33. The loan expenditure during the seven years 1932-33 to 1938-39 was £10,788,221. The total cost of relief during the ten years, 1929-30 to 1938-39, was £28,329,777, of which £15,603,309 was raised by taxation, and £10,789,651 by loans; Commonwealth loan contributions and grants amounted to £1,810,141 and £126,675 was provided by interest on advances, &c. At 30th June, 1939, the balance to the credit of the Unemployment Relief Fund was £1,431. Details of the disbursements from the Unemployment Relief Fund, Loan, and other Funds from 1st July, 1929, to 30th June, 1939, are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF, 1929-30 TO 1938-39.

Allocation of Expenditure.	Expended during 1929-30 to 1937-38 from—			Expended during 1938-39 from—			Total Expended to 30th June, 1939, from—		
	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	Loans, Common- wealth Loan Con- tributions and Grants.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sustenance and Sustenance Work	9,572,945	140,900	9,713,845	1,306,149	..	1,306,149	10,879,094	140,900	11,019,994
Municipalities	637,233	317,158	954,391	68,318	882	69,200	705,551	318,040	1,023,591
Departmental, &c.—									
Public Works and Mines ..	553,614	1,281,857	1,835,471	117,446	185,143	302,589	671,060	1,467,000	2,138,060
Railways	12,250	2,063,043	2,075,293	2,761	311,808	314,569	15,011	2,374,851	2,389,862
Lands	146,113	191,625	337,738	1,136	69,797	70,933	147,249	261,422	408,671
Treasurer	291,776	1,022,192	1,313,968	5,112	77,180	82,292	296,888	1,099,372	1,396,260
Country Roads Board ..	218,707	1,403,114	1,621,821	1,439	53,321	54,760	220,146	1,456,435	1,676,581
Forests and Foresters' Quarters	196,996	1,356,699	1,553,695	1,222	163,183	164,405	198,218	1,519,882	1,718,100
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	259,723	2,055,231	2,314,954	45,104	412,140	457,244	304,827	2,467,371	2,772,198
Closer Settlement Commission ..	..	91,477	91,477	..	..	..	..	91,477	91,477
State Electricity Commission ..	..	138,500	138,500	..	..	..	..	138,500	138,500
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works .. .. .	..	527,000	527,000	..	..	..	..	527,000	527,000
Sewerage Authorities .. .. .	..	239,460	239,460	..	4,846	4,846	..	244,306	244,306
Waterworks Trusts .. .. .	..	77,816	77,816	..	13,342	13,342	..	91,158	91,158
Miscellaneous*	238,284	288,268	526,552	35,400	113,810	149,210	273,684	402,078	675,762
Expenditure on Relief ..	12,127,641	11,194,340	23,321,981	1,584,087	1,405,452	2,989,539	13,711,728	12,599,792	26,311,520
Administration	556,044	..	556,044	86,856	..	86,856	642,900	..	642,900
Interest and Sinking Fund on Loans	991,659	..	991,659	383,698	..	383,698	1,375,357	..	1,375,357
Refund of Taxes	192,504	..	192,504	5,582	..	5,582	198,086	..	198,086
Total Expenditure ..	13,867,848	11,194,340	25,062,188	2,060,223	1,405,452	3,465,675	15,928,071	12,599,792	28,527,863

* Including (a) Commonwealth and State joint relief to Local Authorities (municipalities, sewerage, and water authorities) for debt service charges.
(b) Commonwealth and State Youth Employment Grant.

Sustenance. Every male person who receives sustenance is required, on demand, and in return for such sustenance, to perform work (of such a class as is prescribed on the recommendation of the Employment Council of Victoria) for the municipality within whose municipal district sustenance is received.

On 3rd July, 1933, on the recommendation of the Employment Council of Victoria, a scheme was brought into operation under which genuine unemployed male persons have been, as far as practicable, provided with some employment each week.

The results of the working of the scheme are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—WORK BY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN RETURN FOR SUSTENANCE, 1938 AND 1939.

Month of—	1938.		1939.	
	Total Number of Units in Receipt of Sustenance.*	Number Working in Return for Sustenance.	Total Number of Units in Receipt of Sustenance.*	Number Working in Return for Sustenance.
January ..	13,786	11,269	15,975	13,555
February ..	13,086	10,580	15,625	13,339
March ..	12,577	10,942	14,824	12,524
April ..	12,928	11,188	15,306	12,932
May ..	13,118	11,298	15,024	13,040
June ..	13,187	11,443	15,653	13,666
July ..	14,538	12,589	17,008	14,732
August ..	15,694	13,362	17,860	14,745
September ..	15,404	13,130	17,661	14,489
October ..	14,789	12,572	15,375	12,757
November ..	14,419	12,338	12,888	11,275
December ..	15,775	13,498	12,128	10,884

* Including number working in return for sustenance.

Sustenance is provided at the same rates in every part of Victoria and is distributed through the agency of Public Assistance Committees appointed under the provisions of the *Unemployment Relief (Administration) Act 1932*.

Persons eligible to receive sustenance in accordance with the above-mentioned Act may be granted sustenance as set out in the following scales, but so that the total amount of the income received by a family unit and the value of the sustenance granted shall in no case exceed £3 14s. in any one week.

VICTORIA—RATES OF SUSTENANCE TO UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.

Family Unit. (1)	Maximum Weekly Permissible Income. (2)	Maximum Weekly Sustenance that may be Granted to—		
		Unemployable for whom Sustenance has been Specially Authorized by the Hon. the Minister. (3)	Employable Applicant for whom Work in Return for Sustenance is not Provided. (4)	Employable Male Working in Return for Sustenance, <i>vide</i> Section (8) of the Act. (5)
Itinerant unemployed male	<i>s. d.</i> 10 0	<i>s. d.</i> ..	<i>s. d.</i> 11 0	<i>s. d.</i> 17 6
Approved prospector Individual residing with strangers or relatives other than parents ..	12 0	..	11 0	17 6
Single unemployed employable male 21 years of age or over as member of family unit the head of which is in receipt of sustenance ..	12 0 In accordance with family unit of which he is a member	6 6	11 0	17 6
Two ..	20 0	9 9	5 0 18 6	10 0 30 6
Three ..	25 0	..	..	..
Four ..	27 6	..	..	..
Five ..	30 0	..	..	..
Six ..	32 6	..	..	..
Seven ..	35 0	..	..	..
Eight ..	37 6	..	..	..
Nine ..	40 0	..	..	..
Ten ..	42 6	..	..	..

And for each unemployed dependant ir-
respective of
age, 4s. per
week:
Provided in
any instance
the total
value of sus-
tenance does
not exceed
41s. 9d. per
week.

And for each
male unemployed
dependant under
21 years of age,
and for each un-
employed female
dependant ir-
respective of age,
4s. per week:
Provided in any
instance the total
value of susten-
ance does not
exceed 50s. 6d.
per week.

And for each un-
employed depend-
ant residing with
the applicant—
(a) 4s. per week
for each de-
pendant under
16 years of
age,
(b) 5s. per week
for each male
16 years and
under 21 years
of age,
(c) 5s. per week
for each female
16 years of age
or over:
Provided in any
instance the total
value of sustenance
does not exceed
62s. 6d. per week.

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

There were 757 charitable and reformatory organizations throughout the State in 1938. The total receipts of these organizations during the year ended 30th June, 1938, amounted to £3,192,358, of which £1,521,455 was contributed by the Government and £1,670,903 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £3,162,342. These particulars do not include payments, which amounted to £4,218,918 during 1937-38, made by the Commonwealth Government to old-age and invalid pensioners of this State. The daily average number under care indoors was 21,786, and there were 421,424 cases of out-door

relief during the year. These numbers, in respect of indoor and out-door patients, refer to the "cases" treated and not to persons. It is considered probable that some persons obtained relief or became inmates at more than one establishment, but there is no information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

A summary of the particulars in respect of charitable and reformatory institutions is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1937-38.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average In-door Patients or Inmates	Number of Cases of Out-door Relief.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
Special—							
Austin Hospital	1	390	..	24,021	33,452	57,473	61,052
Children's Hospital ..	1	349	13,991	29,670	54,431	84,101	111,397
Melbourne Dental Hospital	1	..	18,954	2,593	9,077	11,670	12,733
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	131	10,338	11,836	24,452	36,288	36,919
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	96	..	1,042	4,734	5,776	6,108
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	89	27,396	7,132	16,386	23,518	24,413
Women's Hospital	1	276	8,970	17,873	118,052	135,925	135,226
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	1	324	..	43,035	50,598	93,633	97,979
General Hospitals Metropolitan	5	1,118	134,060	148,847	255,153	404,000	377,445
Country ..	49	1,847	22,709	162,239	278,354	440,593	431,746
Auxiliary Hospitals	2	293	4,649	..	20,178	41,506	41,269
Foundling Hospitals and Infants' Homes	5	418	..	8,183	15,993	24,176	25,839
Convalescent Homes	2	45	..	739	3,143	3,882	3,450
Sanatoria	3	342	..	23,045	13,005	36,140	36,140
Mental Hospitals and Receiving Houses	12	6,229	..	431,236	59,303	490,539	490,539
Total	86	11,947	241,067	932,819	956,401	1,889,220	1,892,255
ASYLUMS AND ORPHANAGES.							
Benevolent Homes	10	2,225	1,019	44,789	80,833	125,622	124,678
Orphanages	28	3,353	..	55,559	189,298	244,857	204,245
Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions	3	183	444	3,300	42,499	45,799	45,860
Total	41	5,761	1,463	103,648	312,630	416,278	374,783
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges	13	994	..	8,116	71,620	79,736	82,761
Inebriates' Institutions ..	2	51	..	1,067	3,149	4,216	4,278
Children's Welfare Department	6	1,904	12,863	315,647	10,633	326,280	326,280
Gaols and Penal Establishments	12	1,129	..	122,340	..	122,340	122,340
Total	33	4,078	12,863	447,170	85,402	532,572	535,659
MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.							
Benevolent Societies	*223	..	36,340	13,871	47,219	61,090	61,980
Other Societies	*374	..	129,691	23,947	269,251	293,198	297,665
Total	*597	..	166,031	37,818	316,470	354,288	359,645
Grand Total	757	21,786	421,424	1,521,455	1,670,903	3,192,358	3,162,342

* Inclusive of branches.

Income of
Charitable
Institutions.

The receipts of hospitals, charitable, and reformatory institutions (excluding gaols and penal establishments) in the State under various headings for the year 1937-38 are shown hereunder:—

VICTORIA—SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1937-38.

Receipts.	Public Hospitals.	Founding Hospitals and Infants' Homes.	Benevolent Homes.	Orphanages.	Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutions.	Rescue Homes and Female Asylums.	Other Institutions.*	Total.
Government Aid ..	£ 469,616	£ 8,183	£ 44,789	£ 55,559	£ 3,300	£ 8,116	£ 809,552	£ 1,399,115
Municipal Grants and Contributions ..	74,939	183	781	589	602	63	33,517	110,674
Private Contributions ..	95,774	5,072	4,542	26,408	20,871	5,484	66,047	224,198
Proceeds of Entertainments	19,811	287	2,137	1,217	2,774	..	..	26,226
Legacies, Bequests and Donations ..	155,397	3,025	10,308	108,417	6,083	9,466	1,472	294,168
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations ..	20,549	476	1,974	1,289	99	343	120	24,850
Contributions of Indoor Patients ..	181,264	2,847	47,266	11,714	3,888	4,846	75,076	327,501
Out-patients' Fees ..	68,535	..	..	..	..	..	..	68,535
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour ..	230	18	826	14,084	2,014	51,071	114	68,357
Interest or Rent ..	33,122	3,348	11,045	14,914	3,241	230	43	65,943
Loan Receipts ..	169,275	..	..	..	..	..	..	169,275
Other Sources ..	50,971	737	1,954	10,666	2,927	117	228,804	296,176
Total ..	1,334,483	24,176	125,622	244,857	45,799	79,736	1,215,345	3,070,018

* Including Department of Mental Hygiene, Children's Welfare Department, and Benevolent Societies, but excluding Gaols and Penal Establishments.

Charitable
institutions—
receipts and
expenditure.

Information relating to the receipts and expenditure of charitable institutions (excluding gaols and penal establishments) during each year of the period of five years ended on 30th June, 1938, is given in the following table. For the year 1937-38, Government aid was equivalent to 45·57 per cent. of the total receipts; municipal grants and payments to 3·61 per cent.; payments of inmates and out-patients to 12·74 per cent.; private contributions to 7·30 per cent.; legacies, bequests, and donations

to 9·58 per cent.; receipts from Lord Mayor's Fund, &c., to 0·81 per cent.; interest and rent to 2·15 per cent.; loan receipts to 5·51 per cent.; and receipts from all other sources to 12·73 per cent.

VICTORIA—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1933-34 TO 1937-38.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	1,049,895	1,035,668	1,129,198	1,293,103	1,399,115
Municipal Grants and Contributions	112,124	112,409	112,093	107,473	110,674
Patients' and Inmates' Contributions	258,908	281,196	310,413	360,185	391,036
Private Contributions	199,467	211,164	191,835	248,275	224,198
Legacies, Bequests and Donations..	201,657	189,095	167,619	309,056	294,168
Lord Mayor's Fund, Hospital Sunday, and Church Donations ..	28,024	10,347	22,947	22,631	24,850
Interest or Rent	58,040	58,124	61,120	62,046	65,943
Loan Receipts	129,945	135,982	33,859	131,553	169,275
Other Sources	309,304	325,792	381,702	385,364	390,759
Total Receipts	2,347,364	2,368,777	2,410,786	2,919,686	3,070,018
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Ordinary	1,949,965	2,033,932	2,181,202	2,335,156	2,543,470
Extraordinary	60,029	74,626	63,821	61,334	64,596
Building	339,750	219,299	180,349	353,692	431,936
Total Expenditure	2,349,744	2,327,857	2,425,372	2,750,182	3,040,002

Charitable Institutions—Accommodation and Inmates,—The next table shows the accommodation available and the number of inmates maintained in the named institutions during the year ended 30th June, 1938 :—

VICTORIA—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, ACCOMMODATION, AND INMATES, 1937-38.

Institution.	Number of Beds.	Number of Inmates.	
		Total during the Year.	Daily Average.
Austin Hospital	425	1,351	390
Children's Hospital	448	4,232	349
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	141	3,340	131
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	138	145	96
Eye and Ear Hospital	121	2,825	89
Women's Hospital	285	8,900	276
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	720	4,480	324
General Hospitals—Metropolitan	1,167	21,883	1,118
" " Country	3,357	35,729	1,847
Auxiliary Hospitals	320	6,004	293
Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	260	440	258
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	100	256	82
Tweddle Hospital for Babies	12	108	8
Bethany Home, Geelong	43	53	34
St. Gabriel's Babies' Home	36	89	36
Convalescent Homes	70	886	45
Greenvale Sanatorium	104	301	101
Heatherton Sanatorium	124	306	117
Gresswell Sanatorium	140	403	124
Mental Hospitals	6,456	8,553	6,229
Benevolent Homes	2,553	4,683	2,225
Orphanages	3,606	4,676	3,353
Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums	280	318	183
Rescue Homes and Female Refuges	1,185	2,017	994
Inebriates' Institutions	66	123	51
Children's Welfare Department .. .. .	..	16,858*	13,760
Total	22,157	128,959	32,513

* Number under control.

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 59 mothers of infants in the Tweddle Hospital, 105 in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 130 in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 6 in Bethany Home, Geelong, and 648 infants in the Female Refuges during the year.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1928.

To consolidate the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria, an Act was passed in the year 1928 and proclaimed on 18th December, 1929. A summary of its provisions appears in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, pages 418 and 419.

The *Hospitals and Charities Act* 1936 gives to the Charities Board power to make or to cause to be made an inspection of any registered unsubsidized institution and to recommend conditions to be attached to the granting of Government subsidies. It also gives authority to an incorporated institution to raise money by debentures on the income of such institution. In the matter of the recovery of fees for treatment of patients in institutions, the liability, which formerly was limited to an assessment on the means of the patient himself, has been widened to enable recovery of fees from a responsible person such as the parent or guardian or husband or wife as the case may be. The patient or person responsible is required, under penalty, to complete a statement as to means and ability to pay for treatment.

No charitable institution or benevolent society may be established without the consent in writing of the Charities Board.

**The Hospitals
and Charities
Fund.**

In 1923 a Fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" was established in the Treasury. To this Fund Parliament has voted a sum each year towards the cost of maintenance and of building works of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies. The amount of the vote for the year 1938-39 was £200,000, plus the sum of £60,000 from State Unemployment Relief (Taxation) Fund. The total amount available for distribution from the Hospitals and Charities Fund for 1938-39, including Totalizator Receipts, was £433,267. The matters which are to be considered when making payments from the Fund are set forth on page 231 of the *Year-Book* for 1929-30. The *Totalizator Act* 1930, as amended by the *Totalizator Act* 1934, provides that any racing club using a totalizator shall deduct as commission 10 per cent. out of the moneys paid into the totalizator in respect of each race or division of a race and that 50 per cent. of the amount so deducted, where the races are held on courses within a radius of 20 miles of Melbourne, and 25 per cent. in respect of races held on courses situated elsewhere in Victoria, shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue and transferred therefrom each year to the Hospitals and Charities Fund. Since the date of the operation of the Act, the sum of £886,691 has been so transferred. The annual transfers were as follow:—1930-31, £8; 1931-32, £50,519; 1932-33, £110,184; 1933-34, £123,312; 1934-35, £124,251; 1935-36, £141,430; 1936-37, £147,802; 1937-38, £189,185; and 1938-39, £173,267.

Loans and grants amounting to £75,000 were made to institutions from the National Recovery Loan Fund during 1938-39 for building purposes.

When the Board commenced its operations in 1923 only one country hospital had a maternity ward. In 1938 maternity wards had been established in the public sections of 28 hospitals.

The Board has framed regulations in regard to Community Hospitals. A brief statement of these regulations appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, page 232.

The scheme for the admission of intermediate and private patients was initiated in the metropolis by the Committee of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children. At this institution a new wing, named the "Jessie McPherson Community Hospital", was opened for the reception of such patients on 1st December, 1931. The Alfred Hospital followed on 22nd May, 1933, when "Hamilton Russell House" was opened and, at St. Vincent's Hospital, one floor of a section of the building was set aside for the purpose and patients admitted thereto on 1st February, 1934. At the Austin Hospital for Chronic Diseases an intermediate section, "Heidelberg House", was officially opened on 19th April, 1939, the first patients being admitted on 1st May.

Outside the metropolitan area there are 49 general hospitals, of which 37, during the year 1938-39, admitted intermediate and private patients in accordance with the regulations.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The principal general hospitals in the State are the Royal Melbourne, the Alfred, and St. Vincent's Hospitals. The social services rendered by each of these hospitals is briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Royal Melbourne Hospital. The origin of this institution belongs to the earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in 1910. During the year 1934 Their Majesties the King and Queen bestowed their patronage on this Hospital.

The *Royal Melbourne Hospital Act* 1935, provides for the granting to a corporation known as the Royal Melbourne Hospital of a piece of land consisting of nearly 11 acres situated in the city of Melbourne, and authorizes the corporation to erect on the land granted a general hospital and other buildings, and to install such equipment as is required. Power is given to the corporation to sell the land (about 5 acres) upon which the existing hospital is built, also the buildings thereon, and to apply the proceeds of such sale for or towards the cost of erecting and equipping the new hospital.

To assist the corporation further in financing the new building, which is estimated to cost £800,000, the *Royal Melbourne Hospital Act* 1938 enables the Government of the State of Victoria to guarantee the repayment of the principal and interest of a loan not exceeding £500,000 to be raised by the corporation. Proceeds from the sale of the present site are to be used towards the reduction of this loan.

The construction of the New Hospital commenced in 1939.

This institution has always been the most important of the general hospitals of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 378 beds. In the year 1938-39 the number of in-patients treated was 8,356, the daily average number being 410, which was 32 above the number the hospital is designed to accommodate. During the year, 52,839 persons were treated in the out-patients' and casualty departments. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 257,201.

In 1937-38 the receipts of the Maintenance Account amounted to £130,155, the principal items of receipts being:—Government grant for maintenance, £48,150; municipal grants, £2,037; annual subscriptions, £5,949; donations, £300; bequests, £19,062; proceeds of entertainments, £3,576; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,678; Lord Mayor's Fund allocation, £1,944; visitors' fees, £4,810; payments and contributions by in-door patients, £14,078; out-patients' fees, £13,589; interest, £12,151; and £2,831 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure from Maintenance Account was £137,933.

The hospital, which is a training school for nurses, has a nursing staff of 275. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute has, by the result of its research work, provided valuable assistance to medical science.

To relieve the pressure on the general hospitals in the City of Melbourne, the Convalescent Hospital at Caulfield was established in 1925. The management is undertaken by the committee of the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In eight wards there are 200 beds. During the year 1938-39 the number of patients treated was 2,945, the daily average number being 179. The total expenditure for the year was £24,964.

This hospital, which was opened in May, 1871, is situated in the municipality of Melbourne. The area of land reserved for the purposes of the hospital is 13 acres. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. On the 22nd May, 1933, Hamilton Russell House was opened with a capacity of 40 beds for the reception of private and intermediate patients. This branch is a new feature of general hospital work in this State. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. The following particulars relate to the public section only:—On 30th June, 1939, there were 377 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients during the year 1938-39 was 6,637, and in the out-patients and

**Alfred
Hospital.**

casualty departments 34,325 persons were treated. The number of attendances of patients in these departments was 184,611. The ordinary income of the Maintenance Account during the year 1938-39 amounted to £90,092. The principal items of receipts were:—Government grants, £39,443; municipal grants, £1,733; private contributions, £3,242; special donations and bequests, £6,014; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,359; Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,591; in-door patients' fees, £11,348; out-door patients' fees, £7,884; general clinic fees, £1,653; visitors' contributions, £4,013; proceeds of entertainments, £4,347; transfer from Hamilton Russell House, £1,000; sales refunds, &c., £3,284; interest from investments, £1,922; and miscellaneous receipts, £1,259. The total expenditure on maintenance was £103,490.

The history of the foundation and later development of this institution appears in the *Year-Book*, 1937-38, page 256.

**St. Vincent's
Hospital.**

In October, 1928, the foundation stone of the new building was laid and, on the 8th December, 1934, the New Wing of the hospital was opened. This addition, which created a heavy financial burden, increased the normal accommodation from 120 to 245 beds and provided 60 beds for Intermediate patients.

In September, 1937, two stories were added to the Nurses' Home at a cost of £22,600. Loan money for this was provided by the Government, interest being at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

In June, 1938, the new Pathological Building was opened, the cost being £29,308. The Government Grant towards this was £26,173.

In June, 1939, the Radio-Therapeutic Department was opened and cost £6,500. Towards the cost the Anti-Cancer Council provided £2,127, and the Red Cross Central Executive £3,097. Two machines were installed, a Constant Potential High Voltage Shock and X-Ray Proof Generator, and a Chaoul Contact Therapy Apparatus.

During the year 1938-39 the number of in-patients treated was 4,825 and of out-patients and casualties 35,575. In 1938-39 the receipts of the Maintenance Account amounted to £65,341, the principal items of receipts being:—Government Grant, £27,699; municipal grants, £677; annual subscriptions, £989; allocation from Hospital Sunday and Lord Mayor's Fund, £1,715; donations and collections, £2,552; proceeds of entertainments, £4,382; in-patients' contributions, £10,480; out-patients' contributions, £7,972; visitors' fees, £3,168; bequests, £722; profits from pay-beds, £1,709; and other receipts, £3,276. The total expenditure on maintenance during 1938-39 was £68,668.

SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

The principal special hospitals in the State are the Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases, the Children's Hospital, the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Women's Hospital. Details of the activities of each of these hospitals are set out hereunder.

Austin Hospital for Cancer and Chronic Diseases. The history of the foundation of this hospital in 1881 and of its later development appears in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 257.

From a small institution containing 66 beds it has expanded into a modern hospital and now accommodates 495 patients. Attached to the cancer division is the deep X-ray and radium departments for the treatment of the 130 patients in this section of the hospital.

The Hospital was a part-time training school for nurses for many years, but it has recently been advanced to the status of a full-time training school.

Opened on the 1st May, 1939, "Heidelberg House" provides an intermediate hospital service for patients able to pay moderate fees. Approached by a separate entrance, it is situated in the grounds of the Austin Hospital and is entirely detached from the public hospital. Containing four floors the building accommodates sixty-nine patients and is the first hospital building in Victoria to be air-conditioned throughout. Both general medical and surgical cases and cases of the chronic type are accepted for treatment.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, 1,252 patients were treated in the public section and 70 in the intermediate.

Of the total expenditure for the year 1938-39 (£111,514), £48,652 was for buildings and £62,862 for maintenance. The revenue (including Government loan, £42,642) for the same period was £101,091.

Children's Hospital. The history of the foundation of this hospital in 1856 and of its later development appears in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 258. It now ranks amongst the largest Children's Hospitals in the British Empire with accommodation of 448 beds.

In addition to its in-patient activities, the hospital treated 17,404 separate children as out-patients during the year 1938-39, involving 74,446 attendances.

For children's diseases the hospital is an important teaching and research centre where medical students from Melbourne University are required to devote one term.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, the number of patients admitted to the hospital was 4,268, which, with 384 patients in the hospital at 1st July, 1938, made a total of 4,652 patients.

The cost of maintenance during the same period was £86,047 which, with £7,655 expended on building, gave a total expenditure of £93,702. The total revenue during the year was £95,545.

**Queen's
Memorial
Infectious
Diseases
Hospital.**

This institution dates from 1904 when the first patient was admitted. Its early history and later development is recorded in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 259.

In 1930-31, diphtheria and scarlet fever both became more prevalent and the accommodation was not equal to the demand. The Board obtained approval for the provision of extra wards containing 150 beds, additions to the nurses' home and other services, bringing the nominal number of beds to 720.

Transport of patients to the hospital is provided by motor ambulances, the area served extending as far as Bacchus Marsh, Werribee, Ferntree Gully, Whittlesea and Mornington.

The greatest number of patients in Hospital on any one day was 745, during the epidemic of diphtheria in 1936.

The patients treated, during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1939, numbered 4,085.

For the same period receipts amounted to £82,613 and expenditure to £89,862.

**Women's
Hospital.**

The history and later development of this hospital, which was founded in 1856, is recorded in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, page 260.

A Service block costing £110,000 was officially opened by Her Excellency Lady Gowrie in November, 1937. A Pathological Block, the tender price of which was £42,000, was opened by Lord Huntingfield in 1939.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, the daily average number of in-patients was 284, whilst out-patients numbered 8,589 with 30,457 attendances.

Since its foundation, there have been 115,335 births in the hospital, and out-patients attendances have numbered 627,379.

In 1938-39 the total receipts and expenditure amounted to £77,582 and £95,152 respectively.

Other Hospitals, &c. Statements showing the nature of the work performed by other hospitals, societies, &c., are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 568 to 582, and 586.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act, now consolidated in the Act of 1928, are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385; provisions of the Health Acts of 1931, 1935, and 1937 are described in the *Year-Book* 1937-38, pages 261 and 262.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIA AND BUREAUX.

With the definite object of obtaining improved results in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, a State Director of Tuberculosis was appointed in 1927. Since this appointment, a new feature in the control and cure of the disease has been the establishment of tuberculosis bureaux in the metropolis and in the provincial centres of the State. With the co-operation of the Bureaux, a larger proportion of cases in the early stages of the disease has been admitted to the Sanatoria. This has resulted in a reduction in the period of stay therein, and in the consequent utilization of the available number of beds to a greater extent for the benefit of the tuberculous members of the population.

In 1933 a new Sanatorium (Gresswell) at Mont Park was opened and accommodation provided for 144 male patients. With the opening of this Sanatorium the Janefield and Amherst Sanatoria were closed. During the year 1935-36 the State Sanatoria Board carried out many building and other improvements at Gresswell Sanatorium. An X-ray plant, purchased out of moneys provided by a bequest, was installed at the Greenvale Sanatorium. A branch bureau, under the clinical charge of the District Health Officer, was opened in Ballarat in December, 1934. The Gresswell and Heatherton Sanatoria are registered as part-time and special training schools for nurses.

Plans for a new Sanatorium for women at Greenvale are being drawn up and it is hoped to commence construction in the near future.

A Government grant of £5,000 was made for a new building at Royal Park Benevolent Home for the reception of 20 indigent male patients. This has been completed and is named the Dunstan Chalet.

The following table shows the accommodation of, the number of admissions to, discharges from, and deaths of males and females in sanatoria during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1939:—

VICTORIA—SANATORIA—ACCOMMODATION, ETC., 1938-39.

Sanatorium.	Accommodation.		Admissions.		Discharges.		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Greenvale .. ..	..	100	..	208	..	167	..	34
Austin	70	43	135	77	65	46	69	32
Heatherton .. ..	..	124	..	194	..	156	..	41
Royal Park	19	..	23	..	5	..	14	..
Grosswell	144	..	288	..	258	..	18	..
Bendigo Chalet ..	12	12	28	23	10	16	13	10
Total	245	279	474	502	338	385	114	117

The Branch Bureaux at Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and Prahran have done useful work. Work at the Central Tuberculosis Bureau has further increased during the year. Attendances at this Bureau were 13,765 in 1936-37, 13,565 in 1937-38, and 15,581 in 1938-39. The work of the Bureaux is much appreciated by general practitioners, from whom many encouraging messages have been received. In recent years doctors in private practice have sent to the Bureaux an increasing number of patients for examination and report. During the year ended 30th June, 1939, 11,769 domiciliary visits to tuberculous patients were made by the 10 nurses attached to the various Bureaux.

The following table illustrates some of the work at the Central and Branch Tuberculosis Bureaux during the year ended 30th June, 1939:—

VICTORIA—TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX ACTIVITIES, 1938-39.

	Metropolitan—				Country—	
	Central.		Prahran.		Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases applying	1,224	1,603	59	75	310	233
Re-attendance	4,594	7,960	239	375	1,165	1,531
Cases passed for entry to Sanatoria and other Institutions ..	488	505	16	44	67	52
Contacts—						
New—Examined	570	692	24	32	132	211
Old—Re-examined	607	730	11	33	226	278
Found Tuberculous	14	37	1	2	2	1
Infecting Cases	494		36		175	
Visits to Patients' Homes—						
By Medical Officers	137		1	..	6	1
By Nurses	4,064	4,643	345	368	1,116	1,233
X-Ray Screen Examinations ..	799	1,340	9	5	33	21
X-Ray Film Examinations ..	1,434	1,952	39	69	376	323
Pneumothorax Refills	445	1,003	21	15	120	158

The number of attendances of patients at the Central and Branch Bureaux during the period of twelve months ended on 30th June in each of the thirteen years 1927 to 1939 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—ATTENDANCES OF PATIENTS AT TUBERCULOSIS BUREAUX, 1927 TO 1939.

Year.	Bureau.					Total.
	Central.	Prahran.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Ballarat.	
1927 ..	596	..	..	..	..	596
1928 ..	1,115	..	..	..	..	1,115
1929 ..	3,309	..	..	..	..	3,309
1930 ..	6,088	177	..	..	..	6,265
1931 ..	8,212	316	512	..	..	9,040
1932 ..	9,235	285	543	164	..	10,227
1933 ..	9,527	370	838	944	..	11,679
1934 ..	10,370	365	939	1,028	..	12,702
1935 ..	10,836	474	1,204	926	439	13,879
1936 ..	12,319	431	1,184	731	654	15,319
1937 ..	13,765	501	1,064	959	735	17,024
1938 ..	13,565	571	1,147	1,312	714	17,309
1939 ..	15,581	748	904	1,576	759	19,568

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE.

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1937 and 1938.

VICTORIA—PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE, 31ST DECEMBER, 1937 AND 1938.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (-).
	1937.	1938.	
In State Hospitals	6,060	6,104	+ 44
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	920	915	- 5
Boarded Out	252	246	- 6
In Licensed Houses	46	42	- 4
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	24	19	- 5
Total	7,302	7,326	+ 24
In Receiving Institutions	124	120	- 4
Total	7,426	7,446	+ 20
Voluntary Boarders	181	221	+ 40
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	233	237	+ 4

There was an increase in the year 1938, compared with 1937, in the number of certified patients in State Mental Hospitals. The number of certified insane in the State at the end of 1938, proportionately to the population, was 1 in 255. At 31st December, 1938, there were 237 military mental cases known to the Department and 221 voluntary boarders in various institutions. The boarding out of patients is being extended to certain benevolent homes in country districts.

The number of admissions to Mental Hospitals for each of the years 1934 to 1938 was as follows:—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—ADMISSIONS, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1934	357	425	782	40	40	80	862
1935	380	417	797	42	56	98	895
1936	379	403	782	41	53	94	876
1937	374	406	780	25	30	55	835
1938	379	389	768	52	63	115	883

The number of discharges from, and the deaths in, Mental Hospitals of the Department for each of the years 1934 to 1938 are given below:—

VICTORIA—MENTAL HOSPITALS—DISCHARGES AND DEATHS, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	Discharges.			Deaths.			Total of Discharges and Deaths.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1934	149	191	340	196	204	400	740
1935	152	214	366	245	218	463	829
1936	138	180	318	213	177	390	708
1937	162	196	358	210	167	377	735
1938	190	241	431	209	200	409	840

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Wards of Children's Welfare Department and Department for Reformatory Schools.

There were at the end of 1938 two industrial and five reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing depots, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the State for those inmates who are wards of the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or boarded out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1938, numbered 5,761—5,563 wards of Children's Welfare Department and 198 reformatory children. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the five years 1934 to 1938 :—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	NUMBER OF WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Wards.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1934 ...	2,692	1,249	340	1,522	...	5,803
1935 ...	2,409	1,038	361	1,680	...	5,488
1936 ...	2,218	1,048	359	1,784	...	5,409
1937 ...	2,131	1,273	351	1,781	...	5,536
1938 ...	1,916	1,404	342	1,901	...	5,563

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1934 ...	96	110	19	...	...	225
1935 ...	87	86	23	...	...	196
1936 ...	98	73	27	...	...	198
1937 ...	99	39	27	...	...	165
1938 ...	109	74	14	1	...	198

Children boarded out, &c.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by departmental inspectors and honorary committees, which furnish reports to the Department as to their general condition. The rate paid by the State to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for each child under the age of 18 months, and 7s. per week for each child over that age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

MAINTENANCE ACT 1928—PART III.

Part III. of this Act enables a mother whose child is without sufficient means of support, and who is unable to provide or to obtain by any available legal proceedings sufficient means of support for such child, to apply in the prescribed form to the Secretary of the Children's Welfare Department for assistance for or toward the maintenance thereof. The Secretary on receipt of such application causes inquiries to be made as to the circumstances and character of the applicant, her ability to maintain her child without assistance, and as to the truth of the statements in her application. He then remits the application together with the result of his investigation, to a Special Magistrate, or to a Police Magistrate for the district, who arranges for the hearing of the application in private and who, having examined the applicant on oath, furnishes the Secretary with a recommendation as to whether, in his opinion, assistance should or should not be granted.

Special Magistrates who are officers of the Children's Welfare Department hear all applications made by mothers who reside within a radius of 20 miles from the General Post Office.

The Secretary, having made any comments he thinks fit as to the need for assistance, submits the case to the Minister, who grants or refuses the application. If the Minister grants the application, payment is allowed, from the date of the receipt of the application by the Secretary, at not less than 6s. or more than 12s. per week unless, in the opinion of the Minister, exceptional circumstances such as the existence in the child of some affliction of body or mind warrant the payment of a larger sum.

For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1938, assistance was granted under the Maintenance Act in respect of 2,381 children. At the end of the year there were 8,118 children boarded out to their mothers, an increase of 179 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 7,939.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out for the years 1934 to 1938 inclusive :—

VICTORIA—WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	Children Boarded Out at End of Year.				Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children Boarded Out.
	To Foster Mothers.	With Mothers.	Total.	Cost of Maintenance During Year.		
				£		
1934 ..	2,692	7,300	9,992	218,016	3,336	13,328
1935 ..	2,409	7,330	9,739	212,192	3,275	13,014
1936 ..	2,218	7,870	10,088	221,746	3,191	13,279
1937 ..	2,131	7,939	10,070	230,911	3,405	13,475
1938 ..	1,916	8,118	10,034	268,491	3,647	13,681

Cost of maintenance of neglected and reformatory children.

The expenditure by the State for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1938 to £268,491, allowances to widowed mothers £13,121, and for reformatory school children to £4,612; the expenses of administration amounted to £21,419, making a total gross expenditure of £307,643. A sum of £10,081 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £551 from other sources, making the net expenditure £297,011. The number of children under supervision on 31st December, 1938, was 5,563; of this total, 1,916 were maintained in foster homes, 261 were in Government receiving depots, 1,601 were in other institutions, 342 were at service earning their own living, 39 were in hospitals, and 1,404 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1938, was 198. Of this number, 104 were maintained in private schools, 14 were in service earning their own living, and 74 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children during the ten years, 1929 to 1938, is shown in the table which follows:—

VICTORIA—NET COST TO THE STATE OF WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1929 TO 1938.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1929	..	..	429,038	1934	..	..	251,587
1930	..	..	413,439	1935	..	..	251,614
1931	..	..	382,968	1936	..	..	262,792
1932	..	..	332,886	1937	..	..	272,788
1933	..	..	286,254	1938	..	..	*297,011

* Includes £13,121 allowances to widowed mothers.

Neglected children maintained by societies or private persons.

Part I., Division 8, of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1928 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council. A statement showing the names of the approved institutions appears in the *Year-Book*, 1937-38, page 269. The number of children under supervision of these societies on 31st December, 1937, was 1,738. The admissions during the year 1938 under various headings were as follows:—Court Committals, 52; Transfer of Guardianship, 135; Voluntary Admissions, 602. The number of children under supervision of the societies on 31st December, 1938, was 1,482.

Children in Registered Homes.

On 31st December, 1938, there were 142 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of the Children's Welfare Act. There were 4 deaths of such children during the year. The work of inspection of registered homes is performed by 4 female inspectors. During the year 62 children, in respect of whom the weekly payments for maintenance by the responsible persons had fallen into arrears, became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 103 of the Act.

Widows' Pensions.

As a result of a report by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed by Parliament to inquire into and report on the establishment in Victoria of a scheme to provide for the payment of Widows' Pensions, the *Maintenance (Widowed Mothers) Act* 1937 came into operation on the 4th March, 1938.

This Act, which is administered by the Children's Welfare Department under the direction of the Minister, provides for the granting of a pension to any widow mother who is receiving or is eligible to receive assistance from the Children's Welfare Department in respect of her child.

Application is made to the Secretary on the prescribed form, and the Minister, after due investigation has been made similar to that in the case of an application for assistance in respect of a child, either grants or refuses the application.

The Act fixes the rate of pension at not less than 6s. per week and not more than 10s. per week.

The number of applications approved from 4th March to 31st December, 1938, was 930 and the expenditure £13,121.

INFANT WELFARE AND BUSH NURSING.**Infant Welfare.**

With the object of reducing the wastage of child life due to preventable causes, infant welfare centres have been established throughout Victoria since 1917. They are maintained by various municipalities, which are aided by a Government subsidy on a £1 for £1 basis up to £112 10s. per annum, providing the minimum salary paid to the nurse is £208 per annum for full-time and proportionately for each nurse employed part-time. If the salary is lower than this rate only half the nurse's salary is subsidized. On 30th June, 1939, there were 118 municipalities maintaining 207 centres. Of these municipalities, 29 in the metropolitan area were supporting 72 centres, and 89 in the country were supporting 135 centres. During the year ended 30th June, 1939, the number of individual infants who were given attention at centres was 51,316, compared with 43,736 in 1938. Their attendances numbered 520,819 in 1939 and 361,187 in 1938 and the nurses made 73,490 and 89,821 visits in 1939 and 1938 respectively. The number of nurses actually employed in infant welfare centre work was 114, but, including infant welfare nurses in the Public Health Department and those attached to voluntary organizations and training schools, there were 142.

The following statement gives particulars of infant welfare centres for the year 1917-18 (the first year in operation) and for the five years 1934-35 to 1938-39 :—

VICTORIA—INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

—	1917-18.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Nurses in centres ..	1	95	100	104	106	114
Home visits ..	1,407	66,749	69,047	70,943	89,821	73,490
Total individual children	913	39,147	42,403	47,115	43,736	51,316
Total attendances ..	4,116	421,390	452,612	491,047	*361,187	520,819

* Owing to outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) activities of centres were curtailed.

There are eight infant welfare and mothercraft training schools for nurses. Of these schools two train infant welfare and mothercraft nurses, two train infant welfare nurses only, and four train mothercraft nurses only. These schools are supported by voluntary organizations and church bodies and are as follow :—

Foundling Hospital, East Melbourne	}	Training Infant Welfare and Mothercraft Nurses
Presbyterian Babies' Home ..		
Victorian Baby Health Centres Association Training School	}	Training Infant Welfare Nurses
Tweddle Baby Hospital ..		
Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows	}	Training Mothercraft Nurses
Methodist Babies' Home ..		
Bethany Babies' Home ..		
St. Gabriel's Church of England Babies' Home		

There were 655 infant welfare nurses registered with the Nurses' Board in Victoria at 30th June, 1939, and 562 mothercraft nurses eligible to obtain the Public Health Department certificate of competency.

There are eleven crèches or day nurseries supported by voluntary effort and money derived from Trust funds. The children are admitted as a rule from the age of six weeks to six years. The usual charge is 3d. to 4d. per child per day, varying with different crèches. The daily payment includes provision for three meals and a bath. The total attendances for the year ended 30th June, 1939, were 82,937.

Bush Nursing. There are bush nursing centres distributed throughout the State in the rural areas. At 30th June, 1939, the centres numbered 70, inclusive of 51 bush nursing hospitals. The bush nurses numbered 120 on permanent staff and 5 on relieving staff, the majority of whom held infant welfare as well as general and midwifery certificates.

Details of receipts and expenditure of the bush nursing centres for the year ended 30th June, 1938, are shown below:—

VICTORIA—BUSH NURSING CENTRES, 1937-38.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Grants—		Salaries—	
Government	195	Nurses, paid to Central	
Municipalities	506	Council	16,271
Central Council	964	Other	8,699
Donations	10,830	Provisions, Fuel and Lighting	12,201
Proceeds from Entertainments	3,498	Surgery and Medicine	1,584
Nursing Fees	31,100	Repairs and Maintenance	2,337
Members' Fees	11,267	Printing, Stationery	975
Interest and Rent	251	Insurance, Rent, and Bank	
Proceeds from Sale of Medi-		Charges	2,262
cine	755	Other Maintenance Costs	1,831
Loans—		Loans and Interest Repay-	
From Central Council	3,738	ments	1,940
From other Sources	1,230	Land and New Buildings	13,698
Miscellaneous	811	New Equipment	2,912
Total Receipts	65,145	Total Expenditure	64,710
Cash in hand or in Bank at		Bank Overdraft at 1st July,	
1st July, 1937	8,304	1937	8,170
Bank Overdraft at 30th June,		Cash in hand or in Bank,	
1938	9,394	30th June, 1938	9,963
	82,843		82,843

Loans outstanding at 30th June, 1938, amounted to £38,001.

NOTE.—The above statement excludes Central Council receipts (£7,399) and expenditure (£2,774).

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The Lord Mayor's Fund was inaugurated on 4th April, 1923, for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, and was incorporated by Act of Parliament on 24th December, 1930. The Hospital Saturday and Sunday Fund was formed in 1873 and remained in operation until the year 1923, when the Hospital Saturday section was merged with the Lord Mayor's Fund, the Hospital Sunday section remaining a separate fund, but being carried on in close co-operation with the Lord Mayor's Fund. Since the date of the inauguration of the latter fund subscriptions and donations amounting to £1,123,678 have been received, and the collections for the Hospital Sunday Fund have amounted to £172,540.

The total annual receipts of the two funds during the period 1923-24 to 1938-39 were as follows :—

Year.	Lord Mayor's Fund.	Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
1923-24 to 1928-29	289,057	76,799	365,856
1929-30	65,458	11,596	77,054
1930-31	95,416	12,064	107,480
1931-32	70,606	9,500	80,106
1932-33	80,716	10,170	90,886
1933-34	93,554	8,275	101,829
1934-35	78,717	8,633	87,350
1935-36	93,045	8,551	101,596
1936-37	105,714	8,843	114,557
1937-38	78,886	9,123	88,009
1938-39	72,509	8,986	81,495

St. John Ambulance Association. The work carried on by this Association is described in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and of the injured. During the past year 3,505 students have been instructed in first aid and home nursing, of whom 2,340 received certificates. Since the formation of the Victorian Centre of the Association in 1883, 68,780 persons have been awarded certificates. The Association medallion has been awarded to 5,354 students.

Victorian Civil Ambulance Service. This service attended to 42,348 calls, of which 4,386 were connected with accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1939, the mileage travelled was 215,801. In 29,109 cases no fee was paid. The large increase in the work of the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service in the year under review is accounted for by the Infantile Paralysis Epidemic. In order that the patients could receive proper medical attention, "After Care Medical Treatment Clinics" were established, and to these centres the patients were transported without charge. During the year ended 30th June, 1939, 23,879 transportations were made. The decentralization of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Prahran, Canterbury, and Footscray, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, 23 Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, under the Country Division of the Service, and 68 stretchers and first-aid outfits have been supplied to police stations in smaller centres.

The locations of the Country Ambulance Stations are as follow :—

Ballarat (2 cars)	Horsham	Mornington	Wangaratta
Beechworth	Kerang	Rushworth	Warragul
Benalla	Korumburra	Sale	Warrnambool
Bendigo	Kyabram	Shepparton	Yarram
Castlemaine	Maffra	Stawell	
Echuca	Mildura	Swan Hill	

**Charity
Organization
Society.**

A statement of the objects of this society appears in the *Year-Book* 1916-17, Page 583.

The income for the year ended 30th June, 1939, was £5,016 ; private subscriptions amounted to £977, and all other receipts to £4,039. The total expenditure during the year was £5,264, of which £2,787 was expended on relief, and £2,477 on administration and on buildings. At the end of the year the amount of capital invested was £8,915, and of cash on hand £1,561.

**Royal
Humane
Society.**

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are given in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30, pages 236-237.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

With the object of minimizing the great loss of life from drowning, a branch of the Royal Life Saving Society was established in Melbourne in 1904. A statement of the aims

of the society appears in the *Year-Book* for 1929-30 on page 237.

During the year 1938-39 the number of awards granted by the Victorian Head Centre was 2,917, which included 63 Awards of Merit. The total income of the Centre for 1938-39 was £1,045, and the expenditure £1,060.

**Society for
the Protection
of Animals.**

The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended

30th June, 1939, 3,125 cases were dealt with, of which 904 were connected with cruelty to horses, and 1,274 to dogs. There were 31 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in 27 of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £1,959, and the expenditure to £2,137.

**National
Safety
Council of
Australia.**

The National Safety Council of Australia was founded in Melbourne in 1927 for the purpose of developing, mainly by means of education, safety on the road, at work, in the home, and in the air. Its activities have developed in other directions, wherever the need for reducing the toll of accidents has been shown. The Council is governed by an Executive assisted by traffic, factories and workshops, air safety, and film committees.

Junior Safety Councils have been formed in the schools for developing a safety conscience among children. The children themselves are officers of these Junior Safety Councils, and patrol the roads in the neighbourhood of the School to conduct the scholars across in safety.

**Victorian
Coal Miners'
Accidents
Relief Fund.**

A statement on the establishment of this Fund appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1928-29, page 438.

Including the moneys received by the Accidents Committee of each mine, the total revenue of the Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1938, was £4,556. The details of the revenue are as follow:—Interest, £1,199; contributions by employees, £1,204; by the mine-owners, £516; by the Government, £628; and miscellaneous receipts, £1,009. The total expenditure in connexion with the Fund during 1938 was £4,384. The items of expenditure were—allowances to beneficiaries £4,050, and cost of administration £334. The investments of the Fund at 31st December, 1938, amounted to £31,490.

During the year 1938, there were 638 accidents at the mines, 2 of which were fatal. From the date of the establishment of the Fund on 2nd April, 1910, to 31st December, 1938, the number of accidents recorded was 11,377—79 fatal and 11,298 non-fatal.

**Lord Mayor's
1937 Coal
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.**

On 15th February, 1937, an explosion of gas in the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, caused the deaths of thirteen men. A public appeal resulted in the subscription of £27,863 towards a Relief Fund which was supplemented by an amount of £1,259 received from the Wonthaggi Local Fund, making a total of £29,122 available for distribution among the thirteen widows and eighteen dependent children of the deceased.

From the Fund the sum of £100 was paid to each family and arrangements were made for the payment of £2 per week to each widow, until her death or re-marriage, together with 15s. per week in respect of each child until it attains the age of eighteen years. The balance remaining in the Fund will enable assistance to be given in special cases, such as medical attention to widows and children and educational assistance to children.

During the year ended 30th June, 1939, payments to widows and children amounted to £1,976, and medical and funeral benefits to £24. The balance to the credit of the Fund at that date was £27,169.

This Fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to **Queen's Fund.** commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is provided that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women assisted during 1938-39 was 87, to whom £751 was allotted either by way of grant or loan; the cost of management was £122. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1939, was £19,770. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund (£854) for the year 1938-39, an amount of £88 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust and distributed to governesses, nurses, and others in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living.

**Lord Mayor's
1939 Bush
Fire Relief
Fund.**

The devastating fires which swept over a wide area of the State during January, 1939, and to which references are made elsewhere in this *Year-Book*, were the cause of much suffering and loss to thousands of people in Victoria.

An appeal was launched for a fund for the relief of the distressed and in response subscriptions amounting to £264,472 (including £2,121 interest on deposits) were received.

Disbursements from the Fund comprised £177,897 for claims; £25,483 for immediate relief, including interim payments to widows, &c., and housing accounts; £55,000 transferred to a trust fund; and £6,092 made available for lump sum payments to widows and children and other contingencies.

Claims numbering 3,197 involving an amount of £974,527 were lodged for losses sustained in the fires and grants of £177,897 were made in respect thereof. Of these claims, 469 totalling £38,065 were granted for building material and labour, and other assistance was rendered towards the rebuilding of public halls and the erection of dwellings and shelters.

The sum of £55,000 was transferred to a trust fund for the payment of annuities to 23 widows and 25 children of men who lost their lives in the fires, and fortnightly payments to 4 other persons incapacitated by injuries received therefrom. Each widow is to be paid £2 per week, or £1 per week if the recipient benefited under the Workers' Compensation Act, and this payment will continue until death or twelve months after remarriage. Provision is made, however, to discontinue this payment if the recipient is guilty of misconduct that might justify such action. Payment in respect of each child is to be 10s. per week, until he or she attains the age of 17 years.

EXPENDITURE BY THE STATE OF VICTORIA ON SOCIAL SERVICES.

Cost of Social Services. Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue and Loan Funds of the State of Victoria on the undermentioned social services during the years 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38, and 1938-39, exclusive of interest on loans (other than for unemployment relief) raised for such purposes, amounted to £9,628,244, £9,207,361, £10,346,556, and £9,912,564 respectively. The amount so expended on each service is shown in the following statement:—

Social Service.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
	£	£	£	£
Law, Order and Public Safety	1,122,352	1,230,925	1,290,171	1,315,866
Regulation of Trade and Industry	86,110	125,599	111,525	103,018
Education	2,758,781	3,068,436	3,229,925	3,278,618
Promotion of Public Health and Recreation ..	1,051,318	1,117,754	1,349,023	1,305,180
Social Amelioration (excluding Unemployment Relief)	300,780	342,601	834,697	541,331
Unemployment Relief	4,308,903	3,322,046	3,531,215	3,368,551
Total	9,628,244	9,207,361	10,346,556	9,912,564

Further information in regard to the above items appears in Part Finance of the *Year-Book*.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE IN VICTORIA ON CERTAIN SOCIAL SERVICES AND REPATRIATION.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

**Federal
Invalid and
Old-age
Pensions Act.**

These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The commencing age for old-age pensioners is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women. The maximum rate of pension paid as from 9th September, 1937, was £52 per annum, or 20s. per week.

**Pensioners,
1929-30 to
1938-39.**

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1939, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 26,189; women, 41,707; total, 67,896. Invalid pensioners—men, 8,228; women, 11,243; total, 19,471.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year and the amount expended each year during the ten years ended 30th June, 1939, are shown in the following statement:—

VICTORIA—OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS, 1929-30 TO 1938-39.

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.*
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
1929-30	45,495	18,641	64,136	£ 3,182,375
1930-31	49,999	19,925	69,924	3,445,803
1931-32	52,795	20,785	73,580	3,255,709
1932-33	49,449	20,191	69,640	3,059,773
1933-34	57,253	15,193	72,446	3,053,247
1934-35	58,059	17,253	75,312	3,213,895
1935-36	60,548	17,741	78,289	3,463,701
1936-37	62,755	18,282	81,037	3,750,068
1937-38	65,203	18,817	84,020	4,218,918
1938-39	67,896	19,471	87,367	4,307,432

* Includes payment of pensions to eligible inmates of Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals. On 30th June, 1939, there were respectively 1,562 and 508, such pensions in force. The weekly rate of pension paid was 4s. from 8th October, 1925; 5s. 6d. from 4th October, 1928; 5s. from 23rd July, 1931; 3s. 9d. from 13th October, 1932; 5s. from 26th October, 1933; 5s. 6d. from 24th September, 1936; and 6s. from 9th September, 1937.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES.

An Act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of each child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912.

The Commonwealth Financial Emergency Acts of 1931 and 1932 reduced the rate of payment and imposed income restrictions. Rates of payment and income restrictions were modified by the Commonwealth Financial Relief Act of 1934 and 1936, and by the *Maternity Allowance Act* (No. 44 of 1937). The latter Act increased—

- (a) the income limit to £247 per annum where there is no previous surviving issue under fourteen years of age, the additional allowance of £13 per annum in respect of each previous surviving child being retained up to a maximum of £338 per annum;
- (b) the allowance to £7 10s. in cases where there are three or more previous surviving children under fourteen years of age.

The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1939, was 814,284, and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £3,984,245.

For the year ended 30th June, 1939, the number of claims granted was 20,819, and the amount paid in allowances was £110,218.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the war of 1914-18. Its objects, are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able, in consequence of war disabilities, to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment, also artificial limbs and appliances, in respect of disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

On pages 407 and 408 of the *Year-Book* for 1928-29 appears a statement of the activities of the Department.

The *Year-Book* for 1920-21 contains, on pages 383 to 385, an epitome of the main work of the Department, also particulars of the sustenance rates granted to applicants awaiting fulfilment by the Department of certain specified obligations, and of the rates of pension payable to ex-members of the Forces and their dependants. The sustenance and some of the pension rates, however, have since been altered.

The history of war pension legislation from 1914 to 1938 is recorded in the *Year-Book, 1937-38, page 279 et seq.*

As from 1st June, 1929, tribunals were created to hear appeals in regard to war pensions. The War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is empowered to hear and decide any appeal against a decision of the Repatriation Commission, by or on behalf of ex-members of the forces or their dependants, that an incapacity or death of an ex-member arose out of war service.

Two Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created, to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment of war pension made by the Repatriation Commission in respect of an ex-member of the forces whose incapacity had been accepted as arising out of war service.

Eligibility for service pensions may be established on the following grounds—

- (a) Sixty years of age or more, provided the applicant served in a theatre of war, but eligibility on this ground limits payment of service pension to the ex-soldier; his wife or children are not eligible. A former nurse is eligible for consideration provided she embarked for service abroad and has reached the age of 55 years.
- (b) Permanently unemployable, provided the applicant served in a theatre of war. Under this class pensions may be paid to the ex-soldier, his wife and his children—up to four in number.
- (c) Pulmonary tuberculosis, whether the applicant served in a theatre of war or not. Under this class pensions are also payable to the wife and children—up to four in number.

Only those applicants who qualify under class (c) are entitled to receive both service pension and invalid pension at the same time.

The maximum rate of service pension for a single man is fixed at 40s. per fortnight, and for a man and his wife at 34s. per fortnight each, with an additional 5s. per fortnight for each child up to four in number under sixteen years of age. The actual rate payable in any case is determined after taking into consideration all other income and property received or owned by the pensioner in question, and no service pension can be paid in any case where such other income and property has an assessable value, in the case of a single man, of £84 10s. per annum, or in the case of a man and wife, £169 per annum between them. In addition, no service pension can be paid when the applicant is possessed of property to the value of over £400.

If the income from all other sources is less than the annual amounts above shown, then service pensions become payable at such rates as will, with that other income, bring the total income of the pensioner (including service pension) up to the allowed maximum, provided, of course, that such pensions cannot exceed the maximum rates of 40s. for a single man or 34s. each for man and wife, as hereinbefore mentioned.

The following statistics for the year 1938-39 show in some degree the type and extent of current activity in the State of Victoria :—

**Current
Work of
Department.**

War Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1939—

Members of the Forces	25,569
Dependants of deceased members of the Forces ..	8,412
Dependants of incapacitated members of the Forces	48,264
Expenditure for year (paid in pensions) ..	£2,353,107

Service Pensions—Number in force at 30th June, 1939—

Members of the Forces	1,876
Dependants of deceased member pensioners ..	221
Dependants of member pensioners	1,109
Expenditure for year (paid in service pensions)..	£103,291

Medical Treatment—

Number of In-patients at 30th June, 1939, in Repatriation Institutions—

General Hospitals	298
Sanatoria	50
Anzac Hostels	14
Mental Hospitals	188

(Some few patients are being treated in own homes).

Attendances of Out-patients during 1938-39 (excluding treatments by Local Medical Officers, of whom there are 174 in rural areas)	59,211
Expenditure on treatment, &c.—	
Maintenance of Repatriation Institutions ..	£96,879
Maintenance of Patients in other than Repatriation Institutions (including Country Hospitals) ..	£20,490
Sustenance during medical treatment	£18,384
Conducting Commonwealth Artificial Limb Factory	£10,842
Other expenditure, including fees to consultants, &c.	£42,868
Soldiers' Children Education Scheme—	
Number of children at school and in training ..	1,646
Expenditure for year 1938-39	£39,113

NATIONAL INSURANCE.

The National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1938 (No. 25 of 1938), which, together with the consequential Acts (Nos. 26 and 27 of 1938) imposing liability on employers and employees respectively to make contributions in respect of National Health and Pensions Insurance, was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, and assented to on 5th July, 1938. By proclamation dated 6th July, 1938, that day was fixed as the date upon which Part I. and Part II. of the Act should commence. The 16th December, 1938, was fixed by Proclamation of the 15th December, 1938, as the date on which Division 1 of Part VII. and section 192 should commence, and the 4th September, 1939 (by proclamation of 5th January, 1939) as the commencing date of the remaining several Parts, sections and Schedules. The 4th September, 1939, was also fixed by proclamation of 5th January, 1939, as the commencing date of Acts 26 and 27 (contributions of employers and employees respectively).

The National Health and Pensions Insurance Act 1939 (No. 8 of 1939) annulled the Proclamations issued fixing the date of commencement of the provisions of the 1938 Act (other than the provisions of Parts I. and II., Division I. of Part VII. and section 192) and also those fixing the commencing dates of employers' and employees' contributions. It further provided that powers under the Act shall not be exercised unless and until a resolution approving the exercise of the powers has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The latter provision, in conjunction with the outbreak of war, has the effect of indefinitely postponing the operation of the Act.

The objects and scope of the Act are set out on page 284 *et seq.* of the *Year-Book, 1937-38.*

CREMATION.

Cremation in Victoria is governed by the *Cemeteries Act 1928* and the rules and regulations of cemetery trustees as approved by the Governor in Council.

Relevant sections of the *Cemeteries Acts* are 64 and 65 as follow :—

Section 64—“ All cremations effected within any cemetery shall be registered in a register book in the prescribed form to be provided and kept by the Trustees of the cemetery and such register book shall be indexed so as to facilitate searches for entries therein.”

Section 65—“ The person who has the charge or conduct of a cremation shall forthwith cause to be transmitted either to the Government Statist or the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the district wherein such cremation took place a certificate signed by him stating the name of the person whose body was cremated and the date and place of cremation..... Every person who omits to cause such a certificate to be transmitted..... shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a penalty of not more than £5.”

The Cremation Society of Victoria was established in 1892, but it was not until 1905 that a Crematorium of very simple type was erected at the Springvale Necropolis. From its opening in 1905 to its closing in 1926 there were only 176 cremations.

When the New Melbourne General Cemetery at Fawkner was designed in 1906, provision was made on the drawings for the erection of a modern crematorium. However, owing to lack of funds, it was not until 1926 that the managers were in a position to consider the erection of a suitable building. Plans were then adopted for a building incorporating the most up-to-date requirements at a cost of £7,000. The building was designed on a most comprehensive scale to permit of future expansion.

With the rapid growth in Melbourne of the practice of cremation, additions to the original structure were found necessary within seven years of its opening. The crematorium now consists of two chapels with three reducing chambers and other auxiliary rooms. In 1934, as an everlasting memorial to the cremated, a Garden of Remembrance was constructed. The Garden is surrounded by a columbarium wall with niches for the preservation of caskets containing ashes.

On 9th March, 1936, a second crematorium was opened at the Necropolis at Springvale. This was constructed on a large scale and equipped with memorial niches.

The changing habits of the people in respect of the disposal of the dead are indicated by the increasing number of cremations. The figures in the following table have been supplied by the authorities of the two crematoria concerned :—

CREMATION IN VICTORIA.

Year.	Cremations at Fawkner.	Cremations at Springvale.	Total Cremations.	Total Deaths.	Percentage of Crema- tions to Deaths.
1927	32	..	32	16,773	·19
1928	84	..	84	17,708	·47
1929	151	..	151	16,717	·90
1930	162	..	162	15,959	1·02
1931	201	..	201	17,033	1·18
1932	199	..	199	16,805	1·18
1933	369	..	369	17,456	2·11
1934	499	..	499	18,648	2·68
1935	596	..	596	18,456	3·23
1936	358	400	758	18,778	4·04
1937	387	596	983	18,613	5·28
1938	415	752	1,167	18,955	6·16
1939	436	873	1,309	20,169	6·49