

CHAPTER IV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

§ 1. Introduction.

1. **General.**—The construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and ferries are generally part of the functions of local authorities, but in New South Wales and South Australia, more especially in the large unincorporated areas, these duties are undertaken directly by the Government. In some States, moreover, a certain proportion of the roads and bridges is constructed and maintained by the Government, which, in addition, advances money for main roads to be expended by municipalities under the supervision of special Boards. Although roads, bridges and ferries constructed and maintained directly by Government do not properly come under the heading of "Local Government," they have been included in this chapter for the sake of convenience.

2. **Municipalities, Shires, etc.**—A description of the various systems of municipal government in the different States, and their development from the earliest date, was published in 1919 by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics in a separate work entitled "Local Government in Australia." Limits of space preclude the incorporation of the information contained therein in the Official Year Book.

3. **Water Supply and Sewerage.**—In the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane the control of water supply and sewerage is in the hands of special Boards, while in Adelaide and Perth, these services are under the direct supervision of Government Departments. In most of the other cities and towns, the municipal councils, or, in some cases, water trusts, are the controlling bodies which either construct the works out of their own resources or take them over after they have been constructed by the Government.

4. **Harbours.**—The majority of the harbours in Australia are managed by Boards, the members of which are either elected by persons interested or appointed by the Government. In a few instances, however, they are directly controlled by the Government. Only those which are controlled by Boards are dealt with in the following pages.

5. **Fire Brigades.**—In all the States, the management of fire brigades is undertaken by Boards. The members of these Boards are usually elected by the councils of municipalities and insurance companies within the districts placed under their jurisdiction, together with one or more appointed by the Government. Occasionally volunteer or country fire brigades are represented.

§ 2. Government Roads, Bridges, Etc.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* The control of all roads, bridges and ferries, with the exception of those proclaimed as "National" and of those in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division, which still remain under its jurisdiction, was transferred, in 1920, from the Public Works Department to local authorities. The Government has also adopted the policy of assisting municipal and shire councils to recondition certain main roads by doing the work in the first instance, and recovering in instalments from the councils concerned one-half of the cost.

(ii) *Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* At the end of 1923, the "National" works consisted of 58 miles of roads, 283 bridges with a total length of 108,631 feet, and 23 ferries, while in the unincorporated areas of the Western Division there were 6,053 miles of roads (of which 213 miles were metalled or ballasted, 163 formed only, and 3,437 cleared only, 99 bridges of a total length of 13,602 feet, 340 culverts, and 6 ferries under the control of the Public Works Department.

(iii) *Expenditure on Roads, Bridges and Ferries.* The total Government expenditure on roads, bridges and ferries from 1857 to 1925-26 was £27,587,757. The following table shows the expenditure for each year from 1920-21 to 1925-26:—

ROADS, ETC.—EXPENDITURE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1921 TO 1926.

Year.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure..	163,121	542,205	443,541	458,415	(a)635,976	1,067,442 (b)

(a) Includes £260,547, Sydney Harbour Bridge.

(b) Includes £483,395, Sydney Harbour Bridge.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* A small sum is expended annually by the State Government on roads and bridges, and a considerable amount of loan money is advanced in each year to the Country Roads Board for the purpose of constructing and maintaining main and developmental roads, the amount so expended during the year ending 30th June, 1925, being £992,568. An annual payment of £50,000 is also made out of Consolidated Revenue to the Board for maintenance works.

(ii) *Direct Expenditure by Government.* The following table shows the amounts of money expended directly by the Government on roads and bridges during the years 1920-21 to 1925-26 :—

**ROADS AND BRIDGES—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, VICTORIA,
1920-21 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Expenditure..	£ 10,842	£ 23,622	£ 65,459	£ 46,761	£ 68,939	£ 81,205

(iii) *Country Roads Board.* The duties of this Board were given in some detail in Year Book No. 15, p. 526.

The borrowing of a sum of £4,000,000 has been authorized for the purposes of making permanent works under the Country Roads Acts. One half of the amount expended on permanent works and maintenance must be refunded by the municipalities affected, 6 per cent. of the amount due in respect of permanent works being payable annually, and the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid before the 1st of July in each year. A special rate, not exceeding 6d. in the pound, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality for the purpose of such repayment.

All registration fees, licence fees and fines under the Motor Car Act, all licence fees for unused roads and water frontages, and all registration fees and fines for traction-engines are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund. The total loan expenditure for permanent works to the 30th June, 1925, was £3,161,783. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure on permanent and maintenance works for the five years 1920-21 to 1924-25 :—

**COUNTRY ROADS BOARD, VICTORIA—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1920-21 TO 1924-25.**

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.					Expenditure.	
	Motor Registration and Licence Fees.	Unused Roads etc., Licence Fees.	Contributions by Municipalities.		Total.	Permanent Works.	Main-tenance.
			Permanent Works.	Main-tenance.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	98,135	21,441	50,036	90,335	342,865	271,869	221,395
1922	118,672	21,487	61,024	104,026	429,308	288,937	267,969
1923	158,249	19,933	68,608	123,819	514,469	266,046	288,129
1924	222,251	20,110	76,355	134,349	585,742	201,615	343,233
1925	402,971	19,801	82,931	154,557	660,260	228,872	468,182

(iv) *Developmental Roads.* For the purpose of constructing and maintaining subsidiary or developmental roads, the Government may borrow the sum of £6,475,000. The work is carried out under the supervision of the Country Roads Board, and the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability; the municipalities, however, are required to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan and to maintain the roads when constructed. The amount expended during the year ended 30th June, 1925 was £602,519, and the total expenditure to that date was £3,119,168.

3. **Queensland.**—Under “The Main Roads Act of 1920,” a Main Roads Board was constituted, consisting of three members appointed by the Governor in Council. Subsequently, by “The Main Roads Acts Amendment Act of 1925,” the Board was abolished, and its powers conferred upon a single commissioner. The duties of the Commissioner are to make the necessary surveys and investigations in order to determine what roads should be main roads, and, under certain circumstances, to undertake the construction and maintenance of such roads. Before any road can be proclaimed a main road, the shire councils through whose areas such road passes have the right to lodge objections thereto, and the Commissioner must consider such objections and may vary his decision. The whole of the money necessary for the construction and maintenance of main roads is provided from the Main Roads Fund at the Treasury, and the councils concerned must repay one-half the cost thereof over a period of 30 years, with interest. This fund is formed from (a) moneys appropriated by Parliament therefor, (b) fees on motor vehicles and traction engines, (c) fees and rents for unused roads, (d) moneys received from the sale of timber, sand, etc., on any main road, and (e) all other moneys received or recovered by the Commissioner. Wherever possible, the Commissioner arranges with local authorities to undertake the survey and construction of works, but in most cases, owing to the dearth of trained engineers in the employ of councils, the Commissioner has had to undertake most of the survey work and preparation of plans and a considerable portion of the construction. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, the receipts of the Commission amounted to £719,790, including £356,517 from the Treasury Loan Fund, £189,993 from motor fees, and £150,452 from the Commonwealth for schemes under the Main Roads Development Act (Commonwealth); and the disbursements to £782,171, including £307,215 expenditure on permanent works, £251,902 on schemes under the Commonwealth Main Roads Development Act, and £86,934 on maintenance of main roads. At that date, 4,275 miles of roads had been gazetted as main roads, and 455 miles had been surveyed during the year. In addition, 168 miles of roads had been gazetted as developmental roads up to 30th June, 1926, and 65 miles surveyed during the year.

The money made available to the State under the Commonwealth “Main Roads Development Act” is allocated and expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Main Roads.

The developmental roads sections of “The Main Roads Acts 1920 to 1925” provide that on such roads the Commissioner will be responsible for the total cost of construction, but that the local authorities concerned shall repay half the interest over a period of twenty years, and that the local authorities shall be responsible for maintenance.

4. **South Australia.**—The Highways Act 1926 created a Commissioner of Highways and provided for a Main Roads Fund. The Commissioner is virtually empowered to determine upon which roads he will spend the moneys available, in doing which he has to take into account (a) the moneys voted, or likely to be voted, by Parliament for main roads; (b) whether the road is or will be the main trunk route; (i) connecting any large producing area, or any area capable of becoming in the near future a large producing area, with its market or nearest port or railway station; (ii) connecting two or more large producing areas, or areas capable of becoming in the near future large producing areas, or between two or more large centres of population; (iii) between the capital and any large producing area or any large centre of population; (iv) between the capitals of this State and any other State; and (c) whether the area through which the road passes is, or in the near future will be, sufficiently served by a railway or railways.

The Main Roads Fund is to be credited with (a) licence fees and registration fees under the Motor Vehicles Act 1921; (b) licence fees under the Vehicles (Licensing) Act 1925; (c) motor vehicles tax under the Motor Vehicles Tax Act 1915; (d) fines, penalties, and forfeitures in respect of convictions for offences against the Motor Vehicles Act 1921, of the Motor Vehicles Tax Act 1915 (exclusive of any sum received for costs), or the Width of Tires Act 1923; (e) fees for hawkers’ licences issued by the Treasurer; (f) contributions from Councils; (g) all sums appropriated by Parliament for main roads; (h) all loans raised and appropriated for main roads.

Moneys standing to the credit of the Fund are to be used by the Commissioner for (a) payment of the expenses incurred in connexion with carrying out the provisions of the Act; (b) defraying the cost of the operations undertaken by the Commissioner in connexion with main roads and works; (c) payment to each council of the amount of its annual grant for main roads; (d) defraying the cost of any work required to be executed by the State

pursuant to any agreement with the Commonwealth relating to the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads, etc. ; (e) refunding to the Treasurer any moneys paid or set aside out of General Revenue pursuant to the Main Roads Fund Act 1922 ; or for the purpose of payment of the interest on any loan raised after the 1st July, 1926, and appropriated to main roads ; and (f) paying during each financial year to the Public Debt Commissioners for the purposes of the reduction and redemption of any loan raised after the 1st July, 1926, and appropriated to main roads, in addition to any other sum required by law to be so paid for such purposes, but at least such a sum as will amount to one and one-quarter per centum of the principal for the time being of such loan.

The Commissioner determines the amount of the Annual Main Road Grant to each Council for construction and maintenance of main roads and also the amount of money to be expended by each Council out of its revenue for the same purpose provided that such contribution shall not exceed one-half of the grant. In the case of main roads maintained departmentally the Commissioner may recover from the Council in respect of maintenance and interest charges one-third of the annual outlay or an amount calculated at £150 per mile per annum whichever amount is the smaller. The Commissioner also allocates to Councils funds voted by Parliament for roads in newly-settled areas and supervises the expenditure of funds provided under the Federal Aid Roads Scheme. The Commissioner has power to deal with cases in which any main road is being neglected by a Council or in which any work towards which a grant of assistance has been made is not being satisfactorily carried out.

The expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1926, was £836,504, inclusive of grants in aid of rates collected paid to Councils amounting to £119,520. In the sparsely-settled districts outside the incorporated areas, the roads and bridges are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department which expended during the same period £13,730.

5. **Western Australia.**—In Western Australia the construction, maintenance, and management of roads and bridges throughout the State are under the control of municipalities and district road boards which are subsidized by the Government.

6. **Tasmania.**—(i) *Construction.* In Tasmania the cost of construction of roads and bridges is borne almost entirely by the central Government.

Up to the 30th June, 1926, the loan expenditure on these works was £4,227,176 (roads, £3,481,518 ; tracks, £226,387 ; bridges, £519,271). In addition, half the proceeds of the sale of land has formed a Crown Lands Fund for the construction of roads to new holdings. Under this provision £666,276 has been expended. This fund has in recent years more than met the demands on it, and expenditure therefrom since 1918 has been limited to £10,000 annually, the balance being used for redemption of debt. The following table gives particulars of the amount and cost of construction for the last five years :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES, TASMANIA—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION, 1921 TO 1926.

Period.	Expenditure.		New-road Mileage.		New Bridges.
	Loans.	Crown Lands Fund.	Cleared.	Metalled.	
	£	£	Miles.	Miles.	No.
1921-22	102,160	8,198	69	73	27
1922-23	71,876	6,412	47	57	13
1923-24	57,546	5,537	53	48	15
1924-25	130,871	5,341	139	119	16
1925-26	192,469	5,465	35	40	25

In addition, in 1925-26, the sum of £40,695 provided by the Commonwealth Government was expended on roads ; the conditional expenditure by the State Government is included in the above figures.

(ii) *Maintenance.* The maintenance of roads and bridges is undertaken by the municipalities with some assistance from the central Government, chiefly by way of subsidy. Under the Aid to Road Rates Act, a sum of £11,000 is distributed annually among the municipalities, in proportion as the cost of maintenance falls on their resources. Under the Main Roads Maintenance Act 1918 a further sum of £5,000 was provided out of Consolidated Revenue, which, with the addition of the motor tax, less 5 per cent., and a contribution from municipalities, is expended on the upkeep of main roads. In 1924–25 the amount available for 1,100 miles of main road was £45,800. The work is carried out in most cases by municipalities, under the general direction of an Advisory Board, on which the Government, the municipalities, and the motorists are all represented. Further, the Repairs to Roads Act 1920 provides for loans for 15 years to municipalities for the purpose of re-making roads—half the loan is repaid in instalments by the local body and the remainder by the State Government. The Government also provides for the repair of the more important bridges, and for emergency work.

The above provision for maintenance has, however, in recent years been found insufficient to cope with the heavier motor traffic and to meet the demand for a better road surface further legislation is in contemplation.

7. *Summary of Loan Expenditure on Roads and Bridges.*—Figures showing the total expenditure on roads and bridges in the States are not available. The subjoined statement, however, gives the amounts of loan expenditure by the State Governments up to the 30th June, 1926 :—

**ROADS AND BRIDGES.—GOVERNMENT LOAN EXPENDITURE TO THE
30th JUNE, 1926.**

Expenditure.	N.S.W.	Victoria. (a)	Q'land. (b)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total to 30/6/23	2,381,744	4,775,897	931,775	2,110,535	459,468	3,847,083	14,506,502
.. „ 30/6/24	2,567,322	5,402,975	931,775	2,276,475	525,477	3,903,835	15,607,859
.. „ 30/6/25	3,324,402	6,580,501	832,839	2,408,743	617,111	4,033,673	17,797,569
.. „ 30/6/26	4,317,576	7,735,888	832,839	2,602,549	713,795	4,227,176	20,429,823

(a) This expenditure is from loan funds on country roads ; temporary advances not included.

(b) In addition, Main Roads loan expenditure to 30th June, 1926, was £915,574.

The following table shows the annual expenditure from loans on roads and bridges by the central Governments in each State during the years 1921–22 to 1925–26 :—

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—LOAN EXPENDITURE BY STATES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land. (a)	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	All States.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	320,271	960,821	..	109,120	12,585	99,760	1,502,557
1923 ..	231,271	625,620	217,500	62,510	34,311	71,017	1,242,229
1924 ..	185,578	627,078	496,000	165,940	66,009	56,752	1,597,357
1925 ..	750,907	1,177,826	200,000	132,268	91,634	129,838	2,482,473
1926 ..	972,793	1,155,087	356,517	246,908	96,684	192,469	3,020,458

(a) Main Roads loan expenditure.

The two tables given above show only a small proportion of the actual expenditure upon roads and bridges in the different States, for the reason that (a) there have been large expenditures from revenue, both by the central Governments and by local authorities, and (b) the State Governments have in many cases voted grants and subsidies on the amount of rates collected, and have issued loans to local authorities either for the express purpose of the construction of roads and bridges or for the general purpose of public works construction.

§ 3. Municipalities, Shires, Etc.

1. **New South Wales.**—(i) *General.* Practically the whole of the State, with the exception of the Western Division, has been divided into municipalities and shires, the total area incorporated at the end of 1925 being 184,110 square miles, of which 2,520 square miles are included in the former and 181,590 in the latter. The areas incorporated comprise the whole of the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State, with the exception of Lord Howe Island, the islands in Port Jackson, and the quarantine station at Port Jackson.

(ii) *Municipalities.*—(a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area and population of municipalities, together with the length of roads and the number of bridges and ferries therein for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	No. of Municipalities.	Sydney and Suburbs.		Country.		Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
		Area.	Population.	Area.	Population.			
		Acres.		Acres.				
1921	185	95,259	906,320	1,725,875	531,090	10,187	745	26
1922	185	95,259	934,970	1,725,875	536,050	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923	184	95,259	959,772	1,720,275	545,850	(a)	(a)	(a)
1924	181	95,259	989,390	1,593,075	552,930	10,007	673	24
1925	180	96,010	1,015,870	1,516,883	564,430	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 10,007 miles of roads, 4,772 were metalled, ballasted or gravelled, 1,787 formed only, and 1,859 cleared only, while 1,589 miles were natural surface.

(b) *Unimproved and Improved Values.* The table hereunder gives a comparison of the unimproved and improved values for the years 1921 to 1925 inclusive :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—CAPITAL VALUES, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Total Metropolis.	Country.	Grand Total.
UNIMPROVED VALUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
1921	35,887,412	51,027,987	86,915,399	30,706,273	117,621,672
1922	36,838,607	54,642,223	91,480,830	32,343,067	123,823,897
1923	36,918,354	60,984,924	97,903,278	34,238,069	132,141,347
1924	45,593,929	65,559,272	111,153,201	36,068,427	147,221,628
1925	45,656,053	70,391,344	116,047,397	37,931,396	153,978,793
IMPROVED VALUE.					
1921	99,647,060	141,632,450	241,279,510	88,922,248	330,201,758
1922	103,667,740	155,607,105	259,274,845	90,627,326	349,902,171
1923	107,239,980	174,364,307	281,604,287	99,739,138	381,343,425
1924	141,629,260	191,921,240	333,550,500	106,363,410	439,913,910
1925	151,367,380	207,838,392	359,205,772	112,733,389	471,939,161

(c) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Particulars of the revenue and expenditure of municipalities for the year ending 31st December, 1925, under various headings, are given below :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.			
REVENUE.							
	£	£	£	£			
General fund	} 2,975,740 (a)	} 2,093,515	1,170,913	3,264,428 (b)			
Trading accounts					} 46,568	736,534	783,102 (b)
Special and local funds .. ..								} 57,441	335,393	392,834 (b)
Gross revenue	2,975,740	2,197,524	2,242,840	7,416,104			
EXPENDITURE.							
	£	£	£	£			
General fund	} 3,086,313 (a)	} 2,234,557	1,242,438	3,476,995 (b)			
Trading accounts					} 39,464	588,443	627,907 (b)
Special and local funds .. ..								} 57,702	304,786	362,488 (b)
Gross expenditure	3,086,313	2,331,723	2,135,667	7,553,703			

(a) Items of revenue and expenditure for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities. (b) Exclusive of Sydney.

The next table shows the gross revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the five years 1921 to 1925 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925.

Municipalities.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
GROSS REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	2,068,153	2,348,854	2,568,357	2,855,443	2,975,740
Suburban	1,413,469.	1,561,760	1,709,262	1,869,399	2,197,524
Country	1,582,055	1,701,288	1,836,654	2,024,252	2,242,840
Total	5,063,677	5,611,902	6,114,273	6,749,094	7,416,104
GROSS EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Sydney	2,060,635	2,187,856	2,371,043	2,666,616	3,086,313
Suburban	1,511,543	1,618,413	1,790,120	2,064,142	2,331,723
Country	1,507,423	1,637,140	1,711,734	1,883,926	2,135,667
Total	5,079,601	5,443,409	5,872,897	6,614,684	7,553,703

(d) *Assets and Liabilities.* The financial position of the municipalities as at the 31st December, 1925, is shown by the following statement of assets and liabilities.

MUNICIPALITIES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1925.

Particulars.	Sydney.	Suburbs.	Country.	Total.
ASSETS.				
	£	£	£	£
Bank balances and cash ..	19,914,698 (a)	472,517	503,573	976,090 (b)
Outstanding rates ..		110,524	184,786	295,310 (b)
Sundry debtors ..		198,047	263,512	461,559 (b)
Stores and materials ..		32,839	109,778	142,617 (b)
Land, buildings, furniture, etc.		1,021,822	4,950,325	5,972,147 (b)
Other ..		31,453	40,336	71,789 (b)
Total ..	19,914,698	1,867,202	6,052,310	27,834,210
LIABILITIES.				
Loans, outstanding interest and sundry creditors ..	19,198,054 (a)	2,413,600	1,951,685	4,365,285 (b)
Debts due to Government and interest thereon ..		97,199	2,255,079	2,352,278 (b)
Bank overdrafts ..		182,959	209,686	392,645 (b)
Other ..		44,339	70,708	115,097 (b)
Total ..	19,198,054	2,738,147	4,487,158	26,423,359

(a) Particulars for the city of Sydney cannot be allocated to the different headings shown for municipalities.

(b) Exclusive of Sydney.

(iii) *Shires.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives the number, area, population, and unimproved capital value of shires, together with the length of the roads, and the number of bridges and ferries therein. It is not possible to give the improved capital value or the assessed annual value, as shires are not compelled to make these valuations.

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	No. of Shires.	Area.	Population.	Unimproved Capital Value.	Length of Roads.	Bridges.	Ferries.
	No.	sq. miles.	No.	£	miles.	No.	No.
1921 ..	136	181,140	676,130	130,834,456	85,458	3,627	175
1922 ..	136	181,140	688,560	135,380,748	(a)	(a)	(a)
1923 ..	136	181,140	691,000	140,392,104	(a)	(a)	(a)
1924 ..	136	181,339	686,770	144,710,409	88,704	3,861	172
1925 ..	136	181,590	692,280	148,251,227	(a)	(a)	(a)

(a) Not available—collected triennially.

Of the 88,704 miles of roads, 18,369 were metalled or ballasted, 13,745 formed only, and 27,216 cleared only, the balance being natural surface.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of shires for the years 1921 to 1925 are shown in the following table. Included in the receipts for 1925 are Government grants amounting to £620,298 :—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925.

Particulars.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>	£	£	£	£	£
General rates (including interest) ..	968,886	1,033,921	1,064,842	1,129,863	1,178,501
Government endowment ..	178,420	156,891	150,296	146,705	149,345
Public works ..	188,533	218,952	204,129	323,357	679,322
Health administration ..	84,014	88,165	98,532	103,500	106,125
Public services ..	15,540	16,052	15,712	15,885	19,106
Shire property ..	16,145	20,344	8,124	11,741	14,460
Miscellaneous ..	8,939	13,852	16,977	15,364	20,920
<i>Special and Local Funds</i> ..	87,124	99,960	157,547	190,271	249,745
Total revenue ..	1,547,601	1,648,107	1,716,159	1,936,686	2,417,524
EXPENDITURE.					
<i>General Fund—</i>					
Administrative expenses ..	140,300	168,802	158,362	159,719	181,713
Public works ..	1,187,349	1,245,857	1,268,550	1,467,867	1,948,301
Health administration ..	89,344	95,578	104,437	107,894	116,133
Public services ..	33,782	32,205	31,526	31,432	38,945
Shire property ..	18,721	18,518	7,041	8,524	10,438
Miscellaneous ..	9,418	11,626 ^a	20,327 ^a	24,236 ^a	51,791 ^a
<i>Special, Local, and Loan Funds</i>	78,474	91,295	131,715	173,070	205,885
Total expenditure ..	1,557,388	1,663,881	1,721,958	1,972,742	2,553,206

(a) Includes interest on loans and overdraft—£7,597 in 1922, £13,185 in 1923, £19,934 in 1924, and £29,083 in 1925.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The finances of the shires at the end of the year 1925 showed an excess of assets of £214,654. The following table gives particulars of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December, 1925 :—

SHIRES, NEW SOUTH WALES.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1925.

Assets.	Amount.	Liabilities.	Amount.
	£		£
Bank balances and cash ..	358,480	Loans outstanding, interest and	
Outstanding rates ..	180,851	sundry creditors ..	1,025,511
Sundry debtors ..	87,653	Bank overdrafts ..	288,069
Stores and materials ..	47,311	Other ..	162,703
Land, buildings, furniture, plant,			
machinery, etc. ..	1,010,761		0
Other ..	5,881		
Total ..	1,690,937	Total ..	1,476,283

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *General.* Local Government is established throughout the State (with the exception of French Island), the various divisions being termed cities, towns, boroughs, or shires. Melbourne and Geelong were incorporated under special statutes prior to the establishment of a general system of local government, and except in a few details are not subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000, the municipalities received from the Government during the financial year 1925-26 a sum of £63,853 out of the Licensing Fund as the equivalent for (a) fees for licences, (b) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants, and (c) fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred under the Licensing Act 1915.

The financial years of the cities of Melbourne and Geelong end on the 31st December and the 31st August respectively; those of all other municipalities on the 30th September.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table shows the number of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires, with estimated population, number of ratepayers and dwellings, and value of rateable property for the years 1922 to 1926 inclusive:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 to 1926.

Year ending 30th September.	Number of Municipalities.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers (both sexes).	Estimated Number of Dwellings.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.	
					Total.	Annual.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.						
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
1922.. ..	53	914,371 ^a	245,589	205,416 ^a	210,501,055	11,869,636
1923.. ..	53	963,180	270,058	220,392	233,586,201	13,116,589
1924.. ..	53	998,950	279,292	229,066	264,693,364	14,964,345
1925.. ..	53	1,031,670	291,910	237,352	288,230,793	16,388,842
1926.. ..	55	1,072,510	314,386	247,756	314,333,446	17,778,661
SHIRES.						
	No.	No.	No.	No.	£	£
1922.. ..	139	610,987 ^a	201,956	142,579 ^a	215,984,328	10,875,948
1923.. ..	139	616,410	200,834	143,809	221,623,773	11,200,825
1924.. ..	139	627,420	213,317	147,830	235,274,597	11,816,074
1925.. ..	139	635,340	221,345	151,721	250,480,405	12,588,177
1926.. ..	139	632,550	246,161	151,353	257,350,043	12,933,459

(a) Census figures.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The table hereunder shows the revenue from various sources, and the expenditure under various heads, exclusive of loan revenue and expenditure, of municipalities during the years 1921 to 1925:—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925.

Items.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Taxation { Rates	2,083,931	2,303,664	2,559,847	2,847,282	3,152,570
{ Licences	126,952	137,036	152,437	155,009	162,430
{ Dog fees	23,682	24,316	24,832	26,211	27,836
{ Market and weigh- bridge dues	91,448	99,485	99,337	97,794	111,548
Government endowments and grants	65,581	75,627	60,607	87,783	88,335
Contributions for streets, etc.	84,936	111,983	141,484	180,502	264,996
Sanitary charges	133,244	146,559	162,129	175,520	185,091
Rents	92,717	102,784	108,502	125,544	133,623
Other sources	890,625	1,030,323	1,179,748	1,305,108	1,452,651
Total	3,593,116	4,031,777	4,488,923	5,000,753	5,579,080

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925—*continued.*

Items.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries, etc.	284,158	319,430	340,319	359,493	381,815
Sanitary work, street cleaning etc.	345,834	363,706	396,524	433,220	457,885
Lighting	115,968	130,722	131,342	134,025	144,064
Fire brigades' contributions	46,512	48,526	49,225	55,412	58,250
Public Works { Construction	238,165	271,007	294,711	404,661	479,690
{ Maintenance	1,683,619	1,865,549	1,948,582	2,525,846	2,819,900
Formation of private streets, etc.	130,125	147,612	163,660	343,978	426,689
Redemption of loans	133,786	136,090	165,675	180,987	211,152
Interest on loans	276,065	305,289	343,164	386,946	457,669
Charities	29,468	26,436	26,288	28,550	30,187
Other expenditure	315,085	332,067	356,199	393,545	433,154
Total	3,598,785	3,946,434	4,215,689	5,246,663	5,900,455

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.* The assets of municipalities may be classified under three heads (a) the municipal fund, (b) the loan fund, and (c) property; the liabilities under two heads—(a) the municipal fund, and (b) the loan fund. The following table shows the amount of municipal assets and liabilities for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, VICTORIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1921 TO 1925.

Items.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
ASSETS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
MUNICIPAL FUND—					
Uncollected rates	158,301	176,830	202,251	231,623	282,495
Other assets	591,508	636,509	730,603	1,098,843	1,590,966
LOAN FUND—					
(a) Sinking funds—					
Amount at credit	523,834	430,689	455,766	500,214	456,522
Arrears due	483	511	670	127	724
(b) Unexpended balances	331,561	442,360	526,622	501,858	495,980
PROPERTY—					
Buildings, markets, etc.	4,457,527	4,804,008	5,170,071	5,773,520	6,221,030
Waterworks	256,169	253,520	255,737	264,630	258,890
Gasworks	123,454	129,020	145,874	174,660	176,330
Total	6,442,837	6,873,447	7,487,594	8,545,475	9,322,937
LIABILITIES.					
MUNICIPAL FUND—					
Arrears due sinking funds	483	511	670	127	724
Overdue interest	5,379	6,026	8,054	7,445	8,440
Bank overdrafts	542,462	858,733	665,866	892,893	1,106,264
Other liabilities	352,518	389,340	440,031	767,691	990,177
LOAN FUND—					
Loans outstanding	5,595,614	5,714,570	6,601,731	7,574,523	8,146,750
Due on loan contracts	158,009	177,755	380,839	237,695	256,794
Due on current contracts	102,191	88,936	155,233	161,031	144,677
Total	6,756,656	7,235,871	8,252,424	9,641,405	10,653,826

3. Queensland.—(i) *General.* The whole of the State (except a few islands in Moreton Bay) is incorporated into cities, towns, and shires under the Local Authorities Act of 1902 and its amendments.

(ii) *Municipalities.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars of the area, population, number of inhabited dwellings, and assets and liabilities of cities and towns and of shires for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	No.	Area.	Popula- tion.	Number of Inhabited Dwellings.	Rateable Value.	Assets.	Liabilities.		
							Govern- ment Loans.	Total.	
CITIES AND TOWNS. (a)									
		sq. miles.	No.	No.	£	£	£	£	
1921	..	36	522	339,420	71,257	19,350,707	2,579,726	506,131	2,081,724
1922	..	36	522	343,799	71,887	19,486,391	2,402,864	540,520	2,251,373
1923	..	36	537	354,187	73,874	20,606,516	2,674,349	589,715	2,540,921
1924	..	35	506	364,754	75,846	21,222,982	3,013,574	597,996	3,095,887
1925(a)	..	28	845	(b)	77,895	21,880,425	3,547,583	611,841	3,647,190

SHIRES. (a)

1921	..	134	669,372	423,857	99,364	49,051,635	800,451	338,681	620,180
1922	..	134	669,372	427,739	96,840	50,284,568	846,102	365,863	623,086
1923	..	134	669,627	446,943	98,608	51,041,891	1,037,880	448,390	799,755
1924	..	135	669,388	460,240	101,494	51,858,728	1,134,466	568,848	934,278
1925(a)	..	124	669,049	(b)	103,984	52,059,980	1,392,212	774,361	1,216,457

(a) From 1st October, 1925, Greater Brisbane was constituted, absorbing the areas of 2 cities, 6 towns, 10 shires, and part of 2 other shires.

(b) Total population of cities, towns, and shires, 839,634.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure (including loan moneys) of cities and towns, and of shires for each year from 1921 to 1925, are given hereunder :—

MUNICIPALITIES, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.				
	Rates.	Govern- ment Loans and Subsidies.	Total.	Public Works and Services.	Govern- ment Loan Redemp- tion.	Office Expenses and Salaries.	Total.	
CITIES AND TOWNS.								
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1921	..	791,259	94,453	1,025,504	842,567	32,696	92,194	1,180,420
1922	..	868,996	59,652	1,139,009	960,770	32,892	86,639	1,309,288
1923	..	913,182	77,736	1,492,209	1,057,611 ^a	34,907	87,320	1,432,525
1924	..	943,558	49,165 ^b	1,646,754	1,353,797 ^a	29,659	99,519	1,801,017
1925	..	1,003,533	33,918 ^b	1,806,639	1,616,493 ^a	32,126	128,709	2,212,883
SHIRES.								
1921	..	666,951	86,237	844,834	671,997	22,732	134,380	925,953
1922	..	723,478	62,424	933,771	665,229	24,545	119,776	922,811
1923	..	740,433	93,536	1,139,324	879,942 ^a	27,523	126,302	1,141,111
1924	..	817,873	282,575 ^b	1,216,646	944,876 ^a	29,875	148,695	1,256,880
1925	..	934,262	383,927 ^b	1,481,211	1,157,164 ^a	32,775	139,665	1,489,807

(a) Includes Expenditure on Main Roads.

(b) Includes Moneys received from Main Roads Commission and Federal Grants Main Roads.

4. South Australia.—(i) *General.* A large proportion of South Australia is unincorporated, the balance being under municipal corporations in the larger cities and towns, and district councils in outside areas. These bodies are subsidized by Government, and special grants allocated on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Highways are given for the maintenance and construction of main roads.

(ii) *Local Authorities.* (a) *Summary.* During the past five years the number of corporations and district councils has increased by 10, the total being 194, of which 11 corporations and 13 district councils are in the metropolitan area, and 28 corporations and 142 district councils in outside areas. According to the latest available information there are about 955 miles of roads in use for general traffic under the control of corporations and about 41,465 miles under the control of district councils, and of these totals, 21½ miles are wood-blocked, 35½ miles are bitumen and concrete, and 12,070 miles are tar-paved, metalled or gravelled. The following table gives the area, population, number of occupied dwellings, capital and assessment values and outstanding loans for corporations and district councils separately for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Area.	Estimated Population.	Occupied Dwellings.	Capital Value.	Assessment Value.	Outstanding Loans.
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.						
	Aces.	No.	No.	£	£	£
1921	53,959	214,730	46,782	47,980,109	2,421,920	382,293
1922	59,279	220,555	48,120	51,100,946	2,544,974	439,319
1923	59,279	223,875	49,260	54,983,943	2,759,282	443,893
1924	62,699	232,044	51,441	60,792,222	3,095,439	481,060
1925	64,080	238,009	52,856	65,550,732	3,300,048	525,518

DISTRICT COUNCILS.						
	Aces.	No.	No.	£	£	£
1921	29,605,269	264,712	57,630	63,510,162	3,160,976	38,131
1922	30,196,509	272,104	59,737	68,293,518	3,429,776	35,358
1923	30,177,455	282,266	62,223	74,949,756	3,747,623	43,848
1924	30,535,351	285,759	63,572	81,665,583	4,083,357	47,249
1925	31,023,175	294,749	66,585	85,608,532	4,280,375	46,445

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of corporations and district councils for the years 1921 to 1925, showing in separate columns the receipts and expenditure on main roads. The financial year of municipal corporations ends on the 30th November and that of district councils on the 30th June.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Local Government (exclusive of Government Grants Account).						Government Grants Account (Main Road).	
	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rates.	Subsidies.	Total.	Roads.	Other Public Works.	Total.		
MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.								
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	279,992	29,094	420,060	147,129	184,966	444,782	23,927	21,559
1922	315,772	29,328	470,183	185,758	188,756	500,421	33,222	35,364
1923	346,844	34,576	511,078	248,270	204,314	584,005	25,637	22,541
1924	382,008	38,538	567,344	240,902	201,698	609,446	28,010	27,486
1925	412,933	38,258	713,764	278,236	211,322	727,834	23,111	23,886
DISTRICT COUNCILS.								
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	212,801	43,316	315,166	189,332	40,048	318,614	208,608	180,886
1922	242,591	50,101	356,359	213,557	53,323	361,290	171,756	185,091
1923	277,563	56,281	407,980	222,574	59,380	403,194	217,267	213,612
1924	317,583	64,966	464,414	262,124	54,289	445,463	241,544	235,245
1925	335,690	74,797	506,889	308,068	66,215	511,725	278,065	278,086

5. Western Australia.—(i) *General*. In this State there are three forms of local authorities, namely:—(a) municipalities, (b) district road boards, and (c) local boards of health, the two former covering the whole of the State. Local boards of health are of three descriptions, (a) municipal, the members being the same as those of the municipal council of the municipality in which each is situated, (b) those under the control of road boards, and (c) those not under the control of road boards or municipalities. Several of the two latter are inactive. The financial year of municipalities and municipal boards of health terminates on the 31st October, and that of road boards and other local boards of health on the 30th June.

(ii) *Municipalities*. (a) *Summary*. The following table gives various particulars regarding municipalities for the years 1922 to 1926.

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 31st Oct.	Municipalities.	Area.	Population.	Dwelling Houses.	Valuation of Rateable Property.		Length of Roads and Streets.
					Capital Value.	Annual Value.	
	No.	Acres.	No.	No.	£	£	Miles.
1922 ..	21	58,981	162,561	35,137	29,492,571	1,710,389	992
1923 ..	21	58,981	172,881	35,498	31,054,031	1,810,173	993
1924 ..	21	58,981	172,427	35,498	32,881,961	1,910,798	994
1925 ..	21	58,981	172,866	35,550	35,315,316	1,982,967	997
1926 ..	21	58,981	177,591	35,832	36,882,613	2,099,513	1,003

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure*. Revenue and expenditure of municipalities during the years 1922 to 1926 are given hereunder:—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 31st October—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Rates.	From Govt. Grants.	From other Sources.	Total.	Works and Improvements.	Disbursements in respect of Loans.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	263,008	300	571,394	834,702	180,537	173,038	493,635	847,210
1923 ..	277,993	939	593,937	872,869	202,758	190,738	471,140	864,636
1924 ..	287,863	4,372	738,040	1,030,275	236,050	191,618	599,952	1,027,620
1925 ..	297,143	200	860,140	1,157,483	300,799	214,226	561,578	1,076,603
1926 ..	310,230	84	729,344	1,039,658	226,822	229,335	630,828	1,086,985

(c) *Assets and Liabilities*.—The table below shows the assets and liabilities of municipalities at the 31st October in each financial year 1922 to 1926:—

MUNICIPALITIES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 31st October—	Assets.				Liabilities.	
	Balance in Hand.	Value of Property.	Accrued Sinking Funds.	Total.	Outstanding Debentures and Bonds.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	45,461	1,533,276	412,578	2,100,799	1,767,562	1,857,490
1923 ..	48,580	1,574,805	477,016	2,212,099	1,802,782	1,894,126
1924 ..	51,460	1,570,010	449,007	2,193,487	1,864,993	1,961,763
1925 ..	136,917	1,580,435	487,670	2,329,990	2,135,132	2,253,841
1926 ..	92,088	1,625,556	503,428	2,361,770	2,183,885	2,323,370

(iii) *District Road Boards. (a) Summary.* In the next table the unimproved values given are approximate, allowance being made for three districts for which the annual values only are available. In other instances the annual value is also given, and those portions of districts rated under the annual value are not included in the area rated under the unimproved capital value. The population at the date of the census of 4th April, 1921, was 160,970, and the number of dwellings 41,662.

On the 30th June, 1926, the population was estimated at 204,319, and the number of dwelling-houses at 48,758. Nine districts, however, only give figures at time of the 1921 census.

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Road Districts.	Area.	Unimproved Capital Value (Approximate).	Length of Roads in Existence.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Out-standing Loans.
	No.	sq. miles.	£	miles.	£	£	£
1922 ..	121	975,828	15,088,027	37,238	356,270	286,423	172,984
1923 ..	121	975,828	16,175,944	38,907	379,649	292,915	210,755
1924 ..	122	975,828	17,310,105 ^a	39,863	418,060	348,690	242,043
1925 ..	123	975,828	18,444,720 ^a	41,666	448,318	388,403	280,089
1926 ..	124	975,828	20,067,252 ^a	44,280	504,599	447,515	314,869

(a) Incomplete.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue and expenditure of district road boards are shown in the following table for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

DISTRICT ROAD BOARDS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Other.	Total.	Adminis-tration.	Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	166,161	35,976	87,182	289,319	38,348	185,477	83,326	307,151
1923 ..	193,018	56,518	120,202	369,738	38,704	203,267	105,315	347,286
1924 ..	213,848	74,184	146,743	434,775	44,233	288,014	113,604	445,851
1925 ..	233,770	66,516	186,452	486,738	46,166	299,204	140,092	485,462
1926 ..	241,243	98,123	231,174	570,540	47,416	378,334	146,891	572,641

(iv) *Local Boards of Health. (a) General.* On the 31st October, 1926, there were 21 local boards of health within municipalities, and on the 30th June, 1926, 81 under control of road boards, and 22 extra-municipal boards. Of the latter, 2 under the control of road boards and 5 extra-municipal boards were inactive during the year.

(b) *Finances.* The appended table shows the number of boards, their revenue and expenditure, and the assets and liabilities of such as were active from 1922 to 1926. The financial year of municipal boards ends on the 31st October, and that of other boards on the 30th June.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Number.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		Assets.	Liabilities.
		Rates.	Sanitary Charges and Rubbish Fees.	Total.	Sanitary and Rubbish Service.	Total.		
1922 ..	126	56,362	65,786	133,280	87,479	129,941	85,768	17,689
1923 ..	125	56,523	70,700	140,056	89,430	133,191	88,456	16,192
1924 ..	122	60,255	66,378	137,047	92,324	136,099	89,311	16,549
1925 ..	123	55,907	68,738	145,844	92,236	148,265	84,526	16,348
1926 ..	124	58,640	66,658	141,624	96,770	145,478	85,503	19,651

6. Tasmania.—(i) *General.* The whole State, with the exception of the cities of Hobart and Launceston, which were incorporated under separate Acts, is divided into municipal districts.

(ii) *Municipalities. (a) Summary.* The following table gives the number of municipalities, valuations, outstanding loans and length of roads for the years 1921 to 1925. The latest available figure for inhabited dwellings is for the year 1921, when the number was 45,950.

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Number of Municipalities.	Valuations.			Outstanding Loans.	Length of Roads.
		Annual Value.	Unimproved Value.	Total Capital Value.		

HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.

	No.	£	£	£	£	Miles.
1921	2	771,297	5,768,348	13,112,954	1,700,128	178
1922	2	784,945	6,139,362	14,123,587	1,924,252	179
1923	2	887,583	6,388,152	15,140,686	2,017,691	187
1924	2	984,592	6,711,549	16,521,819	2,062,609	195
1925	2	1,088,541	6,789,728	17,056,147	2,390,189	196

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1921	47	1,347,839	14,670,035	28,436,345	534,127	11,563
1922	47	1,396,941	14,735,436	29,034,047	407,719	11,557
1923	47	1,423,174	15,168,896	30,318,877	417,535	11,725
1924	47	1,472,749	15,535,414	31,180,993	464,286	11,692
1925	47	1,533,372	15,944,225	32,244,369	536,339	11,871

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The next table gives the revenue and expenditure of all municipalities for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

MUNICIPALITIES, TASMANIA.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			
	Rates.	Government Grants.	Total.	Adminis-tration.	Works and Services.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Total.
HOBART AND LAUNCESTON.							
1921	£ 159,094	£ 250	£ 626,855	£ 24,579 ^a	£ 285,904	£ 97,237	£ 408,944
1922	178,921	2,056	577,707	29,491 ^a	403,555	110,716	544,133
1923	234,313	1,263	641,070	28,361 ^a	336,961	125,297	613,380
1924	244,006	450	555,868	47,619	206,668 ^b	132,449	545,928 ^b
1925	257,328	885	576,450	48,020	383,363 ^d	145,407	577,423 ^d

COUNTRY MUNICIPALITIES.

1921	£ 144,531	£ 27,889	£ 261,162	£ 35,798	£ 167,870	£ 22,797	£ 248,468
1922	156,408	30,694	269,388	36,038	193,188	24,248	270,386
1923	167,616	26,026	267,674	36,003	181,087	28,438	264,395
1924	179,297	31,745	284,769	37,697	129,730 ^c	28,421	27,802 ^c
1925	189,759	38,646	366,282	35,327	225,927 ^e	30,225	357,207 ^e

(^a) Hobart only (Launceston figures not available). (^b) Excluding from Loans, £58,975. (^c) Excluding from Loans, £71,451. (^d) Excluding from Loans, £180,851. (^e) Excluding from Loans, £12,289.

7. *Northern Territory.*—(i) *Municipality of Darwin.* The following particulars relate to the year 1925–26 :—Area, 2,024 acres, population 924, number of occupied dwellings 231, of unoccupied dwellings 3, and of other buildings 132. Revenue from general rates £1,602, from Government grants £801, other sources £443, total £2,846 ; expenditure £3,332.

(ii) *Bagot Roads District.* During the year 1925–26 the receipts amounted to £141, and the expenditure to £4, leaving (with a balance of £185 brought forward from the previous year) a balance in hand of £322.

8. *Basis for Municipal Rating and Limits for Rates.*—These matters were dealt with at some length in Official Year Book, No. 17, pp. 124–25, but limitations of space preclude their repetition in the present issue.

§ 4. Summary of Municipal Finance.

1. *General.*—In the preceding parts of this chapter certain particulars have been given regarding local authorities in each individual State. In this paragraph, comparative figures are given for each State regarding the financial operations of the local governing bodies referred to in § 3. The particulars in the next two tables refer to financial years as follows :—New South Wales : calendar year 1925. Victoria : 30th September, 1925, except Melbourne, 31st December, and Geelong, 31st August, 1925. Queensland : calendar year 1925. South Australia : Corporations, 30th November, and district councils, 30th June, 1925. Western Australia : Municipalities, 31st October, 1925, district road boards, 30th June, 1925. Tasmania : calendar year 1925.

2. Number, Revenue, Expenditure, and Valuation of Local Authorities.—The subjoined table shows the number, revenue, expenditure, and valuation of local authorities in each State and in Australia during the years indicated above. It should be noted that, excepting in Tasmania, the metropolitan water supply systems are not under municipal control; the particulars given of revenue and expenditure for the five States other than Tasmania do not, therefore, include revenue and expenditure on account of these systems. The figures differ slightly from those given in Finance Bulletin No. 17, those herein being based on later results.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN EACH STATE.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
No. of local authorities	316	194	152	194	144	49	1,049

RECEIPTS.

	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates—							
General	9,833,628	3,152,570	1,437,478	745,959	406,252	157,158	23,293,567
Other		486,905	500,317		124,761	289,929	
Government grants, etc.		88,335	1,350,055	364,461	66,716	39,531	
Loans and other sources	1,851,270	439,475		1,046,492	612,275		
Total	9,833,628	5,579,080	3,287,850	1,549,895	1,644,221	1,398,893	23,293,567

EXPENDITURE.

Works, services, etc.	10,106,909	4,328,228	2,773,657	1,152,061	1,098,935	609,290	23,924,768
Interest on loans and overdrafts		457,069	(e)	33,356	113,518	141,523	
Redemptions, sinking funds, etc. ..		211,152	(f) 64,901	38,340	134,098	34,109	
Administration ..		381,815	268,374	126,564	110,371	83,347	
Other		521,591	595,758	174,578	105,143	259,481	
Total	10,106,909	5,900,455	3,702,690	1,524,899	1,562,065	1,127,750	23,924,768

VALUATIONS.

Capital value of property	a302,230,020	571,683,489	73,940,405	151,159,264	(c)53,760,036	49,300,516	(b)
Annual value of property	(b)	30,712,120	(b)	7,580,423	(d)1,982,967	2,621,513	(b)

(a) Unimproved capital value of all rateable property. (b) Not available. (c) The valuation of road districts is the unimproved capital value. (d) Excluding district road boards. (e) Included with "Other." (f) Government loans only.

3. Local Government Loans, 1925.—The following table shows the amount of loans raised by local authorities during the year 1925, of loans current at the end of that year, of liability on account of interest and sinking fund, and of loans redeemed during 1925 :—

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—LOANS, 1925.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Total.
Loans raised during year ..	£ 2,257,855	£ 1,229,327	£ 680,551	£ 80,500	£ 192,314	£ 511,040	£ 4,951,587
Loans current at end of year	17,721,371	8,146,750	3,800,359	571,963	2,498,754	2,926,528	35,665,725
Annual liability on account of interest	857,097	(a)	187,094	31,377	126,587	147,835	(a)
Total sinking fund at end of year	1,723,697	497,246	170,162	26,762	462,959	360,314	3,241,140
Amount of loans redeemed during year	(a)	(a)	(a)	34,753	108,801	123,796	(a)

(a) Not available.

§ 5. Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General.* In Sydney and its suburbs the water supply and sewerage systems are controlled by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board, and in Newcastle and its suburbs by the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board. In country districts, both waterworks and sewerage works are constructed by the Public Works Department, and, when completed, handed over to the municipalities affected, by which the cost must be repaid.

(ii) *Metropolitan Waterworks.* (a) *General.* During the year ended 30th June, 1926, progress was made with the pressure tunnel, 10 miles long and 10 feet in diameter, which is being constructed to convey water to the city. Service reservoirs of 36 million gallons and 19 million gallons respectively are being constructed at Killara and Waverley-Vauluse and amplification of pumping plant and mains is proceeding. The maximum day's consumption in the metropolitan area was 101,676,000 gallons. The mileage of mains now totals 3,475 miles.

(b) *Water Supplied, etc.* The following table gives the number of houses and estimated population supplied, and other details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—WATER SUPPLIED, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Supply for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1922 ..	229,274	1,146,370	51,002	18,616,000	222	44.49	118
1923 ..	239,528	1,197,640	56,595	20,657,319	236	47.26	126
1924 ..	250,304	1,254,020	58,628	21,458,036	234	46.78	126
1925 ..	259,799	1,298,995	57,355	20,934,784	221	44.15	150
1926 ..	268,558	1,342,790	67,142	24,506,739	250	50.00	175

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives details of the finances for the years 1922 to 1925 :—

WATERWORKS, SYDNEY.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1925.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest is not charged.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest Payable on Capital Cost.	Net Profit after Paying Working Expenses and Interest.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1922 ..	923,798	376,203	11,130,857	40.72	8.30	543,164	4,431
1923 ..	992,702	363,102	12,019,600	36.58	8.26	597,351	32,249
1924 ..	1,105,098	380,407	13,094,176	34.42	8.43	648,011	76,680
1925 ..	1,103,682	409,578	14,734,046	37.11	7.49	691,237	2,867

(a) Includes payment of £4,882 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness.

In 1925-26, the method of presenting the Board's finances was altered. For that year, the figures are as follow :—

WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE, SYDNEY, 1925-26.

Item.	Revenue.	Working Expenses, Sinking Fund Contribution, and Renewals.	Capital Indebtedness.	Percentage of Working Expenses and Sinking Fund Contribution on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Average Capital Cost.	Interest.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
Water ..	1,319,872	558,983 (a)	16,338,231	37.03	8.43	795,144	34,255
Sewerage	777,809	332,161 (b)	10,138,844	42.21	7.93	501,451	55,803
Drainage	33,790	17,256 (c)	398,796	45.25	8.6	20,189	3,655

(a) Includes payment of £86,351 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £70,274 on Renewals.

(b) Includes payment of £38,918 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £3,818 on Renewals.

(c) Includes payment of £1,688 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness, and £1,966 on Renewals.

(iii) *Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Systems.* (a) *General.* In addition to the usual progress made in connecting additional houses, 60 miles of new sewers were laid, the total length now being 1,416 miles. The quantity of sewage pumped was 4,188 million gallons.

(b) *Houses Drained, Population Served, Length of Sewers, etc.* Particulars for the years 1922 to 1926 are given hereunder :—

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Drained.	Estimated Population Served.	Total Length of Sewers.	Total Length of Storm-water Drains.	Ventilating Shafts Erected.	Sewers Ventilated.
				Miles.	Feet.	Miles.
1922	No. 153,789	No. 768,945	Miles. 1,226.96	Miles. 63.73	Feet. 527,766	Miles. 1,122
1923	159,390	796,950	1,273.71	65.70	532,470	1,162
1924	165,215	826,075	1,313.90	65.96	543,306	1,208
1925	170,774	853,870	1,358.19	66.37	556,032	1,246
1926	176,388	881,940	1,415.57	67.17	568,506	1,283

(c) *Finances.* The financial statement for 1925-26 is embodied in the table above. In earlier years it was as follows :—

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, SYDNEY.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1925.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Cost, exclusive of Items on which Interest is not charged.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Cost.	Interest Payable on Capital Cost.	Profit after Payment of Working Expenses and Interest.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1922 ..	683,434	244,916	7,553,906	35.83	9.05	373,671	64,847
1923 ..	661,964	231,672	7,857,504	34.99	8.42	395,152	35,140
1924 ..	756,539	244,480	8,145,061	32.31	9.28	409,721	102,338
1925 ..	756,624	277,696	8,462,426	36.70	8.94	411,686	67,242

(a) Includes payment of £3,274 to State Debt Commissioners in reduction of Capital Indebtedness.

(iv) *Newcastle Water Supply. (a) General.* During the year a vigorous programme of service-reservoir construction was undertaken, viz., at Waratah (capacity 8,038,000 gallons), "The Lookout," New Lambton (capacity 1,400,000 gallons), and a reservoir of similar capacity at Boolaroo.

The 24-in. trunk main from Waratah to Broadmeadow was completed and extended in 18-in. pipes to Beaumont-street, Hamilton, and further steps were taken to amplify the Water Supply to the Cessnock Division.

Forty-seven miles of water mains were laid, bringing the total up to 595 miles. The construction of works in connexion with the Chichester Dam and pipe line has been completed, but the capital debt on such works has not yet been determined.

(b) *Particulars of Services.* The following table supplies details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Total Quantity Supplied for the Year.	Average Daily Supply.		Mains Laid.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 gallons.	1,000 gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Miles.
1922 ..	26,758	133,790	4,626	1,688,537	173	34.57	13
1923 ..	28,036	140,180	4,806	1,754,417	171	34.28	29
1924 ..	29,568	147,840	5,756	2,106,614	195	38.92	21
1925 ..	31,405	157,025	6,334	2,312,045	201	40.34	22
1926 ..	33,997	169,985	7,310	2,668,214	215	43.00	47

(c) *Finances.* The next table gives the revenue, working expenses, capital debt, and net profit for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

NEWCASTLE WATER SUPPLY.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1922 ..	113,217	63,736	1,819,534	56.29	6.22	50,785	— 1,304
1923 ..	110,076	62,155	2,271,295	56.47	4.85	54,632	— 6,761
1924 ..	143,138	63,883	2,730,003	44.63	5.24	58,701	20,554
1925 ..	153,045	53,319	3,046,823	34.84	5.02	61,543	38,183
1926 ..	163,807	65,328	3,244,121	39.89	5.05	69,817	28,662

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) represents loss.

The capital debt in respect of water supply set down as £3,244,121 includes expenditure amounting to £2,077,847 on the Chichester Scheme, which was vested in the Board on 26th June, 1925. The capital expenditure in respect of transferred works is £1,166,274. The percentage of revenue on transferred (and, therefore, revenue-producing) works is 14.05 per cent. as against 5.05 per cent. on total debt.

(v) *Newcastle Sewerage Works. (a) General.* The sewerage works for Newcastle and suburbs as originally designed have been completed by the Department of Public Works and vested in the Board.

The amplification, extension, and improvement of such sewerage works have been reported upon favourably, and the works will be put in hand in the near future by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

An Engineering Experts Committee is inquiring into the question of the amplification, extension and improvement of the stormwater drainage works of the Newcastle district. The works comprised in the Cottage Creek stormwater area have been authorized and are under construction, and the Throsby Creek catchment area scheme is now being prepared.

(b) *Sewerage Connexions and Length of Sewers.* During the year ended 30th June, 1926, the number of properties connected with sewers was 1,144, making a total of 18,071. New sewers of a total length of 6 miles were constructed by the Board, bringing the total length of sewers under the Board's control to 176 miles.

(c) *Finances.* Particulars in regard to chief items for the years 1922 to 1926 are given hereunder :—

NEWCASTLE SEWERAGE.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Capital Debt.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue on Capital Debt.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses, Interest, and Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	%	%	£	£
1922 ..	39,477	18,863	577,833	47.78	6.83	34,446	—13,832
1923 ..	49,551	19,692	592,148	39.74	8.37	36,172	— 6,313
1924 ..	56,210	21,915	610,849	38.99	9.20	37,093	— 2,788
1925 ..	63,707	21,910	636,475	34.39	10.01	37,326	4,471
1926 ..	68,412	22,625	641,648	33.07	10.66	38,437	7,350

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) represents loss.

(vi) *Water Supply and Sewerage in Country Towns.* (a) *General.* Under the Local Government Act of 1919 the Public Works Department may, upon application by any municipal council construct, out of moneys voted by Parliament therefor, waterworks and sewerage works, and when completed transfer the control thereof to the council. The cost must be repaid in instalments, with interest fixed by the Governor, spread over a period not exceeding one hundred years.

(b) *Waterworks.* Up to the 30th June, 1926, waterworks had been completed in 68 towns and handed over to the respective municipal or shire councils, with the exception of the Junee Water Supply, which has been placed under special administration, and the Grafton Water Supply, which is vested in a Board composed of three members of the Grafton council and three members of the South Grafton council. The capital debt of all waterworks on the date mentioned was £1,942,679, and the annual amount payable in instalments and for interest was £85,675. The water supply of Broken Hill, on which loan expenditure to the amount of £481,220 was incurred, was constructed under a special Act, and the undertaking is administered by the Minister for Public Works. A few municipalities have also constructed waterworks out of their own resources.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* Sewerage and stormwater drainage works were completed in twenty municipalities at the 30th June, 1926. The capital debt thereon amounted to £632,228, and the amount payable annually in instalments and for interest to £29,692.

2. *Victoria.*—(i) A. *The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.* (a) *General.* All land within 13 miles of the General Post Office is included within the metropolitan area for water supply and sewerage purposes. This area covers 434 square miles of land area, and in 1926 embraced 22 cities, and part of another town, 1 borough, and parts of 13 shires, or a total of 38 municipalities or portions thereof. The whole of the city of Mordialloc and of the shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board is also empowered to supply water to certain municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the outfall-sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange for bulk supplies of water. The liability on the 30th June, 1926, for loans raised by the Board, was £17,037,090. The Board is still empowered to borrow £2,102,844 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the actual receipts and expenditure, and the loan receipts and expenditure of the Board from 1921–22 to 1925–26 :—

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Particulars.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
ORDINARY RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply	446,875	500,671	545,835	587,765	656,116
Sewerage, etc.	454,521	542,698	472,074	521,205	577,186
Live stock—Metropolitan farm ..	19,994	42,045	85,059	77,763	109,474
Interest { Water supply	1,917	4,587	12,427	10,178	3,276
{ Sewerage	8,477	11,306	11,190	16,503	14,089
Superannuation Contributions ..	..	..	..	..	3,215
Total	931,784	1,101,307	1,126,585	1,213,414	1,363,356

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
General management	65,612	64,027	68,803	73,739	74,536
Live stock, etc.—Metropolitan farm	53,162	46,632	101,311	86,546	103,485
Maintenance { Water supply	62,919	65,551	81,991	80,557	84,468
{ Sewerage	74,861	60,548	74,459	76,877	83,342
Interest { Water supply	179,034	203,569	238,572	283,145	305,182
{ Sewerage	411,828	430,418	441,567	475,680	506,985
Patriotic, Relief Funds, etc. ..	80	10	..	..	500
Pensions and Compensation Allowances	6,007	5,756	5,562	9,061	6,113
Contribution Government Loan Redemption .. ..	..	..	..	..	761
River Snagging .. ..	..	..	..	..	5,422
Total	853,503	876,511	1,012,265	1,085,605	1,170,794

LOAN RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply	11,748	19,074	18,588	19,015	21,327
Sewerage	46,120	61,950	61,992	58,348	77,654
Proceeds of loans	1,573,326	749,410	1,260,716	1,783,293	1,775,000
Miscellaneous	17,497	25,978	21,875	28,557	65,974
Alterations to water mains .. ..	..	..	..	5,426	9,757
Alterations to sewers .. ..	..	..	..	3,785	1,758
Total	1,648,691	856,421	1,363,171	1,898,424	1,951,470

LOAN EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Water supply construction	316,329	297,365	348,483	540,938	706,162
Sewerage construction	300,818	351,006	425,653	546,356	823,163
Renewals, main outfall .. ..	..	2,280	1,654	874	..
Cleaning rising main .. ..	..	..	1,156	2,409	..
Alterations to water mains .. ..	..	..	..	11,341	12,361
Alterations to sewers .. ..	..	..	..	869	1,126
Expenses in floating and redemption of loans	1,111,814	80,840	954,774	707,785	332,142
Miscellaneous	82,222	49,911	106,081	102,500	99,527
Total	1,811,183	781,402	1,837,801	1,913,072	1,974,481

B. *Melbourne Water Supply. (a) Progress of Work.* The principal works completed or in hand during the year ended 30th June, 1926, were:—Construction of Maroondah Dam (upper portion and outlet tower); clearing site for O'Shannassy Dam; construction of O'Shannassy Dam; raising lining of O'Shannassy Aqueduct, 37,918 lineal feet: duplication of O'Shannassy Pipe Line; stripping site of dam for Silvan Reservoir: construction of reinforced concrete elevated tank at Mitcham; laying 10,740 lineal feet of 24-in. electrically welded steel main from Surrey Hills southwards; laying 14,340 lineal feet of 24-in. lock bar steel main from Caulfield Reservoir to Elwood and St. Kilda; laying 8,973 lineal feet of 15-in. electrically welded steel main in Bell-street, Preston, and Coburg; laying 6,978 lineal feet of 15-in. electrically welded cement-lined steel main from Preston Reservoir to Murray-road, Preston; laying 4,256 lineal feet of 15-in. electrically welded steel main in Balcombe-road, Mordialloc; renewal of wooden bridge over Watts River at Fernshaw; construction of service reservoir at Broadmeadows; fencing reservoir site at Mitcham; delivery of 15-in. mild steel cement lined pipes at Victoria-street, Collingwood; laying 94 miles 67½ chains of reticulation pipes under 12-in. diameter in various parts of the Metropolis; cleaning 64 miles 71½ chains of water mains; removal of 4,637 snags from River Yarra.

(b) *Quantity of Water, Number of Houses, and Population Supplied.* The following table gives various particulars for the years 1922 to 1926. The rate levied over the period has remained at sixpence in the pound.

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses Supplied. (a)	Estimated Population Supplied. (a)	Average Daily Consumption.	Total Water Consumption for the Year.	Average Daily Consumption.		Length of Mains, Reticulation, etc. Miles.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	
1922 ..	181,226	802,144	47,661	17,396,103	263.0	59.4	1,857
1923 ..	190,108	842,179	51,206	18,690,114	269.3	60.8	1,931
1924 ..	201,548	892,858	47,642	17,436,949	236.4	53.4	2,011
1925 ..	211,405	936,522	52,563	19,185,605	248.6	56.1	2,102
1926 ..	219,540	972,560 ^a	54,696	19,964,016	249.1	56.2	2,216

(a) 31st December of previous year.

(c) *Capital Cost, Revenue, Expenditure and Surplus.* The following table shows the total cost of construction, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals and special war expenditure), interest and surplus for the five years ending 30th June, 1926, together with the total amounts to that date:—

WATER SUPPLY, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1922 ..	310,578	438,399	a 86,925	19.82	b 196,746	154,723
1923 ..	285,352	507,475	a 85,407	16.83	b 217,723	204,345
1924 ..	314,521	524,165	a 86,853	16.57	b 247,883	189,429
1925 ..	513,523	579,502	a 97,992	16.91	b 294,845	186,665
1926 ..	680,889	664,926	a 105,597	15.88	b 326,476	232,853
Total to date ..	7,185,205	13,016,224	2,227,384	17.11	5,733,453	5,055,387

(a) Exclusive of Renewals.

(b) Includes Interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

C. Melbourne Sewerage. (a) Progress of Work. At the Pumping Station at Spotswood, the work in connexion with the duplication of the straining wells was commenced.

The Pumping Station has been completely converted to electric drive three-phase current, 440 volts 25 cycles and 415 volts 50 cycles being used. All the normal daily sewage is pumped by the electric pumps, whilst certain of the reciprocating steam pumps are held in readiness to deal with storm-water and emergencies. The total volume of sewage pumped during the year 1926 was 12,949,420,000 gallons, or 35,477,863 gallons per day.

A decrease in pumping of 499,660,000 gallons of sewage as compared with the year 1924-25 made the electrical overhead charge disproportionately high. However, despite this, the unit cost of raising 1,000 gallons 100 feet was reduced from .535d. to .511d. The station has now reached a stage at which any additional quantity of sewage and storm-water, if spread out fairly evenly over the year, can be handled very cheaply.

Venturi meters have been fitted to all the electric pumps, and the quantity of sewerage dealt with can now be ascertained accurately. In the past it was only possible to estimate this.

At the present time—in the northern and southern buildings at the Pumping Station, Spotswood—the two sewerage systems can still be handled wholly by electric energy or partly by steam, either separately or unitedly. The normal procedure, however, is to deal with everything by means of the electrical pumps in the southern building. The nominal capacity of the five electrical centrifugal pumping unit amounts to 78 million gallons of sewage daily. In addition, the seven reciprocal steam-driven pumps of 300 horse-power have a combined daily capacity of 56 million gallons, making the total available capacity equal to 134 million gallons of sewage per day. The usual practice is to deal with the normal daily load of about 36 million gallons of sewage with two 50-cycle and one 25-cycle electric pumps, the remaining two being left in reserve, while the heavy peak loads which, through storm-water entering the sewers, are sometimes experienced, are handled either by the steam engines or the remaining electric pumps, according to circumstances.

Four branch sewers were completed; 45 reticulation areas and 30 minor reticulation extensions were also completed. Two branch sewers and twelve reticulation areas were also in progress. By day labour, one main sewer was in progress, and one reticulation area was completed, also 246 minor reticulation extensions, 2,425 branches and short pieces of reticulation, and 10 alterations, &c. At 30th June, 1926, there were 16 separate contracts and day labour jobs in progress, ranging in cost from £100 to £12,078.

(b) Number of Houses Connected, etc. Particulars of services for the years 1922 to 1926 are given below :—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—PARTICULARS OF SERVICES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Houses for which Sewers are Provided. (a)	Estimated Population for which Sewers are Provided. (a)	Average Daily Pumping.	Total Sewage Pumped for the Year.	Average Daily Pumping.		Length of Sewers, etc. Miles.
					Per House.	Per Head of Estimated Population.	
					Gallons.	Gallons.	
	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons.	1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	
1922 ..	164,413	728,350	39,236	14,320,960	238.6	53.9	1,774
1923 ..	171,125	758,084	36,335	13,262,326	212.3	47.9	1,812
1924 ..	179,183	793,781	35,750	13,084,370	199.5	45.0	1,861
1925 ..	187,153	829,085	36,847	13,449,080	196.9	44.4	1,925
1926 ..	195,618	866,588	35,478	12,949,420	181.4	40.9	2,001

(a) 31st December of previous year.

(c) *Finances.* The capital cost, revenue, working expenses (exclusive of renewals), percentage of working expenses on revenue, interest and deficiency for the years 1922 to 1926 are given below :—

SEWERAGE, MELBOURNE.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Percentage of Working Expenses on Revenue.	Interest.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	%	£	£
1922	242,220	441,516	a 121,045	27.41	b 422,295	101,824
1923	263,050	552,643	a 116,804	21.14	b 438,577	2,738
1924	337,740	480,748	a 119,571	24.87	b 451,168	89,991
1925	441,275	537,657	a 129,050	24.00	b 485,027	76,420
1926	665,133	600,445	a 133,988	22.31	b 520,508	54,061
Total to date	10,029,988	8,531,844	1,998,989	23.43	8,909,558	2,376,703

(a) Exclusive of Renewals. (b) Includes interest on Renewals and Sinking Funds.

(d) *Metropolitan Sewerage Farm.* On 30th June, 1926, the total area of the farm was 21,312 acres. The following table gives details in connexion therewith for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Interest.	Net Cost of Sewage Purification.	Trading Profit.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	12,472	2,993	a23,588	28,711	49,306	(b) 4,837
1923	28,654	20,282	a26,441	29,744	35,903	11,285
1924	36,081	28,903	a26,786	31,995	29,878	19,968
1925	19,136	30,298	a26,413	34,471	30,586	21,688
1926	220,847	42,391	a25,703	41,578	24,890	33,945
Total to date	916,574	600,697	342,076	640,926	348,391	348,873

(a) Exclusive of Renewals. (b) Loss.

(ii) *Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, constituted in 1908, consists of five commissioners, two of whom represent the city of Geelong, one the town of Geelong West, one the town of Newtown and Chilwell, and one the shires of Bellarine, Corio and South Barwon jointly. The amount of loan money which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £220,000 for sewerage installation to properties under the deferred payment system. The population supplied is about 41,000.

(b) *Water Supply.* The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. The works comprise the Korweinguboora Reservoir and the Bolwarra Weir on Eastern Moorabool River, together with the necessary channels, mains and reservoirs. The storage capacity of all the reservoirs is 2,738,119,808 gallons, and there are 219 miles of reticulation mains within the city of Geelong and its suburbs. The total expenditure on waterworks to the 30th June, 1926, was £552,159, and the revenue for the year 1925-26 was £48,082.

(c) *Sewerage Works.* The sewerage scheme consists of a main outfall sewer to the ocean at Black Rock, about 9 miles from Geelong, and 110.4 miles of reticulation mains have already been laid. The drainage area is 9,489 acres, and the number of buildings within the drainage area is 10,000, and within the sewered areas 9,557, while 8,657 buildings have been connected with the sewers. Up to 30th June, 1926, the total expenditure on sewerage works was £520,074 and on the cost of sewerage installations under deferred payment conditions £197,495. The revenue amounted to £41,060.

(iii) *Bendigo Sewerage Authority.* The members of the Bendigo City Council constitute this Authority. The sewerage district comprises the whole area of the city of Bendigo. The works when completed are estimated to cost £400,000, and comprise treatment works consisting of (a) non-septic liquefying tanks and oxidizing chambers without filters, but with land disposal of effluent for irrigating grass and crops; (b) main outfall sewer, main, sub-main, branch, and reticulation sewers, of which over 37 miles had been constructed by the end of March, 1927, at which date 2,450 premises had been connected to sewers. An unique feature of the scheme is the entire omission of the "boundary trap" from house sewers with resulting omission of "induct vent" to house sewers and the omission of all ventilation on street sewers, the main and reticulation sewers all being amply ventilated by the house sewer ventilation, while the consequent all round saving both of first cost and maintenance is considerable. Results are still completely satisfactory after four years in operation without boundary traps. Expenditure to end of March, 1927, was £244,044.

(iv) *Water Supply in Country Towns and Districts.* Most of the country waterworks are controlled by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, but a number of other waterworks is controlled by Waterworks Trusts or by municipal corporations.

The following table gives particulars regarding waterworks under the control of trusts and municipal corporations for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

COUNTRY WATERWORKS, VICTORIA.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Under Waterworks Trusts.				Under Municipal Corporations.			
	Number of Trusts.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.	Number of Corporations.	Capital Cost.	Capital Indebtedness.	Current Interest Outstanding.
	No.	£	£	£	No.	£	£	£
1922 ..	98	1,256,973	936,112	11,342	29	785,602	509,358	1,590
1923 ..	98	1,278,847	949,510	15,178	29	785,602	506,475	3,152
1924 ..	99	1,322,315	983,663	13,712	29	785,602	503,890	9,811
1925 ..	102	1,383,538	1,036,516	14,545	29	785,788	500,595	3,329
1926 ..	105	1,457,155	1,098,512	17,787	29	786,388	498,195	3,656

3. *Queensland.* (i) *The Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Brisbane.* (a) *General.* The whole of the water supply in the metropolitan area including bulk supply to the town of Ipswich is filtered. The principal filtration works are situated at Holt's Hill, Mount Crosby, and consist of 11 slow sand type of filters capable of treating normally 16,500,000 gallons of water per 24 hours; Enoggera water is also filtered. The total capacity of the service reservoirs on Bartley's Hill, Highgate Hill, Wickham Terrace, and Tarragindi Hill, is about 21,000,000 gallons. The new 42-in. and 36-in. trunk mains from Mount Crosby have been in constant commission since the date of completion in 1925. The first and second units of the three new engines now being installed at Mount Crosby are now in daily use. The third unit was put under steam in December, 1926. A new weir and overbridge across the Brisbane River at Mount Crosby, was completed early in 1926, adding 530 million gallons to storage of water. An electrical pumping station for regulating the supply of water from Lake Manchester was commenced in 1925, and is now nearing completion. Works for combining the waters of Gold Creek and Enoggera Reservoirs are contemplated and a commencement is to be made early in 1927. The object is to increase the supply into certain districts by making use of Gold Creek Reservoir. Work is also in progress in laying a portion of the 24-in. trunk main to a proposed reservoir on Eildon Hill and other distributing mains therefrom. A reinforced concrete elevated

water tower to hold 100,000 gallons at Paddington Heights for the improvement of water supply to higher areas was completed in 1926 and put into commission. Preliminary work has also been carried out for the construction of a service-reservoir at Roles Hill, Wynnum, to balance the supply to higher levels generally.

(b) *Brisbane Waterworks. Summary.* The following table gives a summary of operations for the last five years:—

WATERWORKS, BRISBANE.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Length of Reticulation Mains.	Number of Tenements Connected.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Quantity Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.	Average Daily Supply per Head of Estimated Population
	Miles.	No.	No.	1,000 Gallons	Gallons.	Gallon-
1922	576½	46,025	221,030	3,648,833	9,996,805	45.22
1923	620½	48,368a	235,980	4,292,246	11,759,579	46.76
1924	645¾	50,152a	246,300	4,378,486	11,963,078	44.68
1925	675	53,119a	258,175	4,703,044	12,885,052	45.80
1926	714	56,887a	275,015	5,392,671	14,774,442	48.88

(a) Metropolitan area.

The total length of the trunk mains is 141 miles.

(c) *Brisbane Sewerage Scheme.* Reticulation work in Brisbane and South Brisbane is being proceeded with and premises within the reticulated areas are being connected to the sewers. Twenty-two and a half miles of main sewers and 79½ miles of reticulation sewers and house connexion branches have been constructed and 7,824 premises have been connected.

(d) *Brisbane Waterworks and Sewerage Works Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars regarding finance during the years 1922 to 1926:—

WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS, BRISBANE.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Capital Cost.	Net Revenue.	Working Expenses.	New Works Construction.	Interest and Redemption of Loans, including Sinking Fund.
	£	£	£	£	£
1922	4,360,045	305,450	105,397	481,643	180,372
1923	5,106,768	339,915	119,299	746,723	224,232
1924	5,872,547	402,272	157,370	785,068	284,420
1925	6,364,380	481,571	187,420	491,833	368,295
1926	6,776,465	516,351	198,143	412,085	373,053

(ii) *Country Towns Water Supply.* In addition to the City of Brisbane, there were at the end of the year 1925 thirty-two country towns in Queensland provided with water supply systems constructed by municipalities chiefly from Government loans. A statement in regard to the finances of all water supply, exclusive of Brisbane systems, for the year 1925 is given below:—

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, QUEENSLAND, 1925.

Cost of Construction to 31st December, 1925—£1,661,895.

Receipts.		£	Expenditure.		£
Rates and sales of water	..	180,816	Office and salaries	..	18,014
Government and other loans	..	258,845	Construction	..	239,699
Other	..	23,939	Maintenance	..	66,159
			Interest and redemption	..	51,146
			Other expenses	..	43,348
Total receipts	..	463,600	Total	..	418,366
Assets	..	1,481,365	Liabilities	..	1,092,789

4. South Australia.—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems in this State are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department.

(ii) *Adelaide Waterworks.* (a) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars for the years 1921–22 to 1925–26, the figures for consumption being recorded by gaugings taken at the reservoirs and including evaporation and absorption. There are 54,576 meters in the Adelaide district.

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—SUMMARY, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments		Annual Value.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	£	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.	
1922	87,279	2,781,473	111,295	7,753	1,010	55,873,000	
1923	91,903	3,337,345	111,205	7,753	1,034	6,599,000	
1924	100,002	3,794,755	111,295	7,753	1,076	6,720,000	
1925	104,301	4,202,080	111,872	7,753	1,108	6,836,000	
1926	115,237	4,712,962	111,872	7,753	1,146	7,517,000	

(a) For previous year ending 31st December.

(b) *Finances.* Particulars for the years 1921–22 to 1925–26 are given below:—

ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.—FINANCES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1922	2,843,507	134,472	204,996	43,811	9,956	53,767	5.32
1923	2,924,702	167,465	232,478	47,532	9,737	57,269	5.99
1924	3,100,856	194,158	268,574	53,673	10,972	64,645	6.58
1925	3,166,088	220,151	280,327	59,020	11,193	70,213	6.64
1926	3,241,024	240,538	312,728	62,147	12,201	74,348	7.35

(iii) *Adelaide Sewerage.* Particulars for the years 1921–22 to 1925–26 are given hereunder:—

ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.—SUMMARY, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Connections.	Capital Cost of Revenue-Producing Works.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates, etc.	Total.	Maintenance, etc.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1922	373	41,240	946,213	79,562	90,525	17,083	29,893	6.41
1923	390	42,879	997,604	83,266	98,657	17,356	29,514	6.93
1924	406	45,415	1,095,683	87,066	100,707	19,428	29,646	6.49
1925	424	47,413	1,166,066	95,464	105,188	19,616	28,826	6.55
1926	437	49,380 ^a	1,160,394	106,148	114,933	24,924	32,704	7.09

(a) Excluding £69,366 repaid to Treasury on Redemption of Loans.

(iv) *Country Towns Water Supply. (a) Summary.* The chief items of information regarding these undertakings are set forth in the table below for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26.

**COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.**

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Assessments.	Area Supplied.	Capacity of Reservoirs.	Length of Mains.	Annual Consumption.
	No.	Acres.	Million Gallons.	Miles.	1,000 Gallons.
1922	57,623	4,850,448	4,978	3,176	823,123a
1923	60,552	4,933,732	6,350	3,257	1,071,094
1924	60,200	11,252,740b	8,679	3,415	984,714
1925	60,684	11,565,800b	8,679	3,600	1,181,706
1926	45,346c	11,721,033b	9,031	3,754	1,374,555

(a) For previous year ending 31st December. (b) Includes the new Todd River Water District on Eyre Peninsula. (c) Assessments have been regrouped.

(b) *Finances.* The next table gives financial information for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 :—

**COUNTRY TOWNS WATERWORKS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.**

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.			Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
		Rates.	Total.	Engineering Branch.	Revenue Branch.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
1922	4,368,091	66,527	96,373	50,475	7,821	58,296	0.87
1923	4,562,092	78,649	105,865	56,039	8,034	64,073	0.90
1924	5,200,184	84,241	120,599	66,007	8,303	74,310	0.89
1925	6,754,682	93,124	126,032	58,840	8,077	66,917	0.87
1926	7,189,448	98,573	140,318	62,442	7,040	69,482	0.98

(v) *Other Sewerage Systems.* Information in summarized form is given below regarding the two suburban sewerage systems, viz., the Glenelg system and the Port Adelaide and Semaphore system, for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 :—

**SUBURBAN SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY,
1921-22 TO 1925-26.**

Year ended 30th June—	Length of Sewers.	Number of Connections.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.		Working Expenses.		Percentage of Net Revenue on Capital Cost.
				Rates.	Total.	Maintenance.	Total.	
	Miles.	No.	£	£	£	£	£	%
1922	63	5,868	400,198	12,145	13,520	10,347	10,978	0.64
1923	67	6,576	423,620	13,055	14,449	12,693	13,307	0.27
1924	72	7,208	451,709	17,538	18,855	14,595	15,165	0.81
1925	78	7,756	475,340	19,552	20,884	9,118	9,755	2.34
1926	84	8,390	509,483	21,240	22,422	10,745	11,405	2.16

5. **Western Australia.**—(i) *General.* The water supply and sewerage systems of Western Australia are all under the management of Government Departments, and are divided into the following categories :—(a) Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage, covering Perth, Fremantle, Claremont, Guildford, Midland Junction, and Armadale District, (b) Goldfields Water Supply, (c) Water Supply of other towns, (d) Agricultural Water Supply, (e) other Mines Water Supply, and (f) artesian and sub-artesian waters. The consumption of water by the railways is not included in figures for water supplied given hereunder.

(ii) *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage.* (a) *General.* The sources of the metropolitan water supply are the Victoria Reservoir, Bickley Brook, Mundaring Reservoir, thirteen bores and the Armadale, Churchman Brook, Canning River, and Wungong pipe head dams. The sewerage system consists of septic tanks and percolating filters for Perth, and septic tanks and ocean outfall for Fremantle. At the 30th June, 1926, the number of houses connected with sewers was 16,143.

(b) *Summary.* The following table gives particulars regarding water supply for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ending 30th June—	Estimated Population Supplied.	Number of Houses Supplied.	Water Supplied.	Average Daily Supply.		Number of Meters.	Length of Mains.
				Per Head.	Per House.		
				1,000 Gallons.	Gallons.		
1922	No. 168,540	No. 36,641	2,600,697	Gallons. 42.28	Gallons. 194.46	No. 21,511	Miles. 659
1923	171,560	38,002	2,714,791	43.35	195.72	21,782	677
1924	174,580	39,386	3,089,825	48.36	214.93	22,114	700
1925	178,600	40,741	2,909,095	44.62	195.63	23,416	713
1926	184,000	42,302	3,131,144	46.63	202.79	24,750	760

(c) *Finances.* The table hereunder gives separate information for the water supply and sewerage and drainage branches for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Water Supply.			Sewerage and Drainage.		
	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	1,309,262	122,669	129,412	968,540	70,086	72,153
1923	1,410,442	126,028	134,316	1,015,930	74,771	74,777
1924	1,722,594	135,250	152,824	1,055,612	83,388	76,532
1925	2,162,771	140,811	169,011	1,150,261	91,073	78,830
1926	2,553,179	149,176	188,235	1,243,217	96,600	80,165

(iii) *Goldfields Water Supply.* The source of supply for the Coolgardie and adjacent goldfields, as well as for places on or near the pipe-line, is the Mundaring Reservoir, which has a capacity of 4,650 million gallons. There are three classes of consumers—the railways, the mines, and “other,” and in 1925–26 the railways consumed 8 per cent., the mines

22 per cent., and "other" 70 per cent. of the supply. The following table gives details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—SUMMARY, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Total Consumption.	Number of Services.	Length of Water Mains.	Capital Cost.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	1,000 gallons.	No.	Miles.	£	£	£
1922	1,153,320	10,789	1,224	3,432,234	180,127	297,027
1923	1,169,000	10,899	1,234	3,445,059	178,495	217,680
1924	1,159,000	10,628	1,303	3,487,887	167,597	212,713
1925	1,139,000	10,706	1,371	3,544,274	178,495	215,517
1926	1,161,000	10,676	1,454	3,642,059	179,402	218,956

(iv) *Water Supply of Other Towns.* During the year 1925–26 there were 23 towns provided with water supplies, of which 16 are controlled by Water Boards and 7 by the Public Works Department. The total supplies to the latter towns for the year ending 30th June, 1926, were as follows :—Domestic, 77,996,000 gallons, and Railways, 30,034,000 gallons. The estimated population was 14,000, and the average daily domestic consumption was 15 gallons per head.

(v) *Agricultural Water Supply.* During the year 1925–26, 16 tanks were excavated, and five wells sunk, of which four yielded fresh water. During the sixteen years from the 1st July, 1910, to the 30th June, 1926, 402 tanks were built, 317 wells sunk, and 2,694 bores put down to a total depth of 132,773 feet. Of the bores mentioned, 459 yielded fresh, and 245 stock-water.

(vi) *Artesian and Sub-artesian Waters.* Up to the 30th June, 1926, the total number of bores put down in search of artesian or sub-artesian water was 230, including 49 sunk in the metropolitan area, ranging in depth from 32 to 4,006 feet.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Hobart Water Supply.* The cost of this undertaking to the 30th June, 1926, was £416,599, but a considerable amount of reticulation work has been done out of revenue and not charged to capital account. The outstanding loans at 30th June, 1926, amounted to £368,053. At the same date the number of tenements supplied in the city and suburbs was 10,195 and the length of reticulation mains 114½ miles. The revenue and expenditure for the years 1922 to 1926 were as follows :—

HOBART WATERWORKS.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.

Heading.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	36,798	35,494	34,965	34,935	39,527
Expenditure	33,697	35,494	34,965	34,935	39,527

(ii) *Hobart Sewerage System.* The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £36,773. Up to that date 80 miles of sewers had been laid in connexion with the original city system at a cost of £210,897, and 8,024 tenements connected. Since the original

city was sewered, the Municipalities of Queenborough and New Town have been included in the city, and are now being sewered. In Queenborough 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of sewers, connecting with 1,276 tenements, have been constructed at a cost of £117,893. In New Town a total of 29 miles of sewers has been laid, and 957 properties connected. The cost to 30th June, 1926, including surveys and sewerage outfall, was £105,039.

§ 6. Harbour Boards and Trusts.

1. *New South Wales.*—(i) *Sydney Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Sydney Harbour Trust, which consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Government, controls the whole of the wharves resumed by the Government in 1901. The Commissioners also provide and maintain the lighting and marking of the harbour, and carry out all necessary dredging. The whole of what might be termed city wharves is owned by the Commissioners and leased to various shipping companies, but the Trust directly operates and maintains a certain number of open wharves. Outside the city area the wharves are, to a large extent, privately controlled, but all structures beyond high-water mark are held under leases issued by the Trust. The extent of wharfage accommodation now available for use totals 63,000 lineal feet, inclusive of 7,800 lineal feet privately owned.

The depth of water at the entrance to the port is not less than 80 feet and in the channels there are 40 feet of low-water at spring tides. The foreshores of Sydney Harbour are about 200 miles in length. The area of the water in the port is 14,284 acres, of which 3,000 acres have a depth ranging from 35 to 160 feet.

Since its inception, the Trust has spent £6,885,742 on the reconstruction and extension of the wharfage and improvements to the port. Over 12,000 lineal feet of old and obsolete wharfage have been demolished, and 39,000 lineal feet of new berths have been constructed. Other improvements include 2,521,188 square feet of floor area of new sheds and nearly 4 miles of new roadways.

During the year 1926, 1,669,540 tons of material were dredged at a cost of £75,468. In the process of towing such material, 40,403 miles were run at a cost of £29,882.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table gives particulars concerning the finances of the Trust for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

SYDNEY HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.				Expenditure.	Total Capital Debt.	Interest.	Balance.
	Wharfage and Harbour Rates.	Tonnage Rates and Berthing Charges.	Other Sources.	Total.				
	£	£	£	£				
1922 ..	451,981	44,465	330,676	827,122	261,120	9,868,165	488,552	77,450
1923 ..	517,740	39,570	294,931	852,241	253,614	10,129,113	514,756	83,871
1924 ..	553,295	44,879	299,183	897,357	276,883	10,417,859	528,743	91,731
1925 ..	587,157	58,735	324,510	970,402	283,040	10,644,468	526,944	160,418
1926 ..	618,075	53,143	344,660	1,015,878	298,101	10,956,555	554,446	163,330

2. *Victoria.*—(i) *Melbourne Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* Information regarding the origin and constitution of this Trust will be found in Official Year Book No. 12, pp. 970 *et seq.* In 1926, the length of sheds in the port was 19,168 feet, covering an area of 1,108,824 square feet. The quantity of material raised by the dredging and excavation done in the improvement of the river and bay amounts to 83,584,170 cubic yards. The Trust has expended £339,292 in reclaiming land within its jurisdiction.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of the Trust from 1922 to 1926 inclusive. Up to 31st December, 1926, the total capital expenditure amounted to £6,578,283.

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MELBOURNE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Rates, rents, etc.	589,583	681,958	711,558	712,733	739,460
Interest	80	328	669	285	79
Other receipts	12,807	9,850	17,095	23,213	20,394
Total	602,470	692,136	729,322	736,231	759,933

EXPENDITURE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Management and general expenses	61,763	60,997	74,086	85,655	98,717
Interest	144,883	124,109	131,674	151,891	159,353
Total	206,646	185,106	205,760	237,546	258,070
Less standing charges added to works	34,628	37,272	43,749	48,128	49,309
Total	172,018	147,834	162,011	189,418	208,761
Wharfage and other refunds	3,866	5,728	4,879	3,761	3,683
Consolidated revenue of Victoria	114,986	135,520	140,382	136,494	143,002
Flotation of loans expenses	35	750	5	10	15
Maintenance	126,051	85,458	130,234	166,610	142,917
Total expenditure	416,956	375,290	437,511	496,293	498,378
Surplus on revenue account	185,514	316,846	291,811	239,938	261,555
Less depreciation and renewals account and sinking fund	100,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Net surplus on revenue account	85,514	103,846	78,811	26,938	48,555

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

Land and property	11,906	32,892	548	37,699	30,962
Deepening waterways	98,331	150,885	137,488	145,808	169,053
Wharves construction	45,613	67,360	194,318	285,072	129,382
Approaches construction	9,084	7,519	25,483	46,130	15,412
Other harbour improvements	25,311	8,719	23,826	18,631	40,416
Floating plant	1,708	632	3,192	97,354	9,221
General plant	925	2,025	3,440	2,718	4,891
Total	192,878	270,032	388,295	633,412	399,337

(ii) *Geelong Harbour Trust.* (a) *General.* The Geelong Harbour Trust was constituted in 1905, and is under the control of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. The Commissioners have vested in them the Port of Geelong, which includes that portion of Port Phillip east of a line from the right bank of Little River at its mouth south-easterly to a point in line with the east side of Mercer-street, Portarlington. This area comprises Corio Bay, Portarlington, and some miles of Bay frontage. In addition, certain lands abutting upon the River Barwon and Barwon River Heads are vested in the Commissioners and form part of the Port. The Commissioners have

established facilities for the export of grain, frozen meat, and other produce, and have also constructed extensive abattoirs and freezing works. A large amount of money has been expended in the reclamation of waste lands, and on part of such lands a dairy farm with a complete system of drainage and irrigation has been established.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

GEELONG HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Loans.	Sinking Fund.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£
1922	591,000	29,379	54,234	52,066
1923	591,000	33,045	58,680	56,065
1924	591,000	36,912	61,356	52,315
1925	591,000	41,167	70,730	57,027
1926	591,000	45,746	67,073	66,230

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *Bowen Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bowen Harbour Board consists of seven members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council and the remainder elected by the electors of the Town of Bowen and adjacent shires. The district under its jurisdiction comprises the area within the boundaries of the Town of Bowen, the Shires of Proserpine and Wangaratta, and division I. of the Shire of Ayr.

(b) *Finances.* The capital expenditure to the 31st December, 1926, was £81,520, while for the year 1926 the receipts were £13,453 and the expenditure £15,583.

(ii) *Bundaberg Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bundaberg Harbour Board consists of nine members, of whom one is appointed by the Governor in Council, four elected by the City of Bundaberg, and two each by the Shires of Gooburrum and Woongarra, these three municipalities comprising the Harbour Board District. The jurisdiction of the Board extends over the Port of Bundaberg and certain lands fronting the River Burnett.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1926 amounted to £5,671 as against £7,335 for the previous year, and ordinary expenditure to £5,543 as compared with £7,365 for 1925. An expenditure of £5,985 has been incurred for the erection of a sugar shed, which will be available for use in 1927.

(iii) *Cairns Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Cairns Harbour Board consists of twelve members, representing the town of Cairns and eight adjoining shires. The wharves at Cairns, which are all under the control of this Board, are of reinforced ferro-concrete and are 1,500 feet in length, while an additional 400 feet are under construction. Mechanical sugar-handling conveyors have been installed at a cost of over £38,465. The wharves are electrically lighted and furnished with railways and electric crane service. There is a special railway wharf with facilities for handling floater logs. A cold storage plant has been built at a cost of £9,000.

(b) *Finances.* During the year 1926 the gross revenue of the Board was £70,017, derived from harbour, berthage and miscellaneous dues.

(iv) *Gladstone Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Gladstone Harbour Board is composed of seven members, two of whom are appointed by the Governor in Council and five elected by the electors of the town of Gladstone and the shires of Calliope and Miriam Vale. The works under the control of the Board are (i) Auckland Point Jetty and Wharf, constructed of reinforced concrete and wood, together within a two-way traffic approach and jetty for the handling of local cargo, the berth being 775 feet long, with an average depth alongside of 26 feet; (ii) the municipal wharf in Auckland-street; (iii) wool dumping plant on Auckland Point jetty, consisting of two hydraulic dumps, capable of doing either single or double dumping; (iv) three large cargo sheds, each 140 feet by 30 feet; (v) 15-ton electric crane for coal and timber.

(b) *Finances.* The total capital expenditure to the end of 1926 amounted to £91,420. The revenue for 1926 was £5,485, and the expenditure £4,778.

(v) *Mackay Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Mackay Harbour Board consists of nine members elected by the electors of the City of Mackay and four adjacent shires. The director wall in the Pioneer River is completed; other improvements are under consideration.

(b) *Finances.* Capital expenditure for the year 1926 was £2,908; receipts amounted to £14,128, and expenditure to £20,431.

(vi) *Rockhampton Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Rockhampton Harbour Board consists of eleven members, of whom seven are elected by the electors on the rolls for the city of Rockhampton, the town of Mount Morgan and the shires of Fitzroy and Livingstone. The remaining four are elected by the councillors of groups of inland shires.

In the port of Rockhampton, which comprises the tidal area of the Fitzroy River as far as the entrance to Keppel Bay, there are three principal places where steamers may lie and discharge cargo, viz., (i) Rockhampton itself, (ii) Port Alma, where the oversea steamers berth, and (iii) Broadmount, originally built for the oversea trade some years ago. The wharves at these three places are connected by rail with Rockhampton and with the main central line. The Board undertakes the work of improving the navigable channels throughout the estuary and river, and of maintaining the wharves at Port Alma and Rockhampton.

(b) *Finances.* The revenue for the year 1926 was £88,507, of which £50,689 represented loans; and the expenditure was £92,776, which included £18,142 interest on loans and overdraft.

(vii) *Townsville Harbour Board. (a) General.* The Townsville Harbour Board is composed of nine members, of whom two are appointed by the Governor in Council, and the remaining seven are elected by the electors of Townsville and adjacent towns and shires. All harbour works and conveniences for the use of shipping are under the control of the Board.

(b) *Finances.* The total expenditure since the inception of the Board is £1,703,276, while the receipts for the year 1926 were £61,645 and the expenditure £69,703.

(viii) *Harbour Boards—Financial Summary.* The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure of Queensland Harbour Boards and the outstanding loans for the years 1921 to 1925:—

HARBOUR BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925.

Year.	Number of Boards.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Outstanding Loans.
		Wharfage and Harbour Dues.	Government Loans.	Total.	Works and Maintenance.	Interest and Redemption of Loans.	Total.	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	7	117,417	46,219	183,949	101,563	65,452	199,341	979,341
1922	7	132,234	78,506	234,827	171,853	58,492	230,345	1,077,833
1923	7	142,848	120,281	320,105	233,894	56,156	290,050	1,209,022
1924	7	161,331	131,887	320,551	246,024	60,487	306,511	1,315,225
1925	7	174,196	116,304	318,891	248,976	66,727	315,703	1,433,108

4. *South Australia.*—In this State harbours are controlled by the Government through the Harbours Board.

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *Fremantle Harbour Trust. (a) General.* Fremantle Harbour is controlled by a Board of five Commissioners appointed by the Governor in Council. A description of the works was given in a previous Year Book (see No. 12, p. 973). Since that account was written, the inner harbour and entrance channel have been dredged to a depth of 36 feet below the lowest known low water. The berthage accommodation at all the quays has also been deepened to 36 feet.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives financial data for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Gross Amount Paid to the Treasury.				
			Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Renewals Fund.	Surplus Revenue.	Total.
1922	282,038	126,597	80,218	20,277	2,000	56,491	158,986
1923	282,015	120,086	83,386	20,764	2,000	47,272	153,422
1924	357,450	146,177	85,703	21,185	2,000	96,612	205,500
1925	421,255	171,391	87,783	21,564	2,000	130,776	242,123
1926	443,395	185,137	90,013	21,879	2,000	113,290	227,182

(ii) *Bunbury Harbour Board.* (a) *General.* The Bunbury Harbour Board consists of five members appointed by the Government. The jetty is 4,900 feet long, with berthage accommodation of 2,700 feet on the west side and 3,000 feet on the east side, and is electrically lighted. Vessels can load alongside to depths ranging from 16 to 27½ feet. Five electric and one steam gantry cranes, each of 3 tons lifting capacity, are available.

(b) *Finances.* Details for the last five years are given hereunder. Surplus revenue is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet interest and sinking fund :—

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Capital Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Paid to Consolidated Revenue Fund.
	£	£	£	£
1922	440,965	26,175	9,818	16,357
1923	448,377	25,746	8,749	16,997
1924	450,000	33,836	10,707	23,129
1925	450,000	37,625	17,001	22,000
1926	450,000	36,229	27,364	20,100

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *Marine Board of Hobart.* (a) *General.* The Marine Board of Hobart consists of nine wardens elected by the ship-owners of the Port of Hobart and the importers and exporters of goods into or from any port within the jurisdiction of the Board. The Board has jurisdiction over all ports, harbours and waters within the limits of the coast line from South-West Cape round the southern and eastern coasts to Cape Portland, and within all islands adjacent to such coast line. The duties of the Board are to maintain all wharves within its jurisdiction which are not vested in another authority or belonging to any private person, to construct new wharves where necessary, and to improve the navigation where desirable.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 30th JUNE, 1926.

Year ended 30th June—	Revenue.			Expenditure.				
	Capital Debt.	Harbour Improvements, Debentures, etc.	General.	Total.	Harbour Improvements.	Interest and Sinking Fund.	General.	Total.
1922 (6 months) ..	92,350	..	16,133	16,133	3	3,265	11,975	15,243
1923	90,350	..	32,620	32,620	373	6,511	25,670	32,554
1924	86,806	2,456	37,465	39,921	15,787	6,180	20,304	42,271
1925	86,302	300	38,764	39,064	4,192	6,220	25,644	36,056
1926	78,526	..	33,223	39,223	625	6,208	27,211	41,150

(a) Including £7,106 from revenue in reduction of loans.

(ii) *Marine Board of Launceston.* (a) *General.* The Marine Board of Launceston consists of three wardens elected by the ratepayers of the city of Launceston. The jurisdiction of the Board extends from Cape Portland along the north coast of Tasmania to Badger Head. The chief work carried out has been to deepen the channel of the River Tamar to 16 feet and to maintain the wharves. An important work completed in 1923 was the removal to a depth of 30 feet of Porpoise Rock, situated 4 miles from the entrance of the port. A deepwater port is being provided at Bell Bay. The wharfage accommodation at Launceston exceeds 2,000 feet.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

MARINE BOARD OF LAUNCESTON.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Total Capital Debt.	Capital Debt, Tamar Improvement.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1922	£ 318,361	£ 271,322	£ 47,638	£ 40,021
1923	318,361	282,710	49,928	47,588
1924	330,713	283,475	53,672	46,044
1925	329,733	302,494	48,345	47,304
1926	348,851	321,612	57,320	53,397

(iii) *Marine Board of Burnie.* The length of the breakwater is 1,250 feet, with a depth up to 42 feet at low water, and a wharf alongside, 630 feet in length by 91 feet wide, with a depth at low water from 24 to 40 feet. There are two other timber wharves, 600 feet and 400 feet long respectively. The receipts for the year ending 30th June, 1926, were £18,038, and the expenditure £18,487, including £10,650 interest on loans.

(iv) *Other Boards and Trusts.* In addition to the three Marine Boards mentioned above, there are four Marine Boards and three Harbour Trusts, which have control of the smaller ports and harbours.

(v) *Financial Summary.* The total receipts and expenditure of the ten marine Boards and Harbour Trusts for the years 1921 to 1925-26 are shown in the following table :—

MARINE BOARDS AND HARBOUR TRUSTS, TASMANIA.—FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 1921 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.				Expenditure.
	Taxes, Rents, etc.	Government and Loans.	Other.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1921(a)	109,363	3,867	4,957	118,187	116,358
1923(b)	143,200	19,023	21,743	183,966	172,485
1924	162,801	4,360	72,856	240,017	227,389
1925	130,807	2,284	11,560	144,651	134,508
1926	132,702	..	10,025	142,727	150,094

(a) Calendar year.

(b) Figures for 18 months (except in the case of three trusts), the financial year having been changed.

§ 7. Fire Brigades.

1. New South Wales.—(i) *General.* Under the Fire Brigades Act of 1909-27, a Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of eight members was formed, and fire districts constituted. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of quarter, quarter, and half by the Government, the municipalities, and the insurance companies concerned, but the expenditure must be so regulated that the proportion payable by the councils in a fire district shall not exceed the amount obtainable from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ rate on the unimproved capital value of the district.

(ii) *Sydney Fire District.* (a) *Plant, etc.* The Sydney fire district includes the City of Sydney and suburbs, comprising a total area of 242 square miles. On the 31st December, 1926, the Board had under its control in this district 74 stations, 410 permanent men, 252 partially-paid firemen, 3 steam and 76 motor fire engines, 163,464 feet of hose, and 620 telephone fire-alarms. The length of wire used for telephone lines was 1,682 miles. There are in operation 116 automatic systems, 240 sprinkler installations, 4 watchman's clock systems, and 231 private fire alarms.

(b) *Finances.* The subjoined table shows the receipts and disbursements of the Board for the past five years in respect of the Sydney Fire District :—

SYDNEY FIRE DISTRICT.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Receipts.					Total.	Disbursements.
	From Government.	From Municipalities.	From Fire Insurance Companies.	From Firms.	From other Sources.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	53,979	53,979	53,425	554	4,745	166,682	163,750
1923	58,153	58,153	57,551	602	5,954	180,413	178,585
1924	60,768	60,768	60,183	584	5,401	187,704	186,159
1925	60,768	60,768	60,093	675	5,154	187,458	196,672
1926	72,676	72,676	71,807	869	6,293	224,321	223,568

2. Victoria.—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1915 provides for a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and a Country Fire Brigades Board, each consisting of nine members, with local committees in country districts. The income of each Board is derived in equal proportions from the Treasury, the municipalities, and insurance companies.

(ii) *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* On the 30th June, 1926, the Board had under its control 40 stations, 281 permanent men, 165 partially-paid firemen, 72 special-service firemen, 1 motor drawn steam fire engine, 8 petrol motor fire pumps, 57 other petrol motor appliances, 1 steam fire engine, 102,174 feet of hose, and 445 fire-alarm circuits having 1,350 street fire alarms, 1,331 containing telephones; 1,149 auxiliary boxes and 30 automatic systems in public and other buildings; 113 circuits to sprinkler installations connecting 209 warehouses and factories; 194 telephone lines, 64 of which act as fire alarms; 117 combined fire alarm and watchman's clock systems.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives particulars for each year from 1921-22 to 1925-26 inclusive :—

**METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—FINANCES,
1922 TO 1926.**

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
RECEIPTS.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions	125,685	122,700	131,739	151,322	157,872
Receipts for services	21,857	14,028	16,486	20,138	21,180
Interest and Sundries	3,926	6,898	9,811	11,642	16,575
Total	151,468	142,626	158,036	183,102	195,627
EXPENDITURE.					
Salaries	87,523	93,033	85,477	100,651	101,215
Interest and sinking fund	21,136	10,219	10,821	11,682	12,982
Other expenditure	46,198	43,515	59,172	68,880	80,277
Total	154,857	146,767	155,470	181,213	197,474

(iii) *Country Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At 30th June, 1926, there were 115 municipal councils and 93 insurance companies included in the operations of the Act. The brigades are composed chiefly of volunteers, but in the large centres a few permanent station-keepers and partially-paid firemen are employed. Complete fire alarm systems are installed in 27 of the larger provincial cities and townships. There were 143 registered brigades and 2,428 registered firemen at 30th June, 1926. The equipment included 14 motor pumps, 26 motor tenders, 4 steam fire engines, and numerous manual engines and hose reels.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* Revenue and expenditure for the years 1922 to 1926 (30th June) are given below :—

**COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, VICTORIA.—REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE, 1922 TO 1926.**

Particulars.	1922.	1923.	1924 (Six Months to 30th June).	Year ended 30th June, 1925.	Year ended 30th June, 1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	22,718	22,088	16,907	25,133	30,154
Expenditure	23,122	22,813	16,432	23,684	31,113

3. *Queensland.*—(i) *General.* The Act of 1920 made provision for the retention of existing fire districts, and for the constitution of new districts. For each district there must be a Fire Brigades Board consisting of seven members, and the cost of maintenance of each brigade is proportioned as follows :—The Treasurer two-sevenths, insurance companies three-sevenths, and local authorities two-sevenths. All volunteer fire brigades must be registered.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Boards.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of the year 1925 there were fire brigades in 30 towns, with a total strength of 134 permanent men, 302 partly paid, and 90 voluntary. The plant included 35 motor, 4 steam, and 7 manual fire engines, 53 hose

reels, consisting of 21 motor, 7 horse, and 30 hand reels, and 96,331 feet of hose. The total number of call points was 430. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade protects an area of 32 square miles and has a staff of 149 men. There are 82 fire alarm circuits, 271 street fire alarms, 49 automatic thermostats, 44 sprinkler installations, 11 push button alarms, and 6 direct telephone alarms.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table gives details for the years 1921 to 1925 :—

**FIRE BRIGADE BOARDS, QUEENSLAND.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE,
1921 TO 1925.**

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	From Government.	From Local Authorities.	From Insurance Companies.	Total.	Salaries and Wages.	Buildings, Repairs, etc.	Plant, Stores, etc.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921 ..	14,637	14,524	22,313	54,685	31,513	3,866	8,856	55,263
1922 ..	14,711	14,996	22,976	53,647	34,340	3,687	8,444	56,071
1923 ..	16,054	15,094	22,455	64,190	35,803	12,336	10,166	64,597
1924 ..	17,140	16,347	24,489	61,212	40,032	3,344	10,081	65,183
1925 ..	18,485	18,597	27,928	73,295	41,280	3,970	11,461	71,330

4. *South Australia.*—(i) *General.* The Fire Brigades Act of 1913 and amendments provides for a Board of five members, and the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed as to two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies, and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned.

(ii) *Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of 1926 there were altogether 24 fire brigade stations. The strength of the brigades consists of 106 permanent firemen and 87 auxiliary firemen. The plant consists of 1 steam fire engine, 5 motor engines, 24 motor hose carriages, 55,400 feet of hose, one 90-ft. turntable escape ladder, 2 telescopic curricula ladders, 2 fire escapes and petrol-driven fire float. There are 323 fire alarm circuits, 11 automatic systems, and 31 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The following table shows the revenue of the Board for the years 1922 to 1926, the expenditure in each year being the same :—

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—REVENUE, 1922 TO 1926.

Heading.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	37,306	35,071	38,173	47,103	52,276

5. *Western Australia.*—(i) *General.* Under the 1916 Act every municipal or road board district is constituted a fire district under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. The income of the Board is derived as to two-eighths from Government, three-eighths from municipalities, and three-eighths from insurance companies.

(ii) *Western Australian Fire Brigades Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* The whole of the brigades throughout the State are now controlled by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board, and number 40. The staff at the 30th September, 1926, included a chief officer, deputy chief officer, third officer, district officer, motor engineer, electrical engineer,

9 other officers, 105 permanent, 23 partially-paid, and 492 volunteer firemen. The plant comprised 5 steam, 10 motor and 4 manual engines, 16 motor hose carriages, 37 reels, and 75,200 feet of hose. There are 278 fire alarm circuits, 510 street fire alarms, 3 automatic systems, and 27 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Finances.* The following table gives details for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD.—FINANCES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended 31st December—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Estimated Value.	
			Land and Buildings.	Plant.
	£	£	£	£
1922	34,833	34,746	46,000	26,000
1923	35,553	35,463	46,000	28,000
1924	38,720	38,621	48,650	28,000
1925	50,341	46,539	60,440	29,590
1926	(a)36,314	(a)37,990	65,700	32,200

(a) Nine months only.

6. *Tasmania.*—(i) *General.* The municipal council of any municipality may, under the Act of 1920, petition the Governor to proclaim the municipality or any portion of it to be a fire district, each district to have a Board of five members. The expenses of each Board are borne in equal proportions by contributions from the Treasurer, the municipality concerned, and insurance companies insuring property within the district.

(ii) *Hobart Fire Brigade Board.* (a) *Plant, etc.* At the end of 1926 the staff consisted of 13 permanent and 15 partially-paid firemen. There were at that date also 2 motor pumps, 1 extension and 1 currie ladder, two motor hose carriages, 3 horse and 4 hand reels, 2 Pompier ladders, and 10,750 feet of hose. There are 24 fire alarm circuits, 60 street alarms, 15 auxiliary boxes, 3 automatic systems, and 3 sprinkler installations.

(b) *Revenue and Expenditure.* The revenue for the years 1925 and 1926 amounted to £6,117 and £6,401 respectively, expenditure being the same.