

MUNICIPAL STATISTICS.

Early
legislation.

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chiefly for local government in country districts, and the greater part of it remained in force until 1863, when it was repealed, and replaced by the Roads Districts and Shires Act.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

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

Cities, towns, boroughs, and shires. Any portion of Victoria, not exceeding in area nine square miles, and having no point in such area distant more than six miles from any other point therein, which contains at least 500 inhabitant householders, and rateable property capable of yielding £300 per annum upon a rate of one shilling in the pound, may be constituted a borough. Any borough having during the preceding financial year a revenue of £10,000 may be declared a town; or, having a revenue of £20,000, may be declared a city. Any portion of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding £1,500 on a rate of one shilling in the pound may be constituted a shire. There are 53 cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria, and 139 shires. The Governor in Council may unite any two or more boroughs which form one contiguous area so as to form one borough, notwithstanding that the area would exceed the limits above specified; may unite any number of municipalities, one of which is a shire, which form one contiguous area, so as to form one shire; and may sever any portion of a municipal district and attach it to another, annex an outlying district, subdivide any municipal district into any number of divisions not exceeding eight, alter the boundaries, or abolish the subdivisions.

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

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

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

IN CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES.

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

IN SHIRES.

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

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

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

Rateable property.

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

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

Several municipalities in the State have from the year 1920-21 levied the general rate on the unimproved capital value of land instead of on the net annual value of property. Authority for this change was given by an Act passed on 3rd February, 1914, and amended on 6th January, and 14th September, 1920. These Acts were consolidated and amended by the *Rating on Unimproved Values Act 1922* (No. 3199) which was assented to on 28th November, 1922.

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

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

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

New Municipality. A portion of the North-East and South-East Ridings of the Shire of Kerang was excised on 2nd March, 1922, and a new shire created entitled Shire of Cohuna.

Municipalities: 1918-19 to 1922-23. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1922 was 192. Of these, 25 ranked as cities, 2 as towns, 26 as boroughs, and the remainder (139) as shires. The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, estimated number of dwellings (inhabited and uninhabited), total and annual value of rateable property, and annual revenue of cities, towns, boroughs, and shires in each of the five years ended 1922-23 :—

MUNICIPALITIES: 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Estimated Number of Dwellings.		Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue.
			In-habited.	Unin-habited.	Total.	Annual.	
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—					£	£	£
1918-19 ..	859,470	224,767	194,273	2,542	164,806,704	9,227,807	1,857,884
1919-20 ..	877,880	228,518	197,753	1,394	172,838,636	9,687,320	2,053,584
1920-21 ..	886,030	237,037	202,581	865	193,947,624	10,864,184	2,314,017
1921-22 ..	914,371*	245,589	204,144*		210,501,055	11,869,636	2,648,855
1922-23 ..	963,180	270,058	217,518	522	233,586,201	13,116,589	..
Shires—							
1918-19 ..	622,260	188,032	139,338	2,262	176,297,529	8,922,859	1,022,241
1919-20 ..	628,420	188,892	140,049	1,869	184,599,186	9,340,172	1,171,379
1920-21 ..	628,970	198,801	142,684	1,586	205,555,121	10,350,524	1,279,099
1921-22 ..	610,987*	201,936	141,842*		215,984,328	10,875,948	1,382,922
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	..
Total—							
1918-19 ..	1,481,730	412,789	333,611	4,804	340,604,233	18,150,666	2,880,125
1919-20 ..	1,506,300	417,410	337,802	3,263	357,437,822	19,027,492	3,224,963
1920-21 ..	1,515,000	435,838	345,265	2,451	399,502,745	21,214,708	3,593,116
1921-22 ..	1,525,358*	447,545	345,986*		426,485,383	22,745,584	4,031,777
1922-23 ..	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	..

* Census figures.

Increases in value of rateable properties and municipal revenue.

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

INCREASE IN VALUE OF PROPERTIES AND IN MUNICIPAL REVENUE.

	Increase.		
	1922-23 over 1918-19.		1921-22 over 1918-19.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual.	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	69,279,497	3,888,782	790,971
Shires	45,326,244	2,277,966	360,681
Total Increase	114,605,741	6,166,748	1,151,652

The number of ratepayers returned for 1922-23 was 470,892, and the total capital value of rateable property £455,209,974, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £24,317,414.

Unimproved Value of Rateable Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1922-23 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £116,793,100, and in shires £147,749,182. Improvements are estimated at one-half in the case of urban and one-third in the case of rural properties, which are about the proportions that are found to prevail in New Zealand according to the valuations of the Valuer-General. A table showing the estimated annual, capital, and unimproved values in urban and rural districts in Victoria for a series of years appears on page 397 of the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1916-17.

Properties rated in municipalities.

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

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES RATED IN MUNICIPALITIES.
1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1918-19	261,253	258,976	520,229
1919-20	266,559	263,106	529,665
1920-21	278,357	279,731	558,088
1921-22	289,099	287,299	576,398
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117

Cities, towns, and boroughs, 1922-23.

The following is a statement of the estimated population, number of ratepayers, total and annual value of rateable property, annual endowment payable by the Government, total revenue, and amount of rate levied in the £ in each city, town, and borough in Victoria. The information relates to the municipal year, 1922-23, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1921-22:—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1922-23.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Ratepayers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1921-22.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
CITIES.							
Ballarat	35,500	8,932	s. d. 2 9	£ 4,513,080	£ 300,872	£ 62,881	£ ..
Bendigo	25,940	6,387	2 6	3,223,402	230,243	51,837	..
Brighton	22,520	7,092	2 6	5,663,546	312,230	43,126	..
Brunswick	46,000	11,183	*0 6	7,162,895	448,532	107,118	..
Camberwell	25,870	8,860	*0 4	8,121,540	423,126	70,068	..
Caulfield	46,280	13,580	*0 4½	12,235,577	660,702	87,856	..
Coburg	20,130	8,000	*0 4	3,840,400	192,020	45,742	..
Collingwood	34,350	7,620	2 3	7,564,900	378,245	45,684	..
Essendon	37,000	10,850	*0 0	7,317,974	364,329	61,755	..
Fitzroy	35,050	7,670	2 0	7,784,820	432,490	43,287	..
Footscray	36,470	12,200	2 4	7,455,600	372,780	85,253	..
Geelong	14,900	4,783	2 7	3,588,520	179,426	37,697	..
Hawthorn	29,780	7,554	2 6	8,721,940	436,097	57,699	..
Kew	19,400	4,980	2 5	3,496,545	233,103	36,789	..
Malvern	37,800	9,670	2 6	11,544,580	577,229	80,443	..
Melbourne	103,500	32,021	2 0	56,863,100	2,843,155	905,223	..
Northcote	32,340	9,050	2 6	6,154,640	307,732	74,623	..
Port Melbourne	13,140	2,857	2 3	1,602,075	128,166	33,158	..
Prahran	50,860	12,608	1 9	11,174,400	931,200	94,603	..
Richmond	43,450	9,276	2 3	8,192,502	455,139	57,304	..
Sandringham	13,000	4,889	2 6	2,240,150	179,212	30,751	..
South Melbourne	47,000	10,477	2 6	12,798,340	639,917	98,640	..
St. Kilda	39,900	9,592	2 0	9,253,284	771,107	79,496	..
Warrnambool	7,900	1,674	2 9	1,430,006	84,118	41,872	..
Williamstown	20,000	4,696	2 6	2,426,865	161,791	52,705	..

Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1922-23—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1921-22.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
TOWNS.							
Mildura ..	5,500	1,255	2 6	1,214,000	60,700	28,418	50
Preston ..	11,280	11,085	2 6	2,810,800	140,540	31,777	321
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,490	980	*2 3	623,840	31,192	16,381	25
Carrum ..	5,500	3,865	0 2½	1,386,363	68,261	14,030	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,420	2 6	499,712	39,977	8,495	25
Clunes ..	1,250	490	1 9	56,000	8,000	2,096	37
Creswick ..	1,750	543	1 9	75,440	7,544	2,387	38
Daylesford ..	3,400	776	2 6	256,912	20,553	4,706	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,710	1,293	2 6	279,000	23,250	8,517	25
Echuca ..	3,880	1,200	2 6	480,500	31,000	9,382	25
Geelong West ..	9,700	2,463	2 8	1,486,740	74,337	14,588	25
Hamilton ..	5,100	1,250	2 3	1,015,440	50,772	9,613	25
Horsham ..	3,980	998	2 6	728,240	36,412	7,739	50
Inglewood ..	1,150	297	2 0	78,360	6,530	2,466	25
Koroit ..	1,850	417	2 6	420,380	21,019	5,569	25
Maryborough ..	4,760	1,186	2 0	284,750	28,475	5,870	25
Mordialloc † ..	6,780	2,071	2 6	1,415,040	70,752	11,823	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	7,300	1,869	*0 5½	1,486,020	77,810	9,642	25
Oakleigh ..	6,580	2,809	*0 3½	1,396,299	71,238	15,075	50
Portland ..	2,650	824	*0 4	517,040	25,852	6,754	25
Port Fairy ..	2,000	500	2 6	76,780	18,839	6,074	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,500	632	2 6	278,780	13,939	3,043	50
Sale ..	3,780	900	2 0	569,020	28,451	10,597	25
Sebastopol ..	1,830	463	2 6	93,780	7,815	1,535	40
Stawell ..	4,550	969	2 3	288,260	28,826	10,105	25
St. Arnaud ..	2,780	837	2 0	446,740	22,337	4,285	25
Wangaratta ..	4,030	945	3 0	602,000	30,100	6,131	25
Wonthaggi ..	5,430	1,220	2 6	349,284	29,107	6,147	..
Total ..	963,180	270,058	..	233,586,201	13,116,589	2,648,855	1,111

* Levied on unimproved value of land. † Name changed from "Mentone and Mordialloc" to "Mordialloc," 2nd May, 1923.

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

SHIRES, 1922-23.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1921-22.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Alberton ..	5,650	1,291	2 0	2,082,160	104,108	12,393	696
Alexandra ..	3,500	858	2 0	998,800	49,940	8,146	388
Arapiles ..	2,350	620	1 3	1,260,880	63,044	4,295	152
Ararat ..	6,000	1,675	1 6	3,251,720	162,586	14,818	640
Avoca ..	3,360	1,300	1 6	914,040	45,702	4,131	238
Avon ..	2,400	827	1 6	1,338,000	66,900	7,097	300
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,350	845	2 0	1,012,080	50,604	8,312	203
Bairnsdale ..	7,900	1,850	1 6	2,364,980	118,249	13,797	704
Ballan ..	3,150	1,210	1 6	1,109,960	55,498	5,008	284
Ballarat ..	4,000	906	1 6	1,219,560	60,978	5,809	284
Bannockburn ..	2,660	700	2 0	1,058,220	52,911	5,414	201

Municipal Statistics.

189

SHIRES, 1922-23—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1921-22.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Barrarbool ..	1,840	471	2 0	880,880	44,044	5,509	210
Beechworth ..	4,640	1,440	1 9	528,112	33,307	9,208	269
Belfast ..	2,530	675	1 6	1,494,500	74,725	7,080	321
Bellarine ..	4,100	1,100	1 9	1,249,780	62,489	6,599	238
Benalla ..	7,750	2,920	1 9	3,287,000	164,350	18,916	714
Berwick ..	9,200	3,500	2 0	2,392,540	119,627	14,578	494
Bet Bet ..	3,550	1,210	1 6	742,160	37,108	4,015	235
Birechip ..	1,880	587	1 0	1,021,580	51,079	4,192	198
Borong ..	4,900	1,367	1 0	2,525,720	126,286	9,140	491
Braybrook ..	4,700	2,460	1 9	1,375,960	68,798	11,954	129
Bright ..	4,050	1,376	2 0	736,700	36,835	5,262	370
Broadford ..	1,350	370	1 9	379,400	18,970	2,232	148
Broadmeadows ..	5,600	3,243	1 9	1,276,440	63,822	6,468	251
Bulla ..	2,630	573	1 6	893,720	44,686	5,488	172
Buln Buln ..	5,960	1,537	2 3	1,260,860	63,043	8,200	616
Bungaree ..	3,050	700	2 0	654,560	32,728	4,151	395
Buninyong ..	5,100	1,750	1 9	1,277,360	63,868	7,351	296
Charlton ..	2,500	773	1 6	1,493,600	74,680	5,891	271
Chiltern ..	2,160	729	1 6	615,920	30,796	3,267	216
Cohuna ..	2,500	612	1 6	1,119,600	55,980	51	..
Colac ..	12,500	2,920	1 6	6,560,240	328,012	37,965	138
Corio ..	3,990	1,504	2 0	1,634,540	81,727	10,562	255
Cranbourne ..	5,800	2,225	2 0	2,123,480	106,174	9,809	342
Creswick ..	3,050	973	1 3	1,137,440	56,872	4,514	383
Dandenong ..	7,100	2,520	*0 2½	1,760,000	88,000	18,210	209
Deakin ..	4,060	1,154	1 6½	1,298,520	64,926	5,063	219
Dimboola ..	6,400	1,371	1 6	2,499,400	124,970	13,618	305
Donald ..	3,400	895	1 6	1,528,500	76,425	9,492	323
Doncaster ..	2,650	810	1 9	866,920	43,346	5,382	194
Dundas ..	3,560	1,167	1 6	2,742,640	137,132	10,897	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,680	1,150	1 0	1,450,740	122,537	10,381	612
East Loddon ..	1,820	548	1 9	1,211,600	60,580	5,930	271
Eltham ..	4,220	1,487	2 6	896,620	44,831	8,202	208
Euroa ..	3,960	1,136	1 6	1,404,620	70,231	8,170	321
Ferntree Gully ..	7,160	4,900	2 6	1,960,000	98,000	15,833	444
Flinders ..	4,840	5,200	1 9	1,267,700	63,385	8,429	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	4,800	3,338	2 0	1,242,600	62,130	21,020	213
Gisborne ..	2,420	714	1 9	653,200	32,660	4,801	168
Glenelg ..	5,560	1,643	1 6	2,504,180	125,209	12,264	591
Glenlyon ..	3,500	1,091	1 6	806,880	40,344	3,833	223
Gordon ..	3,200	875	1 6	1,057,240	52,862	5,867	365
Goulburn ..	2,220	615	1 0	764,100	38,205	4,642	172
Grenville ..	3,250	1,200	1 6	798,675	53,245	4,519	299
Hampden ..	10,650	2,350	2 0	6,195,380	309,769	47,432	370
Healesville ..	3,550	1,051	2 6	643,140	32,157	7,663	236
Heidelberg ..	17,420	10,400	1 6	4,268,500	213,425	58,297	245
Heytesbury ..	4,500	1,021	2 0	2,042,800	102,140	12,109	530
Huntly ..	3,140	1,010	1 6	993,980	49,654	4,760	198
Kara Kara ..	3,100	1,262	2 0	1,134,240	56,712	6,975	316
Karkaroc ..	5,600	1,481	1 6	2,997,020	149,851	14,444	469
Keilor ..	1,250	692	1 6	607,160	30,358	2,694	49
Kerang ..	8,100	1,984	1 3	3,735,660	186,783	32,246	494
Kilmore ..	1,820	540	2 0	205,730	20,573	3,986	136
Korong ..	4,950	1,550	1 6	2,019,780	100,989	9,170	321
Korumburra† ..	7,300	1,948	1 9	2,578,800	128,940	18,198	982
Kowree ..	3,400	1,237	1 6	1,368,096	85,506	8,667	430
Kyneton ..	8,000	2,150	1 6	1,695,800	84,790	14,497	365
Lawloit ..	2,230	636	1 9	753,060	50,204	5,463	196
Leigh ..	1,560	554	1 6	1,037,580	51,879	4,631	272
Lexton ..	1,850	619	1 6	825,900	41,290	4,318	198
Lilydale ..	9,700	3,860	2 3	2,528,040	126,402	20,012	395
Lloyd ..	3,700	1,300	1 6	1,924,980	96,249	13,087	296
Maffra ..	5,750	1,180	1 6	2,849,600	142,480	15,094	483
Maldon ..	3,160	1,110	1 6	711,360	35,568	3,877	185
Mansfield ..	4,050	1,336	2 0	1,275,960	63,798	11,039	542
Marong ..	5,900	1,386	1 7	2,036,960	101,848	8,707	454
Meton ..	1,450	429	1 9	845,200	42,260	4,373	145

* Levied on unimproved value of land. † Name changed from "Poowong and Jeetho" to "Korumburra," 16th October, 1922.

SHIRES, 1922-23—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1921-22.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Metcalf	2,700	1,045	s. d. 1 6	£ 765,640	£ 38,282	£ 3,420	£ 162
Mildura	8,260	1,700	2 6	1,931,140	96,557	21,668	184
Minhamite	1,920	650	1 0	1,631,460	81,573	8,759	321
Mirboo	1,600	400	2 0	516,200	25,810	4,011	355
Moorabbin	7,900	4,700	2 6	1,902,160	95,108	28,934	296
Mornington	2,300	1,107	2 3	592,600	29,630	6,910	114
Mortlake	3,000	797	1 6	3,557,200	177,860	11,957	346
Morwell	3,850	850	2 1	874,340	43,717	6,303	435
Mount Rouse	2,780	725	1 3	2,050,740	102,537	8,209	198
Mulgrave	3,500	2,063	2 6	895,360	44,768	6,200	221
McIvor	3,390	1,190	1 3	1,133,720	56,686	5,254	221
Narracan	7,000	1,365	2 0	2,000,000	100,000	13,587	920
Newham and Woodend	2,200	646	1 6	590,000	29,500	5,396	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	2,740	882	1 6	542,520	27,126	2,878	166
Numurkah	5,850	1,288	1 0	3,155,860	157,793	13,936	591
Nunawading	13,410	6,790	2 6	3,314,180	165,709	38,013	469
Omeo	2,420	803	2 3	882,600	44,130	6,223	836
Orbost	3,890	997	2 0	1,281,720	64,086	8,229	472
Otway	4,100	1,065	2 6	938,740	46,937	6,111	471
Oxley	4,050	1,001	1 6	1,438,540	71,927	5,802	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai	5,700	1,325	2 0	1,460,000	73,000	9,426	545
Portland	5,350	1,993	1 6	1,769,020	88,451	7,937	494
Pyalong	750	335	1 6	423,100	21,155	1,759	113
Ripon	3,500	1,200	2 0	1,835,800	91,790	8,988	221
Rochester	6,390	1,511	1 6	2,550,780	127,639	10,193	246
Rodney	7,600	1,742	1 6	3,173,520	158,676	15,685	432
Romsey	3,260	847	2 0	1,242,440	62,122	6,356	320
Rosedale	4,300	1,140	*0 1	2,840,000	142,000	8,054	537
Rutherglen	4,050	976	1 6	1,022,240	51,112	7,342	257
Seymour	3,880	979	1 6	1,008,100	50,405	9,826	420
Shepparton	7,900	1,752	1 6	2,640,780	132,039	15,567	469
South Barwon	3,200	1,735	2 6	872,600	43,630	6,870	137
South Gippsland	4,760	1,170	1 9	1,888,620	69,431	7,487	517
Stawell	3,400	1,250	1 6	2,020,000	101,000	6,251	308
Strathfieldsaye	3,420	1,006	2 0	502,300	25,115	3,349	137
Swan Hill	12,000	2,400	1 6	3,560,000	178,000	23,290	272
Talbot	1,420	550	1 4	462,000	23,100	2,632	134
Tambo	4,290	1,020	2 0	1,104,000	55,200	6,985	513
Towong	4,400	1,200	2 0	1,888,000	94,400	12,505	578
Traralgon	3,430	707	1 9	1,232,000	61,600	9,689	441
Tullaroop	2,860	950	1 3	569,100	37,940	2,736	206
Tungamah	4,600	1,587	1 0	2,560,500	128,025	9,223	444
Upper Murray	2,200	440	1 9	970,000	48,500	5,500	307
Upper Yarra	5,630	1,265	2 3	736,380	36,819	5,696	221
Violet Town	1,920	704	1 3	759,860	37,993	3,039	221
Walpeup	5,650	1,725	1 6	1,497,820	74,891	7,455	...
Wangaratta	2,450	902	1 6	680,060	34,003	3,805	146
Wannon	2,920	909	1 3	2,190,440	109,522	9,575	426
Waranga	5,490	1,842	1 6	1,648,000	82,400	8,567	370
Warragul	5,100	1,228	2 4	1,793,860	89,693	12,251	885
Warrnambool	8,400	1,610	1 3	4,402,600	220,130	29,756	678
Werribee	5,000	3,494	2 3	1,782,400	89,120	17,990	296
Whittlesea	3,550	1,010	1 9	1,440,000	72,000	6,373	226
Wimmera	4,300	1,075	1 0	2,396,280	119,814	8,437	360
Winchelsea	4,400	1,486	2 0	1,815,260	90,763	11,850	413
Wodonga	2,800	585	1 6	700,220	35,011	3,779	169
Woorayl	6,100	1,420	2 3	2,153,160	107,658	13,230	1,030
Wycheproof	4,290	1,254	1 6	2,064,600	103,230	12,045	328
Yackandandah	3,000	903	1 9	821,080	41,054	4,219	337
Yarrowonga	2,700	836	1 0	1,216,680	60,834	6,917	281
Yea	2,780	820	*0 2	1,175,100	58,755	6,874	377
Total	616,410	200,834	..	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,382,922	47,439

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Ratings in municipalities.

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

RATINGS IN MUNICIPALITIES, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
s. d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0 6	..	..	..	..	..	24	23	14	12	9
1 0	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
1 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2	1	1	..	..	..	41	27	16	9	9
1 3	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	3	1	1
1 4	..	..	..	..	..	43	50	60	55	53
1 6	5	4	3	..	..	3	3	..	..	1
1 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 8	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9	4	5	4	3	3	8	13	15	20	19
1 10	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..
2 0	10	5	7	6	7	9	11	19	19	26
2 1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
2 2	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
2 3	16	17	9	7	6	1	3*	1	6	7
2 4	5	5	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	1
2 5	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6	4	12	20	23	21	3	1	6	12	9
2 7	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 8	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 9	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
3 0	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	52	52	47	46	44	138	138	136	136	136

The figures in this table for 1920-21, 1921-22 and 1922-23 are exclusive of those for the municipalities which levied the rate for the years mentioned on the unimproved value of land.

The figures for the quinquennial period give an average rating of 2s. 2½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 6¼d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 8¼d. in the £ more than in the rural districts. It will be observed that no municipality imposed during the last five years the minimum rate allowed by law, viz., 6d., and that the maximum rate of 3s. in the £ was imposed by only one municipality.

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

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

**REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES,
1920 TO 1922.**

Sources of Revenue.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Taxation —	£	£	£
Rates	1,750,778	2,083,931	2,303,664
Licences	135,383	126,952	137,036
Dog Fees	22,575	23,682	24,316
Government Endowment and Grants	74,563	65,581	75,627
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	73,182	84,936	111,983
Market and Weighbridge Dues	87,845	91,448	99,485
Sanitary Charges	116,096	133,244	146,559
Rents	85,517	92,717	102,784
Electric Light and Gas Works	487,481	599,010	722,088
Other Sources	391,543	291,615	308,235
Total	3,224,963	3,593,116	4,031,777
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	246,851	284,158	319,430
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	306,775	345,834	363,706
Lighting	102,945	115,968	130,722
Contributions to Fire Brigades	39,637	46,512	48,526
Public Works—			
Construction	208,326	238,165	271,007
Maintenance	997,289	1,181,897	1,324,845
Electric Light and Gas Works	388,058	501,722	540,704
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	82,746	130,125	147,612
Redemption of Loans	128,664	133,786	136,090
Interest on Loans	264,147	276,065	305,289
Charities	25,031	29,468	26,436
Other Expenditure	313,650	315,085	332,067
Total	3,104,119	3,598,785	3,946,434

As compared with 1921, the revenue of 1922 increased by £438,661, as follows:—Rates increased by £219,733, licences by £10,084, sanitary charges by £13,315, rents by £10,067, dog fees by £634, electric light and gas works by £123,078, market and weighbridge dues by £8,037, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £27,047, Government endowment and grants by £10,046, and “other sources” by £16,620. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £347,649. All the items, except charities, showed increases as under:—Salaries, £35,272; sanitary work and street cleansing, £17,872; lighting, £14,754; contributions to fire brigades boards, £2,014; public works construction, £32,842; public works maintenance, £142,948; electric light and gas works, £38,982; formation of private streets, &c., £17,487; redemption of loans, £2,304; interest on loans, £29,224; and other expenditure, £16,982. The expenditure on charities decreased by £3,032.

Proportion of municipal revenue raised from different sources. Fifty-seven per cent. of municipal revenue in 1922 was derived from rates, 18 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, 1 per cent. from dog fees, 2 per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 3 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 4 per cent. from sanitary charges, 3 per cent. from rents, and 7 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1922 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £319,430, or about 8 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £26,436, or less than 1 per cent. of the revenue, was devoted to the local charities; the greater part of this disbursement was in aid of hospitals, benevolent asylums and associations, and orphan asylums.

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

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1920 TO 1922.

Assets.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	133,573	158,301	176,830
Other Assets	483,724	591,508	636,509
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit	489,332	523,834	430,689
Arrears Due	3,098	483	511
Unexpended Balances	221,405	331,561	442,360
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c.	2,993,337	3,117,266	3,254,042
Waterworks	270,147	256,169	253,520
Gasworks	117,704	123,454	129,020
Electric Light Works... ..	1,084,555	1,340,261	1,549,966
Total Assets	5,796,875	6,442,837	6,873,447
Liabilities.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	85,368	102,191	88,936
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	3,098	483	511
Overdue Interest	7,091	5,379	6,026
Bank Overdrafts	442,326	542,462	858,733
Other Liabilities	281,675	352,518	389,340
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	5,192,069	5,595,614	5,714,570
Due on Loan Contracts	220,188	158,009	177,755
Total Liabilities	6,231,815	6,756,656	7,235,871

Municipal assets and liabilities compared.

The total of the assets of municipalities in 1922 was £6,873,447, and of the liabilities £7,235,871. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,343,546, against which there were assets amounting to £813,339. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £5,892,325, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £5,018,765. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c., (£5,186,548), there would be a surplus of £167,783.

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

Endowment of municipalities.

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

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

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The number of municipalities which levied the general rate on the new system was 8 for 1920-21, 10 for 1921-22 and 12 for 1922-23.

The following table gives for these municipalities particulars of the capital value of land (improved and unimproved), the annual improved value, the rating, &c., for the year 1922-23:—

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1922-23.

Municipality.	Capital Improved Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Value.	Amount Collectable in 1923 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	7,162,895	2,337,286	448,532	0 6	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	58,432	32·6
Camberwell City ..	8,121,540	3,177,678	423,126	0 4	2 6	52,961	39·1
Carrum Borough ..	1,386,363	742,279	68,261	0 2 $\frac{3}{4}$*	..	..	53·5
Caulfield City ..	12,235,577	4,345,721	660,702	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	81,482	35·5
Coburg City ..	3,840,400	1,354,535	192,020	0 4	2 4	22,576	35·2
Essendon City ..	7,317,974	2,318,650	364,329	0 5	2 9	48,305	31·7
Newtown and Chilwell Borough ..	1,486,020	437,831	77,810	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7	10,034	29·5
Oakleigh Borough ..	1,596,299	608,802	71,238	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6	8,878	43·6
Portland Borough ..	517,040	212,169	25,852	0 4	2 9	3,536	41·0
Dandenong Shire ..	1,760,000	780,000	88,000	0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$†	..	..	44·3
Rosedale Shire ..	2,840,000	1,535,000	142,000	0 1	0 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,396	54·0
Yea Shire ..	1,175,100	534,788	58,755	0 2	1 6	4,457	45·5

* In addition there is an extra rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ in the Centre Ward.

† In addition, there are extra rates of 2d. in the Centre Riding, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the South Riding.

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920 AND 1922.

An Act (No. 3088) to provide dwellings for eligible persons, and for the reclamation and improvement of insanitary, low-lying or overcrowded areas was passed by the State Parliament on 24th December, 1920. An amending Act (No. 3249) was passed on 21st December, 1922. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house in Victoria and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year.

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.

Power is given to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank to acquire land and to erect dwelling-houses thereon, the capital cost to the Commissioners of any dwelling-house, together with the land on which it is erected, not to exceed £850 if the dwelling-house is of wood, or £950 if it is of brick, stone or concrete.

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

When the purchaser has paid 20 per cent. of the purchase money and the amount due by him up to that time by way of instalments he may, if he so desires, execute a mortgage of the property in favour of the Commissioners. Payments in respect of purchase money are to be made in equal weekly, fortnightly, or monthly instalments in accordance with the contract of sale or mortgage entered into, but the period of repayment is not to exceed 28 years. Advances not exceeding £650 may be made by the Commissioners upon the security of any land upon which a dwelling-house is about to be erected or upon which a dwelling-house has within six months before the application for the advance been erected.

Power is given to make additions, improvements and renovations to dwelling-houses, provided that the unpaid balance, together with the amount expended, does not exceed £850 if the dwelling-house is of wood or £950 if it is of brick, stone, or concrete.

The Commissioners may agree with any farmer, whether or not such farmer is an eligible person under the provisions of section 2 of the Principal Act (that of 1920), to provide a dwelling-house for farm labourers employed by him.

ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Part XXVI. of the *Local Government Act 1915* dealing with the erection of "workers' dwellings" by municipalities is repealed, but power is given to a municipality to purchase or take compulsorily any land in the municipal district regarded as suitable for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon for persons of small means. Power is also given to erect or purchase dwelling-houses at a cost not exceeding £850 if the dwelling-house is of wood, or £950 if it is of brick, stone, or concrete, including the cost of the land. These may be sold by the municipality to eligible persons under conditions similar to those existing in the case of the sales by the Savings Bank Commissioners referred to above. They may also be let upon such terms as the council of the municipality thinks fit. Sub-letting by tenants is not permitted.

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

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

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

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowers the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is to

be paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,250, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £900 (Act No. 3255).

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

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

Finance. For the purpose of making permanent works, power was given to the Governor in Council to issue stock or debentures to the amount of £400,000 a year for five years, and the principal and interest were made a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. The money so raised was to be placed to the credit of an account called "The Country Roads Board Loan Account," which has been debited with all payments made by the Treasurer towards the cost of permanent works. A further sum of £500,000 was made available under Act No. 3057, passed in September, 1920, to be raised in the two financial years 1920-21 and 1921-22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum, and again by Act No. 3137 an additional sum of £500,000 has been made available for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922. A sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum on half the amount borrowed is authorized to be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue until half the amount borrowed is redeemed. The total cost of the works, in the first instance, is paid by the Treasury, but subsequently half the amount expended is refunded by the municipalities affected. In the case of expenditure on permanent works an annual payment to the Treasurer of six per cent. on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, and the cost of maintenance allocated to each municipality must be paid out of the municipal fund before the 1st July in each year. A special rate not to exceed 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of rateable property, to meet the cost of permanent works, may be levied in any ward or riding of a municipality as the council may direct. In the event of default of payment by a municipality the board may levy a rate to meet the amount owing. For maintenance works an annual payment of £50,000 to the Country Roads Board Fund from the Consolidated Revenue is provided for by Act No. 2986, and power is given to reduce contri-

butions of the municipalities in respect to the maintenance of main roads where the Board is satisfied that the cost of maintenance is excessive and that such cost is due to motor traffic not of local origin or to timber traffic. All fees and fines paid under the Motor Car Act, all moneys standing to the credit of the Municipal Fees and Fines Trust Fund, all fees paid on the registration or renewal of the registration of traction engines, and all fees received by the Crown after the 30th June, 1912, under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act 1903* (incorporated in the *Local Government Act 1915*) are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund.

Since the appointment of the Board in March, 1913, the members have inspected the principal highways throughout the State. Every Shire Council and Borough Council with which the Board is likely to have dealings relating to the construction or maintenance of roads declared main roads under the Act has been interviewed and the provisions of the Act have been explained to it. A system for the continuous maintenance of all main roads has been evolved, by which it is hoped that those that are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those that are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1921-22 constructional work to the value of £288,937, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £267,969, were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1922, for permanent works was £2,466,145, and for developmental roads £1,685,208.

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

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

Realizing that a scheme for dealing with the principal arteries of traffic only, in a young country that needed development, was inadequate, the Government in 1918 provided a further sum of £500,000 for a system of subsidiary or developmental roads (Act No. 2944). This sum was subsequently increased to £2,000,000 by Act No. 2985, and by an additional amount, not exceeding £2,000,000 by Act No. 3255. Under this scheme the State provides the whole of the money and makes provision out of State funds for liquidating the liability. The municipalities are required, however, to bear a proportion of the interest on the outlay during the period of the loan, and to maintain the roads when constructed. The amount expended under Acts Nos. 2944 and 2985 during the year ended 30th June, 1922, was £627,093.

**Registration
of motors,
&c.**

**Developmental
roads.**

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1922 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1921-1922.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance, 30th June, 1921	10,978	13 6	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c. ...	5,142	1 3
Fees	3,409	12 6	Incidental Expenses ...	10,703	17 11
Fines	6,347	11 7	Annual payment to municipalities ...	66,312	0 0
Sale of confiscated liquor	45	11 11	Compensation ...	55,270	0 0
Spirit Merchants and Grocers ...	28,725	3 2	Electric Lift ...	1,094	4 0
Victuallers ...	237,865	8 10	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855 ...	23,000	0 0
Temporary ...	3,871	12 0	Transferred to Investment Account ...	142,000	0 0
Railway Refreshment Rooms ...	2,736	15 6	Balance £301,714 10 0		
Packet ...	110	2 0	Deduct		
Australian Wine ...	5,019	9 0	Investments		
Billiard-table ...	4,182	11 8	in Stock 288,000 0 0		
Brewers ...	198	10 6		13,714	10 0
Vignerons ...	85	0 0			
Club certificates ...	6,327	1 0			
Permits—Extra Bars ...	970	0 0			
" Extended Hours ...	792	10 0			
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court ...	24	17 0			
Interest ...	5,445	0 0			
Cost of taking Poll ...	100	0 0			
Sale of Rolls ...	1	3 0			
Total ...	£317,236	13 2	Total ...	£317,236	13 2

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1921-22 a sum of £66,312 out of the Licensing Fund under Acts Nos. 2683, 2855, and 2995, this being the equivalent for (1) fees for licences; (2) fees for the registration of brewers and spirit merchants; and (3) fines, penalties,

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

EQUIVALENT FOR LICENCE FEES, ETC., 1921-22.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Cities	31,968	0	0
„ Towns	160	0	0
„ Boroughs	7,968	0	0
„ Shires—			
1st Class	228	0	0
2nd „	10,888	0	0
3rd „	9,484	0	0
4th „	767	0	0
5th „	3,188	0	0
6th „	1,209	0	0
Total	65,860	0	0
Add payments on account of 1920-21	816	0	0
Deduct unpaid accounts of 1921-22	364	0	0
Amount paid in 1921-22	66,312	0	0

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Municipal indebtedness. The total loan indebtedness of the municipalities at the end of the financial year 1921-22 was £5,714,570, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1922.

		Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
		£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...	1,105,282	3,535,611
Shires	... ..	179,444	894,233
Total	... ..	1,284,726	4,429,844

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

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1922.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	651,570	146,106	797,676
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	289,489	61,872	351,361
Expenditure during the year	554,269	152,408	706,677
Balance unexpended at the end of 1922 ...	386,790	55,570	442,360

Municipal loan expenditure, 1918 to 1922. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1922 amounted to £706,677, of which £554,269 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £152,408 by shires. The following return shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1918	149,860	190,184
1919	162,602	194,627
1920	275,708	259,498
1921	572,851	504,016
1922	797,676	706,677

Loans raised
by municipa-
lities,
1922.

The loan receipts for the year 1921-22 amounted to £797,676, of which £4,367 was obtained from the Government. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1921-22 was £442,360—£386,790 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £55,570 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars:—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1922.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS—	£	£	£
Ararat	4,000	..
Bendigo	41
Brighton	1,350
Brunswick	2,000	..	5,168
Camberwell	21,721
Carrum	6,680	1,375
Caulfield	43,000	45,024
Coburg	15,500	3,800
Collingwood	817
Creswick	300	..	..
Essendon	10,000	2,192
Fitzroy	1,517
Geelong	33,000	5,423
Geelong West	874
Hawthorn	8,000	21,485
Kew	12,590
Malvern	15,000	11,831
Maryborough	365
Melbourne	311,464*	125,000
Mordialloc	3,400	551
Mildura	9,876	3,091
Northcote	32,600	978
Oakleigh	1,500	383
Portland	367
Port Fairy	1,750	..
Port Melbourne	1,211
Prahran	80,000	61,094
Preston	10,000	2,037
Queenscliffe	126
Richmond	8,500	21,683
Sale	6,000	3,101
Sandringham	9,000	6,152
South Melbourne	2,038
St. Arnaud	1,500	..
St. Kilda	20,000	4,911
Wangaratta	6,500	2,785
Warrnambool	12,000	12,398
Williamstown	3,311
Total	2,300	649,270	386,790

* Of this amount, £46,725 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, £4,516 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £260,223 from a bank overdraft, to Loan Account.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1922—continued.

	Loans from—		Unexpended Balance of Loan Moneys.
	Government.	Public.	
	£	£	£
SHIRES—			
Bacchus Marsh	1,000	..
Benalla	15,000	9,627
Berwick	400	..
Bet Bet	66
Braybrook	5,000	1,908
Bright	1,381
Colac	940
Corio	976
Dandenong	3,200	3,628
Dunmunkle	6,500	..
Eltham	4,000	1,462
Ferntree Gully	12,500	11,541
Flinders	5,000	..
Frankston and Hastings	10,000	..
Gleneig	673	..	..
Healesville	1,500	..
Heidelberg	26,339	8,311
Huntly	930
Kerang	5,000	1,756
Kilmore	1,000	..
Korong	214	..	..
Kyneton	14,600	1,318
Lillydale	4,000	547
Maffra	1,000	425
Mansfield	5,000	417
Melton	200
Mornington	2,700	77
Nunawading	15,000	912
Otway	3,000	..
Rochester	353
Shepparton	4,300
South Barwon	305
Tungamah	28
Walpeup	462
Wangaratta	87
Wannon	42
Whittlesea	748
Winchelsea	1,354
Yea	1,180	2,300	1,469
Total	2,067	144,039	55,570

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL LOANS REDEMPTION FUND.

Under the provisions of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918*, No. 2995, a redemption fund was established at the State Treasury, into which the surplus revenue accumulations of the Tramway Board, the municipalities' sinking funds held by the State Treasurer, and annual contributions (in most cases for twenty years) from the metropolitan municipalities concerned were made payable. The greater portion of the loan indebtedness of these municipalities was made a charge against this fund. The liability of the fund includes payments by the municipalities under the *Municipal Loans Act 1915*, No. 2591, and the *Municipalities' Loans Extension Act 1898*, No. 1552, except interest to date of discharge. The repayment of the principal of certain other municipal loans (except those of the City of Melbourne) raised from the public, but excluding loans expended on tramways, gas works, electric light works, and markets, is also to be made from the fund. The liabilities and assets of the fund at the date of its establishment are shown in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, pages 206 and 207.

The receipts and expenditure of this fund to the 30th June, 1922, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1922.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1921-22.	To 30th June, 1922.		1921-22.	To 30th June, 1922.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1921 .. ..	..	..	Payment to the Treasurer of Victoria in reduction of the municipalities' liabilities for loan advances under—		
From the Tramway Fund .. ..	..	480,808	Act No. 1552 .. ..	..	309,138
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 2995 .. ..	..	170,512	Act No. 2591 .. ..	..	295,042
From the Tramway Board — Surplus moneys, Act No. 3023 .. ..	..	60,680	*Redemption of Municipal Loans—		
From the Tramway Board — Moneys recovered .. ..	..	115,060	Debentures matured ..	49,494	343,695
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,983	211,929	Redeemable in instalments ..	6,852	61,443
Stock realized ..	16,639	83,704	Ordinary loans	13,276	95,310
Other receipts ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1552 and 2591 ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund .. ..	..	4,372
			Sundries .. ..	..	10
			Balance, 30th June, 1922 ..	..	..
Total	69,622	1,122,933	Total	69,622	1,122,933

* Act No. 2995, section 71, sub-section 5, provides for redemptions being temporarily charged to the public account when moneys are not available in the Fund. The amount so charged at 30th June, 1922, was £167,534.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

City of Melbourne, revenue and expenditure under various heads. Particulars of the receipts and expenditure for 1922 of the City of Melbourne are given in the statement hereunder.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount.
Rates—	£
General	282,128
Lighting	23,587
Licences—	
Publicans'—Equivalent for—From Licensing Act	9,876
Abattoirs—Slaughtering Dues and Meat Supervision Fees	43,429
Drays, Hackney Carriages, Trams, and Motors	86
Other Licences	622
Fees under Dog Act	695
Baths	5,996
Market and Weighbridge Fees	58,184
Lighting—Sale of Electric Current and Rent of Meters, &c.	382,121
Closet and Street Cleansing Charges	9,061
Fines and Costs	3,838
Rents—	
Markets and Weighbridges	38,529
Town Hall Premises and Rooms	8,302
Other	4,962
Interest on Fixed Deposits, &c.	127
Miscellaneous—	
Desiccators—Sale of Manure	13,300
Fees under Building Act	2,575
Sundries	17,805
Total	905,223

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount.
Salaries (including clerical assistance, expenses of audit, collection of statistics, making valuation, and commissions paid in lieu of salaries, &c.)	£ 46,508
Allowance to Lord Mayor	1,500
Closet Cleansing	854
Street Cleansing, &c.	66,810
Lighting—Electric and Gas	25,319
Fire Brigades Board—Contribution	10,173
Public Works—Maintenance—	
Roads and Bridges	136,488
Markets and Weighbridges	27,317
Public Buildings (including Abattoirs, Baths, &c.)	62,354
Parks and Planting trees in streets	38,989
Payments under provisions of the Tramway Act No. 2995	2,258
Interest on Loans from the Public	106,334
Sinking Funds—Loans from the Public	17,177
Electric Supply—Maintenance, &c.	273,159
Expenses of paying Interest on Loans	1,413
Interest on Bank Overdrafts	5,648
Contributions to Charitable Institutions	2,039

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1922—*continued.*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued.</i>		Amount.
		£
Contributions to Infectious Diseases Hospital		7,062
" " Heatherton Sanatorium		1,017
Law Costs		715
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery		4,143
Miscellaneous—		
Rat Destruction		1,192
Gas Conference		177
Fees—Dog Act		662
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums		3,313
Elections		202
Influenza Epidemic		41
Band Performances		1,340
Lady Talbot Milk Institute, &c.		1,000
Ceremonials		1,593
Ambulance Service		500
Superannuation Fund Contribution		1,112
Retiring Allowance to Employees		334
Sundries		4,175
Total		852,918

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1922, about 34 per cent. was derived from rates, 42 per cent. from the sale of electric light, 6 per cent. from the rental of city property—chiefly markets and shops—6 per cent. from market and weighbridge fees, 6 per cent. from licences, and 6 per cent. from other sources. For public works maintenance, such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 31 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 13 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 2 per cent.; for electric supply, 32 per cent.; for lighting, 3 per cent.; for street cleansing, 8 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 6 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY GUARANTEE FUND.

**Municipal
Officers'
Guarantee
Fund.**

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

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

More than the required number of municipalities agreed to co-operate, and the fund was inaugurated on 1st January, 1908. Its operation was, at first, restricted by the association to guarantees in respect of municipal officers, but the rules have been altered, and since 1st October, 1914, they have permitted of guarantees being obtained by any waterworks authority or Weights and Measures Union; such authority or union is required, however, to make a preliminary payment into capital account. The premium revenue for the year ended 30th September, 1914, in respect of guarantees amounting to £198,320, was £1,115, but, under the reduced scale of premiums which came into force on 1st October of that year, guarantees for the year ended 30th September, 1922, amounting to £243,290, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £815. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1922, was £10,755. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1922, amounted to £2,545.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

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

On 31st December, 1912, an Act was passed by the State Parliament which altered the constitution of the Trust. For seventeen commissioners, of whom six were appointed by the municipalities concerned, three by the owners of ships registered at Melbourne, three by merchants and traders paying wharfage rates, and five by the Governor in Council, there were substituted five commissioners to be appointed by the Governor in Council. Of the commissioners other than the chairman, one must be an owner of ships registered at some British port and trading at Melbourne, one a person engaged in the business of an exporter by sea of Victorian produce, and one an importer by sea of goods into Victoria, and one must be identified with primary production in Victoria. The chairman's salary is not to exceed £1,500; and the attendance fees of the other commissioners are fixed at £2 2s. per meeting, not more than £250 to be paid to

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

any of these commissioners in any one year. The borrowing power of the Trust is £3,000,000, and the amount of loans outstanding on 31st December, 1922, was £2,563,041. The following are particulars of the ordinary receipts and ordinary and capital expenditure for each of the last five years:—

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE: 1918 TO 1922.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	259,175	255,234	310,805	415,737	510,240
Rents	30,678	33,740	35,238	37,445	37,449
Interest	123	193	45	43	80
Other Revenue	33,233	43,453	41,885	45,148	50,836
	323,209	332,620	387,973	498,373	598,605
<i>Less</i> Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	62,305	62,460	75,554	96,224	114,986
Total	260,904	270,160	312,419	402,149	483,619
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	30,568	31,622	31,802	36,882	40,502
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses	5,404	12,455	300	30,140	35
Maintenance—Dredging	15,279	47,382	71,017	78,689	90,129
" Harbor	1,982	2,418	3,721	3,814	3,183
" Wharfs	11,778	17,121	19,018	23,383	21,475
" Approaches	6,667	10,845	11,391	14,526	11,264
Interest on Loans*	87,190	94,698	96,961	104,342	131,516
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund	52,000	52,500	52,500	65,000	100,000
Total	210,868	269,041	286,710	356,776	398,104
Surplus on Revenue Account	50,036	1,119	25,709	45,373	85,515
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	1,153	964	3,221	2,461	11,906
Deepening Waterways	108,037	68,746	80,720	81,699	98,331
Wharfs Construction	37,321	77,305	50,084	79,206	45,613
Approaches Construction	11,417	3,774	2,364	1,565	9,084
Other Harbor Improvements	7,352	3,068	2,936	14,099	25,311
Floating Plant	811	1,435	834	2,957	1,708
General Plant	130	509	883	1,131	925
Total	166,221	155,801	141,042	183,118	192,878

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	9,988	13,004	12,772	17,415	21,737
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	5,488	5,125	4,237	4,189	4,363
Sparrovale Farm ..	7,042	7,403	9,375	8,789	7,852
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	15,180	20,999	19,548	15,042	16,752
Other Revenue ..	4,919	1,682	4,088	4,200	3,530
Total ..	42,617	48,213	50,020	49,635	54,234
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses ..	6,251	6,381	7,765	7,909	7,856
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	1,336	670	3,393	2,733	2,325
" Harbor ..	613	701	493	874	505
" Floating Plant ..	1,202	1,204	278	467	710
" Other ..	1,393	1,397	1,972	1,213	925
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund ..	27,595	27,755	25,540	25,501	25,087
Sparrovale Farm ..	4,869	4,894	6,511	6,507	5,768
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs ..	1,209	2,845	3,383	3,451	3,240
Corio Quay Power-house ..	3,557	9,826	10,109	3,755	4,377
Miscellaneous ..	753	533	1,181	1,194	1,274
Total ..	48,778	56,206	60,625	53,604	52,067
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property ..	21,965	22,911	16,896	5,707	8,541
Deepening Waterworks ..	..	..	..	..	..
Wharfs and Approaches Construction ..	314	270	113	135	115
Other Harbor Improvements ..	71	..	..	..	..
Floating and General Plant ..	..	48	260	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	22,350	23,229	17,269	5,842	8,656

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

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

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

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

Functions of the Board. The functions of the Board are to control and manage the Metropolitan water supply system, including water-sheds, reservoirs, weirs, aqueducts, pipes, &c.; to provide the metropolis with an efficient system of sewerage and drainage; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and other public streams and water-courses within the metropolis. The primary object of the creation of the Board was to provide the sewerage system mentioned, which, prior to the establishment of the Board, was a long-called for and pressing want.

Area under Board's control, and population. Under the provisions of section 71 of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1915*, and with the consent of the Governor in Council, on 14th December, 1920, the land within 13 miles of the General Post Office was included in the metropolis for water supply and sewerage purposes (*vide Victoria Government Gazette*, 22nd December, 1920). This land has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres), and on 31st December, 1922, comprised 21 cities, 1 town, and part of another, 1 borough, and parts of 13 shires, or 37 municipalities in all. The whole of the town of Mordialloc and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board also exercises control (under Orders in Council) for these purposes over a portion of certain other municipalities outside the 13-mile radius, and supplies water to the Metropolitan Farm at Werribee, the Outfall Sewer area, and elsewhere. Various other shires also arrange with it for bulk supplies of water. The total estimated population supplied with water on 31st December, 1922, was 842,178.

**Board's
borrowing
powers and
liability on
loans.**

The Board is authorized to borrow £11,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for carrying out the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

The liability for Government loans on 30th June, 1922, was £938,182, and for loans raised by the Board, £12,580,310, a portion of the latter amount having been applied in repayment of Government loans falling due. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £621,442 before reaching the limit of its borrowing powers.

WATER SUPPLY FINANCE.

**Water supply
assessments
and rates.**

By Act of Parliament the rate to be paid in respect of any lands and houses for the supply of water for domestic purposes, otherwise than by measure, is limited to an amount not exceeding 8d. in the pound on the annual valuation of the lands and houses served. The water rate levied in the year 1921-22 was 6d. in the pound on the annual value of property served. Assessments of £20 and under are charged a minimum rate of 10s. per annum. There is a charge of 1s. per 1,000 gallons for water supplied by meter, with the assessed rate as a minimum. For shipping at Melbourne wharfs the charge is 3s. per 1,000 gallons, and at special berths at Melbourne wharfs, with fixed meters, it is 1s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons.

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

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

**Assessed
value of
property.**

The total annual value of property assessed for water supply purposes and liable to water rates was £9,682,391 in 1921-22, and £10,948,582 in 1922-23.

**Water rate
receipts.**

In 1921-22 the water rate receipts were as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Water rate (including arrears)	..	226,560	5	4
Meters	..	180,801	8	9
Special rates	..	3,757	4	9
Total	..	£411,118	18	10

**Revenue and
expenditure
of water
supply
system.**

The total revenue was £438,399, as against £407,093 in the previous year. The cost in 1921-22 of maintenance and management was £86,925, and the amount paid in interest was £196,746, the total charge being £283,671, as compared with a payment in 1920-21 of £78,755 for maintenance

and management, and of £173,550 for interest, or a total charge of £252,305.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system. The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1922, was as follows:—

Original water supply station, &c.	..	..	..	..	£84,885
Yan Yean system	..	..	..	..	636,128
Maroondah system	..	..	..	..	918,489
O'Shanassy system	..	..	..	..	499,962
Service reservoirs	..	..	..	..	283,639
Large mains..	..	..	..	..	1,291,289
Reticulation	..	..	..	..	1,676,528
Total	..	..	..	..	<u>£5,390,920</u>

DESCRIPTION OF WATER WORKS.

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

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

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

YAN YEAN SYSTEM.

Yan Yean system. The Yan Yean watershed embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, 12,000 acres; Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 12,000 acres; and the catchment areas of Yan Yean Reservoir, 5,000 acres, totalling 29,000 acres. The water is collected

into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yean Reservoir, where it is stored. This reservoir is an artificial lake situated 22 miles from the city in a northerly direction, and 602 feet above sea level. It is formed by the construction of an earthen bank, 49 chains long, 30 feet high, and 20 feet wide on top, with a slope next the water of three to one and an outside slope of two to one. The reservoir when full covers an area of 1,360 acres, or $2\frac{1}{8}$ square miles, with a maximum depth of 26 feet, and an average depth of 18 feet. The maximum depth of water in the reservoir in 1922 was 26 feet on 9th November, and the minimum depth 21ft. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. on 28th April. Its total capacity is 6,400,000,000 gallons, of which 5,400,000,000 gallons are available for consumption. In the year ended 31st December, 1922, the total intake of the Reservoir was 4,636,739,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,387,402,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

High-level system.

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

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

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

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

O'Shanassy and Upper Yarra watershed.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1922.

Output of Water. The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1922 was as follows:—

	Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	4,387,402,000
„ Maroondah Streams	8,213,696,000
„ O'Shanassy River	5,053,601,000
Total Output	17,654,699,000

Storage and service reservoirs. There are two storage and thirteen service reservoirs, and it is proposed to have three other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1922 was 817,127, and the average daily consumption was 59.17 gallons per head. Some districts are supplied outside the Board's sewerage area. The total consumption and average consumption per day are shown hereunder for each month of the year 1922:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1922.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	1,849,907,000	59,674,419
February	1,746,232,000	62,365,428
March	1,672,911,000	53,964,871
April	1,476,564,000	49,218,800
May	1,268,609,000	40,922,870
June	1,155,250,000	38,508,333
July	1,193,323,000	38,494,290
August	1,228,586,000	39,631,806
September	1,222,820,000	40,760,667
October	1,369,074,000	44,163,677
November	1,609,671,000	53,655,700
December	1,855,170,000	59,844,193
Total for the year	17,648,117,000	...
Daily average for the year .. ..	...	48,351,005

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1922 occurred on 12th February of that year, when 82,140,000 gallons were used.

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

DAILY AVERAGE QUANTITY OF WATER CONSUMED IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1913 TO 1922.

Year.	Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses supplied with Water to 30th June.	Number of Houses for which Sewers were provided to 30th June.	Daily Average of Annual Consumption of Water to 31st December.	No. of Gallons of Water per Head Daily.
				Gallons.	
1913 ...	628,430	140,351	125,103	41,642,926	66·27
1914 ...	651,000	147,442	131,168	40,778,844	62·64
1915 ...	674,000	150,825	138,108	36,567,614	54·73
1916 ...	713,957	155,208	143,737	36,910,680	53·68
1917 ...	727,196	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	744,018	161,743	151,622	40,835,819	57·00
1919 ...	759,212	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	784,530	170,550	158,735	45,187,536	59·81
1921 ...	787,160	177,998	161,955	47,135,608	59·88
1922 ...	817,127	184,453	166,871	48,351,005	59·17

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 6,455 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1922.

SEWERAGE FINANCE.

In 1891 the annual value of rateable property within the area then to be sewered was £6,866,313, of which about £1,000,000 related to vacant lands. The collapse of the land boom was followed by a heavy shrinkage in the value of rateable property. A recovery in values has since taken place, and the total of the sewerage assessments for 1922-23 was £11,063,519, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £ in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1921-22 was 11d. in the £ in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 11d. rate was £9,107,966 in 1921-22.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1921-22 amounted to £430,494.

The sewerage revenue for 1921-22 was £441,516, as against £411,177 in the previous year. The outlay in 1921-22 for management, working expenses and repairs was £121,045, and for interest £422,295, the total charges being £543,340, compared with an outlay in 1920-21 of £119,304 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £378,023 for interest, or a total expenditure of £497,327.

Sewerage assessments, rates, and receipts.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan sewerage system. The cost of sewerage works and house connexions up to 30th June, 1922, was £8,322,790, divided as follows:—

Farm purchase and preparation	£611,856
Outfall sewer and rising mains	436,898
Pumping station buildings and engines	272,536
Main and branch sewers	2,238,685
Street reticulation	2,589,493
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,188,624
House connexions branches	491,617
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	493,081
	<hr/>
Cost of sewerage system	£8,322,790
Householders' debts for house connexions	141,075
River improvements	3,977
	<hr/>
Total	£8,467,842
	<hr/>

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

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

On 31st December, 1922, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon, Nunawading and Sandringham. The sewerage system was nearly completed in the municipalities of:—Brighton, Caulfield, Footscray,

Malvern, and the thickly populated portions of Brunswick, Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston, and Williamstown. Considerable progress had been made in the municipality of Heidelberg and a small portion of Oakleigh had also been completed.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1922, work was carried out principally in Brunswick, Caulfield, Coburg, Heidelberg, Malvern, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Carnegie branch sewer, Malvern, and the Camberwell South branch sewer and Golf Links branch, Camberwell, have been constructed to meet the requirements of new reticulation areas. Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brunswick, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Hawthorn, Malvern, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown. Reticulation extensions have been carried out principally in Caulfield, Malvern, Essendon, Brighton, Camberwell, and Northcote, and, in a lesser degree, in Brunswick, Heidelberg, Hawthorn, Kew, Preston, Sandringham, and St. Kilda.

Work in Progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Section 14 of the Hobson's Bay Main, Sandringham; Section 5 of the Moonee Ponds main, Essendon, Brunswick and Coburg, and of the Five Mile Creek branch, Coburg and Essendon, are now being constructed. Reticulation contracts are being carried out in Brunswick, Camberwell, Caulfield, Footscray, and Northcote, and day labour reticulation work is proceeding in Caulfield and Coburg, while contract and day labor extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Brighton, Camberwell, Malvern, Sandringham, St. Kilda, and other municipalities.

In all $1,597\frac{11}{16}$ miles of reticulation and $169\frac{3}{8}$ miles of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of $1,767\frac{1}{16}$ miles.

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

Number of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st Decr., 1922.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1922, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 171,125, including 229 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1921-22, 6,705 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 4,916 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1922 :—

NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1922.

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1922.
Melbourne City	27,447
South Melbourne City	10,967
Prahran City	12,324
Fitzroy City	8,127
Richmond City	10,520
St. Kilda City	8,537
Collingwood City	8,645
Footscray City	7,178
Hawthorn City	7,057
Brunswick City	9,985
Essendon City	8,185
Malvern City	7,516
Caulfield City	9,963
Northcote City	6,881
Camberwell City	4,212
Brighton City	4,738
Port Melbourne City	3,061
Williamstown City	3,912
Kew City	3,510
Coburg City	2,597
Preston Town	1,570
Sandringham City (part of)	1,537
Oakleigh Borough	327
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	2,035
Nunawading Shire (part of)	294
Total	171,125

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

PUMPING STATION.

When collected at Spotswood the two systems are dealt with in separate buildings, and are arranged to be worked either separately or unitedly. The sewage enters the pumping station at a level of 45 feet below low-water mark through straining wells, one of which is established on each system. The wells are of 22 feet internal diameter, and each contains two straining cages, one of which is always in position. Most of the solid *debris* and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, and is transferred to a drier.

**Pumping
station.**

This is in the building over the wells, where it is subject to steam pressure, and, consequently, to a high temperature, which renders the material innocuous. The material from the drier is of no manurial value, and is carted away. There are ten steam pumping engines installed, of about 300 horse-power each, which are together capable of pumping a maximum of 80,000,000 gallons of sewage daily. In addition to these there are two electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, each of 18,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 116,000,000 gallons daily. The sewage—relieved of the bulk of the solids in suspension—is raised by the pumps. The average difference in pumping levels is from 40 feet below low-water mark at the pumping station, to 67 feet above low-water mark at the head of the outfall sewer at Brooklyn. The total equivalent head, however—including friction—is taken to be 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. and one 4-ft. wrought-iron and mild steel rising mains—the three lengths running side by side, each 2.794 miles long (an aggregate length of 8.38 miles). From Brooklyn it gravitates to the Metropolitan Sewage Farm at Werribee in a partly-open and partly-closed channel 16 miles long, of 11 feet diameter, and having a grade of 2 feet to the mile. The full capacity of the outfall sewer is 18,000 cubic feet a minute.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE FARM.

Sewage farm. The purification of the sewage of Melbourne and Suburbs is effected by filtration and aeration through the natural soil of the Sewage Farm, which contains 13,218 acres 3 roods 16½ perches of land situated about 24 miles south-west of Melbourne and 4 miles south-west of the township of Werribee in open plain country, and had an average annual rainfall to 31st December, 1922, of 18.08 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a long frontage to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River), to which the land gradually slopes from the north, the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the rising main at Brooklyn is, as has been mentioned, 67 feet above low-water mark, and the sewage flows by gravitation from there to the farm, a distance of 16 miles, where the point of delivery is 37.25 feet above low-water mark.

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

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of about half-an-acre each, and commanded by distributing drains to facilitate rapid flooding. The sewage is distributed by means of main

carriers and drains which run parallel, north to south, through the farm half-a-mile apart, and sub-carriers and drains which branch east and west every 10 chains. The filtered sewage is discharged into the bay by a series of main effluent channels running parallel, north and south, through the farm.

Of the area under irrigation in the year 1921-22, 174 acres were sown with maize for grain, 180 acres of lucerne were cut for hay, and 7,772 acres were available for grazing live stock.

Notwithstanding the large quantity of sewage water required to be put on the pastures summer and winter alike, the effective filtration of which must be the Board's first consideration, a considerable profit is derived from the farming and grazing operations. The principal sources of revenue are from breeding of beef cattle, fattening of sheep and cattle, and grazing of horses on agistment. The transactions in sheep and cattle for the year 1921-22 were— from sheep, profit £367; from cattle, loss £1,885. The revenue from agistment (principally horses) was £3,024.

The following are particulars of the sales of produce for the year ended 30th June, 1922:—Lucerne (chaff and hay), £1,659; maize, £4,426; wheat, oats, and barley, £856; other, £69. Total, £7,010.

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1921-22, or as at 30th June, 1922, are as follows:—

Total area of farm	13,219 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1921-22 = in gallons	39,235,506
= 144·53 acre-feet per day = 6·518 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 8,094 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1922 ..	£611,856
Loss on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm ..	£4,837
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £15,758 working expenses of sewage disposal, £28,711, interest on capital cost, and £4,837, loss on farm trading account), 1921-22	£49,306
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification	1s. 4d.
<hr/>	
Population served by sewerage system	739,239
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1922 ..	16·35 inches
" " " 31st December, 1922 ..	15·50 "
Average rainfall for 29 years to 31st December, 1922	18·08 "

GEELONG WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE TRUST.

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

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

The amount of loans which may be raised is limited to £725,000 for water supply undertaking; £502,000 for sewerage undertaking; and £200,000 for sewerage installations to properties. The expenditure on these services to 31st January, 1923, was:—Water supply, £471,000; sewerage, £416,000; and sewerage installation, £141,000. The annual revenue at the beginning of 1923 was £36,424 on account of waterworks, and £28,533 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 36,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 8,800, the number within the "Sewered Areas" 7,200, and the number connected with the sewers 6,200.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and of the storage capacity of reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pages 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs is 2,709,335,280 gallons.

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

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

The sewerage rates are—

- (a) A general sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage

area which are now sewered or may become sewered during the period for which such rate is made.

- (b) An additional rate of 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all rateable properties within the drainage area which are now or may hereafter become sewered as mentioned under (a).
- (c) A rate of 6d. in the pound on the net annual value of all properties within the drainage area which are not sewered.

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

BENDIGO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Bendigo Sewerage Authority was constituted under the *Sewerage Districts Act 1915* (No. 2761) on 20th November, 1916, and the Sewerage District proclaimed. This District includes the whole area of the City of Bendigo, and the members of the Bendigo City Council constitute *ipso facto* the Bendigo Sewerage Authority. The Chairman is Cr. M. G. Giudice, J.P. Permanent surveys, designs, and estimates for the proposed scheme were made, and approved by the Governor in Council, and authority was obtained to borrow £120,000 to sewer the central portion of the city—an area of 935 acres, comprising 3,300 tenements, which was called Sewerage Area No. 1—and to construct the main outfall sewer and treatment works. A loan of this amount was obtained from the Commonwealth Bank at 5½ per cent. It is secured by debentures repayable in twenty years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value was struck on 4th January, 1923, and levied upon all property within the Sewerage District for the financial year ending 30th September, 1923, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 1st February, 1923.

Construction of the main outfall sewer was begun on 30th January, 1921, and completed on 18th January, 1923. Its length is 4 miles, with a grade of 1 in 700. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 5 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 600 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 31st May, 1923, 33 houses had been connected, while 83 others were in course of being sewered. The number of men employed is 224.

The method of disposal of the sewerage is by oxidising tanks (Montgomerie Neilson process), with secondary land filtration, the effluent being available for growing fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom-road, and 4 miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 6d. in the pound on the annual value in sewered areas, and a special annual rate not exceeding 1s. in the pound in sewered or 6d. in the pound in unsewered areas. The Act further provides for the Sewerage Authority sewerage tenements at the request of the owners, repayment of the cost being made in 40 half-yearly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 5½ per cent., has been arranged with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. There are indications that the deferred repayment provision will be largely availed of, the interest chargeable being limited by Act of Parliament to the same rate as the Authority pays, viz., 5½ per cent. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £250,000.

FIRE BRIGADES BOARDS.

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

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

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

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

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

**Outfit of the
Metropolitan
Fire Brigade.**

The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board on 30th June, 1923, had under its control the following:—Forty-one stations, 271 members of permanent staff, 65 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 35 men engaged in the workshops, 109 partially paid firemen, 5 motor-drawn steam fire engines, 2 steam fire engines, 4 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage waggons, 7 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 35 motor hose waggons, 3 motor cycles, 2 motor lorries, 2 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 6 extension ladders and fire escapes, 2 pompiers ladders, 7 inspection cars, 96,397 feet of hose, 5 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 363 fire alarm circuits having 1,092 street fire alarms, of which 1,072 were with telephones and 20 were fire alarms only. There were also 954 auxiliary boxes and 24 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 139 direct telephone lines, 59 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 49 circuits to sprinkler installations, with 90 sprinkler call-transmitting instruments.

During 1922-23 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £122,711, one-third being contributed by each of the contributing bodies, viz., Government of Victoria, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District, and the fire insurance companies carrying on business in that district. The municipalities' contribution was equal to 0.9005d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £10,901,929, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £4 7s. 1d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1921 amounted to £939,602, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1922-23 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £40,903.

**Country Fire
Brigades
Board.**

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two are elected by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue in 1922 was £22,718, which was obtained from the following sources:—(a) Government, £7,322; (b) municipalities, £7,810; (c) insurance companies, £7,322; and (d) other sources, £264. The expenditure for the year amounted to £23,122. There are 112 municipal councils and 92 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1922 amounted to £305,841. and the total contributions of the companies in

that year for the upkeep of the brigades was £7,322. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1922 was £2,217,916. All brigades under the control of the Board are volunteer brigades, but in the large centres a few permanent stationkeepers and auxiliaries are employed. There are 137 registered brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,454. In many brigades there are, in addition to the registered firemen, a number of "reserve members."

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

Water Supply. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is bound to keep all its pipes, to which fire plugs are affixed, charged with water, unless prevented by unusual drought or other unavoidable cause, or during necessary repairs, and must allow all persons at all times to take and use such water for extinguishing fires. On 30th June, 1922, the Board had fixed to its 243 miles 41 chains of leading mains and 1,483 miles 5½ chains of reticulation mains 4,407 pillar hydrants, 36 Tregear patent hydrants, and 15,814 ball fire plugs, viz., 15,793 Bateman and Moore (of which 2,386 are with spring) and 21 Fowler patent—a grand total of 20,257. Except in case of accident, repairs, or cleaning, these mains are kept constantly full of water under pressure.

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

Receipts and expenditure. Particulars of receipts and expenditure of both Fire Brigades Boards for the five years ended 30th June, 1922, are as follows :—

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

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance	98,272	100,442	112,976	137,626	148,139
Receipts for Services ...	6,645	7,200	9,651	10,808	12,300
Interest and Sundries ...	1,950	3,180	4,658	12,059	13,751
Total ...	106,867	110,822	127,285	160,493	174,190
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	63,114	66,767	74,038	101,392	106,046
Fire Expenses	3,343	3,439	3,349	3,834	4,022
Administrative Charges, &c.	19,843	17,655	17,942	28,844	25,403
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs	7,934	6,607	9,443	9,653	8,255
Interest	9,927	9,255	9,156	9,595	9,213
Sinking Fund	1,644	5,727	3,814	4,666	12,052
Firemen's Accident Fund	250	...	...	250	250
Miscellaneous	3,454	2,812	7,808	3,732	11,143
Total ...	109,509	112,262	125,550	161,966	176,384
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	14,721	8,344	7,046	23,782	25,205