

**MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.****Early  
legislation.**

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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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

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

baths, and places of recreation ; also to make arrangements for sewerage, lighting, water supply, and carrying on of noxious trades, and to act as local Boards of Health.

**Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires.** Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town ; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 52 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 138 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified ; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire, and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

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

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

annually. One-third of the councillors retire each year by rotation, but retiring councillors may be re-elected. The councillors elect their own chairman ; who, in the case of cities, towns, and boroughs, is called the mayor ; in the case of shires, the president.

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

#### IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

#### IN SHIRES.

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

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

All land situated in a municipal district is rateable property except the following :—Crown lands unoccupied or used for public purposes ; land used exclusively for commons, mines, public worship, mechanics' institutes, public libraries, cemeteries, primary free schools, technical schools subsidized by Government, and charitable purposes ; land vested in or held by or in trust for any municipality or local governing body, or for commissioners under the Water Acts ; and land vested in fee in the Railways Commissioners, Minister of Public Instruction, Board of Land and Works, Melbourne and Geelong Harbor Trusts Commissioners, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust. The expression "land" includes, of course, all buildings and improvements thereon. For the purpose of rating the valuation of

property is computed at its net annual value, that is to say, at the rent at which the same might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, free of all usual tenants' rates and taxes, and deducting therefrom the probable annual average cost of insurance and expenses (if any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz.:—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and shall not exceed in any one year 2s. 6d. in the pound of the net annual value, or be less than 6d. in the pound of such value. Every general rate is made and levied on the occupier of the property rated, or, if there be no occupier, or the occupier be the Crown or a public or local body, then upon the owner of the property. Extra rates may be levied in any one or more subdivisions of a district, on requisition by not less than two-thirds of the councillors for the subdivision, provided that both rates together in any subdivision do not exceed 2s. 6d. in the pound. Extra rates are levied on all properties alike in the subdivision; but, where any works or undertakings are for the special benefit of any particular portion of the municipal district, "a separate rate" may be levied, with the consent of a majority of the occupiers, and of one-third at least of the owners of the properties affected. The rates to be levied may be differential, according to the benefits to be received by different properties, and the amount of the rate must be such as will, in the opinion of the council, suffice to provide for the payment of interest, and periodical repayments of, or sinking fund for, the loan raised on the security of such rate.

Several municipalities in the State have altered their system of rating, and for the year 1920-21 intend to levy the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, 1920.

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

Rates—  
general,  
separate, &c.

Recovery of  
rates.

letter, and notices must be posted on the land and at the municipal offices for not less than one month.

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

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

**Amalgamation of Municipalities.** Under the provisions of the *Local Government Acts Amendment Act 1914* the following municipalities were united from 1st October, 1915 :—

## BOROUGHS.

Majorca, united with Shire of Tullaroop.  
 Carisbrook, united with Shire of Tullaroop.  
 Raywood, united with Shire of Marong.  
 Buninyong, united with Shire of Buninyong.  
 Browns and Scarsdale, united with Shire of Grenville.  
 Smythesdale, united with Shire of Grenville.  
 Tarnagulla, united with Shire of Bet Bet.  
 Malmsbury, united with Shire of Kyneton.  
 Talbot, united with Shire of Talbot.

## SHIRES.

Epping, united with Whittlesea.  
 Mount Alexander, united with Newstead.  
 Meredith, united with Bannockburn.  
 Mount Franklin, united with Glenlyon.  
 Templestowe, united with Doncaster.  
 Merriang, united with Broadmeadows.

From 31st May, 1916, the undermentioned municipalities were united :—

## BOROUGH.

Chewton, united with Shire of Metcalfe.

## SHIRES.

Lancefield, united with Romsey.

Springfield, united with Romsey.

From 1st October, 1918, the Shire of Walhalla was incorporated with the Shire of Narracan, and from 31st May, 1919, the Shire of Howqua was dissolved and part of it united with the Mansfield Shire and part with the Upper Yarra Shire.

A portion of the Shire of Moorabbin was excised on 26th February, 1917, and constituted a separate municipality with the title of Borough of Sandringham. Portions of the Shires of Colac, Heytesbury, and Winchelsea were excised on 6th May, 1919, and constituted a separate shire entitled Otway. On 18th May, 1920, a portion of the Shire of Dandenong was excised and a new borough entitled Borough of Carrum constituted. On the same date a portion of the Shire of Moorabbin was cut off and proclaimed a separate municipality with the title of Borough of Mentone and Mordialloc, and the central portion of the Shire of Mildura was constituted a municipality and named Borough of Mildura.

**Municipalities:** The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1919 was 190. Of these, 22 ranked as cities, 4 as towns, 26 as boroughs, and the remainder (138) as shires. The following is a summary of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1919-20:—

## MUNICIPALITIES: 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In- habited.	Unin- habited.	Total.	Annual.	
<b>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—</b>					£	£	£
1915-16 ..	824,170	208,759	182,445	3,293	149,235,137	8,335,553	1,407,021
1916-17 ..	829,368	213,520	184,417	3,377	154,105,571	8,587,302	1,487,426
1917-18 ..	844,970	219,076	189,459	3,265	158,777,843	8,912,303	1,598,643
1918-19 ..	859,470	224,757	194,273	2,542	164,306,704	9,227,807	1,857,884
1919-20 ..	877,880	228,518	197,753	1,394	172,838,636	9,687,320	..
<b>Shires—</b>							
1915-16 ..	617,587	184,374	137,799	3,619	169,724,979	8,606,509	847,206
1916-17 ..	619,696	187,894	138,801	3,196	172,309,539	8,732,116	875,940
1917-18 ..	613,380	186,551	138,366	2,716	172,558,872	8,735,794	927,901
1918-19 ..	622,260	188,032	139,338	2,262	176,297,529	8,922,859	1,022,241
1919-20 ..	628,420	188,892	140,049	1,869	184,599,186	9,340,172	..
<b>Total—</b>							
1915-16 ..	1,441,757	393,133	320,244	6,912	318,960,116	16,942,062	2,254,227
1916-17 ..	1,449,064	401,414	323,218	6,573	326,415,110	17,319,418	2,363,366
1917-18 ..	1,458,350	405,627	327,825	5,981	331,336,715	17,648,097	2,526,544
1918-19 ..	1,481,730	412,739	333,611	4,804	340,604,233	18,150,666	2,880,125
1919-20 ..	1,506,300	417,410	337,802	3,263	357,437,822	19,027,492	..

Increases in  
value of  
rateable  
properties and  
municipal  
revenue.

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

### INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1919-20 over 1915-16.		1918-19 over 1915-16.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ... ..	23,603,499	1,351,767	450,863
Shires ... ..	14,874,207	733,663	175,035
Total Increase ... ..	38,477,706	2,085,430	625,898

The number of ratepayers returned for 1918-19 was 417,410, and the total capital value of rateable property £357,437,822, which is equivalent to about 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £19,027,492.

Unimproved  
Value of  
Rateable  
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1919-20 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £86,419,318, and in shires £123,066,124. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand, according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

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

**NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.**

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1915-16	248,100	255,958	504,058
1916-17	251,050	260,297	511,347
1917-18	258,614	257,528	516,142
1918-19	261,253	258,976	520,229
1919-20	266,559	263,106	529,665

**Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1919-20.** The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £1 in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1919-20, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for 1918-19:—

**CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1919-20.**

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1918-19.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
<b>CITIES.</b>							
			<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Ballarat	20,160	5,443	2 3	2,616,315	174,421	37,876	..
Bendigo	24,240	6,420	2 3	2,808,064	200,576	43,018	..
Brighton	21,000	5,380	2 6	4,476,660	223,833	30,039	..
Brunswick	40,890	8,761	2 4	6,403,980	320,199	62,821	..
Camberwell	21,000	6,141	2 6	5,511,860	275,593	42,502	..
Caulfield	32,000	11,250	2 3	7,392,078	410,671	64,082	..
Collingwood	35,750	7,657	2 0	5,153,050	309,183	37,130	..
Essendon	36,000	9,750	2 6	5,332,880	266,644	42,434	..
Fitzroy	35,700	7,687	1 8	6,567,768	364,876	39,100	..
Footscray	31,200	9,100	2 4	5,280,040	264,002	62,356	..
Geelong	14,850	4,300	2 6	2,937,600	146,880	33,377	..
Hawthorn	28,320	7,024	2 5	6,644,120	332,206	47,108	..
Malvern	31,000	8,000	2 3	7,692,600	384,630	71,592	..
Melbourne	108,070	29,877	1 2	47,827,620	2,391,380	575,881	..
Northcote	27,300	7,200	2 3	3,878,120	193,906	65,626	..
Port Melbourne	13,600	2,900	2 3	1,316,250	105,300	24,664	..
Prahran	50,000	12,041	1 9	7,896,444	658,037	80,834	..
Richmond	41,700	9,391	2 3	6,594,408	366,356	51,138	..
South Melbourne	49,000	10,340	2 0	10,607,200	530,360	76,782	..
St. Kilda	35,450	8,769	2 0	6,090,144	507,512	65,723	..
Warrnambool	7,500	1,669	2 3	1,263,700	63,185	30,797	..
Williamstown	19,000	6,200	2 4	2,043,810	136,254	35,408	..
<b>TOWNS.</b>							
Ballarat East	15,230	3,759	2 3	1,255,650	83,710	17,307	..
Coburg	16,140	6,682	2 3	1,939,545	129,303	24,424	..
Kew	15,350	4,000	2 1	2,297,505	153,167	27,098	..
Sandringham	8,500	4,026	2 6	1,158,887	92,711	15,745	..

## CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1919-20—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1918-19.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
BOROUGHES.			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ararat ..	4,800	1,065	2 6	262,600	26,260	13,912	25
Castlemaine ..	6,100	1,390	2 6	462,925	37,034	7,197	25
Clunes ..	1,540	483	1 9	56,140	8,020	3,170	38
Creswick ..	1,830	570	1 9	71,110	7,111	3,133	38
Daylesford ..	3,800	781	2 3	275,385	18,357	4,424	25
Dunolly ..	1,060	315	1 6	52,900	5,290	1,327	25
Eaglehawk ..	7,250	1,600	2 3	303,948	25,329	7,529	25
Echuca ..	4,000	1,090	2 3	297,500	23,800	7,183	25
Geelong West ..	8,920	2,403	2 4	1,082,140	54,107	10,067	25
Hamilton ..	5,000	1,166	2 3	736,040	36,802	8,862	25
Horsham ..	4,500	815	2 6	493,000	29,000	5,987	50
Inglewood ..	1,300	330	1 6	78,120	6,510	2,698	25
Koroit ..	2,240	400	2 6	335,640	16,782	4,811	25
Maryborough ..	4,900	1,172	1 6	256,960	25,696	5,201	25
Newtown and Chilwell ..	6,920	1,743	2 4	1,012,640	50,632	7,279	25
Oakleigh ..	5,200	2,063	2 6	1,046,560	52,328	9,715	50
Portland ..	2,400	663	2 6	431,520	21,576	4,844	25
Port Fairy ..	2,000	495	2 3	290,580	14,529	5,014	25
Queerscliff ..	1,730	570	2 6	262,180	13,109	2,676	50
Rutherglen ..	1,200	306	1 6	105,010	10,501	3,059	40
Sale ..	3,700	987	1 9	410,540	20,527	9,210	25
Sebastopol ..	2,200	461	2 0	89,616	7,468	1,485	40
Stawell ..	4,410	900	2 3	184,300	18,430	9,917	25
St. Arnaud ..	3,700	927	1 9	358,440	17,922	3,331	25
Wangaratta ..	4,030	906	2 3	582,260	29,113	5,162	25
Wonthaggi ..	4,200	1,150	2 0	314,304	29,192	5,824	..
Total ..	877,880	228,518	..	172,838,636	9,687,320	1,857,884	756

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

Shires,  
1919-20.

## SHIRES, 1919-20.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1918-19.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,200	1,295	1 6	1,679,980	83,999	8,556	701
Alexandra ..	3,250	717	1 7	1,014,440	50,722	6,307	390
Arapiles ..	2,710	682	1 4	837,980	41,899	3,297	153
Ararat ..	6,500	1,720	1 6	3,233,360	161,668	12,467	645
Avoca ..	4,000	1,475	1 6	795,280	39,764	4,153	240
Avon ..	3,000	690	1 6	1,328,000	66,400	5,310	302
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,300	743	1 6	849,800	42,490	4,559	204
Bairnsdale ..	8,400	1,956	1 6	1,993,340	99,692	11,425	709
Ballan ..	4,100	1,200	1 6	716,260	35,313	3,505	286
Ballarat ..	4,500	837	1 4	1,207,840	60,392	4,988	286
Bannockburn ..	2,800	736	1 6	1,043,060	52,403	4,537	202
Barrabool ..	2,010	450	1 6	755,800	37,790	3,928	211
Beechworth ..	6,000	1,495	1 9	349,092	29,091	8,618	271
Belfast ..	2,600	652	1 6	1,179,360	58,968	5,070	323

## SHIRES, 1919-20—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1918-19.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
				£	£		
			<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Bellarine ..	5,000	1,198	1 6	1,063,760	53,138	4,574	240
Benalla ..	9,100	2,850	1 6	2,516,720	125,836	18,074	719
Berwick ..	8,200	2,700	1 6	1,903,920	95,196	9,085	496
Bet Bet ..	4,600	1,015	1 3	647,860	32,393	2,721	211
Birchip ..	2,030	581	1 0	1,029,600	51,480	5,583	199
Borong ..	6,000	1,305	1 0	1,963,820	93,191	8,231	493
Braybrook ..	3,200	2,256	1 6	912,700	45,635	6,200	130
Bright ..	4,700	1,375	1 7	692,520	34,626	4,276	372
Broadford ..	2,100	465	1 6	384,020	19,201	2,493	149
Broadmeadows ..	3,370	1,913	1 6	1,157,300	57,865	5,446	253
Bulla ..	2,600	400	1 6	613,860	30,693	4,660	173
Bulu Bulu ..	4,800	1,420	1 7	1,243,660	62,183	7,323	620
Bungaree ..	4,520	943	1 9	635,720	31,786	4,240	397
Buninyong ..	6,350	1,762	1 7	1,260,240	63,012	6,267	298
Charlton ..	3,350	798	1 3	1,062,300	53,115	4,854	273
Chiltern ..	3,150	830	1 0	470,340	31,356	3,422	217
Colac ..	12,150	2,418	1 3	4,901,860	245,083	26,431	595
Corio ..	3,080	1,077	1 6	1,525,380	76,269	6,813	257
Cranbourne ..	7,450	1,625	1 9	1,493,720	74,636	6,233	347
Creswick ..	5,000	1,012	1 0	1,103,320	55,166	4,154	385
Dandenong ..	7,700	4,800	2 0	1,914,660	95,733	16,205	261
Deakin ..	3,400	985	1 0	1,284,360	64,218	3,775	221
Dimboola ..	5,000	1,256	1 6	1,710,500	85,525	10,226	307
Donald ..	3,300	793	1 6	1,112,980	55,649	6,458	307
Doncaster ..	2,460	820	1 9	726,260	36,313	4,115	195
Dundas ..	3,040	1,123	1 6	2,152,380	107,619	8,261	521
Dunmunkle ..	5,000	1,093	1 0	2,327,540	116,377	8,134	616
East Loddon ..	1,750	463	1 3	930,180	46,509	3,819	273
Eltham ..	3,500	1,423	2 3	824,500	41,223	5,030	309
Euroa ..	5,300	1,136	1 6	1,114,840	55,742	7,146	223
Ferntree Gully ..	6,500	3,250	2 6	1,181,540	59,077	10,184	446
Flinders ..	3,800	2,900	1 6	1,036,740	51,837	6,146	129
Frankston and Hastings ..	3,750	2,448	1 9	895,740	44,787	5,970	211
Gisborne ..	2,300	700	1 6	600,820	30,041	3,850	169
Glenelg ..	5,900	1,551	1 3	2,474,740	123,737	10,771	595
Glenlyon ..	5,380	1,142	1 3	319,450	31,945	2,913	225
Gordon ..	3,800	850	1 3	1,038,840	51,942	4,966	367
Goulburn ..	3,000	568	1 0	670,040	33,502	3,116	173
Grenville ..	5,500	1,400	1 3	815,985	54,399	5,166	301
Hampden ..	9,900	2,200	1 6	5,529,560	276,478	28,873	372
Healesville ..	2,300	862	2 6	468,800	23,440	5,527	238
Heidelberg ..	13,410	6,300	1 6	2,756,520	137,826	36,507	247
Heytesbury ..	4,850	1,338	1 6	1,800,000	90,000	8,263	546
Howqua ..		985	1 0	948,160	47,408	772	100
Huntly ..	3,500	985	1 0	1,197,410	59,873	4,011	199
Kara Kara ..	4,300	1,236	1 0	1,197,410	59,873	5,373	336
Karkaroc ..	5,500	1,353	1 0	2,381,600	119,080	9,200	471
Kellor ..	1,000	630	1 4	470,740	23,537	1,863	50
Kerang ..	10,000	2,260	1 3	3,054,460	152,723	19,047	496
Kilmore ..	1,870	533	2 0	205,390	20,539	3,068	137
Korong ..	6,400	1,480	1 3	1,960,500	98,025	6,459	323
Kowree ..	3,920	1,301	1 2	1,342,784	83,924	6,717	432
Kyneton ..	8,600	2,160	1 6	1,355,500	67,775	10,771	367
Lawloit ..	3,400	630	1 9	550,575	36,705	4,070	197
Leigh ..	1,470	580	1 6	1,029,700	51,485	3,973	274
Lexton ..	1,900	597	1 3	817,460	40,873	3,221	199
Lillydale ..	7,000	2,210	1 9	1,553,000	77,650	10,967	397
Lowan ..	4,250	1,300	1 3	1,905,640	95,282	5,379	298
Maffra ..	4,550	1,120	1 6	1,431,460	71,573	9,090	485
Maldon ..	3,550	1,206	1 6	696,920	34,846	3,512	186
Mansfield ..	4,900	1,290	2 0	1,264,100	63,205	9,214	446
Marong ..	6,870	1,947	1 3	2,056,660	102,833	7,532	456
Melton ..	1,700	406	1 3	619,815	41,321	3,306	146
Metcalfe ..	3,720	1,052	1 0	756,340	37,827	2,674	163
Mildura ..	9,000	1,640	2 3	2,421,620	121,081	21,392	236
Minhamite ..	2,000	570	1 0	1,613,400	80,670	5,765	323

## SHIRES, 1919-20—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £1.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1918-19.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
				£	£		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Mirboo ..	1,460	350	1 6	496,000	24,800	2,665	357
Moorabbin ..	10,970	3,950	1 9	1,670,520	83,526	27,709	298
Mornington ..	2,000	720	1 9	549,080	27,454	4,325	115
Mortlake ..	2,940	691	1 3	2,242,480	112,124	8,450	348
Morwell ..	3,500	849	1 6	889,060	44,453	4,790	437
Mount Rouse ..	2,170	720	1 3	1,595,900	79,795	6,557	199
Mulgrave ..	3,200	1,130	2 0	796,220	39,811	5,704	223
Melvor ..	4,060	1,133	1 0	1,072,400	53,620	4,322	223
Narracan ..	6,300	1,627	1 6	1,465,780	73,289	8,649	928
Newham and Woodend ..	2,510	636	1 6	424,640	21,232	3,751	149
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	4,000	1,003	1 3	548,740	27,437	2,456	167
Nunmurkah ..	6,500	1,587	1 0	2,435,400	121,770	12,779	595
Nunawading ..	10,740	4,631	2 4	2,193,280	109,664	24,334	471
Omeo ..	2,710	1,250	2 0	874,820	43,741	5,706	542
Orbost ..	3,500	923	2 0	845,480	42,274	5,666	474
Oxley ..	4,630	980	1 6	1,075,320	53,766	5,226	372
Phillip Island and Woolamal ..	4,000	2,350	2 0	1,261,300	63,065	7,503	446
Poowong and Jeetho ..	7,800	1,750	1 6	2,067,360	103,368	13,118	990
Portland ..	5,300	1,940	1 3	1,715,640	85,782	7,238	496
Preston ..	8,300	3,969	2 3	1,513,540	75,677	19,589	323
Pyalong ..	1,150	340	1 6	422,920	21,146	1,772	114
Ripon ..	4,550	1,190	1 3	1,762,200	88,140	8,046	223
Rochester ..	6,000	1,617	1 0	2,517,740	125,887	8,929	248
Rodney ..	7,000	1,659	1 0	3,156,740	157,837	9,126	434
Romsey ..	3,750	840	1 3	1,235,640	61,782	5,109	322
Rosedale ..	4,100	1,100	1 3	1,589,980	79,499	6,498	540
Rutherglen ..	4,500	760	1 3	802,060	40,103	4,373	218
Seymour ..	4,000	1,044	1 6	1,023,880	51,194	5,589	422
Shepparton ..	8,300	1,711	1 3	2,289,300	114,468	10,689	471
South Barwon ..	3,000	1,410	2 0	679,660	33,978	4,647	138
South Gippsland ..	4,130	1,038	1 9	1,028,420	51,421	5,275	520
Stawell ..	3,700	1,232	1 3	1,455,720	72,786	5,258	310
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,560	1,053	1 6	469,540	23,477	2,581	138
Swan Hill ..	7,100	2,740	1 1	2,319,680	115,984	11,391	274
Talbot ..	2,000	578	1 4	462,400	23,120	3,237	135
Tambo ..	3,000	1,060	1 9	787,880	39,394	5,164	516
Towong ..	6,350	1,641	1 6	1,945,800	97,290	11,856	891
Traralgon ..	3,360	880	1 6	981,140	49,057	7,907	443
Tullaroop ..	4,200	1,150	1 0	562,770	37,518	3,591	207
Tungamah ..	5,470	1,562	1 0	1,759,440	87,972	7,063	446
Upper Yarra ..	3,650	1,090	2 0	586,320	29,316	5,019	223
Violet Town ..	3,200	694	1 3	763,980	38,199	3,173	223
Walpeup ..	3,750	1,510	1 6	1,427,120	71,856	4,784	..
Wangaratta* ..	2,750	811	1 3	666,060	33,003	3,433	147
Wannon ..	2,770	803	1 0	2,041,460	102,073	6,707	428
Waranga ..	5,000	1,840	1 6	1,656,800	82,840	8,147	372
Warragul ..	4,000	1,148	2 0	1,204,865	65,529	8,746	891
Warrambool ..	9,000	1,988	1 3	3,983,980	199,199	18,523	683
Werribee ..	5,250	4,000	1 9	1,603,120	80,156	10,266	298
Whittlesea ..	3,620	1,004	1 6	1,200,000	60,000	5,502	223
Wimmera ..	4,500	1,050	1 0	2,348,060	117,403	6,363	362
Winchelsea ..	4,350	1,376	1 6	1,483,980	74,154	8,028	422
Wodonga ..	2,250	588	1 6	694,420	34,721	4,041	170
Wooyayl ..	4,550	1,245	1 9	1,347,440	67,872	8,678	1,039
Wycheproof ..	4,500	1,118	1 0	1,311,140	65,557	6,332	229
Yackandandah ..	4,150	903	1 6	775,820	38,791	4,332	359
Yarrowonga ..	3,320	820	1 0	750,000	37,500	4,803	253
Yea ..	2,600	700	1 6	876,900	43,845	6,110	379
Total ..	628,420	188,892	..	184,599,186	9,340,172	1,022,241	47,895

\* Formerly North Ovens.

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

## RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1915-16 TO 1919-20.

Amount levied in the £l.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
s. d. 0 6 ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	58	53	38	24	23
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1
1 2 ..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
1 3 ..	2	..	..	..	..	38	33	38	41	27
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	5	4	4
1 6 ..	4	5	5	5	4	26	31	35	43	50
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	3
1 8 ..	2	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	4	5	3	4	5	7	8	8	8	13
1 10 ..	..	2	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
2 0 ..	19	17	16	10	5	7	7	7	9	11
2 1 ..	2	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 2 ..	1	1	4	4	..	1	1	1	1	..
2 3 ..	11	11	12	16	17	..	..	1	1	3
2 4 ..	4	4	3	5	5	..	..	..	..	1
2 5 ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	2	2	2	4	12	..	1	2	3	1
Total ..	52	51	52	52	52	141	139	139	138	138

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 1½d. in the £l in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 5¼d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 8½d. in the £l more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that only one municipality during the last five years imposed the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., but that a fair number reached the maximum of 2s. 6d. in the £l.

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

Municipal  
revenue and  
expenditure.

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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,  
1917 TO 1919.

Sources of Revenue.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Taxation—	£	£	£
Rates ... ..	1,395,723	1,462,640	1,560,968
Licences ... ..	108,651	109,916	136,517
Dog Fees ... ..	20,883	21,481	21,074
Government Endowment and Grants	68,364	62,460	96,429
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c. ...	54,620	63,910	93,900
Market and Weighbridge Dues ... ..	67,726	71,737	85,240
Sanitary Charges ... ..	96,484	101,791	101,996
Rents ... ..	62,953	65,821	69,845
Electric Light and Gas Works ... ..	487,962	566,788	385,727
Other Sources ... ..			
Total ... ..	2,363,366	2,526,544	2,880,125
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c. ... ..	210,034	214,797	226,692
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c. ...	243,774	244,984	248,956
Lighting ... ..	97,685	98,511	100,679
Contributions to Fire Brigades ... ..	33,939	32,786	35,120
Public Works—			
Construction ... ..	200,151	232,977	294,874
Maintenance ... ..	897,136	1,046,474	869,946
Electric Light and Gas Works ... ..			
Formation of Private Streets, &c. ...	63,499	75,474	111,125
Redemption of Loans ... ..	112,020	124,797	137,688
Interest on Loans ... ..	274,113	277,435	257,057
Charities ... ..	20,350	19,977	21,103
Other Expenditure ... ..	186,310	178,043	332,347
Total ... ..	2,339,011	2,546,255	2,917,888

As compared with 1918, the revenue of 1919 increased by £353,581, as follows:—Rates increased by £98,328, sanitary charges by £205, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £29,990, rents by £4,024, licences by £26,601, market and weighbridge dues by £13,503, Government endowment and grants by £33,969, and “other sources” (including electric light and gas works), by £147,368. The revenue from dog fees decreased by £407. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £371,633. The following items showed increases:—Salaries, £11,895; sanitary work and street cleansing, £3,972; lighting, £2,168; contributions to fire brigades boards, £2,334; formation of private streets, £35,651; public works construction, £61,897; public works maintenance (including expenditure on electric light and gas works), £105,773; redemption of loans, £12,891; charities, £1,126; and other expenditure, £154,304. There was a decrease under the heading of interest amounting to £20,378.

**Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources.** Fifty-four per cent. of municipal revenue in 1919 was derived from rates, 14 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 5 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 3 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 3 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 3 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from rents, and 11 per cent. from all "other sources."

**Salaries.** In 1919 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £226,692, or about 8 per cent. of the entire revenue.

**Local charities.** A sum of £21,103, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

#### MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1917 TO 1919.

Assets.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates ... ..	138,617	132,217	133,585
Other Assets ... ..	442,388	427,046	550,283
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ... ..	745,784	596,550	465,132
Arrears Due ... ..	1,732	5,054	1,093
Unexpended Balances ... ..	286,206	238,906	204,761
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ... ..	2,942,062	2,952,105	2,955,345
Waterworks ... ..	252,069	268,815	271,581
Gasworks ... ..	109,215	110,819	114,505
Electric Light Works ... ..	906,258	919,127	982,723
Total Assets ... ..	5,824,331	5,650,639	5,679,008
Liabilities .	1917.	1918.	1919.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts ... ..	98,538	78,115	64,037
Arrears due to Sinking Funds ... ..	1,732	5,054	1,093
Overdue Interest ... ..	24,425	6,920	6,611
Bank Overdrafts ... ..	233,160	317,410	484,785
Other Liabilities ... ..	233,189	269,947	280,475
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding ... ..	6,030,343	5,764,050	5,041,429
Due on Loan Contracts ... ..	42,428	47,145	129, 92
Total Liabilities ... ..	6,663,815	6,488,641	6,007,622

**Municipal  
assets and  
liabilities  
compared.**

The total of the assets of municipalities in 1919 was £5,679,008, and of the liabilities £6,007,622. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £837,001, against which there were assets amounting to £683,868. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £5,170,621, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £4,499,635. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£4,324,154), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £175,481.

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

**Endowment of  
municipalities.**

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

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

#### RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

**Rating on  
unimproved  
values.**

An Act was passed by the State Parliament on 3rd February, 1914, to provide for optional rating by municipalities on the basis of the unimproved values of rateable property. This measure did not come into operation until 1st October, 1915.

Any municipality may adopt the method of rating set forth in the Act, but two months before doing so it must publish in the *Government Gazette* and twice in some newspaper circulating in the district a notice of its intention to take such a course. If one-tenth of the ratepayers in writing demand a poll the proposal must be submitted by the council to the ratepayers, and it shall not be deemed to be carried unless affirmed by a majority of the valid votes recorded, and unless the number of valid votes recorded forms at least one-third of the number of persons on the roll. Where a council of a municipality has not published a notice that it intends to adopt the Act one-tenth of the ratepayers may demand a poll. If a proposal is adopted or rescinded it cannot be again submitted to the ratepayers for three years. Special properties such as railways, tramways, waterworks, hydraulic works, electric light and power works, gas works, and any undertaking extending continuously beyond the boundaries of any municipal district which is subject to more than one separate valuation, although there is no actual separation of the different parts of the property, are not rateable on unimproved values.

By an amending Act (No. 3045), passed on 6th January, 1920, power is given to the municipalities to adopt the principle of rating on unimproved values, notwithstanding that an order has not been made under section 4 of the Principal Act, which requires that on adoption of such principle the valuations of land made by assessors under the *Land Act* 1915 shall be the basis on which the taxation is levied. Several municipalities in the State will levy the general rate for the year 1920-21 under the new system.

### WORKERS' DWELLINGS.

Workers'  
dwellings.

An Act to enable municipal councils to provide workers' dwellings was passed by the State Parliament in February, 1914, and has been incorporated in the *Local Government*

*Act* 1915.

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

year a balance-sheet must be prepared showing receipts and expenditure relating to all operations undertaken during the previous year, also assets and liabilities.

### **COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.**

**Country Roads Board.** With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,000, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £700 (Act No. 2986).

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

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

**Finance.** For the purpose of making permanent works, power is given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest are a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised is to be placed to the credit of an account to be called "The Country Roads Loan Account," which will be debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. A sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is to be paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is to be refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of 6 per cent. on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, and the cost of maintenance

allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the £1 on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown after the 30th June, 1912, under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*), are to be credited to the Country Roads Board Fund.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it.

During the year 1918-19 constructional work to the value of £284,734, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £179,133, were undertaken.

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

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

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

Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 (Act No. 2985). Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan. The amount expended under Act No. 2944 during the year ended 30th June, 1919, was £47,562.

**Registration  
of motors,  
&c.**

**Developmental  
roads.**

# COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1919.

	<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Balance 1st July, 1918 ..			60,622 18 10	To Maintenance Works General ..		90,545 16 10
„ Motor Car Act No. 2237—				„ Maintenance Works—		
Registration Fees ..	65,614 2 0			Woods Point Road ..	819 7 7	
Licence Fees ..	3,710 15 0			Walhalla Road ..	150 8 4	
Fines ..	2,488 13 1			Omeo-Glen Wills Road ..	166 8 5	
	71,813 10 1			Omeo Road ..	166 6 4	
<i>Less Refunds and Costs</i>				Genoa-Eden Road ..	106 2 4	
<i>of Administration ..</i>	4,147 13 6	67,665 16 7		Genoa-Gipsy Point Road ..	11 6 6	
				Orhobst-Genoa Road ..	1,802 15 11	
Unused Roads and Water					3,312 15 5	
Frontages Act No. 1894—				<i>Less Half Cost, to be borne</i>		
Licences ..	23,581 18 7			by Fund ..	1,656 7 9	
<i>Less Refunds and Cost</i>					1,656 7 8	
<i>of Administration ..</i>	1,207 17 8				92,202 4 6	
		22,374 0 11		„ Investigation Surveys ..	304 2 8	
Country Roads Act No.				„ Metal Investigation ..	272 13 0	
2415—				„ Testing Materials ..	50 6 9	
Traction Engine Licences ..		840 14 0		„ Wages ..	7 12 3	
Forfeited Deposits ..		71 18 9				634 14 8
Material, Sale of ..		13 18 10		„ Contributions to Sinking Fund ..	10,226 17 1	
Plant Earnings ..	4,531 5 11			„ Interest on Loans ..	80,680 11 6	
<i>Less Working Costs ..</i>	2,804 14 3				40,907 8 7	
		1,726 11 8		„ Camp Equipment ..	12 2 9	
Plant, Sale of ..		187 15 0		„ Instruments Account ..	13 12 8	
Plans, Sale of ..		85 4 9		„ Insurance of Employees ..	214 9 6	
Permanent Works—				„ Motor Expenses ..	383 9 8	
Contributions payable by				„ Office Furniture ..	24 3 3	
Municipalities ..		37,988 10 11		„ Office Expenses ..	58 11 11	
Country Roads Act No.				„ Plant Purchased ..	1,107 14 5	
2986—				„ Plans Purchased ..	130 19 0	
Appropriation for Main-				„ Postage and Telegrams, &c. ..	329 16 1	
tenance of Main Roads ..		50,000 0 0		„ Printing and Stationery ..	585 3 11	
Maintenance Works — Ap-				„ Salaries Account ..	9,174 6 5	
portioned Expenditure				„ Storeyard Expenses ..	60 11 9	
Written Back ..		50 0 0		„ Travelling Expense ..	791 15 3	
			181,004 11 5	„ Prosecutions for Breaches of Act ..	7 13 2	
						12,894 9 9
				Balance ..		94,988 12 9
			£241,627 10 3			£241,627 10 3

Ordinary revenue and expenditure. The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure during 1918-19 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act:—

Municipal Statistics.

Loan receipts  
and  
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1919, is shown below :—

### COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1919.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Proceeds of Loans ..	343,557	13 10	By Permanent Works ..	284,734	7 11
„ Advance from Country Roads Board Fund ..	286,826	7 5	„ Temporary Advances—Country Roads Fund refunded ..	272,358	17 11
„ Suspense Account ..	19	0 0	„ Public Account Advances Account ..	8,185	6 0
			„ Balance ..	65,124	9 5
	£630,403	1 3		£630,403	1 3

Developmental  
Roads Loan  
Account.

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1919, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Act No. 2944 :—

### DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1919.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Proceeds of Loans ..	44,600	0 0	By Expenditure ..	47,647	10 5	
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	8,708	17 3	Less Refunds, &c. ..	86	0 1	
„ Balance ..	4,664	7 8			47,561	10 4
			„ Refunds of Temporary Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..		10,411	14 7
	£57,973	4 11			£57,973	4 11

## LICENSING FUND.

Licensing  
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1919 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,  
1918-1919.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance, 30th June, 1918	1,213	0 4	Salaries and expenses of Board and office, &c.	3,959	2 6
Fees	2,236	11 6	Incidental Expenses	5,818	11 5
Fines	4,945	6 2	Annual payment to municipalities	69,321	0 0
Sale of confiscated liquor	43	1 6	Compensation	27,967	0 0
Licences	Spirit Merchants and Grocers	17,579 18 6	Transferred to Police Superannuation		
	Victuallers	125,946 17 3	Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000	0 0
	Temporary	1,929 3 3	Transferred to Investment Account	33,000	0 0
	Railway Refreshment Rooms	1,487 12 5	Balance £44,275 14 1		
	Packet	109 1 6	Deduct		
	Australian Wine	2,567 4 6	Investments		
	Billiard-table	2,586 6 8	in Stock	42,000	0 0
	Brewers	115 13 6			
	Vignerons	115 0 0			
	Club certificates	3,314 16 0			
Permits—Extra Bars	370 0 0				
"    Extended Hours	20 0 0				
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court	3 11 0				
Compensation assessments	Dr. 2 10 0				
Sale of rolls	4 0 0				
Interest	456 13 11				
Total	£165,341	8 0	Total	£165,341	8 0

## Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1918-19 a sum of £69,321 out of the Licensing Fund under Act No. 2683, section 313, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

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

#### EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1918-19.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities ... ..	31,948	0	0
„ Towns ... ..	2,600	0	0
„ Boroughs ... ..	8,747	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class ... ..	288	0	0
2nd „ ... ..	11,600	0	0
3rd „ ... ..	9,569	0	0
4th „ ... ..	633	0	0
5th „ ... ..	3,312	0	0
6th „ ... ..	1,455	0	0
Total ... ..	70,152	0	0
Add payments on account of 1917-18 ... ..	231	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1918-19 ... ..	1,062	0	0
Amount paid in 1918-19 ... ..	69,321	0	0

#### MUNICIPAL LOANS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Municipal indebtedness.** The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of their financial year was £5,041,429, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

## MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1919.

		Due to the Government.	Due to the Public
		£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...	1,268,673	2,909,527
Shires	... ..	234,226	629,003
<b>Total</b>	... ..	<b>1,502,899</b>	<b>3,538,530</b>

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

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year ... ..	123,135	39,467	162,602
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	211,519	25,267	236,786
Expenditure during the year ... ..	150,137	44,490	194,627
Balance unexpended at the end of 1919 ...	184,517	20,244	204,761

**Municipal loan expenditure, 1915 to 1919.** The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1919 amounted to £194,627, of which £150,137 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £44,490 by shires. The following return shows the loan receipts and expenditure for five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915 ... ..	460,228	439,973
1916 ... ..	500,312	549,714
1917 ... ..	402,965	290,824
1918 ... ..	149,860	190,184
1919 ... ..	162,602	194,627

**Loans raised by municipalities, 1919.** The loan receipts for the year 1918-19 amounted to £162,602, of which £19,286 was obtained from the Government. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1918-19 was £204,761—£184,517 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £20,244 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

## LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1919.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
<b>CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—</b>	£	£	£
Ararat .. .. .	6,186	1,500	1,421
Ballarat .. .. .	..	..	277
Bendigo .. .. .	..	..	700
Brunswick .. .. .	..	..	2,745
Camberwell .. .. .	..	..	2,534
Caulfield .. .. .	..	..	712
Coburg .. .. .	..	13,000	5,911
Collingwood .. .. .	..	..	780
Dunolly .. .. .	..	..	67
Echuca .. .. .	..	..	168
Essendon .. .. .	..	..	1,449
Fitzroy .. .. .	..	..	876
Geelong .. .. .	..	1,000	1,289
Geelong West .. .. .	..	4,500	2,400
Hawthorn .. .. .	..	25,000	29,742
Kew .. .. .	..	10,000	16,736
Malvern .. .. .	12,500	..	11,737
Maryborough .. .. .	..	..	365
Melbourne .. .. .	..	35,949*	84,227
Newtown and Chilwell .. .. .	..	4,500	356
Northcote .. .. .	..	..	123
Oakleigh .. .. .	..	..	434
Portland .. .. .	..	..	19
Port Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	1,201
Prahran .. .. .	..	..	10,762
Queenscliff .. .. .	..	..	127
Richmond .. .. .	..	..	13
Sandringham .. .. .	..	9,000	..
South Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	2,617
St. Kilda .. .. .	..	..	3,583
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	..	156
Warrnambool .. .. .	..	..	574
Williamstown .. .. .	..	..	416
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>18,686</b>	<b>104,449</b>	<b>184,517</b>

\* Amount transferred from Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan and Capital Accounts.

## LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1919—continued.

SHIRES—	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
	£	£	£
Barrarbool .. .. .	..	2,026	..
Bright .. .. .	..	..	1,449
Colac .. .. .	..	..	134
Corio .. .. .	..	2,300	417
Dandenong .. .. .	..	..	117
Eltham .. .. .	..	..	454
Ferntree Gully .. .. .	..	..	230
Flinders .. .. .	..	3,600	..
Heidelberg .. .. .	..	14,000	4,670
Huntly .. .. .	..	..	948
Kyneton .. .. .	..	..	11
Lillydale .. .. .	..	3,200	3,571
Maffra .. .. .	..	..	1,738
Mansfield .. .. .	..	300	203
Melton .. .. .	..	..	200
Mildura .. .. .	..	2,000	900
Mulgrave .. .. .	..	..	73
Nunawading .. .. .	..	4,000	267
Omeo .. .. .	..	1,500	..
Preston .. .. .	..	..	282
Romsey .. .. .	..	1,000	..
Shepparton .. .. .	..	..	643
South Barwon .. .. .	..	3,016	1,061
Tungamah .. .. .	..	1,200	1,228
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	725	188
Warragul .. .. .	600	..	..
Whittlesea .. .. .	..	..	1,335
Yea .. .. .	..	..	125
Total .. .. .	600	38,867	20,244

### MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

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

The liabilities and assets of the fund are shown in the following statement:—

## MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Statement prepared in accordance with section 87 of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act No. 2995, showing—

## (a) Liability taken over by the Fund—

- (1) To the Treasurer on account of loans under Acts Nos. 2591 and 1552.
- (2) To the public on account of loans maturing for which provision had been made under Act No. 1552 and for other loans.

## (b) Assets: Moneys and funds made available for the liquidation of liability—

- (1) Tramway Funds—Surplus revenue accumulations.
- (2) Municipalities' sinking funds and interest accumulations.
- (3) Municipalities' contributions.

## LIABILITY TAKEN OVER BY THE FUND.

Municipality.	(1) To the Treasurer.		(2) To the Public.			Total.
	Act No. 2591.	Act No. 1552.	Act No. 1552.	Loans, Fixed Dates.	Instal- ment Loans.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Melbourne ..	92,302	8,636	80,000	..	..	180,938
Fitzroy ..	..	27,219	48,000	..	7,600	82,819
Collingwood ..	..	31,137	..	3,000	35,014	69,151
Prahran ..	..	14,629	60,000	..	104,660	179,289
Richmond..	12,406	34,341	..	12,000	17,158	75,905
South Melbourne ..	6,000	..	128,700	..	34,671	169,371
St. Kilda ..	28,336	58,041	25,000	2,500	7,943	121,820
Brunswick ..	13,678	28,089	52,000	..	9,513	103,280
Kew ..	..	9,984	..	14,500	34,177	58,661
Hawthorn ..	2,198	16,859	8,000	22,800	59,505	109,362
Port Melbourne ..	..	9,313	5,000	..	12,454	26,767
Northcote ..	6,932	1,169	20,000	5,530	31,478	65,109
Malvern ..	..	69	25,000	..	100,351	125,420
Camberwell ..	23,274	..	..	42,000	18,900	84,174
Caulfield ..	24,622	..	..	17,000	50,183	91,805
Coburg ..	4,845	6,183	26,817	..	11,440	49,285
Essendon ..	2,272	21,465	45,035	..	29,000	97,772
Brighton ..	21,835	..	42,000	24,000	..	87,835
Footscray ..	2,422	..	57,200	5,000	..	64,622
Williamstown ..	15,015	..	..	20,000	18,500	53,515
Oakleigh ..	1,886	..	7,000	3,900	7,229	20,015
Braybrook ..	727	..	..	..	200	927
Heidelberg ..	5,573	..	..	31,100	7,676	44,349
Mulgrave ..	1,938	10,243	..	2,500	..	14,681
Nunawading ..	8,947	..	23,300	19,875	3,736	55,858
Preston ..	9,000	..	..	10,000	7,341	26,341
Sandringham ..	8,371	630	3,933	525	16,554	30,013
Moorabbin ..	2,462	2,731	17,067	12,475	1,084	35,819
Total ..	295,041	280,738	674,052	248,705	626,367	2,124,903

## ASSETS: MONEYS AND FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE.

Municipality.	(1) Tramway Funds.	(2) Sinking Funds.		(3) Municipalities' Contributions (Total) (a)	Total.
		On Account of Loans at Fixed Dates.	On Account of Loans under Act No. 1552.		
	£	£	£	£	£
Melbourne .. ..	123,602	..	12,169	45,167	180,938
Fitzroy .. ..	40,588	416	..	41,815	82,819
Collingwood .. ..	41,408	1,155	..	26,588	69,151
Prahran .. ..	56,270	..	..	123,019	179,289
Richmond .. ..	47,089	4,285	..	24,531	75,905
South Melbourne .. ..	56,004	37	12,741	100,589	169,371
St. Kilda .. ..	37,286	494	..	84,040	121,820
Brunswick .. ..	45,150	..	..	58,130	103,280
Kew .. ..	16,052	5,645	..	36,964	58,661
Hawthorn .. ..	32,448	15,544	..	61,370	109,362
Port Melbourne .. ..	15,011	..	..	11,756	26,767
Northcote .. ..	29,907	2,117	..	33,085	65,109
Malvern .. ..	31,755	..	..	93,665	125,420
Camberwell .. ..	21,870	19,733	..	42,571	84,174
Caulfield .. ..	31,466	14,969	..	45,370	91,805
Coburg .. ..	17,078	..	6,817	25,390	49,285
Essendon .. ..	37,528	104	7,535	52,605	97,772
Brighton .. ..	21,940	7,238	5,235	53,422	87,835
Footscray .. ..	34,976	963	489	28,194	64,622
Williamstown .. ..	21,478	18,077	..	13,960	53,515
Oakleigh .. ..	5,774	1,214	1,119	11,908	20,015
Braybrook .. ..	3,695	..	..	..	3,695
Heidelberg .. ..	13,903	11,272	..	19,174	44,349
Mulgrave .. ..	3,406	552	..	10,723	14,681
Nunawading .. ..	11,628	8,663	6,156	29,411	55,858
Preston .. ..	9,088	8,685	..	8,568	26,341
Sandringham .. ..	9,434	382	..	20,197	30,013
Moorabbin .. ..	11,166	6,547	..	18,106	35,819
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>827,000</b>	<b>128,092</b>	<b>52,261</b>	<b>1,120,318</b>	<b>2,127,671</b>
Deduct amount in excess of liability taken over on account of Shire of Braybrook .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,768
<b>Total .. ..</b>	..	..	..	..	<b>2,124,903</b>

(a) It will be necessary when the final payments are being made to adjust any difference between the interest earned and the interest charged to the fund.

NOTE.—The municipalities' contributions are in most cases to extend over twenty years, and are to be paid by equal annual instalments during that period. In four instances the time for repayment is somewhat longer.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1919 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1919, about 27 per cent. was derived from rates, 39 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 7 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—9 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 10 per cent. from licences, and 8 per cent. from other sources. For public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 29 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 16 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 4 per cent.; for electric supply, 28 per cent.; for lighting, 4 per cent.; for street cleansing, 7 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 6 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

City of  
Melbourne,  
revenue and  
expenditure  
under various  
heads.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,  
1919.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
	£
Rates—	
General .. .. .	137,327
Lighting .. .. .	19,825
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act .. .. .	10,916
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees .. .. .	40,584
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors .. .. .	1,505
Other Licences .. .. .	429
Fees under Dog Act .. .. .	602
Baths .. .. .	4,361
Market and Weighbridge Fees .. .. .	54,337
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c. .. .. .	221,990
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges .. .. .	5,809
Fines and Costs .. .. .	1,893
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges .. .. .	33,000
Town Hall Premises and Rooms .. .. .	5,165
Other .. .. .	2,428
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c. .. .. .	6,975
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators—Sale of Manure .. .. .	14,927
Fees under Building Act .. .. .	1,283
Sundries .. .. .	12,525
Total .. .. .	575,881

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1919—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.)	£ 33,980
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	157
Street Cleansing, &c.	38,972
Lighting—Electric and Gas	22,626
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	8,344
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges	89,078
Markets and Weighbridges	15,064
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	42,137
Parks and Planting Trees in Streets	20,405
Repatriation—Employment of Returned Soldiers	749
Interest on Loans from the Public	95,765
Repayment of Government Loan	2,258
"    "    Public Loans	10,000
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	14,134
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	160,373
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	349
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	421
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	1,660
"    "    Infectious Diseases Hospital	5,648
"    "    Heatherton Sanatorium	953
Law Costs	689
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery	3,270
Miscellaneous—	
Rat Destruction	556
Gas Conference	152
Fees—Dog Act	440
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums	2,625
Elections	244
Influenza Epidemic	4,137
Peace Celebrations	1,052
Ceremonials	989
Ambulance Service	200
Sundries	2,510
Total	581,437

**MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.**

**Municipal Officers' Guarantee Fund.** An Act was passed in 1907 (No. 2080) incorporating the Municipal Association of Victoria, and authorizing it to institute a "Municipal Officers' Fidelity Guarantee Fund," to which any municipality, any authority constituted under any Water Act or any Weights and Measures Union may contribute such sum as may be fixed by the association for a guarantee against loss by the dishonesty of its officers. The Act provided, however, that the fund could not be established until three-fifths of the municipalities in Victoria had agreed in writing to contribute and that the amount to be contributed for a guarantee must not be less than that payable in 1907 for a like guarantee to any incorporated company or society in Victoria. At any time after the fund has reached £3,500 the rates of contribution may be altered, so that it will be

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

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1919, amounting to £228,730, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £767. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1919, was £8,693. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1919, amounted to £1,969.

### MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust is a corporate body, which was established in 1876 to regulate, manage, and improve the Port of Melbourne and portions of the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers adjacent thereto, for which purpose certain lands and properties are vested in Commissioners. On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. For seventeen Commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there were substituted five Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Other than the chairman, one member is to be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one identified with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other Commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust was increased from

Melbourne  
Harbor Trust  
—receipts and  
expenditure.

£2,000,000 to £3,000,000. The payment to the Consolidated Revenue was not to be greater than £60,000 per annum for five years from 1st January, 1913. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

**MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1915 TO 1919.**

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
<b>REVENUE.</b>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	272,279	273,731	267,739	259,175	255,234
Rents .. .. .	23,834	30,360	27,989	30,678	33,740
Interest .. .. .	1,293	170	31	123	193
Other Revenue .. .. .	13,092	17,273	23,158	33,233	43,453
	310,498	321,534	318,917	323,209	332,620
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue .. .. .	60,000	60,000	60,000	62,305	62,460
Total .. .. .	250,498	261,534	258,917	260,904	270,160
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE.</b>					
General Management and Expenses .. .. .	36,067	40,994	38,363	30,568	31,622
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses .. .. .	5,936	..	1,005	5,404	12,455
Maintenance—Dredging ..	20,298	20,496	44,231	15,279	47,382
" Harbor .. .. .	1,754	1,957	1,994	1,982	2,418
" Wharfs .. .. .	25,469	20,928	15,780	11,778	17,121
" Approaches .. .. .	7,999	9,994	8,107	6,667	10,845
Interest on Loans* .. .. .	72,934	78,820	85,206	87,190	94,698
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund .. .. .	30,415	51,364	51,747	52,000	52,500
Total .. .. .	200,872	224,553	246,433	210,868	269,041
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	49,626	36,981	12,484	50,036	1,119
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.</b>					
Land and Property .. .. .	2,060	1,316	588	1,153	964
Deepening Waterways .. .. .	93,615	82,429	50,871	108,037	68,746
Wharfs Construction .. .. .	120,627	105,803	62,246	37,321	77,305
Approaches Construction ..	10,921	8,960	6,201	11,417	3,774
Other Harbor Improvements ..	4,275	35,946	26,923	7,352	3,068
Floating Plant .. .. .	3,112	25,190	3,814	811	1,435
General Plant .. .. .	4,107	2,853	1,728	130	509
Stock Account .. .. .	25,451	21,784	4,686	..	..
Total .. .. .	264,168	284,281	157,057	166,221	155,801

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

**GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.**

**Geelong  
Harbor Trust  
—receipts and  
expenditure.**

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

**GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.**

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	10,200	9,171	8,772	9,988	13,004
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	3,776	4,113	3,829	5,488	5,125
Sparrovale Farm ..	6,710	4,930	5,933	7,042	7,403
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. .. .	9,543	9,777	10,683	15,180	20,999
Other Revenue .. .. .	606	830	3,157	4,919	1,682
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>30,835</b>	<b>28,821</b>	<b>32,374</b>	<b>42,617</b>	<b>48,213</b>
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses .. .. .	5,950	7,540	5,933	6,251	6,381
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	196	755	555	1,336	670
" Harbor ..	587	455	435	613	701
" Floating Plant ..	82	182	383	1,202	1,204
" Other .. .. .	992	988	852	1,393	1,397
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund .. .. .	21,870	24,288	25,926	27,595	27,755
Sparrovale Farm .. .. .	5,786	6,447	4,317	4,869	4,894
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs .. .. .	1,576	710	1,024	1,209	2,845
Corio Quay Power-house ..	1,805	3,055	1,947	3,557	9,826
Miscellaneous .. .. .	211	608	883	753	533
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>39,055</b>	<b>45,028</b>	<b>42,255</b>	<b>48,778</b>	<b>56,206</b>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property .. .. .	2,224	22,992	33,638	21,965	22,911
Deepening Waterworks ..	15,882	8,804	52	..	..
Wharfs and Approaches Construction .. .. .	6,617	365	25	314	270
Other Harbor Improvements ..	28,983	9,873	900	71	..
Floating and General Plant ..	1,358	..	209	..	48
Miscellaneous .. .. .	2,030	832	1	..	..
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>57,094</b>	<b>42,866</b>	<b>34,825</b>	<b>22,350</b>	<b>23,229</b>

**MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.**

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

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

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

**Functions of the Board.** The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis.

**Area under Board's control, and population.** The sewerage area over which the Board exercises control consists of eighteen cities, two towns, one shire, and parts of five other municipalities, or twenty-six municipalities in all, embracing a total area of 90,821 acres. The Board exercises control (under Orders in Council) for water supply purposes over an additional 3,929 acres in four municipalities. The Board further supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee and the outfall sewer area. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1919, was 771,871.

**Board's borrowing powers and liability on loans.** The Board is authorized to borrow £10,750,000, exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 contracted by the Government and taken over by the Board.

The liability for Government loans on 30th June, 1919, was £1,559,786, and for loans raised by the Board, £10,979,760, a portion of the latter amount having been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £600,388 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

**WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.**

**Water supply assessments and rates.** By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and tenements for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the £1 on the annual

valuation of the lands and tenements served. The water rate levied in the year 1918-19 was 6d. in the £1 on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

**Water meters.** Water meters may be hired from the Board at the following annual rentals, payable quarterly in advance :—  
For a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. meter, 5s. ;  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in., 6s. ; 1-in., 8s. ;  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -in., 10s. 6d. ; and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in., 14s.

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

**Assessed value of property.** The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £7,507,306 in 1918-19.

**Water rate receipts.** In 1918-19 the water rate receipts were as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears) ..	168,037	3	11
Meters " " ..	154,395	18	2
Special rates " " ..	3,458	6	10
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>325,891</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

**Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.** The total revenue was £372,180, as against £331,955 in the previous year. The cost in 1918-19 of maintenance and management was £59,394, and of interest £153,573, the total charges being £212,967, compared with a cost in 1917-18 of £60,714 for maintenance and management, and of £139,458 for interest, or a total charge of £200,172.

**Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.** The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1919, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c. .. ..	£84,885
Yan Yean system .. ..	634,750
Maroondah system .. ..	799,125
O'Shanassy system .. ..	459,901
Service reservoirs .. ..	250,874
Large mains .. ..	1,194,466
Reticulation .. ..	1,497,065
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>£4,921,066</b>

## SEWERAGE FINANCE.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.

In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1919-20 is £8,353,599, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1918-19 was 11d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 11d. rate was £7,077,424 in 1918-19.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1918-19 amounted to £327,831.

The sewerage revenue for 1918-19 was £379,900, as against £327,399 in the previous year. The outlay in 1918-19 for management, working expenses and repairs was £87,954, and for interest £372,235, the total charges being £460,189, compared with an outlay in 1917-18 of £85,327 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £345,521 for interest, or a total charge of £430,848.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system.

The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1919, was £7,718,958, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation .. ..	£570,040
Outfall sewer and rising mains .. ..	423,403
Pumping station buildings and engines .. ..	245,488
Main and branch sewers .. ..	2,165,156
Street reticulation .. ..	2,353,907
Reticulation of rights-of-way .. ..	1,072,043
House connexions branches .. ..	436,758
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital .. ..	452,163
Cost of sewerage system .. ..	£7,718,958
Householders' debts for house connexions .. ..	132,498
River improvements .. ..	3,977
Total .. ..	£7,855,433

## DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks.

The metropolis is supplied with water from three independent sources—one known as the Yan Yean system, fed by the watershed of the Plenty River and Jack's Creek from the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Ranges, supplemented by the Wallaby and Silver Creeks, tributaries of the Goulburn, whose waters have been diverted over the range by means of weirs, aqueducts, and tunnels; a second, known as the Maroondah system, whose watershed is in the Healesville district, and which

takes in the water of the Maroondah or Watts River, the Graceburn, Donnelly's and Coranderk Creeks, and other smaller streams; and a third, known as the O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra system, whose watersheds are in the Upper Yarra above Warburton. As regards the last-mentioned system, at present only the O'Shanassy River, a main tributary of the Upper Yarra, has been tapped.

**Total catchment area.**

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

**Total daily supply.**

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

#### YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

**Yan Yean system.**

The Yan Yean watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yean Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yean Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or  $2\frac{1}{3}$  square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1919 was 25 ft.  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. on 22nd and 23rd October, and the minimum depth 22 ft.  $10\frac{3}{4}$  in. on 30th March. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1919, the total intake of the Yan Yean Reservoir was 4,343,212,000 gallons, and the total output was 3,802,166,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

**High-level system.**

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

#### MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

The Maroondah water is taken by means of small weirs from the watershed of 40,000 acres situated above Healesville, and it is thence conveyed to the Preston Service Reservoirs along an aqueduct (about  $41\frac{1}{2}$  miles of open channels, tunnels, and syphons), which is capable of delivering 28,000,000 gallons daily.

## O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed.** The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 33,000 acres, situated near Warburton. The water is diverted by means of a weir and conveyed to Surrey Hills by way of Mitcham in an aqueduct, and in tunnels, syphons, and a pipe line of an aggregate length of 48 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles. The aqueduct is capable of delivering 20,000,000 gallons daily, but it has been completed in the tunnels and some other parts to a capacity of 60,000,000 gallons to provide for further diversions from the Upper Yarra and its tributaries.

**Storage and service reservoirs.**

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

## STORAGE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	Feet above L.W.M.
Yan Yean .. .. .	6,400,000,000*	602
Toorourrong .. .. .	60,000,000	747
Total (storage) .. .. .	6,460,000,000	

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

## SERVICE RESERVOIRS.

Description.	Capacity.	Reduced Level at By-wash.
	Gallons.	Feet above L.W.M.
Preston No. 1 .. .. .	13,500,000	326·50
„ No. 2 .. .. .	24,500,000	326·50
„ No. 3 .. .. .	26,300,000	326·50
Essendon No. 1 .. .. .	1,000,000	209·25
„ No. 2 .. .. .	4,000,000	209·25
Caulfield .. .. .	10,000,000	166·00
Kew .. .. .	3,000,000	281·50
Surrey Hills No. 1 .. .. .	9,000,000	429·50
„ No. 2 .. .. .	15,000,000	429·50
Morang (Pipe Head) .. .. .	3,000,000	485·00
Heidelberg .. .. .	1,000,000	325·00
Notting Hill .. .. .	10,000,000	332·50
Olinda .. .. .	11,000,000	671·00
Total (service) .. .. .	131,300,000	..
North Essendon (proposed provision for 10,000,000 gallons)	..	290·00 (approx.)
Mitcham (proposed provision for two reservoirs with a capacity of about 40 million gallons each)	..	515·00 „

**Aqueducts, &c., mains and reticulation pipes.** The following is the mileage return of aqueducts, &c., mains, and reticulation pipes up to the 30th June, 1919 :—

	Miles	Chs.	Miles	Chs.
<b>YAN YEAN SYSTEM—</b>				
Aqueducts, &c., between watersheds and Yan Yeau Reservoir .. .. .	23	62		
Aqueduct—Yan Yeau Reservoir to Morang .. .. .	6	33½		
Total .. .. .			30	15½
<b>MAROONDAH SYSTEM—</b>				
Main Maroondah Aqueduct .. .. .	41	28		
Tributary Aqueducts .. .. .	6	8		
Scours at Preston Reservoirs .. .. .	2	52¼		
Total .. .. .			50	8½
<b>O'SHANASSY SYSTEM—</b>				
O'Shanassy Aqueduct .. .. .	22	68½		
O'Shanassy Pipe line .. .. .	25	69½		
Scour Channel at Warburton .. .. .	0	36¾		
Scour at Olinda Reservoir .. .. .	0	31		
Scour at Surrey Hills Reservoir .. .. .	0	49		
Total .. .. .			50	15
Grand Total—Aqueducts, &c. .. .. .			130	38¾
*Large Mains, 54-in. to 12-in. diameter (inclusive) .. .. .			230	66½
Reticulation under 12-in. diameter .. .. .			1,346	78
Grand Total—Aqueducts, &c., Mains, and Reticulation .. .. .			1,708	23¼

The average number of people supplied with water during 1919 was 759,212, and the average daily consumption was 55.92 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1919 :—

**TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1919.**

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January .. .. .	1,716,882,000	55,383,290
February .. .. .	1,510,717,000	53,954,178
March .. .. .	1,251,109,000	40,358,355
April .. .. .	1,113,326,000	37,110,866
May .. .. .	1,117,506,000	36,048,580
June .. .. .	995,678,000	33,189,267
July .. .. .	1,030,728,000	33,249,290
August .. .. .	1,112,682,000	35,892,967
September .. .. .	1,144,553,000	38,151,767
October .. .. .	1,376,202,000	44,393,612
November .. .. .	1,531,161,000	51,038,700
December .. .. .	1,595,613,000	51,471,387
Total for the year .. .. .	15,496,157,000	...
Daily average for the year .. .. .	...	42,455,225

\* Exclusive of O'Shanassy Pipe line and Maroondah Aqueduct syphons.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1891 TO 1919.

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Tenements Connected with Sewerage System to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1891 ...	482,600	99,364	...	25,747,761	53·35
1892 ...	486,620	106,772	...	23,476,780	48·24
1893 ...	469,390	107,125	...	24,290,041	51·75
1894 ...	449,560	107,764	...	27,071,106	60·22
1895 ...	444,340	107,260	...	26,689,683	60·07
1896 ...	452,210	106,486	...	23,837,695	52·71
1897 ...	458,300	105,710	...	24,665,607	53·82
1898 ...	466,895	104,861	3,899	28,253,294	60·51
1899 ...	480,390	103,981	13,593	27,068,465	56·37
1900 ...	489,600	104,050	28,300	28,230,690	57·66
1901 ...	494,905	104,548	38,696	29,427,589	59·46
1902 ...	501,580	105,051	47,172	29,080,027	57·98
1903 ...	502,840	106,176	55,929	28,858,633	57·39
1904 ...	505,760	107,701	64,487	29,523,153	58·37
1905 ...	511,520	109,393	71,689	32,400,236	63·34
1906 ...	519,925	111,494	79,597	33,479,900	64·39
1907 ...	530,655	114,049	87,853	35,212,222	66·36
1908 ...	543,115	116,781	94,067	31,559,830	58·11
1909 ...	557,350	119,650	99,955	33,047,340	59·29
1910 ...	573,255	123,227	105,993	33,272,490	58·04
1911 ...	588,000	128,036	112,293	36,110,115	61·41
1912 ...	604,275	133,122	118,350	38,569,566	63·83
1913 ...	628,430	140,351	125,103	41,642,926	66·27
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64
1915 ...	674,000	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·25
1916 ...	713,957	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	51·69
1917 ...	727,196	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	53·08
1918 ...	744,018	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	54·89
1919 ...	759,212	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	55·92

DESCRIPTION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

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

**Sewerage system.**

but was modified by Mr. Thwaites, with the concurrence of the Board, so as to reduce the estimated cost to £3,451,000.

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

The first tenement was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1919, 159,911 tenements had been gazetted as within sewerage areas, and applications had been received *re* 166 outside gazetted areas, making a total of 160,077 tenements. Of this number 159,641 were provided with sanitary fittings which required to be connected with the sewerage system, and 157,056 had been connected, including the 166 outside gazetted areas. Of the remaining 2,585 tenements, 1,830 were in progress of connexion, while on 755 tenements connexions work had not been commenced.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1919 :—

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

Municipality.	No. of Tenements connected on 31st December, 1919.
Melbourne City ... ..	26,981
South Melbourne City ... ..	10,802
Prahan City ... ..	11,957
Fitzroy City ... ..	7,993
Richmond City ... ..	10,312
St. Kilda City ... ..	7,932
Collingwood City ... ..	8,474
Footscray City ... ..	6,857
Hawthorn City ... ..	6,532
Brunswick City ... ..	9,075
Essendon City ... ..	7,414
Malvern City ... ..	6,125
Caulfield City ... ..	6,862
Northcote City ... ..	5,828
Camberwell City ... ..	3,577
Brighton City ... ..	4,180
Port Melbourne City ... ..	3,030
Williamstown City ... ..	3,761
Kew Town ... ..	2,959
Coburg Town ... ..	2,036
Sandringham Town (part of) ... ..	1,321
Oakleigh Borough (part of) ... ..	Nil
Heidelberg Shire (part of) ... ..	1,638
Preston Shire ... ..	1,157
Moorabbin Shire (part of) ... ..	Nil
Nunawading Shire (part of) ... ..	253
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>157,056</b>

## PROGRESS REPORT OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S AREA.

On 31st December, 1919, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon, Nunawading, and Sandringham. The system was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Footscray, and Malvern, and the thickly populated portions of Caulfield, Brunswick, Coburg, Camberwell, Kew, Northcote, Preston, and Williamstown. Considerable progress had also been made in the municipality of Heidelberg.

During the twelve months ended December, 1919, work was carried out principally in Caulfield (East), Malvern (East), and Camberwell; and, in a lesser degree, in Coburg, Essendon, Melbourne (Travancore Estate), Northcote, and Preston. The Murrumbeena branch sewer, in Caulfield, and the Darling branch sewer, in Malvern, have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas. Reticulation contracts have been practically completed in Camberwell, Caulfield (East), Coburg, Essendon, Heidelberg, Malvern (East), Northcote, and Preston. Reticulation extensions have been carried out, principally in Caulfield, Camberwell, Malvern, Prahran, and St. Kilda; and, in a lessening degree, in Brighton, Northcote, Kew, Hawthorn, Footscray, and Coburg.

*Work in progress.*—The North Yarra main section 13, Heidelberg, is now under construction, and reticulation contracts are being carried out in Caulfield, Northcote, and Preston, while day labour extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh sub-divisions are being carried out in Camberwell, Caulfield, Collingwood, Footscray, Malvern, and Northcote.

The whole system was so far advanced that on the date mentioned above—31st December, 1919—the sewerage from 160,077 tenements could be collected, including those inside and outside gazetted areas, and 159,641 tenements could be connected. Of these, 157,056 tenements were connected, and work was in progress on 1,830 other premises. The total number of fittings connected with the system was as follows:—75 public conveniences and 85 public urinals, 184,328 water closets, 138,956 baths, 110,622 sinks, 108,642 sets of wash troughs, 56,721 lavatories, 16,834 stables, 10,361 urinals, 8,735

polluted areas and paved yards, 2,017 cellars, 1,183 slop hoppers, 300 latrines, and 364 dairies. There were 436 tenements in which there were no fittings to be connected. The house connexions pipes join the 9-inch reticulation pipes, which are gradually collected into 12-inch, 15-inch, and 18-inch pipes, and then again into brick and concrete branch sewers, which join the sub-mains and mains. In all, 1,501 $\frac{3}{8}$  miles of reticulation and 162 $\frac{7}{10}$  miles of mains and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of 1,664 $\frac{3}{10}$  miles.

## SEWERS AND PUMPING STATION.

**Main Sewers  
and Subsidiary  
Main.**

Particulars of the system are as follows :—

The sewage of the metropolis is delivered into two main sewers and a subsidiary main leading to the pumping station at Spotswood.

The two main sewers are—

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

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

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

**Pumping  
station.** When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 50 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. The solid matter caught in them is transferred to a drier in the building over the wells, where it is subject to steam pressure and consequently to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial

value and is destroyed in a furnace. The sewage is raised by the pumps 125 feet through two 6-foot and one 4-foot wrought-iron rising mains—the three lengths running side by side, each 2·794 miles long (an aggregate length of 8·38 miles)—to the head of the outfall sewer, at Brooklyn, 75 feet above low-water mark, whence it gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

### METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

**Sewage farm.** The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 11,688 acres 3 roods 2½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall to 31st December, 1919, of 18·17 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, with a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 75 feet above low-water mark and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37·25 feet above low-water mark.

To irrigate the portion of the farm above that level necessitates pumping, and in the meantime most of the high land is being used for dry farming, cereal crops being grown.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre brocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an-acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main carriers and drains which run parallel north to south through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south, through the farm.

Of the area under irrigation in the year 1918-19, viz., 7,131 acres (including small areas under fodder crops and barley for grain), 287 acres were sown with maize for grain, 100 acres were under barley for grain, and 490 acres of lucerne were cut for hay, leaving 6,009 acres of grasses, and small areas under fodder crops of maize and Japanese millet and silver beet (totalling 245 acres). Of the 7,131 acres, 6,513 acres can be depastured with stock.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The profits from transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1918-19 were—from sheep, £1,410; from cattle, £22,665. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £4,497.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1919:—

	£
Lucerne (Chaff and Hay) .. .. .	14,165
Maize .. .. .	4,362
Wheat, Oats, and Barley .. .. .	1,228
Other .. .. .	180
	<hr/>
Total .. .. .	19,935
	<hr/>

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1918-19, or as at 30th June, 1919, are as follows:—

Total area of farm .. .. .	11,689 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1918-19 = in gallons .. .. .	35,518,498
= 130·84 acre-feet per day = 5·97 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 7,996 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1919 .. .. .	£570,040
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm .. .. .	£34,112
Net profit on farm (after charging working expenses of sewage disposal and £22,668 interest on capital cost), 1918-19 .. .. .	£2,352
	<hr/>
Population served by sewerage system .. .. .	714,095
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1919 .. .. .	22·22 inches
"    "    "    31st December, 1919 .. .. .	19·07 .. .. .
Average rainfall for 26 years to 31st December, 1919 .. .. .	18·173 .. .. .

### GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

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

The Commissioners number five. Two of these represent the City of Geelong, one each the Boroughs of Geelong West and Newtown and Chilwell, and one the Shires of Bellarine, Corio, and South Barwon.

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £525,000 for Water Supply undertaking; £375,000 for Sewerage undertaking; and £80,000 for sewerage installation to properties. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1919, was:—Water Supply, £433,000; sewerage, £326,000; and sewerage installation, £34,000. The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1919, amounted to £26,422 on account of waterworks, and £21,091 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 35,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 8,500; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 6,000; and the number connected with the sewers, 3,600.

*Water Supply.*—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The works comprise the Korweinguboora Reservoir and the Bolwarra Weir, on Eastern Moorabool River; a supply channel thence to Upper Stoney Creek Reservoirs; a diversion channel to No. 2 Stoney Creek storage; an aqueduct from Stoney Creek Reservoirs to Anakie Pipe-head Basin; two 14-in. mains from Anakie Basin to Lovely Banks, with a connecting 9-in. main from Lower Stoney Creek Reservoir; a 14-in. main from Lovely Banks Service Basin to Montpellier Service Basins, with 9-in. and 14-in. mains therefrom to the reticulation system; a 16-in. main from Lovely Banks to Geelong; and 9-in. and 8-in. mains from Lovely Banks to North Geelong, with 178 miles of reticulation mains within the City of Geelong and its suburbs.

*Sewerage.*—The sewerage scheme provides for a main outfall sewer, 4 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in., to the ocean at Black Rock, a distance of about 9 miles. The drainage area is 8,081 acres, and includes the City of Geelong, the boroughs of Geelong West and Newtown and Chilwell, and the suburban areas in the shires of Corio, South Barwon, and Bellarine.

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

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.

(b) An additional rate of 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).

(c) A rate of 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,335,280 gallons, as under :—

## STORAGE CAPACITY OF RESERVOIRS.

Name.	Catchment Area.	Water Area.	Length of By-wash.	Depth of Water.	Length of Bank.	Outlet above Sea Level.	Capacity.
	sq. m.	ac.	ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.	gallons.
Korweinguboorra ..	131 $\frac{3}{8}$	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	144	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,900	1,893	460,000,000
No. 1 Upper Stoney Creek	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	66	66	1,350	1,109	754,000,000
No. 2 Upper Stoney Creek Storage ..	..	140	..	18	6,780	1,177	522,300,000
No. 3 Upper Stoney Creek	..	210	..	20	2,300	1,170	801,000,000
Lower Stoney Creek ..	6	27	200	42	200	812	140,820,000
No. 1 Pipe-head Dam ..	..	1	30	10	..	836	1,344,000
No. 2 Pipe-head Dam ..	..	..	..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	832	5,160,000
Lovely Banks Service Basin No. 1 (old) ..	..	..	..	18	..	253	5,913,000
Lovely Banks Service Basin No. 2 (new) ..	..	..	..	18	..	252	6,670,000
Lovely Banks Settling Basin (new) ..	..	..	..	6	..	272 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,510,280
Montpellier Service Basin ..	..	..	..	15	..	340	5,250,000
Montpellier Service Basin No. 2 ..	..	..	..	15	..	340	5,368,000

## BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act 1915* (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo. The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The first Chairman was Cr. William Beebe, J.P., then Mayor of Bendigo, and twice since re-elected Chairman. The annual meeting is held in February. The borrowing powers conferred under the Act have so far been limited to £5,000 for the purpose of making permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for

the proposed scheme. These have now been made, and submitted for the approval of the Governor in Council, with a view to obtaining increased borrowing powers sufficient to carry out the work. The central portion of the city is proposed to be first sewered—an area of 935 acres, called Sewerage Area No. 1. The estimated cost of sewerage works, including the cost of a main outfall sewer and treatment works, is £112,000. The main outfall sewer will be 4 miles long, on a grade of 1 in 700, and the method of disposal will be by septic tanks and bacterial filters, with secondary land filtration, if necessary; the effluent being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom-road, and 4 miles north of Bendigo Post Office. The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the £1 on the annual value in sewered areas, and not exceeding 6d. in the £1 in unsewered areas. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £200,000.

### FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

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

The Metropolitan Fire District embraces the area included in the various municipalities within a radius of ten miles from the General Post Office, as well as the district outside of that area which is referred to below. The area vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is included in the Metropolitan Fire District, but the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board has jurisdiction over portions of the shires of Werribee, Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Doncaster, Nunawading, Mulgrave, and Moorabbin, within and beyond the 10-mile radius, which are not vested in the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade District includes the greater portion of the shire of Moorabbin, and it extends in a southerly direction as far as Mordialloc (16 miles from Melbourne), that township being included.

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

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1920, had under its control the following:—Forty-one stations, 250 members of permanent staff, 48 members of special service staff, 7 members of clerical staff, 27 men engaged in the workshops, 100 partially paid firemen, 6 motor-drawn steam fire engines, 2 steam fire engines, 6 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage waggons, 6 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 34 motor hose waggons, 2 motor cycles, 2 motor lorries, 1 special service van, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 4 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompier ladders, 5 inspection cars, 1 instruction car, 102,934 feet of hose, 5 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 343 fire alarm circuits having 1,058 street fire alarms, of which 1,038 were with telephones and 20 were fire alarms only. There were also 810 auxiliary boxes and 22 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 141 direct telephone lines 58 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 39 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 75 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1919–20 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £95,225, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to -903d. in the £1 over an area wherein the property was valued at £8,433,943, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £4 12s. 4d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1918 amounted to £687,582, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1919–20 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £31,742.

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board annually elects one of its members as president. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1919 was £15,586,

which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £4,909; (b) municipalities, £5,055; (c) insurance companies, £4,909; and (d) other sources, £713. The expenditure for the year amounted to £15,581. There are 111 municipal councils and 74 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1919 amounted to £239,111, and the total of their contributions in that year for the upkeep of the brigades was £4,909. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1919 was £1,855,994. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and watchmen are also employed. There are 133 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,822. The number of enlistments among registered firemen was 893, and of these 162 were killed in action. In many brigades there is, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members." The Chief Officer and the Deputy Chief Officer of the Board frequently inspect the brigades, and also pay them "surprise visits." They report monthly to the Board as to the efficiency of the service, and in regard to the equipment necessary to be supplied. In 1919 the chief items of the plant consisted of 5 steam engines, 14 motor tenders, 63 manual engines, 9 horse brakes, 61 apparatus carriages, 3 fire escapes, about 280 hose reels, and approximately 180,000 feet of canvas hose.

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

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

purpose of extinguishing any fire or for the purpose of drills competitions and practice conducted under the authority of either board or any local committee."

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

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

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and shall allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1919, the Board had fixed to its 230 miles  $66\frac{1}{2}$  chains of leading mains and 1,346 miles 78 chains of reticulation mains 3,713 pillar hydrants, 44 Tregear patent hydrants, and 15,186 ball fire plugs, viz., 15,165 Bateman and Moore (of which 1,888 are with spring) and 21 Fowler patent—a grand total of 18,943. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

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

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1919, are as follows:—

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

	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance ...	93,831	102,215	96,874	98,272	100,442
Receipts for Services ...	6,634	7,595	5,589	6,645	7,200
Interest and Sundries ...	9,993	4,202	1,606	1,950	3,180
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>110,458</b>	<b>114,012</b>	<b>104,069</b>	<b>106,867</b>	<b>110,822</b>
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries ...	56,104	59,162	57,511	63,114	66,767
Fire Expenses ...	3,261	3,331	3,325	3,343	3,439
Administrative Charges, &c.	24,056	21,476	22,620	19,843	17,655
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs ...	4,224	5,309	7,560	7,934	6,607
Interest ...	8,838	9,871	10,567	9,927	9,255
Sinking Fund ...	2,735	3,526	2,604	1,644	5,727
Firemen's Accident Fund	604	311	250	250	...
Miscellaneous ...	6,467	5,801	3,308	3,454	2,812
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>106,289</b>	<b>108,787</b>	<b>107,745</b>	<b>109,509</b>	<b>112,262</b>
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	28,808	14,711	5,209	14,721	8,344