

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK

1926-27.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

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Victorian Year-Book

1926-27

By

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GOVERNMENT STATIST

FORTY-SEVENTH ISSUE.

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PREFACE.

THIS is the forty-seventh issue of the *Victorian Year-Book*.

The main object of the work is to show the progress made by the State during the year under review, and with this end the particulars appertaining to that year are compared with those relating to previous years. An endeavour is made to present such information as will assist legislators, publicists, and others in forming an opinion in regard to the most suitable methods to be adopted in the future in developing the natural resources of the State and promoting the welfare of the people.

The first part shows the progress of the State since the early days of settlement, and contains a description of the Constitution, as well as an epitome of Acts passed during 1926 by the State Parliament, lists of members of Parliament, &c. Parts II., III., V., VI., and IX. deal with the wealth and progress of the community, as indicated by the growth of population, and by increases in bank deposits, in amounts assured with life offices, in volume of trade, &c., and details are given of the revenue and expenditure of the Government, and of municipalities. Parts IV., VII., and VIII. contain statistics relating to births, marriages and deaths, crime, education, charitable institutions, and other cognate subjects. In Part X. a detailed account is given of the agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and other productions of the State. The various parts were issued as soon as completed. The information in all parts has been brought up to the latest possible date, on many subjects to the middle of the year 1927, and in a few instances to a later date.

In accordance with resolutions passed at recent conferences of the Government Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand information is given in part "Interchange" in regard to the methods adopted in fixing the registration fees for motor vehicles, and the amount received in each of the last five years, which formerly appeared under the

heading "Fees" in part "Finance," is now included in "Taxation." Statistics relating to Insurance business other than life assurance are given in greater detail than in former years.

The statistics of grain production in counties typical of the three most important wheat-growing districts of the State have been analysed with the view of showing the number of acres producing certain specified yields per acre. The results are given in part "Production." This analysis was made in pursuance of a resolution passed at a Conference of Statisticians held in Perth (W.A.) in 1926.

I have to thank the heads of Government Departments and the various experts who have supplied information and in other ways assisted in the preparation of this book. I also wish to thank the members of my staff for their hearty co-operation and for the valuable assistance received from them, and in particular I desire to express my appreciation of the work performed by Mr. J. B. Hourigan (Assistant Government Statist) in supervising the preparation of the parts.

The figures and other material in each portion of the book have been carefully examined and checked. If, however, any errors be detected, I shall be pleased to receive information as to their nature and position.

A. M. LAUGHTON,

Government Statist.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 14th May, 1928.



Victorian Year-Book, 1926-27.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AREA, AND CLIMATE.

Area of Victoria.

Victoria is situated at the south-eastern extremity of the Australian continent, of which it occupies about a thirty-fourth part, and it contains about 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. It is bounded on the north and north-east by New South Wales, from which it is separated by the River Murray, and by a straight line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head-waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. On the south and south-east its shores are washed by the Southern Ocean, Bass Strait, and the Pacific Ocean. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600 geographical miles. Great Britain, exclusive of the islands in the British Seas, contains 88,756 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

The southernmost point in Victoria, and in the whole of the Australian continent, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude 39 deg. 8 min. S., longitude 146 deg. 26 min. E.; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the State meets the Murray, latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S., longitude 140 deg. 58 min. E.; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude 37 deg. 31 min. S., longitude 149 deg. 59 min. E.; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian 140 deg. 58 min. E., and extends from latitude 34 deg. 2 min. S. to latitude 38 deg. 4 min. S., a distance of 242 geographical miles.

Climate.

From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other State upon the Continent of Australia. In the seventy-one years ended with 1926 the maximum temperature in the shade recorded at the Melbourne Observatory and the Weather Bureau was 111·2 deg. Fahr.,

on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27 deg., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 58·4 deg. Upon the average, on only four days during the year does the thermometer rise above 100 deg. in the shade, and on 19·5 days the temperature reaches 90 deg. or over; generally, on about two nights during the year it falls below freezing point. Sultry nights are of rare occurrence. It is only occasionally that a high minimum is recorded. The minimum reading approximates to 70 deg. on an average on only two nights in any one year. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1859) was 178·5 deg., on the 14th January, 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted, first at the Observatory 91 feet above the sea level, and later at the Weather Bureau 115 feet above sea level, was, during the sixty-nine years ended with 1926, 30·012 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell each year was 138, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·58 inches. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere is 68 per cent.; on very warm days it is often 12 per cent., and it has been as low as 2 per cent. The severity of the heat is not felt so much as it would be if there were a relatively high wet bulb, as the temperature by such bulb seldom exceeds 75 deg. The average number of hours of sunshine daily is 6·3, and fogs occur, on an average, on only 19 days in the year.

MOUNTAINS AND HILLS, RIVERS AND LAKES.

Mountains and Hills. The highest mountain in Victoria is Mount Bogong,* situated in the county of the same name, 6,509 feet above the sea-level; the next highest peaks are—Mount Feathertop, 6,306 feet; Mount Nelson, 6,170 feet; Mount Fainter, 6,160 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount McKay, 6,030 feet; and Mount Cope, 6,027 feet; all situated in the same county; also the Cobboras, 6,030 feet, situated between the counties of Benambra and Tambo. These, so far as is known, are the only peaks which exceed 6,000 feet in height; but, according to a list which appears in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, there are 39 peaks between 5,000 and 6,000 feet high, and 40 between 4,000 and 5,000 feet high; it is known, moreover, that there are many peaks rising to upwards of 4,000 feet above the level of the sea whose actual heights have not yet been determined.

Rivers. With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Murray; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; and the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams, the rivers of Victoria are not

* The highest mountain on the Australian Continent is Mount Kosciuszko, in New South Wales, one peak of which is 7,328 feet high.

navigable except by boats. They, however, drain the watershed of large areas of country, and many of the streams are used as feeders to permanent reservoirs for irrigation and water supply purposes. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the State, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,520 miles, for 1,200 of which it flows along the Victorian border. Several of the rivers in the north-western portion of the State have no outlet, but are gradually lost in the absorbent tertiary flat country through which they pass.

Lakes. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh-water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 90 square miles, and is quite salt, notwithstanding that it receives the flood waters of several fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water, $10\frac{1}{2}$ square miles in extent, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 8 square miles. The Gippsland lakes—Victoria, King, and Reeve—are situated close to the coast, and are separated from the sea by only a narrow belt of sand. Lake Wellington, the largest of the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united to the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, which is connected with the sea at Point Flinders.

A list of mountains and hills, rivers and lakes in Victoria appears in the *Victorian Year-Book* for 1915-16. This was revised by the late Surveyor-General, Mr. A. B. Lang, and contains information in regard to heights, lengths, and areas respectively.

FLORA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Flora of Victoria" by J. W. Audas, Esq., F.L.S., F.R.M.S. (National Herbarium, Melbourne), appeared in the *Year Book* for 1924-25, on pages 13 to 24, and an addendum for 1925-26, on pages 3 to 6.

ADDENDUM TO THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

Supplied by Mr. Audas in May, 1927.

The following species new to Science were added to the list of the Flora during the year 1926-27:—

- Acacia oreophila* Maiden and Blakely (*Leguminosae*).
- Acacia Walteri* Maiden and Blakely (*Leguminosae*).
- Brachycome alpina* P. F. Morris (*Compositae*).
- Caladenia preacox* W. H. Nicholls (*Orchidaceae*).
- Pterostylis gracilis* W. H. Nicholls (*Orchidaceae*).
- Swainsona Morrisiana* J. M. Black (*Leguminosae*).
- Swainsona reticulata* J. M. Black (*Leguminosae*).

During the period two species not previously recorded for this State have been added to the list of native Flora :—

Dryopteris glabella C. Chr., "Smooth Shield Fern" (*Filicales*).

Swainsona oroboides F.v.M., "Orobis Swainson Pea" (*Leguminosae*).

The following changes in the names of the Victorian Flora have been made in accordance with the Vienna Botanical Rules of Nomenclature :—

Apium Ammi L. (*Apium leptophyllum* F.v.M.) (*Umbelliferae*).

Centella asiatica L. (*Hydrocotyle asiatica* L.) (*Umbelliferae*).

Colobanthus apetalus (Labill) Comb nov. J. M. Black (*C. Billardieri* Fenzl.). (*Caryophyllaceae*).

Corybas aconitiflorus Salisbury (*Corysanthes bicalcarata* R. Br.) (*Orchidaceae*).

Corybas fimbriatus Reichb. f. (*Corysanthes fimbriata* R. Br.) (*Orchidaceae*).

Corybas pruinosa Reichb. f. (*Corysanthes pruinosa* R. Cunn.) (*Orchidaceae*).

Corybas unguiculatus R. Br. (*Corysanthes unguiculata* R. Br.) (*Orchidaceae*).

NOTE.—In regard to the genus *Corysanthes*, this race of plants was first known as *Corybas*, having been so named by Salisbury. In plant nomenclature priority of naming is usually considered to govern the naming of plants.

Daucus glochidiatus (Labill) Fischer (*Daucus brachiatus* Sieb.). (*Umbelliferae*).

Hutchinsia procumbens (L.) Desv. (*Capsella procumbens* Fries) (*Cruciferae*).

Leptoloma divaricatissima, A. Chase (*Panicum divaricatissimum* R. Br.) (*Gramineae*).

Muehlenbeckia diclina (F.v.M.) Comb. nov. J. M. Black (*Muehlenbeckia stenophylla* F.v.M.) (*Polygonaceae*).

Roripa islandica Schinz. and Thell. (*Nasturtium palustre* Dc.) (*Cruciferae*).

Spiranthes sinensis Pers. (*Spiranthes australis* Lindl.) (*Orchidaceae*).

EXOTICS.

NEW PLANTS RECORDED DURING 1926-27.

Six introduced plants have been recorded as growing wild for the first time, viz. :—

Artemisia tenuifolia Spreng., "Narrow-leaf Wormwood" (*Compositae*). A native of Middle and Southern Europe. It is more aromatic

and less bitter than the "Common Wormwood" (*Artemisia Absinthium*), from which the oily substance "Absinthin" is obtained.

Galium tricornae Stokes, "Three-horned Bedstraw" (*Rubiaceae*). A native of Europe and Asia. It has no economic value.

Kochia scoparia Schrad., "Annual Mock-Cypress," "Summer Cypress," or "Burning Bush" (*Chenopodiaceae*). A native of Europe and North America. It is an ornamental plant and an escape from cultivation.

Mentha viridis L., "Spear-mint" (*Labiatae*). A native to Middle and Southern Europe. This perennial herb is important for its peculiar essential oil. Readily propagated like other mints by division of the root.

Rumex luxurians L., "Trailing Dock" (*Polygonaceae*). Introduced from South Africa. It is sometimes grown in gardens, and is an escape from cultivation.

Paspalidium jubiflorum Hughes (*Panicum flavidum* Retz.) "Warrego Summer Grass" (*Gramineae*). This grass is confined mostly to Northern Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales, and is now recorded for the first time in Victoria. It is indigenous to India, and other warm parts of Asia, and is a long-lived grass and stands stocking very well. It is very hardy under dry conditions.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Physical Geography and Geology of Victoria," by W. Baragwanath, Esq., Director of Victorian Geological Survey, appeared in the *Year Book* for 1924-25 on pages 3 to 13.

THE FAUNA OF VICTORIA.

An article on the "Fauna of Victoria," by the late T. S. Hall, M.A., D.Sc. (University of Melbourne), and J. A. Kershaw, Esq., F.Z.S., Curator of the National Museum, Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, and addenda thereto by Mr. Kershaw in the *Year-Books* for 1918-19 and 1920-21.

THE HISTORY OF VICTORIA.

An article on this subject contributed by Ernest Scott, Professor of History in the University of Melbourne, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 1 to 31.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF LEADING EVENTS.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contained, on pages 31 to 50, a chronological table of leading events in Victorian history for the years 1770 to 1900 inclusive, and of leading events in Victorian and other history for the years 1901 to 1916 inclusive. The leading events in the nine years 1917 to 1925 were given in the volumes relating to those years.

Some of the principal events in Victorian and other history during 1926 are given in the table which follows :—

1926. 4th January	..	A 44-hour working day came into force in New South Wales.
January and February		Great bush fires occurred in Gippsland and other parts of Victoria. The fires were the most disastrous in the history of the State. Thirty-one lives were lost, and a large amount of property destroyed.
18th January	..	First steel rolled at Newcastle Steel Works, New South Wales, for Sydney Harbour Bridge.
28th March..	..	Death of Sir Harry B. Allen, professor of anatomy and pathology at the Melbourne University, aged 72 years.
15th April ..	..	Death of Rev. J. L. Rentoul, Professor of Theology, Ormond College, aged 80 years.
20th April ..	..	Aviator Alan Cobham started on his London to Melbourne flight.
7th May ..	..	Great coal strike in England. About one million miners left work. The strike lasted many months, and was productive of much misery.
12th May ..	..	Captain Roald Amundsen reached the North Pole by airship.
21st May ..	..	Death of Mr. H. V. McKay, inventor of the Sunshine harvester, aged 61 years.
26th May ..	..	An electric train ran into a stationary train at the Caulfield Railway Station. Two persons were killed and many injured.
4th June ..	..	Death of Mr. W. B. Chaffey, C.M.G., one of the founders of the Mildura Irrigation Settlement, aged 71 years.
8th June ..	..	Death of Judge Weigall, of the Supreme Court of Victoria, aged 66 years.
28th June ..	..	Lord Somers, new Governor of Victoria, arrived in Melbourne.
16th July ..	..	The names of the re-constituted Federal Arbitration Court Judges announced, viz., Judge Dethridge, Victoria, Chief Judge; Judge Beeby, New South Wales; and Judge Lukin, Queensland.
5th August	..	Alan Cobham reached Darwin in his flight from London to Melbourne.

1926. 10th August	..	Announced that a Development and Migration Commission, consisting of four members had been appointed for a term of seven years. Mr. H. W. Gepp was appointed chairman. Two other members appointed were Mr. J. Gunn, ex-Premier of South Australia, and Mr. C. I. Nathan, of Western Australia.
15th August	..	Aviator Alan Cobham arrived at the Essendon Aerodrome, Melbourne, thus completing his flight from London to Melbourne. It was estimated that 100,000 persons were present when the aeroplane descended.
4th September	..	Referendum held throughout Australia on the proposals of the Bruce Ministry for the amendment of the Federal Constitution. The suggested amendments were defeated.
13th September	..	Railway tragedy at Murilla, near Blandford, New South Wales. Twenty-six persons were killed and 40 injured.
1st October	..	Sir Alan Cobham landed on the Thames, at Westminster. This completed his great flight to Australia and back.
23rd October	..	Death of Major-General Sir Charles Ryan, aged 73 years, on board the <i>Otranto</i> as it was approaching Adelaide on a voyage from Great Britain.
9th December	..	It was announced that Mr. Sidney Myer had offered to the Melbourne University 25,000 fully paid up shares in Myer Emporium Limited of a value of £50,000. This donation, which is the largest ever given to the University, was gratefully accepted.
11th December	..	Sudden death of Mr. G. F. H. Schuler, editor of the <i>Age</i> newspaper.
" "	* ..	This date is the 100th anniversary of the foundation of settlement on the shores of Westernport, Victoria.
13th December	..	Death at Terang of Mr. W. G. Spence, former Postmaster-General of the Commonwealth, aged 79 years. Mr. Spence in earlier years was a noted trades union organizer.
15th December	..	Pacific Health Congress opened at Federal Parliament House by the Acting Prime Minister (Dr. Earle Page). Delegates were present from Great Britain, Australia, British Possessions in the Pacific, France, Japan, United States, and the League of Nations.

PROGRESS OF STATE SINCE 1850.

The following table has been prepared to illustrate the advance made by the State since 1850—the year immediately preceding the separation of the Colony from New South Wales. The subsequent years are census years except the last :—

STATISTICS OF VICTORIAN PROGRESS, 1850 TO 1926.

8

Victorian Year-Book, 1926-27.

	1850.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1926.
Population, 31st December ..	76,162	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,209,900	1,339,893	1,550,686	1,711,827
Revenue .. £	259,433	2,592,101	3,734,422	5,136,011	8,343,588	7,712,099	9,372,637	19,054,475	25,260,756
Expenditure from Revenue ..	196,440	3,092,021	3,659,534	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,072,780	9,362,291	18,941,698	25,559,583
Public Funded Debt .. £	..	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,638,897	49,546,275	57,983,764	97,317,831	140,264,989
Gold produced .. oz.	..	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	789,562	542,074	114,602	54,014
Wool produced .. lbs.	16,345,468	22,640,745	37,177,646	45,970,560	76,503,635	73,235,138	101,803,644	90,250,571	111,260,814
Butter produced .. "	..	..	..	..	46,857,572	46,857,572	86,500,474	64,938,478	81,747,291
Agriculture—									
Land in cultivation .. acres	52,341	427,241	793,918	1,582,998	2,512,593	3,647,459	5,386,247	6,425,250	6,890,628
Wheat .. bushels	556,167	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,679,268	12,127,382	34,813,019	39,468,625	29,255,534
Oats .. "	99,535	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,455,551	6,724,900	9,699,127	10,907,191	4,998,165
Wine .. gallons	4,621	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,981,475	1,362,420	2,222,305	1,637,274
Live Stock—Horses .. No.	21,219	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	392,237	472,080	487,503	463,051
" Cattle .. "	378,806	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,602,384	1,547,569	1,575,159	1,513,787
" Sheep .. "	6,032,783	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,928,148	10,841,790	12,882,665	12,171,084	13,740,500
" Pigs .. "	9,260	43,480	177,447	239,926	286,780	350,370	333,281	175,275	339,601
Total Imports—Value .. £	744,925	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	18,927,340	28,150,198*	..	..
" Exports—Value .. £	1,041,796	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	18,646,097	29,896,275*	..	..
Imports, Oversea—Value .. £	..	10,991,377	9,201,942	11,481,567	13,802,598	12,686,880	21,850,963	57,608,777	50,332,845
Exports .. £	..	12,209,794	12,843,451	12,318,128	11,403,922	13,075,259	18,915,716	34,871,961	33,110,231
Shipping .. " tonnage	195,117	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,411,902	4,715,109	6,715,491	9,907,046	9,314,944	12,980,340
Railways open .. miles	..	214	276	1,247	2,764	3,238	3,496	4,274	4,683
Telegraph wire .. "	..	2,586	3,472	6,626	13,989	15,356	16,405	31,243	43,110
Postal business—Letters .. No.	381,651	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,317	62,526,448	83,973,499	159,092,011	180,797,030	213,819,758
" Newspapers .. "	381,158	4,277,179	5,172,790	11,440,732	22,729,005	27,104,344	36,125,728	31,660,611	46,552,400
Savings Bank Deposits .. £	52,697	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,715,687	9,662,006	18,213,040	48,262,058†	62,374,839†
Factories—									
Number of ..	..	531	1,740	2,488	3,141	3,249	4,873	6,532	7,461
Hands employed ..	..	4,395	19,468	43,209	52,225	66,529	102,176	140,743	152,959
Value of machinery, plant, land, and buildings .. £	..	..	4,725,125	8,044,296	16,472,859	12,298,500	16,613,348	35,492,735	60,396,500
Value of articles produced .. £	..	..	..	13,370,836	22,390,251	19,478,780	36,660,854	106,098,294	119,986,439
State Education—									
Number of Primary schools ..	61	671	988	1,757	2,233	1,967	2,059	2,334	2,530
Expenditure on Education .. £	..	162,547	274,384	546,285	726,711	701,034	1,052,418	2,117,151	3,025,732
Total value of rateable property in municipalities .. £	..	29,638,091	50,166,078	87,642,459	203,351,360	185,101,993	265,083,727	399,502,745	571,683,489
Friendly Societies—									
Number of members ..	..	7,166	35,706	47,908	89,269	101,045	145,439	143,421	156,599
Total funds .. £	..	..	213,004	475,954	961,933	1,370,604	2,246,396	3,375,050	4,280,400

NOTE.—In a few instances in the earlier years, where it is not possible to give figures for the exact date or period shown, those for the nearest dates or periods are given. Gold was discovered in 1851, in which year the return was 145,137 oz. Butter figures were not collected prior to 1891.

* These figures relate to the calendar year 1909. Owing to the Commonwealth authorities having discontinued the keeping of records of Inter-State trade the value of the total imports and exports of the State are not available for a later year.

† Including deposits in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.

The population of the State at the end of 1850 was 76,162; at the end of 1926 it had increased to 1,711,827. During the period 1850-1926 the revenue steadily increased from £259,433 to £25,269,756. There was no public debt until after the separation of the State from New South Wales. In 1861 the State indebtedness was £6,345,060; in 1926 the funded debt had reached £140,264,989, which has been spent on revenue-yielding and other works of a permanent character. The land in cultivation in 1850 was 52,300 acres; it now amounts to 6,890,628 acres. The value of oversea imports in 1861 was £10,991,377; in 1925-26 it was £50,332,845. Oversea exports amounted to £12,209,794 in 1861, and to £33,110,231 in 1925-26. No railways or telegraphs were in existence up to the end of 1855; in 1861 there were 214 miles of railway open, and in 1926 there were 4,683 miles; 2,586 miles of telegraph wires had been erected up to 1861, and 43,110 miles up to the 30th June, 1926. Postal business in letters and newspapers has expanded rapidly during the period covered by the table, and there has also been a large increase in Savings Bank deposits, which rose from £52,697 in 1850 to £62,374,839 in 1926.

The expenditure on education amounted to £162,547 in 1861, and had increased to £3,025,732 in 1925-26. Members of friendly societies numbered 7,166 in 1861 and 156,599 in 1925-26—the funds amounting to £213,000 in 1871 and £4,280,400 in 1925-26. Hands employed in factories rose from 19,468 in 1871 to 152,959 in 1925-26. The total value of rateable property in municipalities, which was £29,600,000 in 1861, was £571,683,489 in 1925-26.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT.

The Present Constitution.

After the establishment of the Federal Government it became evident that the representation of the States in the States Houses was excessive, and steps were taken to reform the States Constitutions. Accordingly an Act "to provide for the Reform of the Constitution" was passed in Victoria and reserved for the Royal assent on 7th April, 1903. After an interval of some months the Royal assent was proclaimed on 26th November, 1903. This Act, entitled *The Constitution Act 1903*, provided for a reduction in the number of responsible Ministers from ten to eight, and in their salaries from £10,400 to £8,400 (since increased to £10,000); and decreased the number of members of the Legislative Council from 48 to 35, including one special representative for the State railways and public servants; but increased the number of electoral provinces from fourteen to seventeen, each being now represented by two members elected for six years—one retiring every three years by rotation, except at a general election, when one-half of the members are to be elected for only three years. The

**Reform Act
1903.**

property qualification of members of the Council was reduced from £100 to £50 as the annual value of the freehold, and that of electors qualifying as lessees or occupying tenants from an annual value of £25 to one of £15. A reduction was also made in the number of members of the Legislative Assembly from 95 to 68—including two to be specially elected by the railway officers, and one by the State public servants—and in that of the electoral districts from 84 to 65. The Constitution was again amended in 1906 by the repeal of the provisions in the Act of 1903 relating to the separate representation of railway officers and State public servants. The Assembly now consists of 65 and the Council of 34 members.

Power is given to any Minister who is a member of the Assembly to sit in the Council or *vice versa*—in order to explain the provisions of any measure connected with any department administered by him. The Council is empowered to suggest alterations in any Appropriation Bill once at each of three stages of the Bill, viz.—(a) when in Committee, (b) on the Report of the Committee, and (c) on the third reading. The remedy provided to meet disagreements between the two Houses is the simultaneous dissolution of both after a Bill has been twice submitted to, and rejected by the Council—viz., once before, and once after a dissolution of the Assembly in consequence of such first rejection.

The Governor acts under the authority of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, and according to Royal instructions issued by the Colonial Office. He is the official head of the Legislature, and assents in the name of the Crown to all Acts passed by the Parliament, reserving for the Royal assent certain Bills, such as those relating to divorce or to the granting of land or money to himself. The only matters in which the exercise of any discretion is required on the part of the Governor are (a) the assenting to or dissenting from or reserving of Bills passed by the Parliament; (b) the granting or withholding of a dissolution of Parliament when requested by a Premier; and (c) the appointment of a new Ministry.

When a Ministry is defeated in Parliament on an important measure or at the polls, its members almost invariably tender their resignations to the Governor, whose duty it is in such a case to announce his intention of accepting them. The outgoing Premier generally suggests to the Governor, as his successor, the name of the most prominent of his opponents, usually the leader of the Opposition. Thereupon the Governor “sends for” the individual suggested, who, if he feels in a position to carry on the Government, endeavours to form a Ministry. If he fails, he informs the Governor of the fact, and some one else is applied to. The distribution of the portfolios is first arranged by the proposed Ministers themselves, and afterwards submitted to the Governor for approval, who always adopts it, unless the list contains the name of some one

Forming a
new Ministry.

against whom very serious objections exist, or foreshadows a new and revolutionary arrangement.

Granting a dissolution. When a Ministry finds that it is unable to carry on the affairs of the country in the manner it deems essential for the well-being of the community, when it is defeated on a measure which it considers vital, or when it has not a proper working majority, the Premier may, instead of advising the Governor to "send for" some one else, ask for a dissolution; and the principle which guides a Governor in granting or refusing such a request is the probability of success for the Ministry in the event of its being granted. In regard to these matters, however, the instructions issued to the Governor are elaborate and definite; and it is very rarely that any personal exercise of discretion is necessary. In other matters the Governor acts on the advice of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council. The Executive Council consists of two classes of members, viz. :—(a) Members forming the Ministry of the day, whether salaried or honorary; (b) all ex-Ministers who have not actually resigned or vacated their seats. The latter Councillors take no active part, as such, in the deliberations of the Ministry, the title being merely an honorary distinction. The expression "Governor in Council," occurring so frequently in Victorian Acts, means the Governor by and with the advice of such members of the Executive Council as are included in the former category mentioned above. Even in its active phase, that of the existing Ministry, the Executive Council has two shapes, the formal and the informal. The latter, which is spoken of as the "Cabinet," is the real core and essence of the Government. In its private meetings at the Premier's office no one is admitted but the actual Ministry of the day, no record of the meetings transpires, and no official notice is ever taken of the proceedings. The former is presided over by the Governor, and attended by the Clerk of the Council, who keeps a formal record of its proceedings and deliberations, which are frequently published with the names of its members prefixed. Here the decisions of the Cabinet are put into official form.

Responsible Ministers. The number of salaried Ministers is now limited to eight, and their salaries to £10,000 (Act No. 3118); four at least must be members of the Council or Assembly, but not more than two shall be members of the Council nor more than six of the Assembly. Although only four Ministers are required to be members of either House, in practice all members of a Ministry are always members. The head of the Ministry—the Premier, a merely titular distinction—has usually filled the office of Treasurer as well, and may occupy any office.

The Parliament. The Parliament consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. The general power of legislation is conferred upon "His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the said Council and Assembly."

By Section 56 of The Constitution Act it was provided that—"All Bills for appropriating any part of the revenue of Victoria, and for imposing any duty, rate, tax, rent, or impost shall originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected, but not altered, by the Council." There was great difference of opinion as to the interpretation of this section, it being held by many that the words "all Bills for appropriating" (revenue) "and for imposing" (taxes) signified Bills having for their principal object the authorizing of payments or the granting of supply; it was also contended that legislation which merely incidentally or consequentially authorized the collection of money or the payment of officials could be dealt with as ordinary legislation by the Council. This matter was dealt with by Section 30 of *The Constitution Act* 1903, which, on a consolidation of Acts, became Section 33 of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632). This section declares that a Bill shall not be deemed for appropriating, &c., or for imposing, &c., by reason only of its containing provisions "for the imposition or appropriation of fines or other pecuniary penalties or for the demand or payment or appropriation of fees for licences or fees for services under such Bill." In regard to the latter portion of Section 56 of The Constitution Act, providing that Money Bills must originate in the Assembly, and may be rejected but not altered by the Council, the new Act provides, as in the Commonwealth Constitution, that the Council may suggest alterations, as mentioned previously.

It is also provided by Section 57 of The Constitution Act that Appropriation Bills must have been first recommended by a message of the Governor to the Assembly before they can be introduced. The Governor; of course, acts in this matter on the advice of the Ministry.

The Council—called the Upper House—now consists of 34 members. The State is divided into seventeen electoral provinces, each returning two members. At the first election the member in each constituency who, of the two elected, receives the higher number of votes retains his seat for six years, whilst the other member retains his seat for three years only, subject, of course, to the dissolution of both Houses in case of a deadlock, as previously described. One-half of the members thus retire every three years. Women are eligible for membership under the provisions of Act No. 3337, which was proclaimed on 12th May, 1924. To be qualified for membership, a candidate must be of the age of 30 years, and a natural-born subject, or, if not natural-born, must have been naturalized and resident in Victoria for ten years, and must have been beneficially entitled to a freehold estate in Victoria of the clear annual value according to municipal valuation of £50 for one year "previously to" his or her election. *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1922 (No. 3218) provides for the reimbursement of expenses of members of the Legislative Council at the rate of £200 per annum. The following persons aged 21 or over, if they are natural-born subjects,

The
Legislative
Council.

or naturalized for three years and resident in Victoria for twelve months, are entitled to vote for the Council in the electoral division on the rolls of which their names appear :—The owner of a freehold rated at an annual value of £10; the owner of a leasehold created originally for five years or the occupying tenant of land, rated at £15 annual value; graduates of a British University, matriculated students of the University of Melbourne, barristers and solicitors, legally-qualified medical practitioners, duly appointed ministers of religion, certificated schoolmasters, and naval and military officers, active and retired. Qualified ratepayers are enrolled automatically from the municipal rolls. Persons claiming in respect of a professional and residential qualification must take out electors' rights for the division in which they reside. The Victorian Adult Suffrage Act, which received the Royal assent on 31st March, 1909, provides for womanhood suffrage in elections for the Council under the same property and other conditions as relate to men.

The
Legislative
Assembly.

The Assembly, commonly called the Lower House, now consists of 65 members. For the whole of the seats single electorates are now provided. Each Assembly expires by effluxion of time at the end of three years from its first meeting, but may be sooner dissolved by the Governor. To be qualified for election to the Assembly, a candidate must be a natural-born subject or a person who has been naturalized for five years and resident in Victoria for two years. Women are eligible for membership in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 3337. The following persons are ineligible :—Judges, ministers of religion, Government contractors, uncertificated insolvents, holders of offices of profit under the Crown (except Ministers), and persons who have been attainted of treason, or convicted of felony or infamous offence in the British dominions. A member vacates his seat, if he resigns; is absent for a whole session without permission of the House; takes any oath or declaration of allegiance or adherence to a foreign power, or becomes a subject of a foreign State; becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or a public defaulter; is attainted of treason, or convicted of felony, &c.; becomes *non compos mentis*; or enters into a Government contract. Universal suffrage is in force for the Assembly, all persons over the age of 21 years, natural-born or naturalized, being allowed a vote, if they have been resident in Australia for at least six months continuously, in Victoria for at least three months, and in any subdivision for at least one month. An Act to amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections was passed on 22nd December, 1923. It provided that arrangements might be made jointly by the State of Victoria and the Commonwealth that the electoral rolls might be used for Commonwealth elections as well as for elections for the Legislative Assembly. The first roll was composed of the persons on the Commonwealth roll, together with persons entitled to be enrolled for the Assembly. Persons enrolled in respect of residence may also be enrolled in another subdivision for lands or tenements

situated therein. Enrolment is compulsory which, however, does not apply to enrolment in respect of a property qualification. No person is entitled to have his name on more than two rolls, and a person cannot vote more than once at an Assembly election. Under the provisions of Act No. 3488, passed on 23rd December, 1926, voting was made compulsory at elections for the Legislative Assembly. The franchise was extended to women by the *Adult Suffrage Act* 1908, assented to in March, 1909. A member of the Assembly receives reimbursement of his expenses in relation to his attendance at the rate of £500 per annum. The Assembly is presided over by a Speaker, who is elected at the first meeting after every general election, and vacates his seat by expiry or dissolution of the House, and by death, resignation, or a removing vote of the House. When the Assembly resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the details of any measure, it is presided over by a Chairman of Committees. The Assembly cannot proceed to business unless twenty members, exclusive of the Speaker, are present; the Speaker has a casting but no substantive vote.

To facilitate the exercise of the franchise in sparsely-populated districts, the *Voting by Post Act* 1900 was passed on 17th October, 1900. This measure enabled any elector who was resident, or was likely to be staying, on the polling day, more than five miles from the nearest polling booth, or who was prevented by reason of sickness or infirmity from voting personally, to obtain a ballot-paper entitling him to vote by post for any candidate in his district standing for either House of Parliament. The Act came into force on 1st December, 1900, and was to continue in force for a term of three years, and thence until the end of the next session of Parliament. Subsequent Acts continued the measure to 31st December, 1910. The *Electoral Act* 1910, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), makes permanent provision for voting by post at elections for either House. If an elector satisfies the returning officer that he resides five miles or, in the case of a mountainous division, at least three miles from the nearest polling booth, or has reason to believe that he will not be within five miles of the nearest polling booth on the day of the election during the hours of polling, or that on account of ill-health or infirmity he will be prevented from voting personally, a postal ballot-paper may be issued to him. At the State elections held on 26th June, 1924, 8,069 persons voted by post, representing 2·18 per cent. of the total votes recorded, and at the elections held on 9th April, 1927, 26,616 persons voted similarly, this number being 3·41 per cent. of the total votes polled.

By an Act originally passed on 24th December, 1903, now incorporated in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act* 1915 (No. 2632), it is provided that the electoral expenses (other than personal expenses incurred in travelling and attending election meetings) of a candidate for the Legislative Council

**Voting by
post at
elections.**

**Limitation of
election
expenses.**

and Legislative Assembly shall not exceed £400 and £150 respectively. A limitation is also placed upon the matters in respect of which such sums may be expended. No electoral expenses shall be incurred by or on behalf of a candidate except in respect of:—(1) The expenses of printing, advertising, publishing, issuing, and distributing addresses and notices, and purchase of rolls. (2) The expenses of stationery, messages, postage, and telegrams. (3) The expenses of holding public meetings, and hiring halls for that purpose. (4) The expenses of committee rooms. (5) One scrutineer at each polling booth, and no more. (6) One agent for any electoral province or district.

RE-DIVISION OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

**Re-division
of Electoral
Districts.**

An Act (*Electoral Districts Act 1926*, No. 3451) passed on the 14th October, 1926, provided for the re-division of the electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly. The number of districts remain the same as shown in *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1915*, viz., 65. For the purpose of the re-division power was given to appoint three Commissioners, one of whom was to be the Chief Electoral Officer. Provision was made for the constitution of 26 metropolitan and 39 urban and country electoral districts on the basis approximately of the following quotas:—

- (1) Twenty-two thousand electors for each metropolitan district ;
- (2) Fifteen thousand electors for each urban district ; and
- (3) Ten thousand electors for each country district.

The Commissioners were empowered to adopt a margin of allowance to be used whenever necessary, but the quota was not to be departed from to a greater extent than 15 per cent. more or 15 per cent. less. A greater margin of allowance could be adopted if the Commissioners considered that any portion of any existing urban electoral district would be more properly included in any proposed country electoral district or districts and also in the case of any proposed country electoral district where the greater part of the area thereof was mountainous and sparsely populated.

In making the re-division the Commissioners were to give due consideration to—

- (a) The distribution of the numbers of electors throughout the State and the likelihood of any changes in the distribution of electors within any localities in the State ;
- (b) community or diversity of interests ;
- (c) means of communication ;
- (d) physical features ;
- (e) existing boundaries of electoral districts and subdivisions ;
and
- (f) Commonwealth electoral boundaries.

In order to provide for the metropolitan electoral districts the Commissioners were to include in any proposed district such portion of any existing country electoral district contiguous thereto as they

thought necessary, but so that the total number of electors to be added to the whole of such proposed metropolitan electoral districts should not exceed twenty thousand. The Commissioners could in any other case include in any proposed electoral district such portion as they thought necessary of any existing electoral district contiguous thereto whether of the same class or not.

Commissioners were appointed in accordance with this Act, and drew up a scheme of electoral subdivisions. This scheme was slightly altered by them at the direction of Parliament, and was then passed by both Houses. The elections for the Legislative Assembly held on 9th April, 1927, were conducted on the basis of the new boundaries thus agreed upon.

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1925.

Elections for
the Legislative
Council.

At the triennial elections for the Legislative Council, held on 4th June, 1925, eight seats were contested, nine members being returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors on the rolls for each province and the number who voted in the provinces where elections were held:—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED AT THE TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 4TH JUNE, 1925.

Province.	Number of Electors on Rolls.	Number of Electors who voted.			In-formal Votes.	Number who voted by Post.	Proportion of Electors who voted.
		Rate-payers.	Non-ratepayers.	Total.			
East Yarra ..	52,417	11,517	1	11,518	108	125	Per cent.
Melbourne ..	22,844	..	..	..	..	..	21·97
„ East ..	20,379	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ North ..	47,913	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ South ..	29,634	9,984	4	9,988	288	72	33·70
„ West ..	31,429	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bendigo ..	10,959	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland ..	17,248	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nelson ..	11,453	4,595	..	4,595	18	93	40·12
Northern ..	15,520	6,290	3	6,293	174	147	40·55
North-Eastern ..	13,193	..	..	..	..	..	..
North-Western ..	20,575	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern ..	16,141	4,760	10	4,770	67	115	29·55
South-Eastern ..	42,095	..	..	..	..	..	..
South-Western ..	21,203	7,144	..	7,144	58	214	33·69
Wellington ..	11,234	6,367	4	6,371	58	465	56·71
Western ..	15,273	5,354	..	5,354	76	91	35·06
	399,510						
Less uncontested provinces (9)	226,635						
Total ..	172,875	56,011	22	56,033	847	1,322	32·41

ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1927.

**Elections.
Legislative
Assembly.**

At the elections for the Legislative Assembly held on 9th April, 1927, there were contests in 57 of the 65 constituencies, each returning one member. The number of electors on the rolls was 993,211—480,485 males and 512,726 females—and in contested districts 91·76 per cent. of the number entitled recorded their votes, the proportion for males being 92·02 per cent. and for females 91·51 per cent. The following table shows the number of electors, the votes polled, and the percentage of the latter to the former in the different electoral districts :—

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 9TH APRIL, 1927.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Num- ber on the Roll.		
							Males.	Females.	Total.
Albert Park ..	10,617	13,080	23,697	9,266	11,902	21,168	87·28	90·99	89·33
Allandale ..	4,910	4,799	9,709	4,649	4,617	9,266	94·68	96·21	95·44
Ballarat ..	7,018	9,503	16,521	6,856	8,822	15,678	97·69	92·83	94·90
Barwon ..	5,481	5,960	11,441	4,980	5,506	10,486	90·86	92·38	91·65
Benalla ..	5,066	4,651	9,717	4,676	4,334	9,010	92·30	93·18	92·72
Benambra ..	4,372	3,694	8,066	No contest.					
Bendigo ..	6,745	8,639	15,384	6,368	8,088	14,456	94·41	93·62	93·97
Boroondara ..	9,747	12,084	21,831	8,862	11,372	20,234	90·92	94·11	92·68
Brighton ..	9,932	12,821	22,753	No contest.					
Brunswick ..	10,926	12,072	22,998	10,537	11,132	21,669	96·44	92·21	94·22
Bulla and Dal- housie ..	5,227	4,744	9,971	4,659	4,213	8,872	89·13	88·81	88·98
Carlton ..	10,349	11,685	22,034	9,471	10,433	19,904	91·52	89·29	90·33
Castlemaine and Kyneton ..	4,623	5,305	9,928	4,316	4,984	9,300	93·36	93·95	93·67
Caulfield ..	10,346	13,042	23,388	9,604	12,072	21,676	92·83	92·56	92·68
Clifton Hill ..	11,152	13,195	24,347	9,853	11,271	21,124	88·35	85·42	86·76
Coburg ..	9,809	10,719	20,528	9,356	10,088	19,444	95·38	94·11	94·72
Collingwood ..	11,170	12,709	23,879	10,183	11,443	21,626	91·16	90·04	90·56
Dandenong ..	10,122	10,449	20,571	9,202	9,546	18,748	90·91	91·36	91·14
Dundas ..	5,396	5,172	10,568	5,162	4,890	10,052	95·66	94·55	95·12
Essendon ..	9,560	11,117	20,677	9,070	10,524	19,594	94·88	94·67	94·76
Evelyn ..	4,850	4,644	9,494	4,380	4,207	8,587	90·31	90·59	90·45
Flemington ..	10,218	11,471	21,687	9,614	10,333	19,947	94·11	90·08	91·98
Footscray ..	10,939	10,660	21,599	No contest.					
Geelong ..	8,889	9,232	17,621	7,817	8,600	16,417	93·18	93·15	93·17
Gippsland East ..	3,991	3,049	7,040	3,558	2,710	6,268	89·15	88·88	89·03
Gippsland North ..	5,480	4,482	9,962	5,134	4,034	9,168	93·69	90·00	92·03
Gippsland South ..	5,496	4,546	10,042	5,110	4,153	9,263	92·98	91·36	92·24
Gippsland West ..	5,456	4,604	10,060	5,016	4,192	9,208	91·94	91·05	91·53
Goulburn Valley ..	5,706	5,072	10,778	No contest.					
Grant ..	5,028	4,144	9,172	4,561	3,855	8,416	90·71	93·03	91·76
Gunbower ..	5,902	4,817	10,719	5,348	4,355	9,703	90·61	90·41	90·52
Hampden ..	5,316	5,042	10,358	4,925	4,638	9,563	92·64	91·99	92·32

NUMBER OF ELECTORS AND VOTES POLLED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON 9TH APRIL, 1927
—continued.

Electoral District.	Number of Electors on Rolls at Date of General Election.			Electors who Voted.						
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage of Num- ber on the Roll.			
							Males.	Females.	Total.	
Hawthorn ..	9,115	12,526	21,641	8,737	11,696	20,433	95·85	93·37	94·42	
Heidelberg ..	10,502	11,452	21,954	9,793	10,438	20,231	93·25	91·15	92·15	
Kara Kara and Borung ..	5,491	5,044	10,535	5,008	4,559	9,567	91·20	90·38	90·81	
Kew ..	9,027	12,583	21,610	8,465	11,656	20,121	93·77	92·63	93·11	
Korong and Eagle- hawk ..	5,429	5,347	10,776	5,132	4,897	10,029	94·53	91·58	93·07	
Lowan ..	5,727	5,196	10,923	5,233	4,694	9,927	91·37	90·34	90·88	
Maryborough and Daylesford ..	5,084	5,431	10,515	4,782	5,083	9,865	94·06	93·59	93·82	
Melbourne ..	11,975	11,070	23,045	9,096	9,579	18,675	75·98	86·53	81·04	
Mildura ..	5,211	3,855	9,066	4,768	3,472	8,240	91·50	90·06	90·89	
Mornington ..	5,649	4,871	10,520	4,932	4,454	9,386	87·31	91·44	89·22	
Northcote ..	10,557	11,848	22,405	No contest.						
Nunawading ..	8,559	10,453	19,012	8,058	9,633	17,691	94·15	92·16	93·05	
Oakleigh ..	11,421	13,309	24,730	10,845	12,345	23,190	94·96	92·76	93·77	
Ouyen ..	6,021	4,478	10,499	5,270	3,835	9,105	87·53	85·64	86·72	
Polwarth ..	5,832	5,149	10,981	No contest.						
Port Fairy and Glenelg ..	5,612	5,286	10,898	5,277	4,988	10,265	94·03	94·36	94·19	
Port Melbourne ..	11,003	11,073	22,076	No contest.						
Prahran ..	10,093	14,994	25,087	9,653	13,255	22,908	95·64	88·40	91·31	
Richmond ..	11,429	12,630	24,059	No contest.						
Rodney ..	5,675	5,180	10,855	5,242	4,759	10,001	92·37	91·87	92·13	
St. Kilda ..	10,660	14,298	24,958	10,019	12,921	22,940	93·99	90·37	91·91	
Stawell and Ararat ..	5,579	5,302	10,881	5,183	4,912	10,095	92·90	92·64	92·78	
Swan Hill ..	5,028	3,809	8,837	4,436	3,260	7,696	88·23	85·59	87·09	
Toorak ..	9,147	13,046	22,193	7,841	12,111	19,952	85·73	92·83	89·90	
Upper Goulburn ..	5,087	4,246	9,333	4,594	3,820	8,414	90·31	89·97	90·15	
Upper Yarra ..	5,957	5,599	11,556	5,405	5,006	10,411	90·73	89·41	90·09	
Walhalla ..	5,382	3,914	9,296	4,859	3,618	8,477	90·28	92·44	91·19	
Wangaratta and Ovens ..	4,798	4,508	9,306	4,404	4,157	8,561	91·79	92·21	91·99	
Waranga ..	4,981	4,368	9,349	4,569	3,959	8,528	91·73	90·64	91·22	
Warrenheip and Grenville ..	4,627	5,116	9,743	4,508	4,757	9,265	97·43	92·98	95·09	
Warrnambool ..	5,037	4,954	9,991	4,775	4,625	9,400	94·80	93·36	94·08	
Williamstown ..	10,239	10,140	20,379	9,648	9,548	19,196	94·23	94·16	94·20	
Wonthaggi ..	5,214	4,448	9,662	4,876	4,107	8,983	93·52	92·33	92·97	
Total ..	480,485	512,726	993,211	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less eight un- contested districts ..	69,770	72,947	142,717	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	410,715	439,779	850,494	377,941	402,458	780,399	92·02	91·51	91·76	

Compulsory
Voting.

Compulsory voting was in operation for the first
time.

**Preferential
Voting.**

The preferential system of voting was adopted where there were more than two persons standing for the same electorate. By the method in vogue previous to 1911 it was not unusual for a candidate to be elected who had received the support of only a minority of those voting. Under the present system a candidate is returned only if the result shows that the majority of those who have voted prefer him to the candidate who has received the next lower number of votes.

In filling up the ballot-paper electors are required to place the figure "1" opposite the name of the candidate whom they wish to see elected, the figure "2" opposite the name of the one whom they would prefer should the first not be returned, the figure "3" opposite their next choice, and so on. After it is known how many first preference votes have been given to the various candidates, if no candidate has received an absolute majority the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes is declared defeated. The ballot-papers of such defeated candidate are then examined with the view of ascertaining to what candidates the second preferences have been given, and these second preferences are allotted to the persons to whom they relate. Each remaining candidate thus receives, in addition to the first preferences accorded to him, the second preferences in his favour appearing on ballot-papers of the candidate who has been defeated. If there are still more than two candidates left, the procedure described above is repeated, the candidate occupying the lowest place being declared defeated, until it is found that one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes.

In twenty-eight of the contests in the election of April, 1927, there were more than two candidates. In five of these the candidate who received the greatest number of votes had an absolute majority of the total first preferences recorded, and consequently a second count was unnecessary. In the 23 remaining cases the distribution of ballot-papers of defeated candidates among non-defeated candidates next in order of voters' preference was put into operation, with the result that the candidates returned received an absolute majority of the votes recorded. In nine of these cases the candidate who occupied the highest position on the first count was displaced after the second and subsequent preferences had been distributed.

The following are the proportions of electors who voted at the last twenty-five general elections of the State Lower House in districts in which the elections were contested :—

PROPORTION OF VOTERS AT GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1866 TO 1927.

Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted. Per cent.	Year of General Election.	Proportion of Electors of Contested Districts who voted. Per cent.
1866	55·10	1900	63·47
1868	61·59	1902	65·47
1871	65·02	1904	66·72
1874	61·00	1907	61·26
1877	62·29	1908	53·64
1880 (Feb.)	66·56	1911	63·61
1880 (July)	65·85	1914	53·92
1883	64·96	1917	54·21
1886	64·70	1920	63·70
1889	66·58	1921	57·26
1892	65·12	1924	59·24
1894	70·99	1927	91·76*
1897	70·33		

* The increase in the percentage of voters at the elections held on 9th April, 1927, compared with former elections is accounted for by voting having been made compulsory by Act No. 3488, passed on 23rd December, 1926.

The first session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on 8th July, 1924, and was closed on 9th January, 1925. The second session was opened on 8th July, 1925, and was closed on 12th January, 1926. The third session was opened on 30th June, 1926, and closed on 11th January, 1927. Parliament was dissolved on 4th March, 1927. The first session of the twenty-ninth Parliament was opened on 6th July, 1927.

The following is a statement of the duration in days of each Parliament since the establishment of responsible government, the number of days in session during each Parliament, and the percentage of the latter to the duration :—

DURATION OF PARLIAMENTS AND SESSIONS,
1856 TO 1927.

Number of Parliament.			Period.	Duration of Parliament.	Days in Session.	
					Number.	Percentage to Duration.
				Days.		
1st	..	..	1856-8	991	691	69.7
2nd	..	..	1859-60	637	566	88.8
3rd	..	..	1861-4	1,091	728	66.7
4th	..	..	1864-5	378	366	96.8
5th	..	..	1866-7	686	391	57.0
6th	..	..	1868-70	1,048	734	70.0
7th	..	..	1871-3	1,049	639	60.9
8th	..	..	1874-6	1,072	700	65.3
9th	..	..	1877-9	993	684	68.9
10th	..	..	1880	49	46	93.9
11th	..	..	1880-2	926	802	86.6
12th	..	..	1883-6	1,088	543	49.9
13th	..	..	1886-9	1,091	653	59.9
14th	..	..	1889-92	1,093	636	58.2
15th	..	..	1892-4	845	524	62.0
16th	..	..	1894-7	1,089	684	62.8
17th	..	..	1897-00	1,088	586	53.9
18th	..	..	1900-02	671	358	53.4
19th	..	..	1902-3	436	300	68.8
20th	..	..	1904-7	968	509	52.6
21st	..	..	1907-8	518	327	63.1
22nd	..	..	1909-11	1,021	548	53.7
23rd	..	..	1911-14	1,066	584	54.8
24th	..	..	1914-17	1,056	614	58.1
25th	..	..	1917-20	1,037	592	57.1
26th	..	..	1920-21	270	86	31.9
27th	..	..	1921-24	936	494	52.8
28th	..	..	1924-27	970	571	58.9

STATE ACTS PASSED DURING 1926.

The following is a short synopsis of the Acts passed by the State Parliament during 1926 :—

Act No.	Date.	
3442 ..	7th July	.. This Act applies £1,470,517 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3443 ..	29th July	.. This Act applies £530,783 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1925-26.
3444 ..	5th August	.. This Act applies £1,410,202 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3445 ..	1st September	.. This Act applies £1,484,395 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3446 ..	21st September	.. The <i>Victorian Loan Act</i> 1926 authorizes the raising of £1,750,000* for irrigation and water supply works and for drainage and flood protection works in country districts and for works under the River Murray Waters Acts.
3447 ..	„	.. The <i>Water Supply Loans Application Act</i> 1926 sanctions the issue and application of £1,746,000 available under Loan Acts for irrigation works, water supply works, drainage, and flood protection works in country districts and for works under the River Murray Waters Acts.
3448 ..	28th September	.. The <i>Highways and Vehicles Act</i> 1926 amends the law relating to fees payable under the Second Schedule to the <i>Highways and Vehicles Act</i> 1924.
3449 ..	30th September	.. This Act applies £1,634,840 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3450 ..	5th October	.. The <i>Administration and Probate Act</i> 1926 amends the principal Act of 1915.
3451 ..	14th October	.. The <i>Electoral Districts Act</i> 1926, to be read with <i>The Constitution Act Amendment Act</i> 1915, relates to the re-division of the State of Victoria into electoral districts for the Legislative Assembly.
3452 ..	8th November	.. This Act applies £1,472,747 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3453 ..	11th November	.. The <i>Bank of New South Wales Act</i> 1926 enacts that the said bank be deemed to be a company incorporated outside the State of Victoria, and that section 270 of the <i>Companies Act</i> 1915 shall apply to the corporation in the same manner as if having been so incorporated it had commenced to carry on business in Victoria immediately after the passing of the Act.
3454 ..	17th November	.. The <i>Melbourne and Geelong Lighting Rate Act</i> 1926 relates to lighting rates in the City of Melbourne and the City of Geelong.
3455 ..	„	.. The <i>Settled Estates and Settled Lands Act</i> 1926 amends Part II. of the principal Act of 1915.

Act No.	Date.	
3456 ..	30th November ..	The <i>Wycheproof Land Act</i> 1926 provides for the sale by auction of certain Crown land in the parish of Bunguluke temporarily reserved as a site for public recreation and for the permanent reservation as a site for public recreation of certain other land in the said parish.
3457 ..	..	The <i>Castlemaine Land Act</i> 1926 provides for the grant to the Commissioners of the State Savings Bank of certain Crown land situate at Castle-maine in exchange for certain land the property of the said Commissioners.
3458 ..	..	The <i>Women's Qualification Act</i> 1926 amends the law with respect to disqualifications of women for public offices and professions. Women, however, are not liable to serve as jurors.
3459 ..	9th December ..	The <i>Cattle Compensation Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1924, amends the Cattle Compensation Acts.
3460 ..	9th December ..	This Act applies £1,549,333 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27.
3461 ..	14th December ..	The <i>Dried Fruits Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1924, continues the operation of the Acts relating to dried fruits until 31st March, 1930.
3462 ..	..	The <i>Companies (Names) Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, places restrictions on the name, style, or title of registered companies.
3463 ..	21st December ..	The <i>Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act</i> 1926 amends the Act of 1923.
3464 ..	..	The <i>South Kensington to West Footscray Railway Construction Act</i> 1926 authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from South Kensington to West Footscray.
3465 ..	23rd December ..	The <i>Censorship of Films Act</i> 1926, to be read with the <i>Theatres Act</i> 1915, makes provision for the censoring of cinematograph films and the exhibition of such films.
3466 ..	..	The <i>Municipal Endowment Act</i> 1926 provides that the municipal endowment for the year ending 30th June, 1927, be £50,000.
3467 ..	..	The <i>Treasury Bonds Act</i> 1926 authorizes the Government to raise £314,826 by the issue of Treasury bonds.
3468 ..	..	The <i>Theatres Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, amends the law relating to public entertainments in certain public buildings, gardens, and places.
3469 ..	..	The <i>Treasury Bills and Advances Act</i> 1926 amends the principal Act of 1922.
3470 ..	..	The <i>Health Act</i> 1926 amends the principal Act of 1915 and amending Health Acts.
3471 ..	..	The <i>Land Tax Act</i> 1926 fixes the rate of land tax for the year 1927 at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on every pound sterling of the unimproved value where the unimproved value exceeds £250, and imposes a super-tax equal to 5 per cent. of the amount of land tax payable, the minimum tax payable to be 2s. 6d.

Act. No.	Date.	
3472 ..	23rd December	.. The <i>Income Tax Act</i> 1926, to be read with the Acts of 1914 and 1915 and amending Acts, to come into force on 31st December, 1926, fixes the rates of income tax for the year ending 30th June, 1927. Incomes of £200 and under are not taxable. On incomes from £201 to £500 there is an exemption of £200, which, however, does not apply to companies. Incomes from personal exertion are taxed 3½d. in the £1 up to £500; where such income exceeds £500, for every £1 up to £500, 4½d.; for every £1 over £500 and up to £1,000, 5½d.; for every £1 over £1,000 and up to £1,500, 6½d.; and for every £1 over £1,500, 7½d. Taxes on incomes from property are double these rates. Additional taxes are levied on incomes (excluding those of companies) from £800 to £1,000 of 10 per cent., from £1,000 to £1,250 of 12½ per cent.; from £1,250 to £2,200 of 15 per cent.; from £2,200 to £5,000 of 20 per cent.; and exceeding £5,000 of 25 per cent. of the amount of tax otherwise chargeable. Companies (other than mutual life assurance companies) are taxed at the rate of 1s. 4d. in the £1. Mutual life assurance companies are taxed at the rate of 1s. in the £1 in respect to their mutual life assurance business, and at the rate of 1s. 4d. in the £1 on all other business. Any married taxpayer ordinarily resident in Victoria whose income does not exceed £800 may deduct £50 from his income from personal exertion for the maintenance of his wife provided that she has not an income of her own exceeding £100 per annum. The amount that may be deducted from income for the maintenance of children under 16 years of age is £50. The minimum income tax payable is fixed at 5s.
3473 The <i>Income Tax Acts Amendment Act</i> 1926 amends the Acts of 1914 and 1915 by exempting from taxation the profits of companies whose profits are used solely for the promotion of religion. Deduction of certain gifts to the Lord Mayor's Fund for Metropolitan hospitals and charities is also allowed.
3474 The <i>Victorian Loan (Public Works) Act</i> 1926 authorizes the raising of £675,000—£661,000 for public works and other purposes and £14,000 for the purchase and supply of wire netting.
3475 The <i>Public Works Loan Application Act</i> 1926 sanctions the issue and application of £669,000 available under Loan Acts for various public works.
3476 The <i>Victorian Government Loan Act</i> 1926 authorizes the raising of £2,500,000 to be expended on railways and tramways and rolling-stock, and for railways and works under the <i>Border Railways Act</i> 1922.

Act No.	Date.	
3477 ..	23rd December ..	The <i>Railway Loan Application Act</i> 1926 sanctions the issue and application of £2,700,000 available under Loan Acts for railway, tramway, and other purposes.
3478	The <i>Victorian Loan (Electricity Supply) and Application Act</i> 1926 authorizes the raising of £1,918,334 for works and undertakings of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, and sanctions the issue and application of the money.
3479	The <i>Stamps Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, continues double stamp duties payable on certain instruments until 30th June, 1931.
3480	The <i>Teachers Act</i> 1926, to be read with the <i>Public Service Act</i> 1915, relates to the promotion, &c., of State school teachers.
3481	The <i>Federal Aid Roads Act</i> 1926 ratifies an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Victoria relating to the making available by the Commonwealth of moneys for the purpose of construction and reconstruction of "Federal Aid Roads" in Victoria.
3482	The <i>Stock Foods Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1915, provides physical and chemical standards for bran and pollard.
3483	The <i>Ballaarat Gas Company's Act</i> 1926 amends the principal Act of 1857.
3484	The <i>Ararat Land Act</i> 1926 revokes the reservation of certain land situate in the township of Ararat as a site for the interment of the dead.
3485	The <i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act</i> 1926 further amends the principal Act of 1915.
3486	The <i>Fyansford Land Act</i> 1926 provides for the issue of Crown grants to a company registered under the name of Australian Cement Limited in respect of certain land now forming portions of certain streets in the Town of Fyansford and of portion of certain other land in the said town now permanently reserved as a site for a Protestant Orphan Asylum.
3487	The <i>Fruit Act</i> 1926 amends the Acts of 1915, 1917, and 1920.
3488	The <i>Compulsory Voting (Assembly Elections) Act</i> 1926 makes provision for compulsory voting at Legislative Assembly elections.
3489	The <i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act</i> 1926, to be read with the principal Act of 1918, provides for the continuance in office of the members of the Board until 31st January, 1928. The limit of the bank overdraft is increased from £200,000 to £400,000.

Act No.	Date.	
3490 ..	23rd December ..	<i>The Saturday Voting (Parliamentary Elections) Act 1926</i> provides that all State Parliamentary elections be held on a Saturday.
3491 <i>The Sinking Funds and Redemption Funds Act 1926</i> makes provision with respect to certain sinking funds and redemption funds.
3492 <i>The Black Rock to Beaumaris Electric Street Railway Act 1926</i> further amends the Act of 1920.
3493 <i>The Albion to Broadmeadows Railway Construction Act 1926</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Albion to Broadmeadows.
3494 <i>The Orbst to Brodribb Railway Construction Act 1926</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Orbst to Brodribb.
3495 <i>The Country Roads Act 1926</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, increases the salaries of the members of the Board—the Chairman from £1,250 to £1,550 and the members (two) from £900 to £1,200.
3496 <i>The Melbourne Harbour Trust Act 1926</i> amends the principal Act of 1915.
3497 <i>The Children's Welfare Act 1926</i> , to be read with the principal Act of 1915, gives power to the Governor in Council to order that any person or institution shall cease to have the custody or care of a child committed to them. Private persons and institutions having care of children are compelled to answer fully and truly inquiries respecting such children.
3498 <i>The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1926</i> , to be read with the Act of 1915, provides for the payment to members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly after retirement, &c., in certain cases.
3499 This Act applies £9,214,005 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the service of the year 1926-27, and appropriates supplies granted during the session amounting to £18,766,822 to the service of the Government.
3500 <i>The Darling to Glen Waverley Railway Construction Act 1926</i> authorizes the construction by the State of a line of railway from Darling to Glen Waverley.
3501 <i>The Newport Land Act 1926</i> provides for the grant to the British Imperial Oil Company Limited of certain Crown land situate at Newport in exchange for certain land of which the said company is the registered proprietor and the reservation of the last mentioned land as a site for a public park and garden.

OFFICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY.

The following statement shows the names and periods of office of Governors and Acting Governors of the State since the first appointment of Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe as Superintendent, in 1839 :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe ...	30th Sept., 1839 ...	5th May, 1854
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	8th May, 1854 ...	22nd June, 1854
Captain Sir Charles Hotham, R.N., K.C.B.	22nd June, 1854 ...	31st Dec., 1855
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	1st January, 1856...	26th Dec., 1856
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	26th December, 1856	10th September, 1863
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B.	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	7th May, 1866 ...	15th August, 1866
The Honorable Sir John Henry Thomas Manners-Sutton, K.C.B.	15th August, 1866...	2nd March, 1873
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd March, 1873 ...	19th March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G.	31st March, 1873 ...	22nd February, 1879
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	3rd January, 1875...	10th January, 1875
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	11th January, 1875	14th January, 1876
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine Phipps, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	27th February, 1879	18th April, 1884
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	18th April, 1884 ...	15th July, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, G.C.M.G., K.C.B. {	15th July, 1884 ...	8th March, 1889
	18th October, 1889	15th November, 1889
Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, G.C.M.G. (acting) {	9th March, 1889 ...	17th October, 1889
	16th November, 1889	27th November, 1889
The Right Honorable John Adrian Louis Hope, Earl of Hopetoun, G.C.M.G.	28th November, 1889	12th July, 1895
The Honorable John Madden, LL.D. {	26th January, 1893	11th May, 1893
(acting)	27th March, 1895 ...	24th October, 1895
The Right Honorable Baron Brassey, K.C.B.	25th October, 1895	31st March, 1900
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D. (acting) {	29th December, 1896	16th February, 1897
	23rd March, 1898 ...	21st October, 1898

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA—*continued.*

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (acting)	15th January, 1900	10th December, 1901
Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.	10th December, 1901	24th November, 1903
The Honorable Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (acting)	24th November, 1903	25th April, 1904
Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B.	25th April, 1904 ...	6th July, 1908
The Honorable Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., LL.D., Lieutenant- Governor (acting) {	20th March, 1907 ...	18th November, 1907
	6th July, 1908 ...	27th July, 1908
	19th May, 1911 ...	24th May, 1911
	28th August, 1913	23rd February, 1914
Sir Thomas David Gibson Car- michael, Baronet, K.C.M.G.	27th July, 1908 ...	19th May, 1911
Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet	24th May, 1911 ...	31st January, 1914
Sir Arthur Lyulph Stanley, K.C.M.G.	23rd February, 1914	30th January, 1920*
Sir William Hill Irvine, K.C.M.G., { Lieutenant Governor (acting) }	30th July, 1919 ...	24th February, 1921
	1st April, 1923 ...	24th October, 1923
	7th April, 1926 ...	28th June, 1926
The Right Hon. the Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.†	24th February, 1921	7th April, 1926
Lieutenant-Colonel The Right Hon. Arthur Herbert Tennyson Baron Somers, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.	28th June, 1926	

NOTE.—Captain William Lonsdale, formerly of the 4th Regiment, was appointed Police Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip on 9th September, 1836, and assumed office on the 29th of the same month. In that capacity he was in charge of the District until the appointment of Mr. C. J. La Trobe as Superintendent. Subsequently, Captain Lonsdale acted as Superintendent during the temporary absence of Mr. La Trobe, who was called on to administer the Government of Tasmania from the 13th October, 1846, to the 25th January, 1847. Sir William H. Irvine was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, to act in the absence of the Governor, by Commission dated 11th May, 1918.

* On leave of absence for six months from 30th July, 1919.

† On leave of absence from 1st April, 1923, to 24th October, 1923.

Ministers of
the Crown,
1851 to 1855.

The following list shows the names of Ministers who held office from the separation of the Colony from New South Wales in 1851 up to the establishment of responsible government in 1855 :—

MINISTERS PRIOR TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Name of Minister.	Office.	Date of Assumption of Office.
William Lonsdale	Colonial Secretary	15th July, 1851
Alastair Mackenzie	Colonial Treasurer..	
Charles Hotson Ebdon ..	Auditor-General ..	
Robert Hoddle	Surveyor-General ..	
Alexander McCrae	Chief Postmaster ..	
William Foster Stawell ..	Attorney-General ..	
Redmond Barry	Solicitor-General ..	
James Horatio Nelson Cassell ..	Collector of Customs	13th April, 1852
Edward Eyre Williams ..	Solicitor-General ..	
James Croke	Solicitor-General ..	21st July, 1852
Frederick Armand Powlett ..	Colonial Treasurer..	30th September, 1852
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers ..	Auditor-General ..	11th October, 1852
Andrew Clarke	Surveyor-General ..	1st July, 1853
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster ..	Colonial Secretary	20th July, 1853
William Lonsdale	Colonial Treasurer	20th July, 1853
Hugh Culling Eardley Childers ..	Collector of Customs	5th December, 1853
Edward Grimes	Auditor-General	8th December, 1853
Robert Molesworth	Solicitor-General ..	4th January, 1854
William Clark Haines	Colonial Secretary	12th December, 1854

In the next list will be found the names of the
 Ministries, 1855 to 1927. Premiers of the several Governments from 1855 to the
 present date:—

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
			Days.
1. William Clark Haines...	28th November, 1855	11th March, 1857 ...	469
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March, 1857 ...	29th April, 1857 ...	49
3. William Clark Haines...	29th April, 1857 ...	10th March, 1858 ...	315
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March, 1858 ...	27th October, 1859	596
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October, 1859...	26th November, 1860	396
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November, 1860	14th November, 1861	353
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November, 1861	27th June, 1863 ...	590
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June, 1863 ...	6th May, 1868 ...	1,775
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May, 1868 ...	11th July, 1868 ...	66
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July, 1868 ...	20th September, 1869	436
11. John Alexander Mac- Pherson	20th September 1869	9th April, 1870 ...	201
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April, 1870 ...	19th June, 1871 ...	436
13. Charles Gavan Duffy...	19th June, 1871 ...	10th June, 1872 ...	357
14. James Goodall Francis	10th June, 1872 ...	31st July, 1874 ...	781
15. George Briscoe Kerferd	31st July, 1874 ...	7th August, 1875 ...	372
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August, 1875 ...	20th October, 1875	74
17. Sir James McCulloch	20th October, 1875...	21st May, 1877 ...	579
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May, 1877 ...	5th March, 1880 ...	1,019
19. James Service ...	5th March, 1880 ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	151
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	9th July, 1881 ...	340
21. Sir Bryan O'Loughlen...	9th July, 1881 ...	8th March, 1883 ...	607
22. James Service ...	8th March, 1883 ...	18th February, 1886	1,078
23.. Duncan Gillies ...	18th February, 1886	5th November, 1890	1,722
24. James Munro ...	5th November, 1890	16th February, 1892	469
25. William Shiels ...	16th February, 1892	23rd January, 1893	343
26. James Brown Patterson	23rd January, 1893	27th September, 1894	612
27. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	27th September, 1894	5th December, 1899	1,895
28. Allan McLean ...	5th December, 1899	19th November, 1900	350
29. Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G.	19th November, 1900	12th February, 1901	85
30. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	12th February, 1901	10th June, 1902 ...	483
31. William Hill Irvine ...	10th June, 1902 ...	16th February, 1904	616
32. Sir Thomas Bent, K.C.M.G.	16th February, 1904	8th January, 1909	1,789
33. John Murray ...	8th January, 1909	18th May, 1912 ...	1,226
34. William Alexander Watt	18th May, 1912 ...	9th December, 1913	205
35. George Alexander Elmslie	9th December, 1913	22nd December, 1913	13

MINISTRIES SINCE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—continued.

Number of Ministry and Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.	Duration of Office.
36. William Alexander Watt	22nd December, 1913	18th June, 1914 ...	Days. 178
37. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	18th June, 1914 ...	29th November, 1917	1,260
38. John Bowser ...	29th November, 1917	21st March, 1918 ...	112
39. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	21st March, 1918 ...	7th September, 1923	1,996
40. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	7th September, 1923	19th March, 1924	194
41. Harry Sutherland Wightman Lawson	19th March, 1924	28th April, 1924 ...	40
42. Sir Alexander James Peacock, K.C.M.G.	28th April, 1924...	18th July, 1924 ...	81
43. George Michael Prendergast	18th July, 1924...	18th November, 1924	123
44. John Allan ...	18th November, 1924	20th May, 1927 ...	913
45. Edmond John Hogan	20th May, 1927		

Hogan Ministry. As a result of the general elections held on 9th April, 1927, the Hon. J. Allan (Premier) relinquished office and the leader of the Labour party, the Hon. E. J. Hogan, was commissioned to form a new Ministry, which assumed office on 20th May, 1927. It consisted of the following members :—

HOGAN MINISTRY.

Name.	Office.
Hogan, Edmond John ..	.. Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Markets.
Tunnecliffe, Thomas ..	.. Minister of Railways, Minister in charge of electrical undertakings, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Lemmon, John ..	.. Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Labour.
Bailey, Henry Stephen ..	.. Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, Minister of Water Supply, and President of the Board of Land and Works.
Prendergast, George Michael	.. Chief Secretary.
Slater, William ..	.. Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, and Minister for Agriculture.
Jones, John Percy, M.L.C.	.. Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines, Minister in charge of Immigration, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Beckett, William James, M.L.C. ..	.. Minister of Forests, Minister of Public Health, and a Vice-President of the Board of Land and Works.
Disney, James Herbert, M.L.C. ..	.. Minister without Portfolio.
Williams, Robert, M.L.C.	.. Minister without Portfolio.
Cain, John ..	.. Minister without Portfolio.
Webber, Gordon Charles	.. Minister without Portfolio.

The names of members and of officers of Parliament and of the constituencies which the members represent are given below :—

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1927.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President : Hon. Sir F. G. Clarke, K.B.E.

Name of Province.	Name of Member.	Date of Retirement.
Bendigo	Hon. J. Sternberg	1928
	Hon. H. Keck	1931
East Yarra	Hon. J. K. Merritt	1928
	Hon. W. H. Edgar (Chairman of Committees)	1931
Gippsland	Hon. M. McGregor	1928
	Hon. G. M. Davis	1931
Melbourne	Hon. H. H. Smith	1928
	Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C.	1931
Melbourne East ..	Hon. J. P. Jones (Commissioner of Public Works, Minister of Mines and Minister in charge of Immigration)	1928
	Hon. D. L. McNamara	1931
Melbourne North ..	Hon. E. L. Kiernan	1928
	Hon. W. J. Beckett (Minister of Forests and Minister of Public Health)	1931
Melbourne South ..	Hon. T. H. Payne	1928
	Hon. Sir F. G. Clarke, K.B.E. (President)	1931
Melbourne West ..	Hon. R. Williams (Minister without Portfolio)	1928
	Hon. J. H. Disney	1931
Nelson	Hon. T. Beggs	1928
	Hon. E. G. Bath	1931
Northern	Hon. R. H. S. Abbott	1928
	Hon. G. J. Tuckett	1931
North-Eastern ..	Hon. Dr. J. R. Harris	1928
	Hon. A. M. Zwar	1931
North-Western ..	Hon. W. P. Crockett	1928
	Hon. G. L. Goudie	1931
Southern	Hon. W. C. Angliss	1928
	Hon. W. L. R. Clarke	1931
South-Eastern ..	Hon. W. Tyner	1928
	Hon. A. E. Chandler	1931
South-Western ..	Hon. H. F. Richardson	1928
	Hon. H. Hitchcock	1931
Wellington	Hon. F. W. Brawn	1928
	Hon. A. Bell	1931
Western	Hon. M. Saltau	1928
	Hon. E. J. White	1931

Clerk of the Legislative Council: T. R. Gilchrist.

Clerk Assistant: W. R. Heywood.

Usher, Accountant, and Clerk of Committees: P. T. Pook.

Clerk of the Records: H. B. Jamieson.

Clerk of the Papers: L. V. Hoyle.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1927—*continued.*

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Speaker : Hon. O. R. Snowball.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Albert Park	R. M. Cuthbertson.
Allandale	Hon. Sir A. J. Peacock, K.C.M.G.
Ballarat	W. J. McAdam.
Barwon	E. Morley.
Benalla	E. F. Cleary.
Benambra	Hon. H. Beardmore.
Bendigo	A. E. Cook.
Boroondara	R. Linton.
Brighton	O. R. Snowball (Speaker).
Brunswick	J. R. Jewell.
Bulla-Dalhousie	R. T. Pollard.
Carlton	R. H. Solly (Chairman of Committees).
Castlemaine and Kyneton	Hon. H. S. W. Lawson.
Caulfield	F. E. Forrest.
Clifton Hill	M. M. Blackburn.
Coburg	F. Keane.
Collingwood	Hon. T. Tunnecliffe (Minister of Railways and Minister in charge of electrical undertakings).
Dandenong	Hon. F. Groves.
Dundas	Hon. W. Slater (Attorney-General, Solicitor- General, and Minister for Agriculture).
Essendon	A. S. Drakeford.
Evelyn	W. H. Everard.
Flemington	J. J. Holland.
Footscray	Hon. G. M. Prendergast (Chief Secretary).
Geelong	W. Brownbill.
Gippsland East	A. E. Lind.
Gippsland North	J. W. McLachlan.
Gippsland South	H. G. Bodman.
Gippsland West	A. L. N. Walter.
Goulburn Valley	Colonel Hon. M. W. J. Bouchier, C.M.G., D.S.O.
Grant	R. T. Hjorth.
Gunbower	Hon. H. Angus.
Hampden	A. Hughes.
Hawthorn	Hon. Sir W. M. McPherson, K.B.E.
Heidelberg	Hon. G. C. Webber (Minister without Portfolio).
Kara Kara-Borung	Hon. J. W. Pennington, O.B.E.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE PARLIAMENT, 1927—*continued*.THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—*continued*.

Name of Electoral District.	Name of Member.
Kew	W. S. Kent Hughes.
Korong-Eaglehawk ..	A. A. Dunstan.
Lowan	Hon. M. E. Wettenhall.
Maryborough-Daylesford ..	G. C. Frost.
Melbourne	T. Hayes.
Mildura	A. G. Allnutt.
Mornington	Hon. A. Downward.
Northcote	Hon. J. Cain (Minister without Portfolio).
Nunawading	E. W. Greenwood.
Oakleigh	S. H. Reid.
Ouyen	H. Glowrey.
Polwarth	J. McDonald.
Port Fairy-Glenelg ..	E. E. Bond.
Port Melbourne	J. L. Murphy.
Prahran	A. R. Jackson.
Richmond	E. J. Cotter.
Rodney	Hon. J. Allan.
St. Kilda	B. Gray.
Stawell and Ararat ..	Hon. R. F. Toutcher.
Swan Hill	Hon. F. E. Old.
Toorak	Hon. Dr. S. S. Argyle.
Upper Goulburn	Hon. E. J. Mackrell.
Upper Yarra	G. H. Knox.
Walhalla	W. A. Moncur.
Wangaratta-Ovens ..	Hon. Sir J. Bowser.
Waranga	E. A. Coyle.
Warrenheip-Grenville ..	Hon. E. J. Hogan (Premier, Treasurer, and Minister of Markets).
Warrnambool	Hon. H. S. Bailey (Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey and Minister of Water Supply).
Williamstown	Hon. J. Lemmon (Minister of Public Instruction and Minister of Labour).
Wonthaggi	W. G. McKenzie.

Clerk of Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly : W. R. Alexander, J.P.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Private Bills : W. R. Barstow, J.P.

Clerk of Committees and Serjeant-at-Arms : F. E. Wanke.

Reader and Clerk of the Record : G. R. Webb.

Accountant and Assistant Clerk of Committees : P. P. Conlan.

Clerk of the Papers : H. K. McLachlan.

Chief *Hansard* Reporter : A. H. Angel.

Librarian (Acting) : E. L. Frazer.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

The following is a return of Consuls-General and Consuls for Victoria of foreign countries :—

CONSULS-GENERAL.

Country.	Name.
Argentina	Bartoli, U. A.
China	Ouei Tze-King.
Colombia	Lyle, M.
Germany	Busing, Dr. Hans.
Honduras	Mattei, Senor Don Rafael Medina (Hon.).
Norway	Arentz, E. K. B.
Peru	Vargas, L. A.
Swiss Confederation	Stahel, G. (Hon.).
United States	Garrels, A.

CONSULS.

Austria	Hauser, L. (Hon.).
Belgium	Barber, C. (Acting).
Chili	Le Plastrier, C. W.
Czecho-Slovakia	Peacock, E. R. (Hon.).
Denmark	Holdenson, P. J. (Hon.).
France	Turck, R.
Greece	Maniachi, A. V. (Hon.).
Guatemala	De Bavay, Auguste.
Italy	Grossardi, Commendatore A.
Japan	McBeath, Sir W. G., K.B.E. (Hon.).
Netherlands	Wright, F. H. (Hon.).
Nicaragua	Mattei, Senor Don Rafael Medina.
Norway	Schreuder, A. T. (Hon.).
Panama	Kelson, V. J. (Acting).
Portugal	Thomson, J. (Hon.).
Salvador	Karagheusian, V. N. T. (Hon.).
Spain	Cave, H. (Hon.).
Sweden	Helin, H. (Hon.).
Switzerland	Frossard, P.
United States	Robinson, T. H.
Uruguay	Morell, S. J. (Hon.).

VICE-CONSULS.

Argentina	Mackay, S.
Brazil, United States of	Sheppard, H. A.
China	Uo Kao.
Denmark	Belcher, E. N. (Geelong).
Finland	Sleigh, H. C. (Hon.) (Acting).
Germany	Fricke, H. H. F.
Greece	Martyn, J.
Italy	Vitali, L. B. (Hon.).
Japan	Black, P. J. (Hon.).
Norway	Howard, J. (Hon.).
Paraguay	Fraser, W. S.
United States	Moran, J. E.
.. ..	Wasson, T. C.
.. ..	Callanan, L. J.

CONSULAR AGENT.

Brazil	Sheppard, R.
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TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

The following Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the countries mentioned to represent them in Victoria :—

Representing—

United Kingdom	..	..	Setchell, H. E.
Canada ..	..	..	Ross, D. H.
New Zealand ..	..	..	Manson, H. J.
United States ..	..	..	Pauly, Elmer G.

FINANCE.

State
Finance.

Under the Constitution Act the revenues of the State are payable into Consolidated Revenue, but certain of these revenues have been hypothecated by various Acts of Parliament for specified purposes, and are payable into special accounts or funds kept at the State Treasury. Apart from these special funds (shown below) the financial transactions are concerned with one or other of three Funds, viz.:—(a) Consolidated Revenue Fund, (b) Trust Funds, and (c) Loan Funds. The Treasurer's Finance Statement of revenue and expenditure relates to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but in the succeeding tables the public revenue of certain special funds or accounts is included. Payments from Consolidated Revenue are made either under the authority of an Annual Appropriation Act passed by the Legislature, or by a permanent appropriation under a Special Act. The special appropriations represent services such as interest on the public debt, contributions to the redemption funds, the salaries of the Governor, the Judges and some other officials, State pensions, endowments to municipalities, etc. The expenditure under special appropriations during the year 1925-26 amounted to £7,961,990.

Below is given a concise statement of the chief special funds kept at the Treasury, with the exception of Redemption and Sinking Funds as shown on page 79 *et seq.* :—

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Assurance Fund	2740, sec. 239	Established for the purpose of assuring and indemnifying the Government in granting a clear title on land brought under the Transfer of Land Act. A contribution of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £ is levied on all lands brought under the Act.
The Closer Settlements Fund	2629	Created for the purposes of civilian closer settlement. All moneys received under the Closer Settlement Acts, except proceeds of loans raised by the Government, are paid into this Fund. The receipts consist chiefly of amounts paid by settlers as instalments of principal and interest in respect of land and advances granted to them. Payments from the Fund are made for redemption of loans raised under the Closer Settlement Acts by the Government, interest on such loans, and administration expenses. Power is given also to apply the Fund to payments for the purchase of land, advances to settlers, and improvement of land.

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund	2916	Functions similarly to the Closer Settlements Fund except that it relates to settlement of discharged soldiers.
The Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	2988	Established to meet concessions granted under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts. The soldiers are allowed to occupy land for the first three years free of charge, and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. only is charged on the cost of the land and advances, the Government having raised loans for the purposes of the Acts at a higher rate. The cost of the concessions is made good to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund by proceeds of loans raised by the Government, and these loans are redeemed by payments from the Concessions Fund. The State Government contributes annually the sum of £75,000 to the Fund, and the Commonwealth Government, for a period of five years in each instance, pays annually to the Fund an amount equal to 2½ per cent. on loan moneys made available by it to the State for Discharged Soldiers Settlement.
The Country Roads Board Fund	2635	<p>Established for the maintenance of main roads. This account is credited with all moneys paid to the Treasurer by any municipality in respect of permanent works and the maintenance of main roads; amounts received by the Board under the provisions of the Country Roads Act; annual Government subsidy of £10,000; all fees and fines, less the cost of collection, paid under the <i>Motor Car Act</i> 1915; fees, less the cost of collection, received by the Crown in respect of unused roads and water frontages under part 39 of the <i>Local Government Act</i> 1915, and all moneys which, as provided by Sections 481 and 485 of the said Act, are to be paid into the said Fund; and fees paid on the registration or renewal of registration of traction engines. The money to the credit of the Fund is applied as follows:—</p> <p>(a) 6 per cent. per annum on the amount due by the municipalities in respect of permanent works is applied in payment of interest on half the amount borrowed under the provisions of the Country Roads Act at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, the balance being paid into a Sinking Fund until half the amount borrowed is paid off.</p> <p>(b) The balance, after the payment of the said 6 per cent., is applied in payment of the cost of maintenance of main roads, and in payment of any liabilities incurred by the Board under the provisions of the Act.</p>

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
Developmental Railways Account	2640	Established for the construction of developmental railways. The chief source of revenue is the proceeds of the sale of lands by auction, exclusive of Mallee lands, and interest paid by municipalities under the Developmental Roads Act 2944. The Fund is required to pay the interest on the liability under the last-named Act.
Licensing Fund	2683 and various amendments	Is controlled by the Licences Reduction Board. All the State licence fees in connexion with the sale and manufacture of liquor, together with Court fees, fines, and forfeitures under the Licensing Act, constitute the revenue. The expenditure consists of :— (a) The administration expenses of the Board ; (b) Allowances to and expenses of Licensing Inspectors, Licensing Prosecutions, and Clerks of Licensing Courts ; (c) Compensation for licences taken away or surrendered ; (d) Annual statutory payments to specified municipalities ; and (e) Annual transfer of £23,000 to the Police Superannuation Fund. The 1922 Act provides for an annual increment in the Fund of £20,000. Any surplus over and above this increment is transferred on 30th June to Consolidated Revenue.
Police Superannuation Fund	2709	Established to pay superannuation allowances and gratuities, &c., to members of the Police Force who joined it prior to 25th November, 1902. The revenue consists of an annual subsidy of £2,000, an annual transfer of £23,000 from the Licensing Fund, a deduction of 2½ per cent. from the pay of members, and 50 per cent. of the fines inflicted in Courts of Petty Sessions ; should the foregoing prove insufficient, the deficiency is provided from Consolidated Revenue. In 1925-26 the amount so provided was £69,000.
Police Pensions Fund	3316	Established to provide pensions, &c., for all members of the Police Force not already entitled to them, i.e., those who joined it after 25th November, 1902. The revenue is derived from an annual payment of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue, a deduction of 2½ per cent. from the pay of members, interest on surplus moneys invested, and such additional sum as may be paid into the Fund from Consolidated Revenue to ensure its solvency.

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Super-annuation Fund	3408	Established to make provision for superannuation benefits on a contributory basis from 1st January, 1926, for State public servants and railway employees. See page 59.
The Port Phillip Pilot Sick and Superannuation Fund	2688	Established to provide pensions for pilots. It is maintained by deductions from pilots' earnings and the annual income derived from investment of the moneys belonging to the Fund. There is no contribution from the Government.
The State Accident Insurance Fund.	2496	Receives and disburses all moneys (including expenses of administration) on account of the State Accident Insurance Office, which conducts Workers' Compensation Insurance. The General Reserve is invested in Victorian Stock.
Mallee Land Account	2676	The revenue of this Fund is derived from land sales, rents, &c., in the Mallee. The total revenue can only be used for redemption of Victorian Stock or Debentures. It is thus a Sinking Fund, and is referred to in this connexion on page 79.
The Railway Accident and Fire Insurance Fund	2716	This Fund was established as a reserve to meet the cost incurred by the Railways Department in connexion with:—(a) The injury or death of any person by reason of an accident due to the neglect or default of the Department; (b) Compensation to employees injured on duty; (c) Damage to property by fire; and (d) Damage to or loss of goods while in the possession of the Department for transportation. The Fund is regularly credited with an amount equal to ten shillings per centum of the Railway Revenue, subject to the condition that the amount at the credit of the Fund shall not exceed £100,000.
Metropolitan Roads Fund	3378	Established to receive the additional fees paid by motor omnibuses, as well as all moneys (less cost of collection) received by the licensing authority, under the provisions of the <i>Motor Omnibus Act</i> 1925. Moneys standing to the credit of the fund shall be allocated and paid to the several municipalities wherein the motor omnibuses are used, and shall be applied by the councils of those municipalities towards the construction, renewals, &c., of the streets or roads.

SPECIAL FUNDS (EXCLUDING SINKING FUNDS) KEPT AT THE TREASURY
—continued.

Fund.	Act No.	Remarks.
The Forestry Fund	2976	Established for the improvement and re-forestation of State Forests and for the development of forestry. The State Government contributes annually the sum of £40,000 to the fund, in addition it contributes annually a sum equal to one-half of the gross amount of Forests' revenue in excess of £80,000.
Cattle Compensation Fund	3365	This fund was established for the purpose of paying compensation, in accordance with the Cattle Compensation Act, to owners of cattle destroyed by the order of any authorized stock inspector. The fund is credited with all sums received by or for the Comptroller of Stamps in respect of stamp duty on statements under this Act, and all penalties recovered under the Act.

Under the Local Government Act the municipalities have power to levy rates, and are assisted with grants by the State Government. Particulars regarding municipal finance are given in another section of the *Year-Book*. Allied to the municipalities are the Boards and Trusts which control water supply, irrigation, and sewerage, and have rating powers in connexion therewith. There are also the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the Country Fire Brigades Board, which are concerned with fire extinction in the metropolis and urban districts, and derive their revenues from the State Government, the Municipalities, and Insurance Companies; and the Melbourne and Geelong Harbour Trusts, which are intrusted with the management of those respective ports, and derive their revenues mainly from wharfage rates.

A summary of the transactions for the financial year 1925-26 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and in the special funds referred to above gives the following result :—

	£	£
Revenue deficit at 31st December, 1925	..	687,678
Revenue, 1925-26	25,269,756	
Expenditure, 1925-26	25,559,583	
Deficit for the year .. ..	.. ..	289,827
Revenue deficit at 30th June, 1926 .. ..	.. ..	977,505

The Revenue and Expenditure Account is a statement of cash transactions, the revenue representing actual receipts less refunds, and the expenditure actual payments made during the year. The accumulated revenue deficiency had its beginning in the year 1890-91, when it amounted to £206,843, and in the course of the next five years it was added to year by year, until it reached its greatest magnitude (£2,711,436) on 30th June, 1896. On 30th June, 1914, the amount was £251,652, but by the 30th June, 1916, it was increased to £1,642,091. This deficiency has since been steadily reduced each year to £687,678 on 31st December, 1925. As the transactions during 1925-26 resulted in a deficit (£289,827), the accumulated revenue deficiency was increased to £977,505. An Act (No. 3341), passed on 21st May, 1924, provides for a yearly appropriation of at least £25,000 from revenue towards the reduction of the deficit, and by section 13 of the same Act the excess of receipts over expenditure for any financial year is also applied thereto by the following 31st December.

The differences between the amounts of revenue and expenditure shown above and those given in the Treasurer's Finance Statement arise from the use of a different method of classification for statistical purposes, the particulars of which for 1925-26 are as follows:—

Items.	Public Revenue.	Public Expenditure.
	£	£
Total according to Treasurer's Finance Statement ..	24,617,927	24,932,754
<i>Add public revenue of the following funds—</i>		
Mallee Land Account—appropriated to Loan		
Redemption purposes	108,608	108,608
Country Roads Board Fund	654,069	654,069
Licensing Fund*	188,146	188,146
Police Superannuation Fund	13,570	13,570
Assurance Fund	3,216	3,216
Cattle Compensation Fund	24,614	24,614
Metropolitan Roads Fund	9,318	9,318
<i>Deduct—</i>		
Appropriation to reduction of deficit .. .. .	..	25,000
Loss on non-paying railways	146,000	146,000
Payment to Railways Department on account of reduced Freight Charges	160,000	160,000
Railways Subsidy to State Coal Mine	25,000	25,000
Railways Contribution to Superannuation Fund	18,712	18,712
Total	25,269,756	25,559,583

* Excluding £192,041 transferred to Revenue under Section 39 of Act No. 3259.

Compiled on the above basis, the revenue and expenditure of the State for the last eleven years are shown in the next statement :—

STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: 1915-16 TO 1925-26.

Year.	Public Revenue.	Public Expenditure.	Surplus (+). Deficiency (-).		
			For each Year.	Reduction of Consolidated Revenue Deficit by Revenue Surplus Acts.	Accumulated Deficiency to end of each Year (i.e. 30th June).
	£	£	£	£	£
1914-15 ..	..	..	..	..	-1,429,603
1915-16 ..	11,470,875	11,683,363	- 212,488	..	-1,642,091
1916-17 ..	11,813,879	11,795,295	+ 18,584	..	-1,623,507
1917-18 ..	12,672,787	12,631,169	+ 41,618	..	-1,581,889
1918-19 ..	13,044,088	12,979,407	+ 20,681	44,000	-1,517,208
1919-20 ..	15,866,184	15,852,459	+ 13,725	100,000	-1,403,483
1920-21 ..	19,054,475	19,041,698	+ 12,777	100,000	-1,290,706
1921-22 ..	20,357,733	20,297,279	+ 60,454	25,000	-1,205,252
1922-23 ..	21,634,677	21,611,309	+ 23,368	..	-1,181,884
					At 31st December following :—
1923-24 ..	23,075,968	22,950,968	+ 125,000*	234,802	- 822,082
1924-25 ..	24,304,088	24,170,483	+ 134,404†	..	- 687,678
1925-26 ..	25,269,756	25,559,583	- 289,827	..	- 977,505

* Only £25,000 appropriated towards reduction of deficit by 30th June, balance (£100,000) by 31st December following (Act No. 3341).

† Only £25,000 appropriated towards reduction of deficit by 30th June, balance (£109,404) by 31st December following (Act No. 3341).

Heads of State Revenue. Details of the sources of the revenue for the last five financial years are given in the following statement :—

HEADS OF STATE REVENUE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heads of Revenue.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth Subsidy ..	1,918,967	1,969,772	2,014,746	2,055,834	2,090,951
State Taxation—					
Income Tax ..	1,443,209	1,514,256	1,702,483	2,076,656	2,238,429
Land Tax ..	372,060	392,594	412,165	421,662	457,441
Probate Duty ..	706,181	697,482	798,315	802,333	940,609
Betting Taxation (Stamp duties, licences, and percentage) ..	169,007	185,309	186,141	170,998	133,067
Other Stamp Duties	779,430	950,896	1,011,966	963,307	1,017,351
Motor Car and Motor Omnibus Acts*	124,542	165,804	233,300	418,840	641,765
Liquor Taxation and Licences† ..	290,884	302,574	320,331	343,524	352,826

* Monies paid into the Country Roads Board Fund and Metropolitan Roads Fund. Included under "Taxation" in accordance with the recommendation of the Perth Conference of Statisticians.

† Received by the Licensing Fund.

HEADS OF STATE REVENUE, 1921-22 TO 1925-26—*continued*.

Heads of Revenue.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
State Taxation— <i>continued</i> —	£	£	£	£	£
Other Licences* ...	28,613	32,173	43,007	39,360	37,647
Duties on Bank Notes..	1,790	1,762	1,750	1,740	1,899
Public Works and Services—					
Railways ..	10,751,173	11,289,956	11,922,195	12,549,878	12,423,715
Water Supply ..	415,540	447,459	443,384	439,442	470,072
Harbour Trusts, Wharfage, &c.	156,747	199,379	207,692	213,510	209,242
State Coal Mine ..	591,380	468,855	568,897	428,579	524,137
State Electricity Commission ..	58,111	253,288	255,195	295,572	448,341
Interest on properties transferred to Commonwealth	86,013	80,378	80,844	80,760	80,454
Beet Sugar Works	52,624	74,678	92,231	129,732	137,997
Brown Coal Sales†	55,543	57,081	61,921	23	...
Other ..	82,119	99,082	109,598	125,034	141,766
Land—					
Land Sales, Rents, Penalties, &c.‡..	453,011	437,341	461,250	438,241	461,650
Interest on Loans—Closer Settlement Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts ..	827,330	1,013,885	1,113,158	1,172,246	1,186,764
Fees, Fines, &c.§ ..	213,825	267,439	266,292	261,894	265,993
Tramways Act 1905 (Sec. 88)..	98,107	93,010	92,998	106,211	104,393
Sale of Books and Documents, &c., (Govt. Printer) ..	90,084	82,504	83,531	85,915	82,085
Agriculture Department—					
Victoria Dock Cool Stores ..	23,316	28,556	18,898	29,365	27,886
All other ..	49,189	49,461	54,384	52,322	49,661
Miscellaneous ..	354,940	336,454	341,327	366,249	486,801
Total ..	20,357,733	21,634,677	23,075,968	24,304,887	25,269,756
Per Head of Population ..	£ s. d. 13 2 6	£ s. d. 13 12 1	£ s. d. 14 3 11	£ s. d. 14 13 4	£ s. d. 15 0 1

* Excluding Race Clubs, which are included in "Betting Taxation".

† Transferred to the State Electricity Commission on 1st April, 1924.

‡ Excluding proceeds of land by auction, which are payable into the Developmental Railways Account; such payments amounted to £20,043 in 1921-22, £29,786 in 1922-23, £25,588 in 1923-24, £22,982 in 1924-25, and £21,898 in 1925-26.

§ This item previously included fees payable under Motor Car Act (see "Taxation").

The revenue for 1925-26 represents an increase of £964,869 on that for the previous year. The chief increases were under the following headings:—State Taxation, £582,614; and State Electricity Commission, £152,769. The receipts from the Railways were £126,163 less than in 1924-25. The payments to the State by the Federal Government during the last sixteen years have been computed on the basis of a fixed payment of 25s.* per head of population in the State, whereas in preceding years the Federal Government paid over to the State at least three-fourths of the net revenue from Customs and Excise duties.

STATE EXPENDITURE.

The following table shows for the last five years the principal heads of expenditure from State Revenue:—

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE : 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heads of Expenditure.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<i>General Government.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Governor ..	10,064	10,029	9,694	9,376	10,504
Parliament and Ministry ..	106,147	96,047	110,028	100,841	98,859
Civil Establishment N.E.I. ..	393,683	396,149	450,254	437,374	442,581
Pensions and Gratuities† ..	503,065	534,009	580,181	621,695	656,797
<i>Law, Order, and Protection.</i>					
Judicial and Legal ..	227,303	233,169	253,285	259,216	270,029
Police ..	533,986	540,037	663,319	622,331	647,075
Penal Establishments and Gaols ..	74,161	80,363	101,122	99,732	116,542
<i>Education, &c.</i>					
State Schools ..	1,755,834	1,755,395	1,819,852	1,885,826	2,108,112
Technical Schools ..	100,693	182,495	217,539	236,008	143,808
University ..	40,175	49,975	56,450	64,398	64,628
Libraries, &c. ..	34,108	36,261	38,367	41,574	42,817
Art and Science ..	9,630	7,437	7,370	10,540	9,661
<i>Recreation and Health.</i>					
Parks, Gardens, and Public Resorts ..	29,341	26,637	31,843	34,464	32,234
Public Health ..	97,599	93,995	93,878	109,401	115,982
Charitable Institutions, &c. ..	829,514	832,882	890,840	1,026,789	1,096,300

* This is subject to a slight reduction on account of a special payment to Western Australia. The reduction in 1925-26 was slightly more than 2d. per head of population.

† For details, see page 57.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FROM STATE REVENUE: 1921-22 TO
1925-26—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<i>Crown Lands, &c.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Crown Lands ..	221,565	236,022	268,216	253,062	257,743
Agriculture and Stock ..	275,107	305,832	347,502	391,931	414,036
Mining ..	678,785	559,465	657,520	472,539	570,374
<i>Public Works.</i>					
Railways ..	8,117,070	8,275,909	8,818,314	9,513,613	9,598,888
Water Supply ..	185,656	215,110	219,105	229,049	236,194
Harbours, Rivers, and Lights ..	98,984	91,438	97,071	112,338	114,642
Roads and Bridges ..	16,948	5,371	6,900	40,795	29,302
Country Roads Board ..	191,424	229,343	293,523	455,613	664,069
State Electricity Commission ..	112,608	144,193	14,826	20,936	19,144
Municipal Endowment, &c.* ..	120,081	119,542	122,384	143,101	183,862
Works and Buildings, n.e.i. ..	65,476	85,588	103,350	145,094	137,999
Interest and Expenses of Public Debt ..	4,579,665	5,355,575	5,669,970	5,905,947	6,372,993
Redemption Funds, &c. ..	402,724	421,166	484,825	563,287	594,600
Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund ..	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
<i>Other Expenditure.</i>					
Mint Subsidy ..	33,500	30,000	25,000	26,000	25,000
Fire Brigades ..	48,909	48,215	53,433	58,433	62,254
Immigration ..	18,135	18,896	27,378	26,798	26,352
Licences Reduction Board, including Compensation ..	72,210	60,730	56,168	43,663	81,293
Railway passes to Blind and Incapacitated Soldiers ..	5,325	5,043	7,253	9,263	10,400
Liquidation of guaranteed Bank Overdrafts of Freezing Companies, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	74,194
Cattle Compensation Fund ..	..	..	..	..	26,614
Surplus Revenue appropriated to "Revenue Services" ..	..	363,949	132,216	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	232,804	90,042	146,992	124,456	128,701
Total ..	20,297,279	21,611,309	22,950,968	24,170,483	25,559,583
Per Head of Population	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	13 1 9	13 11 9	14 2 5	14 11 9	15 3 7

* Including annual payment from Licensing Fund.

Compared with the previous year the ordinary expenditure of the State for 1925-26 showed an increase of £1,389,100. The heads of expenditure showing the largest increases were—Interest and Expenses of Public Debt, £467,046; State Schools, £222,286; Country Roads Board, £208,456; and Mining, £97,835. There was a decrease of £92,200 in the expenditure on Technical Schools.

In regard to the surpluses of various years which are included in the preceding table under the item "Surplus Revenue Expenditure. Revenue Appropriated to Revenue Services" it is interesting to note to what purposes the money so appropriated was applied in subsequent years. Up to 30th June, 1926, the total amount appropriated was £2,936,307, of which all but £52,529 had been expended. These figures do not include appropriations under Act 3341 passed 21st May 1924, which thereafter provides for the yearly surplus being applied towards the reduction of the accumulated deficit. The following table shows the details of such expenditure for each of the last four years and the total up to 30th June, 1926 :—

SURPLUS REVENUE EXPENDITURE.

(Excluding surplus revenue appropriations under Act No. 3341.)

Service.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	Total to 30th June, 1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Services—					
Railways .. ..	..	..	..	..	250,696
Other .. ..	..	..	..	..	64,170
Revenue Services—					
Railways .. ..	..	..	..	..	497,729
Education—					
State schools	6,935	..	..	..	340,692
Other	12,914	4	..	..	136,812
Crown Lands (including reclamation, drainage, &c.) .. ..	..	..	..	..	149,480
Harbours, rivers, and lights .. ..	..	..	..	..	117,293
Roads and bridges	1,657	753	750	713	113,693
Mining Development, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..	85,000
Railways salaries (arrears)	1,195	1,455	..	..	73,496
Public Health	132	6	..	21	34,648
Charitable Institutions	2,975	1,000	33,753	38,966	178,945
Redemption of Treasury Bonds and Unfunded Debt .. ..	..	234,802	..	..	503,802
Developmental Railways Account—Refund .. ..	..	129,148	..	..	129,148
Miscellaneous	17,307	2,064	401	8,813	208,174
Total	43,115	369,232	34,904	48,513	2,883,778

The following table sets out in a different form to pages 43 and 45 the heads of State Revenue and Expenditure, but specially shows the operations of the Government Business undertakings in their relation to State Revenue and Expenditure.

STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1925-26.

STATE REVENUE.		STATE EXPENDITURE.	
Particulars.		Particulars.	
	£		£
Taxation	5,821,034	Public Debt Charge (excl. interest paid on business undertakings)	2,595,896
Land Revenue (excl. State Saw Mill)	431,122	Lands and Survey (excl. Forests Commission)	85,267
Business Undertakings—		Business Undertakings (incl. interest paid by State)—	
Railways	12,423,715	Railways (incl. Pensions)	12,903,711*
Water Supply and Sewerage (incl. interest)	470,072	Water Supply and Sewerage	986,433
Electric Power Supply (interest only)	448,341	Electric Power Supply	456,170
Harbours (incl. Melb. Harbour Trust contr. oution)	209,242	Harbours, Rivers, and Lights	162,342
State Coal Mine (incl. interest)	524,137	State Coal Mine	523,004
Beet Sugar Works	137,997	Beet Sugar Works	89,543
Cool Stores	27,886	Cool Stores	86,013†
Newport Seasoning Works	12,214	Newport Seasoning Works	7,637
State Saw Mill	18,314	State Saw Mill	16,436
Wire Netting Manufacture	33,231	Wire Netting Manufacture	26,018
Storage of Gunpowder	10,422	} Explosives	7,868
Lighterage and Explosives (excl. licences and fees)	5,059		
Melbourne Tramways Board Contribution	104,393	Mines (excl. State Coal Mine)	57,037
Fees, Fines, &c.	265,993	Agriculture (excl. Cool Stores and Beet Sugar)	279,849
Interest (less amounts incl. with Business Undertakings)	1,746,424	Forests (excl. Newport Seasoning Works and State Saw Mill)	148,428
Commonwealth Subsidy	2,090,951	Justice	270,029
Other Sources	489,159	Penal Establishments	116,542
		Police (incl. Pensions)	804,645
		Grants to Municipalities	183,862
		Education, &c.	2,369,026
		Public Health	115,982
		Hospitals and Charitable Institutions	1,096,300
		Parliament (incl. Governor, Elections, &c.)	109,368
		Pensions and Gratuities (other than Police and Railways)	280,100
		Civil Establishment, N.E.I.	442,581
		Country Roads Board	664,069
		Other	675,432
Total Revenue	25,269,756	Total Expenditure	25,559,588

* Including subsidy of £25,000 to State Coal Mine.

† Including expenditure on Export Development.

INCOME TAX.

State Income Tax. An income tax was first imposed in Victoria in 1895, and, although originally fixed for a period of three years, it has, with certain amendments and alterations, been retained and continued from year to year until the present time. Incomes assessed for tax in any year are those earned, derived, or received in Victoria in the preceding year, and are divided into two classes, viz. :—(1) those derived from personal exertion, and (2) those derived from property. The former consist of salaries, wages, stipends, fees, commissions, bonuses, pensions, superannuation or retiring allowances earned in or derived from Victoria, and all incomes arising or accruing from any profession, trade, or business carried on in Victoria; whilst the latter comprise incomes from all other sources. In computing the taxable income certain deductions are allowed from the assessable income, the principal of which are outgoings and losses incurred in the production of the income, life assurance premiums not exceeding £50, and calls or contributions actually paid into any mining company registered under the *Companies Act* 1915, or to any company in liquidation.

In the statement shown on page 51, relating to Income Tax assessments on *incomes* of each of the last five years, the figures are not comparable unless the varying rates of tax imposed are taken into consideration. The rates for the years specified were as follows :—

(a) *On incomes of the year 1920-21.*—The minimum income subject to tax was £201, and the exemption allowed on incomes between £201 and £500 was £150. No exemption was allowed on incomes exceeding £500, or to companies. The rate of tax for individuals on the amount of taxable income from personal exertion up to but not exceeding £500, was 3d. in the £1. Where the taxable income exceeded £500, the rates on incomes from personal exertion were 4d. for every £1 of the taxable amount thereof up to £500, 5d. for every £1 between £501 and £1,000, 6d. for every £1 between £1,001 and £1,500, and 7d. for every £1 over £1,500. The rates on incomes from property were respectively double the rates on incomes from personal exertion. In the case of life assurance companies, the tax was 12d. in the £1 on 30 per cent. of the premium income from ordinary business and on 15 per cent. of that from industrial business. In the case of mining companies the tax was 12d. in the £1 on the total amount of dividends declared and debenture interest paid. In the case of other companies liable to tax, the rate was 12d. in the £1 on the profits.

(b) *On incomes of the years 1921-22 and 1922-23.*—The rates of tax were the same as (a), but the following further deductions were allowed to taxpayers whose incomes did not exceed £800 per annum :—(1) £30 in respect of each child under 16 years of age; (2) certain expenses during illness; (3) friendly society contributions; and (4) funeral and burial expenses not exceeding £20.

(c) *On incomes of the year 1923-24* :—The rates of tax were unaltered, but the exemption on incomes from £201 to £500 was £200 (instead of £150 as formerly). A super-tax was imposed on incomes (excluding companies) over £800. The amount of super-tax was as follows :—

From £800 to £1,000	..	..	10 per cent.
„ 1,001 to 1,250	..	..	12½ „
„ 1,251 to 2,200	..	..	15 „
„ 2,201 to 5,000	..	..	20 „
Exceeding £5,000	..	..	25 „

Companies (other than Mutual Life Assurance Companies) were taxed at the rate of 15d. in the £1 of the taxable amount of income. Mutual Life Assurance Companies were taxable at the rate of 12d. in the £1 in respect of their Mutual Life Assurance business, and at the rate of 15d. in the £1 on all other business.

On incomes not exceeding £800 an additional deduction of £50 was allowed to a married taxpayer for the maintenance of his wife provided that she had not an income of her own exceeding £100 per annum. The amount deductible from income in respect of children under sixteen years of age was increased from £30 to £50.

(d) *On incomes of the year 1924-25* :—The exemption on incomes £201 to £500, and allowable deductions on incomes not exceeding £800, were the same as (c), but the rates of tax were as follows :—

Taxable Income.	Rate of Tax per £1 of Taxable Income.		
	Personal Exertion.	Pro- perty.	Companies.
Up to £500 ..	3½d.	d. 7	Mutual Life Assurance Companies 12d. in the £1 in respect of their Mutual Life Assurance business, and 16d. in the £1 on all other business. Other Companies, 16d. in the £1 of the taxable amount of income.
£500 to £1,000 ..	£1 to £500 4½d.	9	
£1,000 to £1,500 ..	£500 to £1,000 5½d.	11	
£1,500 to £2,000 ..	£1,000 to £1,500 6½d.	13	
£2,001 and upwards	£1,500 and upwards	15	
	7½d.		

A super-tax on incomes (excluding Companies) over £800 was also imposed similar to that shown under (c).

For the purpose of simplifying the collection of income tax, the *Income Tax Amendment Act 1923* was passed on 22nd December, 1923. This Act provides that the Victorian Income Tax Department shall be the collecting authority for the income tax payable in the State under Commonwealth law. In cases where income is received in two or more States, no alteration has been made—the tax being assessed and collected by the Central Office of the Commonwealth Income Tax Department.

In previous issues of this part prior to 1924-25 the particulars relating to income tax assessments, &c., had been taken from the Income Tax Report, which only gave an analysis as at the 30th June of each year.

In the following table the figures have been amended, and they now represent complete details of the assessments on incomes for each of the five years specified :—

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS.

Heading.	On Incomes of—				
	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Number of Assessments :					
Individuals ..	132,859	123,768	153,519	127,818	139,183
Companies ..	2,026	2,265	2,678	2,890	2,982
Total, Distinct Taxpayers ..	134,885	126,033	156,197	130,708	142,165
Taxable Incomes :			£	£	£
Individuals ..			46,227,420	38,509,468	44,143,795
Companies ..	Not available		16,122,969	16,372,972	17,580,245
Total ..	..	..	62,350,389	54,882,440	61,724,040
Tax payable :	£	£	£	£	£
Individuals ..	755,366	759,204	936,515	970,815	1,224,038
Companies ..	579,995	699,840	805,996	1,014,945	1,159,459
Total* ..	1,335,361	1,459,044	1,742,511	1,985,760	2,383,497
Per taxpayer :	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Individuals ..	5 13 8	6 2 8	6 2 0	7 11 11	8 15 11
Companies ..	286 5 6	308 19 7	300 19 4	351 3 10	388 16 5
Average tax payable in the £ on taxable incomes by—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Individuals ..	Not available		4.86	6.05	6.65
Companies ..	12.00	12.00	12.00	14.88	15.83

* For actual collections in the following financial year, see page 43.

The total net incomes of taxpayers in 1924-25, who were assessed to pay tax, amounted to £83,889,040, but, as 110,825 taxpayers were allowed the £200 exemption, the amount available for taxation was £61,724,040.

The total number of individuals and companies who paid tax on their incomes for 1924-25 is detailed, under specified grades of taxable income, in the following table:—

TOTAL NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS (1924-25 INCOMES).

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
£						
Not exceeding 100	69,463	4,170	280	73,913	494	74,407
101 to 200	22,310	2,228	527	25,065	245	25,310
201- 350	9,986	1,308	572	11,866	256	12,122
351- 500	17	..	2	19	171	190
501- 700	4,157	1,225	5,012	10,394	172	10,566
701-1,000	2,538	774	3,523	6,835	204	7,039
1,001-1,200	1,087	274	1,680	3,041	117	3,158
1,201-1,500	947	240	1,537	2,724	127	2,851
1,501-2,000	731	172	1,400	2,303	180	2,483
2,001-2,400	255	83	539	877	111	988
2,401-3,000	221	81	507	809	111	920
3,001-4,000	149	54	396	599	145	744
4,001-5,000	50	41	187	278	109	387
5,001-6,000	34	16	106	156	73	229
6,001-7,400	24	8	84	116	76	192
7,401 and over ..	26	25	137	188	391	579
Total ..	111,995	10,699	16,489	139,183	2,982	142,165

Of the individual taxpayers, 80·5 per cent. obtained their incomes wholly from personal exertion, 7·6 per cent. from property, and 11·9 per cent. from personal exertion and property combined. Seventy-one per cent. of the individual taxpayers were in receipt of taxable incomes not exceeding £200, but the tax payable by them amounted to only 8·9 per cent. of the total for individuals.

In the succeeding statement particulars of the sources of taxable incomes for 1924-25 are arranged in order of groups of taxable incomes :—

TAXABLE INCOMES (1924-25 INCOMES).

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Not exceeding 100	3,087,401	194,575	18,015	3,299,991	20,272	3,320,263
101 to 200	3,171,984	325,551	80,640	3,577,875	36,979	3,614,854
201 - 350	2,456,734	322,571	143,147	2,922,452	69,422	2,991,874
351 - 500	6,802	..	991	7,793	72,007	79,800
501 - 700	2,414,059	707,474	2,923,245	6,044,778	101,994	6,146,772
701 - 1,000	2,184,257	645,668	3,006,209	5,836,134	171,712	6,007,846
1,001 - 1,200	1,186,012	299,450	1,836,195	3,321,657	123,080	3,449,737
1,201 - 1,500	1,263,414	319,423	2,059,497	3,642,334	169,202	3,811,536
1,501 - 2,000	1,249,122	289,783	2,408,075	3,946,980	310,436	4,257,416
2,001 - 2,400	555,678	181,896	1,171,650	1,909,224	243,156	2,152,380
2,401 - 3,000	587,241	214,756	1,350,111	2,152,108	298,197	2,450,305
3,001 - 4,000	517,671	183,308	1,355,873	2,056,852	506,561	2,563,413
4,001 - 5,000	225,341	177,960	823,786	1,227,087	480,761	1,707,848
5,001 - 6,000	185,712	87,706	580,317	853,735	398,982	1,252,717
6,001 - 7,400	159,888	51,890	557,078	768,856	501,669	1,270,525
7,401 and over ..	253,454	465,556	1,856,929	2,575,939	14,070,815	16,646,754
Total ..	19,504,470	4,467,567	20,171,758	44,143,795	17,580,245	61,724,040

The division showing the highest amount of taxable income of individuals is that from £501 to £700 ; it is followed closely by that from £701 to £1,000. Forty-nine per cent. of the taxable income of individuals was earned by persons in receipt of taxable incomes not exceeding £1,000. The great bulk of the taxable income of companies was earned by a few of the larger ones—391, which were in receipt of £7,401 and upwards, having had taxable incomes representing 80 per cent. of the total for all companies.

The complete figures relating to the tax payable on the 1924-25 incomes are set out hereunder :—

TAX PAYABLE ON 1924-25 INCOMES.

Taxable Incomes.	Individuals.				Companies.	Grand Total.
	Personal Exertion.	Property.	Combined Personal and Property.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Not exceeding 100	46,430	5,756	384	52,570	1,354	53,924
101 to 200	45,584	9,565	1,649	56,798	2,458	59,256
201 — 350	34,414	9,433	2,817	46,664	4,623	51,287
351 — 500	120		25	145	4,797	4,942
501 — 700	45,426	27,762	61,822	135,010	6,795	141,805
701 — 1,000	47,044	27,989	72,118	147,151	11,441	158,592
1,001 — 1,200	27,864	14,370	48,105	90,339	8,538	98,877
1,201 — 1,500	31,892	16,374	57,219	105,485	11,275	116,760
1,501 — 2,000	34,093	15,850	72,038	121,981	20,696	142,677
2,001 — 2,400	16,544	10,925	37,919	65,388	16,192	81,580
2,401 — 3,000	18,649	13,622	46,985	79,256	19,834	99,090
3,001 — 4,000	17,112	12,059	49,214	78,385	33,771	112,156
4,001 — 5,000	7,730	12,123	31,052	50,910	32,051	82,961
5,001 — 6,000	6,723	6,322	23,179	36,224	26,599	62,823
6,001 — 7,400	5,871	3,804	21,968	31,643	33,445	65,088
7,401 and over ..	9,471	35,590	81,027	126,088	925,591	1,051,679
Total ..	394,967	221,549	607,521	1,224,037	1,159,460	2,383,497

Companies with taxable incomes of £7,401 and over were assessed for an amount which represented 38.8 per cent. of the total tax payable; for all companies the proportion was 48.6 per cent. The tax payable by persons in the group £501 to £1,000 was 23 per cent. of the total for individuals. Exclusive of the amount payable by companies, 32 per cent. of the tax payable was derived from personal exertion, 18 per cent. from property, and 50 per cent. from personal exertion and property combined.

In addition to the State Income Tax there is a Commonwealth Income Tax, which was first imposed on incomes earned in the financial year 1914-15. The tax collected by the Commonwealth Government, in the year 1925-26, amounted to £10,858,046, and it is estimated that the payments made on Victorian income would be about £2,932,000.

LAND TAX.

State Land Tax.

The State Land Tax Act of 1915 provides for a tax on the unimproved value of land and for the assessment of land and other purposes. Unimproved value for the purposes of this Act means the sum which might be expected to be realized at the time of valuation if the land were offered for sale on such terms as a seller might in ordinary circumstances be expected to require, and assuming that the improvements (if any) had not been made. The nature of the

taxation is a duty upon land for every pound sterling of the unimproved value thereof, as assessed under the Act, at a rate declared for each year by Act of Parliament. Previously to 1923 the rate of tax was one halfpenny on every pound sterling of the unimproved value of all land having an unimproved value exceeding £250, but since the year mentioned an increased amount has been payable—a super-tax of 5 per cent. having been added to the old rate. No tax is chargeable when the total unimproved value of all lands owned does not exceed £250. Where the assessed unimproved value exceeds the amount of exemption (£250) the exemption diminishes at the rate of £1 for every £1 of such excess, so as to leave no exemption when the unimproved value amounts to, or exceeds £500.

The Assessment Roll on 31st December of each of the last five years showed the following particulars :—

Taxpayers.				Net Tax Payable.	
No.				£	
1922	..	..	.. 108,269	..	353,970
1923	..	..	.. 114,614	..	392,434
1924	..	..	.. 120,107	..	415,693
1925	..	..	.. 127,199	..	444,174
1926	..	..	.. 132,597	..	468,056

Commonwealth Land Tax. In addition to the State Land Tax there is upon the lands in the State a Commonwealth Land Tax, which was assented to on 17th November, 1910. The following particulars of land tax assessment for Victoria for the financial year 1923-24 have been furnished by the Federal Commissioner of Land Tax. The estates assessed numbered 5,264, of which 4,868 belonged to resident and 396 to absentee taxpayers. The unimproved value of these estates, as ascertained by the Department, was £54,814,653, comprising town land and country land amounting to £22,776,252 and £32,038,401 respectively. The tax payable was £365,410. In addition there were 1,866 Central Office taxpayers who owned land in more than one State. The Victorian land owned by these taxpayers was valued at £10,248,382 unimproved value, on which a tax of £164,703 was payable.

RAILWAYS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Victorian Railways, financial results. A summary of the results of the working of the Victorian Railways during the last five years is given in the appended statement. The figures have been taken from the Railways Report and represent the actual business done each year, not the receipts and payments brought to account by the Treasury within the year. They include particulars of the Road Motor Service as well as the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Black Rock Electric Street Tramways.

RAILWAYS BALANCES: 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Item.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Revenue ..	10,857,853	11,413,782	12,025,987	12,830,283	12,743,566
Working Expenses ..	8,092,565	8,238,744	8,776,514	9,489,368	9,595,132
Pensions, Gratuities, &c. ..	194,581	203,470	206,366	215,087	219,396
Payment to the Super- annuation Fund ..	..	..	..	..	18,712
Net Receipts ..	2,570,707	2,971,568	3,043,107	3,125,828	2,910,326
Interest on Cost of Construction ..	2,589,816	2,951,385	3,015,455	3,099,885	3,092,695
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	- 19,109	+ 20,183	+ 27,652*	+25,943	-182,369

* Subject to deduction of an amount of £136,417 which has been written off. This represents a loss on non-paying lines in previous years. The net result was, therefore, a deficit of £108,765.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AND FIRE INSURANCE FUND.

The establishment of a permanent fund to be kept at the Treasury, and called the Railway Accident and Fire Insurance Fund, was effected by provision in the *Railways Act* 1907 (now the *Railways Act* 1915). This provision requires the Railways Commissioners to pay into such fund the sum of 10s. for every £100 sterling of the revenue of the Victorian Railways until the fund amounts to £100,000, at which amount it is to be maintained. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, the receipts of the fund amounted to £66,288, whilst the payments made therefrom were £12,204 for compensation, damages, costs, &c., to persons other than employees injured; £12,911 as compensation on account of injuries to or deaths of employees; and £41,168 as compensation for goods or parcels lost, and for damages caused by fire, &c. The balance at the credit of the Fund on 30th June, 1926, was £100,009.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

During the year 1925-26, the Government expended on pensions, gratuities, etc., the sum of £656,797. Of this amount, £472,394 was spent on ex-public servants who had contributed nothing towards their pensions. The remainder represents payments from State revenue to the Police Superannuation Fund, the Police Pensions Fund, and the Superannuation Fund. The following table gives details of the expenditure for the year 1925-26:—

Cost of
Pensions and
Gratuities.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PENSIONS, GRATUITIES, ETC., 1925-26.

Division of Service.	Special Appropriations.		Annual Votes.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£
Education Department	1,016	138,749	7	178	1,023	138,927
Railways	1,495	210,523	84	5,266	1,579	215,789
Defence	1	221	..	..	1	221
Lunacy	21	2,223	..	..	21	2,223
Under Constitution Act	1	1,500	..	..	1	1,500
Officers of Parliament	1	467	..	..	1	467
County Court Judges..	1	750	..	..	1	750
Under Civil Service Act						
160	140	32,646	..	..	140	32,646
Under Public Service						
Act 773	167	44,078	..	..	167	44,078
Commonwealth Service						
—Officers of trans-						
ferred Departments	322	28,728	..	..	322	28,728
Various allowances ..	..	..	20	1,427	20	1,427
Total Pensions and Allowances ..	3,165	459,885	111	6,871	3,276	466,756
Compensations and Gratuities	1	332	12	4,855 451	13	5,187 451*
Police Superannuation Fund—						
Subsidy .. ..	..	2,000	..	69,000	..	71,000
Transferred from						
Licensing Fund ..	..	..	..	23,000	..	23,000
Fines .. ..	..	..	..	13,570	..	13,570
Police Pensions Fund—						
Subsidy .. ..	..	50,000	..	..	..	50,000
Superannuation Fund ..	..	26,833	..	..	..	26,833
Total amount ..	..	539,050	..	117,747	..	656,797

* Signifies amounts paid to officers on retirement at age 60 years, being equivalent to four weeks' pay.

This fund is maintained by an annual subsidy of £2,000 from the Consolidated Revenue; by a moiety of the fines inflicted by the Courts of Petty Sessions; by a deduction, not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., from the pay of the members of the Force entitled to pensions; by transfers from the Licensing Fund under the provisions of Act No. 2855; and, should the foregoing sources prove insufficient, by a further grant in aid from the Consolidated Revenue.

Police
Superannuation
Fund.

During the year 1925-26 the total receipts of the fund amounted to £114,778, consisting of £107,570 from Government revenue as shown in the preceding table, £3,048 from members of the force, and £4,160 balance brought forward. Payments out of the Fund amounted to £108,757 (554 pensions for £102,227 and 5 gratuities for £6,530), thus leaving a balance of £6,021 at 30th June, 1926.

Pensions are payable out of this fund only to those members of the Police Force who joined it prior to the 25th November, 1902.

This Act, which came into operation on 1st January, 1924, provides for pensions to those members of the Police Force who have joined it since 25th November, 1902, as well as to persons who may enter the Force in the future. Retirement is compulsory for senior constables and constables on attaining age 55; for sergeants, inspectors, and superintendents on attaining age 60, and for the Chief Commissioner on attaining age 65, except that in special cases any such person may be required to serve for a further period not exceeding five years. The ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age varies from one-fourth of the annual pay at the date of retirement after 15 years' service to two-thirds of such annual pay after 30 or more years' service. Retirement on a medical certificate entitles a member of the Force to a pension for life after completion of 10 years' service, and to a gratuity after a service of less than 10 years. Except in the cases mentioned below, the amount of the pension which is payable on retirement on a medical certificate is, for like durations of service of not less than 15 years, the same as the amount of an ordinary pension payable on attainment of the retiring age. If a member of the Force is incapacitated for the performance of duty owing to an injury received in the execution of duty without his own default, he shall be entitled to a special pension for life which, except in a few instances, is larger than the ordinary pension and, in certain specified circumstances, is the full amount of salary. Provision is made for widows and children, the ordinary pension for a widow being approximately from £40 to £60 per annum, and the allowance for children under sixteen years of age, from £10 to £15 per annum.

A deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is made from the pay of every member of the Force. When a member leaves the Force of his own accord after having completed 25 years' service or by reason of his having reached the age for compulsory retirement (whichever first happens) and does not receive a pension or gratuity, there shall be paid to him the whole of the rateable deductions which have been made from his pay without any interest thereon.

All pensions, gratuities, and allowances to members or their dependants shall be paid out of a special fund to be kept at the Treasury and to be known as the Police Pensions Fund. Into this fund shall be

**Police Pensions
Act 1923, No.
3316.**

paid (a) an annual amount of £50,000 from Consolidated Revenue, (b) the deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the pay of members which is referred to above, (c) all interest on surplus moneys in the fund invested as provided, and (d) all other moneys payable into the fund under the Act or any future Act.

All surplus moneys are to be invested in Victorian Government stock or debentures in the name of the Treasurer, and shall carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The Government Statist shall make an actuarial valuation of the fund at least once in three years, and shall certify each year what additional sum, if any, is required to be paid into the fund from Consolidated Revenue in order to provide that the assets shall be sufficient to meet the liabilities. Any such additional sum shall be appropriated and paid into the fund.

The receipts of the fund for the year amounted to £67,041 as follows:—Deductions from pay, £9,382; special appropriation, £50,000; interest on investment, £2,738; and £4,921 balance brought forward. Pensions paid during the year amounted to £545, gratuities to £132, and there was a balance of £146,329 at 30th June, 1926, of which £145,000 was invested.

**South Africa
Contingent
pensions.**

Pensions to members and relatives of members of the South African war contingents amounted to £567 in 1925-26.

**The
Superannua-
tion Fund.**

An Act (No. 3408) to make provision on a contributory basis for superannuation benefits for State public servants and railway employees was passed by the State Parliament on 24th November, 1925. The date of commencement of the Act was 25th November, 1925, and contributions were made payable as from the 1st January, 1926, which date is the "appointed day." Pensions were made payable as from the same date. A fund has been established into which is paid the contributions of officers and the amounts received from the Government; also the income derived from investments. The benefits provided by the Act are paid from the fund.

Board of Management.—The fund is managed by a Board consisting of four members appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of five years. One of the members so appointed is Chairman of the Board, and one a qualified actuary. One member is elected by officers in the railway service and one by officers in the other services.

Retiring Age.—The maximum age for retirement is 65 years for males, and in the case of females, 60 or 65, at their option. An officer who is contributing for a pension payable at the age of 65 years may retire at any time after reaching the age of 60 years, and draw a pension which is the actuarial equivalent of a full pension. If he so desires, he may pay to the fund the actuarial equivalent of the amount necessary to complete his payments to a later age and draw a higher rate of pension.

Contributions by Officers.—All officers in the various services, except those with existing pension rights, “twilighters,” and those who were not less than 65 years of age on 1st January, 1926, are required to contribute to the Superannuation Fund. An officer over the age of 65 years on 1st January, 1926, cannot contribute to the fund. He will be entitled on retirement to a free pension of a maximum amount of £104 per annum. Officers over the age of 30 years are entitled to contribute for a pension of £104 per annum at the rate prescribed for age 30. For higher amounts they pay half the full contribution required. Officers aged 30 and under contribute half the cost of their pensions.

Payments by Government.—The Government reimburses to the fund the proportion of each pension which represents the equivalent of the difference between the payment made by the contributor each year and the full annual contribution required to provide the pension.

Amount of Pension.—A unit of pension is £26 per annum. The amount of pension for which an officer may contribute is regulated by his salary. For example, a person aged 25 next birthday, whose salary exceeds £260 and does not exceed £312, makes a fortnightly contribution of 8s. 4d. for a pension of £130 per annum with half pension for his widow, and £13 per annum for each child under 16 until that age is attained. The pension to the officer commences at age 65, or on retirement before that age if that should take place by reason of ill-health or incapacity. The number of units an officer can take varies from a minimum of two (£52 per annum) to a maximum of twelve (£312 per annum).

Pensions to Widows and Children.—The widow and children of an officer who was a contributor or a pensioner at date of death are entitled to the following benefits :—

Widow.—One half the rate of pension for which the officer was contributing, or one half the rate of pension being drawn (as the case may be) at date of death, subject to a minimum of £26 per annum. Such pension ceases on re-marriage.

Children.—£13 per annum in respect of each child under the age of 16 years until that age is attained.

Retirement on the Ground of Ill-Health.—Upon retirement on the ground of ill-health or incapacity, if such ill-health or incapacity is not due to contributor's own fault, a full pension is payable. If, however, the ill-health or incapacity is due to his own fault he is entitled to the return of his contributions or a pension based on his contributions, at his option.

Officers with Existing Pension Rights.—A person may exchange such right for rights in the new scheme, thus enabling him to secure benefits for his widow and children under 16 years of age, and he may

purchase from the Board a pension equivalent to the difference, if any, between the actuarial value of his existing right and the amount of pension for which he would have been entitled to contribute if he had not had an existing right. A widow's pension up to £52 per annum and a children's pension of £13 per annum for each child under 16 years of age may be purchased by an officer with an existing pension right or by a "twilighter."

Twilighters.—This term embraces the persons who entered the Public Service between the 31st December, 1881, and the 31st December, 1884, or who entered the Railway Service between the 1st November, 1883, and 31st December, 1884. The pension payable to a "twilighter" is one-half the amount that would have been payable if he had had the full pension right provided by Act No. 160, subject to a maximum of £312 per annum and a minimum of £104 per annum. If a full pension computed under Act No. 160 is less than £104, then the lesser amount is payable.

A "twilighter" who retired prior to the 1st July, 1924, and was then over 65 years of age, is entitled to a pension on the above basis payable from 1st January, 1926, but such pension does not carry reversionary rights to widow or children.

A "twilighter" who retired on or after 1st July, 1924, and before 1st January, 1926, is entitled to a pension calculated as stated above, and the first four units of such pension will carry widow's and children's benefits. The widow's pension will be at the rate of £52 per annum, and the payment to children under 16 years of age will be £13 each year.

A "twilighter" who is employed on 1st January, 1926, and who retires on or after attaining the maximum age for retirement, which is 65 years for males and 60 years for females, or who retires on the ground of ill-health, will be entitled to a pension equal to one half the amount that would have been payable had he had full pension rights under Act No. 160, subject to a maximum of £312 per annum and a minimum of £104 per annum, or the amount of pension which would have been payable under the Act referred to, whichever is the lower. This pension will not carry widow's or children's benefits, but these may be secured on terms prescribed by the Board, as well as a further pension representing the difference between the pension provided and that on the salary basis fixed by the Act.

Assurance Policies.—No officer will be required in future to effect an insurance on his life. Policies now held by the various authorities will be returned to the assured. Any moneys invested by an officer in lieu of assurance will be repaid on such officer becoming a contributor. On the application of an officer the Board may take over his assurance policy. If it decides to do so it will pay the premiums on the policy and at maturity date hand to the assured the proceeds thereof, less premiums paid by it with 4 per cent. compound interest.

Receipts and Expenditure.—From 1st January to 30th June, 1926, the receipts of the fund amounted to £208,454, consisting of contributions from Departments, £183,840; from revenue, £24,588; and interest on investments, £26. The items of expenditure were as follows:—Pensions, £27,336; payments of Assurance Premiums, £263; leaving a balance on 30th June, 1926, of £180,855, of which £177,000 was invested.

In the year 1925-26, there were paid out of the Port Phillip Sick and Superannuation Fund, 38 pensions (including increases) amounting to £3,314, £57 for sick allowances, and £1,087 for gratuities. The Government does not contribute to this Fund, it being maintained by deductions from pilots' earnings and the annual income derived from investment of the moneys belonging to the fund.

Port Phillip
Pilot Fund.

EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION.

During the year 1925-26 the State expended on education generally the sum of £3,025,732. This amount includes expenditure from loan moneys and the interest payable thereon, and also the cost of pensions and gratuities. The expenditure in each of the last five years, as detailed in the report of the Minister of Public Instruction, was as follows:—

STATE EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION: 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Expenditure on—	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Education—	£	£	£	£	£
Primary	1,283,499	1,324,144	1,355,876	1,380,209	1,444,273
Intermediate	27,610	46,679	48,570	52,336	66,683
Secondary (including Scholarships) ..	110,397	119,624	125,337	129,748	137,737
Special Subjects	56,930	49,719	54,324	50,472	55,519
Training of Teachers ..	26,768	26,797	28,440	32,775	39,260
Administration	66,549	69,335	69,932	74,511	77,334
Buildings (State Schools) ..	322,471	349,562	481,372	531,571	459,303
Technical Schools (including Building Grants) ..	229,261	223,978	260,969	292,891	351,476
University (including Building Grants)	113,111	117,197	97,837	77,934	90,761
Interest payable on Loan Moneys expended on Buildings*	82,369	97,582	106,800	137,737	160,978
Miscellaneous (including Pensions and Gratuities)	120,694	124,444	133,756	139,758	142,408
Total	2,439,659	2,549,061	2,763,213	2,899,942	3,025,732†
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per head of population ..	1 11 6	1 12 1	1 14 0	1 15 0	1 15 11

* Obtained from the Treasurer's Finance Statement.

† In addition, £43,028 paid by students in fees during the calendar year 1925 was expended on technical education.

The foregoing statement deals with the expenditure by the State on education generally, and includes expenditure connected with the University and technical schools, but the statement which follows relates to that portion of the expenditure which has been incurred in connexion with the State schools of Victoria, primary and secondary, excluding the amounts expended on technical schools and scholarships, in each of the last five years :—

**EXPENDITURE IN CONNEXION WITH STATE SCHOOLS :
1921-22 TO 1925-26.**

Items.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Education:—					
Primary—					
Day Schools, including Central Schools	1,276,840	1,317,224	1,347,531	1,371,491	1,435,593
Night Schools	38	5	..	..	..
Schools for Deaf Mutes and Blind and Feeble-minded Children	4,612	5,571	6,070	6,563	6,450
Grant to Collingwood Play-ground	100	100	..	..	..
Subsidized Schools	609	244	275	155	64
Free Kindergarten Union	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,166
State Schools Horticultural Society	300	..	..	..	..
	1,283,499	1,324,144	1,355,876	1,380,209	1,444,273
Intermediate—					
Higher Elementary Schools	27,134	32,950	35,149	36,807	40,421
Evening Continuation Classes	476	410	492	502	547
Schools of Domestic Arts	*	13,319	12,929	15,027	25,715
Secondary—					
High Schools	101,535	112,291	117,971	122,390	130,199
	129,145	153,970	166,541	174,726	196,882
Special Subjects—					
Domestic Arts	28,025	15,909	17,153	17,690	15,279
Manual Training	21,784	24,998	26,656	21,880	23,037
Physical Training	1,302	1,212	1,273	835	1,280
Medical Inspection	4,690	5,541	5,345	6,350	12,143
Dressmaking and Needlework	404	388	430	488	513
School Gardening and Plantations	725	891	2,189	2,173	2,126
Singing .. ..	..	780	1,278	1,056	1,141
	56,930	49,719	54,324	50,472	55,519
Training of Teachers—					
Teachers' College	16,155	17,212	18,473	20,679	25,987
Miscellaneous	10,613	9,585	9,967	12,096	13,273
	26,768	26,797	28,440	32,775	39,260
Administration	66,549	69,335	69,932	74,511	77,334
Buildings—					
Primary Schools	275,205	296,858	423,494	452,680	373,069
" (expended by School Committees)	11,201	13,199	16,697	16,777	18,496
Rents	8,234	6,876	8,500	10,475	6,989
Higher Elementary Schools	12,950	10,342	20,404	31,684	6,841
High Schools	14,881	22,287	12,277	19,959	53,908
	322,471	349,562	481,372	531,571	459,303
Interest payable on Loan Moneys expended on State School Buildings	75,292	84,958	95,808	121,494	137,775
Pensions and Gratuities	120,644	123,594	132,979	139,708	142,358
Total	2,081,298	2,187,079	2,385,272	2,505,466	2,552,704

* Included under heading "Special subjects."

The following return summarizes the expenditure and revenue connected with the Victorian State Schools, and shows the cost per scholar in average attendance for each of the last ten years :—

**COST OF INSTRUCTION IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS :
1916-17 TO 1925-26.**

Year.	Expenditure by the State.	Revenue of the Education Department.	Net Expenditure.	Number of Scholars— Average Attendance.	Cost per Scholar to the State.
	£	£	£		£ s. d.
1916-17 ..	1,229,456	28,477	1,200,979	167,588	7 3 4
1917-18 ..	1,211,346	30,577	1,180,769	167,653	7 0 10
1918-19 ..	1,265,750	21,666	1,244,084	171,640	7 5 0
1919-20 ..	1,502,885	23,917	1,478,968	168,314	8 15 9
1920-21 ..	1,845,866	26,520	1,819,346	167,627	10 17 1
1921-22 ..	2,081,298	25,439	2,055,859	177,487	11 11 8
1922-23 ..	2,187,079	25,450	2,161,629	183,045	11 16 2
1923-24 ..	2,385,272	24,979	2,360,293	179,848	13 2 6
1924-25 ..	2,505,466	24,682	2,480,784	184,606	13 8 9
1925-26 ..	2,552,704	26,423	2,526,281	190,305	13 5 6

This table includes the amount payable each year as interest on loan moneys expended on State School buildings.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE IN VICTORIA.

Commonwealth Finance. A statement of the Commonwealth revenue and expenditure in Victoria for the last five years is given below :—

COMMONWEALTH REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA (ESTIMATED) : 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties ..	5,835,394	7,648,521	8,226,378	8,167,185	8,237,801
Excise Duties ..	2,644,585	2,700,312	2,764,938	2,823,889	2,897,845
Income Tax* ..	4,533,000	3,485,000	2,986,000	3,007,000	2,932,000
Posts, Telegraphs, &c.	2,558,972	2,698,251	2,686,226	2,771,870	2,948,291
War-time Profits Tax*	280,000	72,000	18,000	..	..
Land Tax* ..	525,000	464,000	467,000	580,000	580,000
Succession Duties* ..	367,000	434,000	489,000	511,000	522,000
Entertainments Tax	222,210	208,240	212,011	223,555	152,000*
Miscellaneous ..	1,095,839	783,676	956,447	788,501	819,063
Total ..	18,062,000	18,494,000	18,806,000	18,873,000	19,089,000
EXPENDITURE.					
Trade and Customs*	216,000	388,000	259,000	249,000	249,000
Posts, Telegraphs, &c.	2,213,126	2,079,937	2,292,586	2,327,934	2,360,021
Payment to the State Government ..	1,918,967	1,969,772	2,014,746	2,055,834	2,090,951
Other Expenditure (including Defence, War and Repatriation Services, &c.)	13,397,907	13,201,291	14,925,668	14,701,232	14,652,028
Total ..	17,746,000	17,639,000	19,492,000	19,334,000	19,352,000

* Estimated.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Commonwealth and State Finance. The total Government revenue and expenditure within the State of Victoria is obtained by combining State and Commonwealth receipts and expenditure. This has been done in the following table, in which are given figures relating to the principal items:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATE COMBINED: 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs and Excise	8,479,979	10,348,833	10,991,316	10,991,074	11,135,646
Posts, Telegraphs, &c.	2,558,972	2,698,251	2,686,226	2,771,870	2,948,291
State Railways ..	10,751,173	11,289,956	11,922,195	12,549,878	12,423,715
State Taxation ..	3,915,716	4,242,850	4,709,458	5,238,420	5,821,034
Other sources ..	10,794,926	9,579,015	9,558,027	9,570,811	9,939,119
Total Revenue..	36,500,766	38,158,905	39,867,222	41,122,053	42,267,805
EXPENDITURE.					
Trade and Customs	216,000	388,000	259,000	249,000	249,000
Posts, Telegraphs, &c.	2,213,126	2,079,937	2,292,586	2,327,934	2,360,021
State Railways ..	8,117,070	8,275,909	8,818,314	9,525,842	9,598,888
Public Instruction*..	1,896,702	1,987,865	2,093,841	2,186,232	2,316,548
Public Debt (Victoria)—					
Interest and Expenses ..	4,579,665	5,355,575	5,669,970	5,905,947	6,372,993
Redemption ..	402,724	421,166	484,825	563,287	594,600
Other Expenditure..	18,699,025	18,772,085	20,909,686	20,690,407	21,328,582
Total Expenditure	36,124,312	37,280,537	40,528,222	41,448,649	42,820,632

* Including Technical Schools and University.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Commonwealth, State, and Local Finance. A statement of the ordinary revenue and expenditure and of the loan expenditure of the Federal Government in Victoria, also of the State Government and of municipal and local bodies, during the last five years, will be found in the next table. From the totals of revenue and expenditure the amounts received by one body from another have been deducted.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE: 1922 TO 1926.

Heading.	Financial Year ended in—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Revenue.</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal* ..	18,062,000	18,494,000	18,806,000	18,873,000	19,089,000
State ..	18,190,935	19,401,637	20,805,420	22,006,348	22,931,410
Municipal ..	3,890,390	4,362,983	4,847,899	5,426,507	5,902,059
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	652,839	745,088	785,799	818,800	823,323
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	923,234	1,095,004	1,069,898	1,178,862	1,361,093
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	1,841,170	1,930,798	1,889,513	1,968,785	2,154,007
Fire Brigades Boards ..	75,262	71,999	75,934	90,564	101,014
Other† ..	167,168	182,485	174,454	194,425	225,938
Total ..	43,802,998	46,283,994	48,454,917	50,557,291	52,587,844
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Government—					
Federal* ..	17,746,000	17,639,000	19,492,000	19,334,000	19,352,000
State ..	18,131,481	19,378,269	20,780,420	21,871,944	23,221,237
Municipal ..	3,804,947	4,089,749	5,093,809	5,747,882	6,082,235
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	565,157	638,626	697,946	762,559	773,924
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	954,315	987,209	1,083,016	1,189,285	1,356,277
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	1,835,550	1,929,728	2,023,840	2,201,031	2,396,484
Fire Brigades Boards ..	77,456	73,168	72,608	88,178	104,241
Other† ..	164,085	179,002	188,440	185,007	204,067
Total ..	43,278,991	44,914,751	49,432,079	51,379,886	53,490,465

* Estimated. † Ballarat Water Commission and Sewerage Authority; Bendigo Sewerage Authority; Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust; and First Mildura Irrigation Trust.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
1922 TO 1926—continued.

Heading.	Financial Year ended in—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Government—					
Federal* ..	1,740,000	1,665,000	2,220,000	2,064,000	2,249,000
State ..	11,804,990	8,764,306	8,407,526	7,940,589	8,001,375
Municipal ..	702,310	885,303	1,146,166	1,184,890	1,318,187
Other Local Authorities—					
Harbor Trusts ..	201,534	278,312	414,195	660,302	433,693
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	740,943	703,852	888,269	1,211,912	1,651,921
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	100,000	..	400,000	908,916	541,239
Fire Brigades Boards ..	25,205	1,443	1,201	19,048	14,236
Other ..	67,543	134,516	126,223	111,745	153,775
Total ..	15,382,525	12,432,732	13,603,580	14,101,402	14,363,426
<i>Expenditure—Grand Total ..</i>	58,661,516	57,347,483	63,035,659	65,481,288	67,853,891
Per Head of Population—					
Revenue ..	£ s. d. 28 4 11	£ s. d. 29 2 1	£ s. d. 29 16 3	£ s. d. 30 10 1	£ s. d. 31 4 7
Ordinary Expenditure ..	27 18 2	28 4 11	30 8 3	31 0 1	31 15 3
Loan Expenditure	9 18 5	7 16 4	8 7 5	8 10 2	8 10 7

* Estimated.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The following statement shows the result of loan transactions, including Treasury Bonds in aid of revenue, to 30th June, 1926.

Loans Raised
and
Redeemed.

LOANS RAISED AND REDEEMED TO 30th JUNE, 1926.

	£
Cash received	296,139,525
Discount and expenses after deducting premiums	3,553,369
Securities issued	299,692,894
Add temporary advance pending loan flotation	1,510,000
„ proceeds on account of London flotation in course	1,330,000
	<hr/> 302,532,894

Loans redeemed by—	£
Redemption loans	146,292,711
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board's repayments	2,389,934
Revenue (Special appropriations and Surplus Revenue)	4,524,670
Redemption Funds	6,468,898
Closer Settlement Fund	1,298,562
Coal Mines Sinking Fund	7,050
Discharged Soldiers Concessions Fund	1,040,600
Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund	174,101
Discount (securities purchased under par)	71,379
	<hr/> 162,267,905
Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926	<hr/> 140,264,989

It will be seen that, upon the transactions to date (excluding the temporary advance and the proceeds on account of flotation in course, referred to above), securities representing £299,692,894 have been issued, and that the amount of cash received has been £296,139,525. This means that the State has received £98 16s. 3d. in cash for every £100 bond given.

Excluding London debentures for £388,100 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway and since paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been raised in London at varying rates of interest is £116,983,039. The amount which has been paid off by means of new loans is £61,107,083, and by means of appropriations from revenue, &c., £3,585,085; a sum of £627,365 has been transferred to the Melbourne register, leaving a balance due in London on 30th June, 1926, of

Loans Floated
in London.

£51,663,506, consisting of debentures amounting to £2,260,675, and inscribed stock, £50,030,196. In addition there were amounts outstanding of £1,510,000 (advanced temporarily in London pending flotation of loan, under Act No. 3200), and £1,300,000 (proceeds on account of London flotation in course). The following table gives particulars respecting the various loans which have been raised in London:—

LOANS FLOATED IN LONDON.

Authorisation Act No.	Nominal amount raised (amount for which securities have been issued).	Rate of In- terest.	When repay- able.	Loans paid off (including Redemp- tion Loans).	Debt outstanding 30th June, 1926.			
					Inscribed Stock.	Deben- tures.	Total payable in—	
							London.	Mel- bourne.
	£	%		£	£	£	£	£
(Period 1855 to 1888)	46,480,100	..	..	46,480,100	..	..	..	..
1196	3,000,000	3½	1921-26	3,000,000	..	..	..	..
1032	4,000,000	3½	1923	4,000,000	..	..	..	..
1217	2,000,000	3½	1921-26	2,000,000	..	..	..	..
1233	1,000,000	4½	1893	1,000,000	..	..	..	..
1287	2,107,000	4	1911	2,107,000	..	..	..	..
	4,600,000	3	1929-49	137,886	4,462,114	..	4,202,146	259,968
	4,976,476	3½	1929-49	244,519	4,731,957	..	4,619,695	112,262
	1,000,000	4	1940-60	20,300	979,700	..	979,700	..
	10,908,300		1932-42					
1560	1,049,868	5	1935-45		19,179,808	..	19,055,608	124,200
	5,295,204		1945-75					
	1,926,436		1952-55					
	2,850,400		1924-34		2,850,400	..	2,831,249	19,151
	2,302,363		1923-25	2,302,363	..	..	..	..
1562	1,000,000	3	1929-49		1,000,000	..	1,000,000	..
1574	500,000	4	1903	500,000	..	..	..	..
2026	149,600	5½	1924-34	..	..	149,600	149,600	..
	807,075	5	1945	..	..	807,075	807,075	..
2167	1,500,000	3½	1929-49	..	1,500,000	..	1,500,000	..
2635/2415	100,000	5½	1922	100,000	..	..	..	..
2428	2,000,000	4	1940-60	..	2,000,000	..	1,982,416	17,584
2480	1,465,300	4½	1920-25	1,465,300	..	..	..	..
2480	1,034,700	5½	1930-40	..	1,034,700	..	941,500	93,200
	284,700	5	1932-42	..	284,700	..	284,700	..
2530	2,215,300	5½	1930-40	..	2,215,300	..	2,215,300	..
2531	784,700	4½	1920-25	784,700	..	..	..	..
	550,000	5½	1922	550,000	..	..	..	..
2794	1,109,481	5½	1927	..	..	1,109,481	1,109,481	..
2871	194,519	5½	1927	..	..	194,519	194,519	..
3124	750,000	5½	1930-40	..	750,000	..	750,000	..
	850,000	4½	1940-60	..	850,000	..	849,000	1,000
3233	2,807,000	5	1932-42					
	234,517		1945-75		3,041,517	..	3,041,517	..
3274	3,500,000		1940-60	..	3,500,000	..	3,500,000	..
3345	1,650,000	4½	1940-60	..	1,650,000	..	1,650,000	..
	116,983,039	..	..	64,692,168	50,030,196	2,260,675	51,663,506	627,365
Add Temporary Advance pending flotation of Loan, Act 3200					..	..	1,510,000	..
,, proceeds on account of London flotation in course					..	..	1,330,000	..
Total London Loans					..	..	54,503,506	627,365

**Loans
Floated in
Melbourne.**

Excluding Victorian debentures for £63,000 taken over with the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway, and since paid off, the total amount of the loans which have been floated in Melbourne is £182,709,855. Of this amount £85,185,627 has been redeemed by loans, and £12,390,110 by revenue, &c., leaving due a balance of £85,134,118 on 30th June, 1926, consisting of debentures, £39,799,036, inscribed stock, £44,677,267, and Treasury bonds in aid of revenue, £657,815. In addition, outstanding inscribed stock for £627,365 has been transferred from the London to the Melbourne Register, so that of the debt outstanding the total amount payable in Melbourne was £85,761,483.

**Purposes for
which
Outstanding
Loans were
raised.**

The amount of the loans raised in London and Melbourne to 30th June, 1926 (excluding £451,100 of Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Debentures taken over and since redeemed) was £299,692,894, and of this sum a total of £162,267,905 had been repaid at that date, viz., £15,975,195 out of the general revenue, and £146,292,710 out of the proceeds of redemption loans. The balance outstanding on 30th June, 1926, was £140,264,989, which includes an amount of £1,510,000 temporarily advanced in London, and also £1,330,000 proceeds on account of London flotation in course. The purposes for which this amount was borrowed and the annual interest payable thereon are as follows:—

**PURPOSES FOR WHICH OUTSTANDING LOANS WERE
RAISED.**

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926.	Annual Interest Payable.
REVENUE-YIELDING WORKS.	£	£
Railways	69,832,415	3,283,825
Discharged Soldiers Settlement	22,353,046	1,266,661
Closer Settlement	5,967,421	264,584
Waterworks—Country	17,475,150	823,532
Roads—		
Main	3,387,403	174,460
Developmental	3,740,937	195,175
Proportion with Commonwealth	315,390	16,419
Tourists' Resorts	39,617	1,759
Electricity Supply	9,655,532	491,998
Harbours	533,429	23,520
State Coal Mine	242,954	9,671
Forests	50,000	2,375
Other Revenue-yielding Works	937,355	46,312
Total Revenue-yielding Works	134,530,649	6,600,291

PURPOSES FOR WHICH OUTSTANDING LOANS WERE RAISED—*continued.*

Loans Raised for—	Amount of Loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926.	Annual Interest Payable.
OTHER WORKS.		
	£	£
State Schools, Technical Schools, and University	3,368,372	160,978
Public Offices, Law Courts, and Parliament Houses	53,021	84,358
Wire Netting Advances	117,425	
Loans to Municipalities (incl. Kerang Tramway)	239,444	
Hospitals for the Insane	147,028	
Bridges	142,594	
Other Public Works and Buildings	305,341	
Miscellaneous	213,674	
Unapportioned	489,626	
Total Other Works	5,076,525	245,336
In aid of Revenue	657,815	35,265
Net Borrowings	140,264,989	6,880,892

Of the proceeds of the loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926, sums not yet expended amounted in the aggregate to £1,701,238, of which £620,680 was for Country Roads (Main and Developmental), £520,618 for Public Works, Buildings, etc., £318,295 for Railways, £209,890 for Country Waterworks, and £31,755 for various other services. Of the amount of the loans which were raised for public works and are still outstanding, about 96 per cent. was obtained for works of a revenue-yielding nature.

During the last ten years there has been a very large increase in the Public Debt, the actual increase having been £63,489,957, or 83 per cent. Below is given a statement showing the chief works and services for which the additional liabilities were incurred :—

PUBLIC DEBT—INCREASE IN TEN YEARS.

Work or Service for which raised.	Loans outstanding at 30th June—		Increase.
	1916.	1926.	
	£	£	£
Railways	54,269,541	69,832,415	15,562,874
Waterworks—Country	8,494,630	17,475,150	8,980,520
Metropolitan	1,559,786	..	1,559,786*
Discharged Soldiers Settlement .. ..	..	22,353,046	22,353,046
Closer Settlement	4,878,785	5,967,421	1,088,636
Electricity Supply .. .. .	..	9,655,532	9,655,532
Roads	855,115	7,483,347	6,628,232
Harbours	470,000	533,429	63,429
State Coal Mine	242,950	242,954	4
State Schools, Technical Schools, and University	1,651,075	3,368,372	1,717,297
Public Offices, Law Courts, and Parliament Houses	510,018*	53,021	456,997*
All other Works and Services	2,572,662	2,152,861	419,801*
In Aid of Revenue	1,270,470	657,815	612,655*
Unapportioned .. .. .	..	489,626	489,626
Total	76,775,032	140,264,989	63,489,957

* Decrease.

The total amount of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926, inclusive of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue, was £140,264,989, as mentioned above. Of this sum £42,059,711 was in the form of debentures; £50,030,196 of inscribed stock (London Register); £1,510,000 Temporary Advance pending flotation of loan (London) Act No. 3200; £1,330,000 proceeds on account of London flotation in course; £44,677,267 of inscribed stock (Melbourne Register); and £657,815 of Treasury bonds in aid of revenue. Particulars concerning the due dates of loans outstanding on 30th June, 1926, are given in the following table. Where the Government has the option of redemption during a specified period the loans have been classified according to the latest date of maturity :—

Due Dates
of Loans.

DUE DATES OF VICTORIAN LOANS ON 30TH JUNE, 1926.

Due Date. (Financial Year.)	Payable in London.	Payable in Melbourne.	Total.
	£	£	£
1926-27	1,304,000	3,558,007	4,862,007
1927-28 .. ..	..	7,639,833	7,639,833
1928-29 .. ..	..	15,656,705	15,656,705
1929-30 .. ..	..	18,762,456	18,762,456
1930-31 .. ..	..	6,557,077	6,557,077
1931-32 .. ..	..	2,234,180	2,234,180
1932-33 .. ..	..	1,181,766	1,181,766
1933-34 .. ..	..	5,425,635	5,425,635
1934-35	2,980,849	1,255,051	4,235,900
1935-36 .. ..	..	1,120,489	1,120,489
1936-37 .. ..	..	345,700	345,700
1937-38 .. ..	..	40,000	40,000
1939-40 .. ..	..	312	312
1940-41	3,906,800	627,980	4,534,780
1941-42 .. ..	..	2,009,777	2,009,777
1942-43	13,875,800	227,800	14,103,600
1944-45	807,075	400	807,475
1945-46	1,049,868	15,400	1,065,268
1946-47 .. ..	..	202,000	202,000
1948-49	5,202,146	265,268	5,467,414
1949-50	6,119,695	112,262	6,231,957
1953-54 .. ..	..	123,874	123,874
1955-56	1,926,436	..	1,926,436
1959-60	2,962,116	17,584	2,979,700
1960-61	5,999,000	1,000	6,000,000
1975-76	5,529,721	..	5,529,721
Government Option* ..	..	6,398,977	6,398,977
Not yet fixed† { (a) ..	..	11,794,075	11,794,075
(b) ..	..	87,875	87,875
(c) ..	..	100,000	100,000
Temporary advance from Westminster Bank, London, pending flotation ..	1,510,000	..	1,510,000
Proceeds on account of London flotation in course ..	1,330,000	..	1,330,000
Total	54,503,506	85,761,483	140,264,989

* At option of Government on giving twelve months' notice.

† Amounts received from Commonwealth for purposes of—(a) Discharged Soldier Settlement, (b) Loans to Municipalities; and (c) Immigration.

Loans and
Interest
payable in
London and
Melbourne.

An examination of the next table reveals interesting information in regard to the practice adopted when raising money in recent years. During the last 26 years the increase in the amount of loans due in Melbourne was £81,091,177, whilst during the same period those due in London showed an increase of only £9,847,927. With few exceptions, the new loans raised have been obtained locally, while further large amounts have been borrowed in the State for the redemption of London loans as they matured.

PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST PAYABLE THEREON IN
LONDON AND MELBOURNE: 1900 TO 1926.

On 30th June—	Amount of Loans Payable in—		Annual Interest Payable in—	
	London.	Melbourne.	London.	Melbourne.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ..	44,655,579	4,670,306	1,735,307	152,096
1910 ..	39,012,436	16,564,289	1,419,579	560,520
1915 ..	41,333,738	31,750,189	1,520,762	1,131,811
1916 ..	42,160,566	34,614,466	1,562,884	1,270,886
1917 ..	42,907,086	35,218,309	1,604,171	1,327,518
1918 ..	43,437,719	36,157,927	1,633,681	1,407,419
1919 ..	43,400,300	38,631,629	1,632,372	1,547,192
1920 ..	42,406,040	45,241,699	1,637,615	1,902,108
1921 ..	38,709,050	58,608,781	1,527,541	2,780,300
1922 ..	42,708,244	66,390,955	1,761,734	3,324,535
1923 ..	45,685,997	72,876,032	1,933,000	3,641,693
1924 ..	48,551,314	75,557,012	2,158,199	3,740,433
1925 ..	51,869,204	79,300,361	2,319,486	3,999,635
1926 ..	54,503,506	85,761,483	2,525,676	4,355,216

Rates of
Interest on
Public Debt.

The appended table shows the rates of interest which were payable on the public debt at 30th June, 1926, and the portions of the debt at each rate in London and Melbourne respectively :—

RATES OF INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT AT 30TH
JUNE, 1926.

Rate of Interest.	Amount Payable in—		
	London.	Melbourne.	Total.
%	£	£	£
7½ .. ..	..	565,814	565,814
6/15/2 .. ..	..	613,248	613,248
6/7/0 .. ..	..	5,480,743	5,480,743
6 .. ..	..	5,903,997	5,903,997
5½ .. ..	..	10,000	10,000
5½	8,191,649	19,222,476	27,414,119
5½ .. ..	..	200,000	200,000
5½ .. ..	..	3,553,124	3,553,124
5/6/11 .. ..	..	1,581,146	1,581,146
5/5/3 .. ..	..	12,804,892	12,804,892
5½ .. ..	..	20,295,973	43,484,873
5	23,188,900	200,000	200,000
4½ .. ..	..	336,980	6,335,980
4½	5,999,000	954,598	954,598
4½ .. ..	..	37,400	37,400
4½ .. ..	..	2,599,608	5,561,724
4	2,962,116	220,000	220,000
3½ .. ..	..	6,746,076	12,865,771
3½	6,119,695	4,435,414	9,637,560
3	5,202,146	..	2,840,000
Not fixed	2,840,000	..	..
Total	54,503,506	85,761,483	140,264,989
Average Rate of Interest	% 4·63	% 5·08	% 4·91

Growth of Public Debt. While the public debt has increased from year to year a very noticeable feature is the rapid increase which has occurred during the last few years. As compared with 1920 the debt per head of population at 30th June, 1926, had increased by 43 per cent.; the interest payable per head had increased by 73 per cent. in the same period. In the following statement is shown the growth of the public debt and of the interest payable thereon since the date of the establishment of responsible government in 1855 :—

**GROWTH OF PUBLIC DEBT AND INTEREST:
1855 TO 1926.**

End of Financial Year in—	Loans Outstanding.			Amount per Head of Population.	
	Amount.	Annual Interest Payable.		Debt.	Annual Interest Payable.
		Total.	Average Rate per cent.		
	£	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1855* ..	1,180,000	70,800	6·00	3 4 9	0 3 11
1860* ..	5,643,100	337,905	5·99	10 9 10	0 12 7
1870* ..	12,099,800	699,240	5·78	16 13 1	0 19 3
1880 ..	20,567,700	1,029,991	5·01	24 9 4	1 4 6
1890 ..	41,377,693	1,649,465	3·99	36 19 11	1 9 6
1900 ..	49,325,885	1,887,403	3·83	41 6 8	1 11 8
1910 ..	55,576,725	1,980,099	3·56	43 6 8	1 10 10
1920 ..	87,647,739	3,539,723	4·04	57 19 1	2 6 10
1921 ..	97,317,831	4,307,841	4·43	63 5 11	2 16 0
1922 ..	109,099,199	5,086,269	4·66	69 9 3	3 4 10
1923 ..	118,562,029	5,575,067	4·70	73 15 0	3 9 4
1924 ..	124,108,326	5,898,632	4·75	75 13 9	3 11 11
1925 ..	131,169,565	6,319,121	4·82	78 10 1	3 16 3
1926 ..	140,264,989	6,880,892	4·91	82 15 7	4 1 3

* Including outstanding liabilities of the Melbourne and Geelong Corporations Guarantee Loans.

In addition to the ordinary expenditure from revenue, certain sums are disbursed annually for various purposes from Loan Funds. The figures in the following table include all expenditure from the latter, whether the loans have been repaid or are still in existence. The table shows the details for each of the last four years and the total to date :—

EXPENDITURE FROM LOAN FUNDS.

Purpose.	Expenditure during the Year—				Total to 30th June, 1926.
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	1,674,643	1,395,282	1,379,182	1,489,285	67,634,835
Water Supply—					
Country	1,210,485	1,415,109	1,405,623	1,587,477	17,510,557
Metropolitan ..	..	..	..	..	3,142,577
Closer Settlement ..	461,533	855,919	592,372	150,753	7,205,764
Discharged Soldiers Land Settlement ..	1,959,231	1,577,411	1,133,588	1,157,066	23,537,442
Country Roads ..	573,972	566,596	992,568	960,452	7,243,865
Electricity Supply ..	2,471,457	2,090,091	1,595,064	1,822,378	9,476,757
State Schools, University, &c. ..	329,882	359,511	476,930	394,655	3,613,273
State Coal Mine ..	..	..	9,967	..	249,399
Seed and Fodder Advances to Farmers ..	..	..	..	..	604,615
Cool Storage—Advances to Companies, &c. ..	3,503	31	..	..	573,299
Municipalities—Loans, Advances, and Grants ..	..	3,350	12,881	300	1,128,814
Primary Products—Advances to Companies, &c. ..	..	..	7,500	5,000	331,101
Wire Netting ..	23,731	26,275	32,399	42,628	475,487
All other works and services ..	55,869	117,951	302,515	391,381	5,275,313
In aid of Revenue ..	..	..	..	..	2,919,652
Total ..	8,764,306	8,407,526	7,940,589	8,001,375	150,922,750*

* In addition to this amount, the sum of £733,135 was advanced from the Public Account Advances Account in 1925-26 and expended on the following :—Closer Settlement, £386,373; Discharged Soldiers Land Settlement, £130,247; Electricity Supply, £175,069; and Forests, £41,446.

The total interest paid (including all expenses of payment) on loans raised to 30th June, 1926, amounted on that date to about £121,000,000, of which £83,000,000 had been paid in London and £38,000,000 in Melbourne. The amount of interest and expenses paid during each of the last five financial years is shown in the next table :—

Interest paid on Loans.

INTEREST AND EXPENSES OF PUBLIC DEBT.

Year Ended 30th June.	Interest Paid on Loans in—		Interest Paid on Temporary Loans.	Commission on Payment of Interest in London.	Commission on Redemption, Expenses of Conversion, &c.	Total.
	London.	Melbourne.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922 ..	1,541,747	2,927,931	100,600	9,387	..	4,579,665
1923 ..	1,765,579	3,563,982	3,701	15,274	7,039	5,355,575
1924 ..	2,066,948	3,589,245	1,917	6,905	4,955	5,669,970
1925 ..	2,104,561	3,790,631	1,190	6,757	2,808	5,905,947
1926 ..	2,315,702	4,037,915	7,678	8,071	3,627	6,372,993

SINKING FUNDS.

Sinking Funds. On 30th June, 1926, the sinking funds for repayment of the public debt amounted to £4,897,751. The balances to the credit of the various funds at that date are shown in the following table:—

	Balance at Credit.
	£
Mallee Land Account	100,616
Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund	3,633,642
Victorian Loans Redemption Fund	685,216
Closer Settlement Redemption Fund	36,121
Coal Mines Sinking Fund	123,749
Main Roads Sinking Funds	212,166
Railways Sinking Fund	38,928
Public Works Sinking Fund	42,865
Developmental Roads Sinking Fund	24,448
Total	4,897,751

Mallee Land Account. By Act No. 2676 of 1915 the moneys accruing from licensing, leasing, or selling of land in the Mallee country or Mallee border are to be paid into the Treasury and placed to the credit of a separate account, to be called the "Mallee Land Account." The sums standing at credit of this account are available solely for the repurchase, redemption, or paying off of any Victorian stock or debentures. The amount in hand on 30th June, 1925, was £50,008, and during 1925–26 the receipts amounted to £108,608, and the expenditure to £58,000, so that the balance in the fund on 30th June, 1926, was £100,616.

Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund. By Act No. 1561 of 1898 it was enacted that a "Victorian Government Consolidated Inscribed Stock Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury, and should be applied to the purchase or repurchase, and ultimately to the redemption of consolidated stock—that is, stock on the London Register—and to the payment of expenses connected with

such purchase or redemption. The fund is made up of money derived from special appropriations from revenue, from repayments by Water Trusts, and from the Mallee Land Account, &c. By Act 3491 of 1926 yearly payments are made out of the fund, for the year 1926-27 and thereafter, to the "Railways Sinking Fund" and the "Irrigation and Water Supply Works Sinking Fund." During 1925-26 the receipts of the fund amounted to £407,345. Transactions to 30th June, 1926, were as follows:—

THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATED INSCRIBED
STOCK REDEMPTION FUND: 30TH JUNE, 1926.

Transactions.						To 30th June, 1926.
RECEIPTS.						£
Waterworks Trusts	..	..	..	..	..	382,063
Mallee Land Account	..	..	..	..	..	1,212,000
Revenue	..	..	..	..	..	1,324,592
Interest on Investments	..	..	..	..	..	985,843
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	104,867
Total receipts	..	..	..	..	..	4,009,365
EXPENDITURE.						
Purchase of Stock	..	..	..	..	..	374,500
Commission, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	1,211
Investment Expenses	..	..	..	..	..	12
Total expenditure	..	..	..	..	..	375,723
Balance in the Fund	..	..	..	..	..	3,633,642
Amount of stock repurchased and cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	397,421

Of the balance in the fund, £3,513,872 was invested in Victorian Government debentures and stock, and £119,770 held in cash.

By Acts Nos. 1565 and 1796 it was provided that a "Victorian Loans Redemption Fund" should be kept in the Treasury and should be available for the purchase, repurchase, or redemption of Victorian Government stock and debentures payable at Melbourne, and for the payment of expenses, costs, &c., incurred. This fund is derived from special appropriations from revenue and repayments of advances made under any Act

Victorian
Loans
Redemption
Fund.

for "Resumption of Land in Mallee District," and of sundry loans made by the Government to municipalities, &c. By Act 3491 of 1926 yearly payments are made out of the fund, for the year 1926-27 and thereafter, to the "Railways Sinking Fund" and the "Irrigation and Water Supply Works Sinking Fund." During 1925-26 receipts amounted to £328,747, and £89,530 was expended in the purchase for cancellation of £92,095 stock and debentures. Transactions in the fund to 30th June, 1926, are shown in the following statement:—

THE VICTORIAN LOANS REDEMPTION FUND:
30TH JUNE, 1926.

Transactions.	To 30th June, 1926.
RECEIPTS.	
From Revenue	£ 3,439,727
Resumption of land in Mallee Districts and valuation of improvements	26,602
Payments by Municipalities	389,133
Geelong Municipal Waterworks Trust	265,000
Interest on Investments	223,503
Shipbuilding Yard (realization)	178,500
Sale of Dredge	4,288
Provision for Securities matured and unclaimed	3,581
Repayment of Loans—	
Bush fires relief	22,962
Floods relief	1,453
Seed advances	609,518
New pilot steamer	18,407
Yarrowee Channel	16,179
Wire netting	386,992
Cool Stores	77,293
Municipalities	322,627
Country roads	80,000
Cattle advances	57,563
Royal Agricultural Society	4,833
Primary products	73,793
Zoological and Acclimatisation Society	228
Excess of face value of securities over amount invested	408
Total receipts	6,202,590
EXPENDITURE.	
Purchase of stock and debentures	5,517,374
Balance in the Fund	685,216
Amount of stock and debentures repurchased and cancelled	5,560,761

The balance in the fund was represented by Victorian Government debentures and stock having a face value of £603,472, and £81,744 held in cash.

Closer Settlement Redemption Fund.

With the approval of the Treasurer this Fund was established to write down the valuation of Closer Settlement Estates by £200,000. The sole revenue of the Fund is a sum of £10,000, which, in accordance with an arrangement entered into, it must receive each year from the profits of the Closer Settlement Fund. Up to 30th June, 1926, the revenue of the Fund amounted to £110,000, of which £73,879 had been applied in the cancellation of stock and debentures, leaving a balance of £36,121. Of this amount £30,000 was invested, and £6,121 held in cash.

Coal Mines Sinking Fund.

By Act No. 2630 (Section 96) the net surplus profits of the State Coal Mines were applied in establishing the Coal Mines Sinking Fund. Up to 30th June, 1926, the receipts of that Fund amounted to £130,799. Stock and debentures to the value of £7,050 had been cancelled at par, and there was thus a balance of £123,749. Of this amount £117,513 was invested and £6,236 was held in cash.

Main Roads (Treasury) Sinking Fund.

Established by Act 3425 of 1925, whereby a sum equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of half the amount raised under the Country Roads Acts is paid each financial year from consolidated revenue into this Fund. Moneys in the Fund are to be invested in Government Securities bearing interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. until half the amount borrowed under the Country Roads Acts has been paid off. The amount at credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1926, was £23,971.

Main Roads (Municipalities) Sinking Fund.

A portion of the money to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund is paid into the "Main Roads (Municipalities) Sinking Fund" which was formerly known as "Main Roads Sinking Fund" (Act 3425 of 1925). This Fund is to be kept until half the amount borrowed under the Country Roads Acts has been paid off. At 30th June, 1926, the credit balance of the Fund amounted to £188,195.

Railways Sinking Fund.

By Act 3309 of 1923 the surplus railway revenue of every financial year shall be placed to the credit of the Railways Sinking Fund until such sum amounts to 75 per cent. of the loan liability of the Victorian Railways. The moneys at the credit of the Fund shall be invested in Government securities bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum, and shall be available only for redemption of loans raised for railway purposes. Any uninvested moneys shall bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum, which interest shall be paid out of consolidated revenue. The amount at the credit of the

Fund at 30th June, 1926, was £38,928, all of which was invested. By Act 3491, passed 23rd December, 1926, certain yearly payments are to be made into the Fund from two redemption funds (G.C.I.S.R. Fund and V.L.R. Fund). These payments are (a) for the year 1926-27 and thereafter, 5s. per £100 of the net public debt created on account of Railways to 30th June, 1926, and (b) for 1927-28 and thereafter, in addition to payment (a), 5s. per £100 of the total amount expended out of loan moneys on Railway works in each financial year.

Irrigation and Water Supply Works Sinking Fund. Established by Act 3491 (1926), for the purpose of redeeming loans raised for irrigation works and water supply. Certain yearly payments are to be made into the Fund from two redemption funds (G.C.I.S.R. Fund and V.L.R. Fund). These payments are (a) for the year 1926-27 and thereafter, 2s. 6d. per £100 of the net public debt created on account of irrigation and water supply works to 30th June, 1926, and (b) for 1927-28 and thereafter, in addition to payment (a), 2s. 6d. per £100 of the total amount expended out of loan moneys on irrigation and water supply works in each financial year.

Public Works Sinking Fund. Under the provisions of Act No. 3201 of 1922 a Fund known as the "Public Works Sinking Fund" was established for the purpose of liquidating the liability on account of certain public works. The works specified in the Act are public offices, education buildings, hospitals for insane, gaols, police quarters, &c. The sum to be paid into the Fund annually shall be equal to 2 per cent. of the total loan expenditure at the end of the preceding financial year, except that it shall be 10 per cent. in the case of buildings, approaches, and improvements, for tourists' resorts. The moneys at the credit of the Fund shall be invested in Government securities at 4 per cent. per annum, and, when they are equal to the total amount expended out of loan moneys, shall be transferred to and placed to the credit of the Victorian Loans Redemption Fund. During 1925-26 a sum of £28,238 was paid into the Fund, the balance at credit at 30th June, 1926, being £42,865.

Developmental Roads Sinking Fund. By Act No. 3334 of 1923 a sum equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the amount borrowed under the provisions of the *Developmental Roads Act* 1922 is to be paid into this Fund from consolidated revenue. The moneys in the Fund are to be invested in Government securities bearing interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. There was a credit of £24,448 in the Fund at 30th June, 1926, all of which was invested.

TRUST FUNDS.

In the succeeding table the liabilities and investments of the various Trust Funds held by the Treasurer are shown for each of the last five years, investments in Victorian securities being distinguished :—

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Liabilities.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
At Credit of—					
Public Debt Sinking					
Funds	2,754,540	2,993,432	3,560,225	4,084,795	4,897,751
Savings Bank Commis-					
sioners Trust Account	6,598,524	64,103	64,103	64,103	..
Other Trust Funds ..	3,859,723	4,131,498	4,436,882	5,206,083	5,219,701
Balance — From General					
Cash Account ..	..	..	195,447	..	..
Total	13,212,787	7,189,033	8,256,657	9,354,981	10,117,452
<i>Investments, Advances, &c.</i>					
Invested in Victorian Stock					
or Debentures ..	4,760,336	5,133,710	5,955,771	6,438,453	7,082,512
Other Investments, Fixed					
Deposits, &c... ..	6,952,503	454,503	474,053	479,054	431,348
Advances Made... ..	1,358,869	1,460,804	1,826,833	2,006,307	2,206,902
Cash Held	141,079	140,016	..	431,167	396,690
Total	13,212,787	7,189,033	8,256,657	9,354,981	10,117,452

The large falling off in the amount of these Funds between 1922 and 1923 is due to the Treasurer having handed back to the Savings Bank Commissioners the fixed deposit receipts of that institution which he formerly held.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES.

The following is a statement of the public debts of the Australian States on 30th June, 1926, showing the amounts, the amounts per head of population, the total interest payable, the average rates per cent., and the rates *per capita*. Sinking Funds have not been deducted. Treasury Bills covering Revenue Deficits are included. Revenue Deficits which are not covered by Treasury Bills, overdrafts on Loan Account, and advances from Trust Funds are excluded.

PUBLIC DEBTS OF AUSTRALIAN STATES ON 30TH JUNE, 1926.

State.	Public Debt.		Interest Payable.		
	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Amount.	Per Head of Population.	Average Rate per cent.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
Victoria* ..	140,264,989	82 15 7	6,880,892	4 1 3	4.906
New South Wales	223,504,771	96 8 8	11,138,065	4 16 1	4.983
Queensland ..	102,316,866	116 7 0	4,919,092	5 11 10	4.808
South Australia ..	81,473,624	145 17 9	4,103,915	7 7 0	5.037
Western Australia	70,806,921	188 14 9	3,199,753	8 10 7	4.519
Tasmania ..	24,477,590	116 18 2	1,205,776	5 15 2	4.926

* Including £1,510,000 temporary advance pending loan flotation, and £1,330,000 proceeds on account of London flotation in course.

The public debt of the Commonwealth on 30th June, 1926, was £458,443,351, and that of the six States, £642,844,761. From the total of these a deduction of £87,531,051 must be made for debts

included twice. The balance (£1,013,757,061) represents the liability of the Australian public at the date mentioned, which is equal to £167 14s. 8d. per head of the population.

The full indebtedness of the Government, municipalities, and corporations of Victoria for the year 1926 is shown in detail hereunder. From the municipal and corporation debts the amounts of loans from the Government have been excluded.

STATE, AND LOCAL DEBTS (EXCLUDING LOANS FROM GOVERNMENT), 1926.

State Public Debt—	£	£
London Register	54,503,506	
Melbourne Register	85,761,483	
Other State Debt (Public Account Advances)	733,135	
	<hr/>	
Total State Debts		140,998,124
Municipal	8,039,263	
Harbor Trusts	3,208,970	
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board ..	167,083	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	17,037,090	
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	3,958,049	
Ballarat Water Commission and Sewerage Authority	189,064	
Bendigo Sewerage Authority	213,538	
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	1,243,065	
	<hr/>	
Total Debts of Municipalities and Corporations (excl. Government loans)		34,056,122
	<hr/>	
Gross Debts		175,054,246
Sinking Funds		6,377,170
	<hr/>	
Net Debt		168,677,076
	<hr/>	

This sum (£168,677,076) is equal to a net debt of £99 10s. 11d. per head of the population on 30th June, 1926.

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL TAXATION.

Taxation.

The subjoined table shows approximately, for the last five financial years, the amount of revenue collected under the various heads of taxation by the Commonwealth, the State, and Municipalities in Victoria :—

TAXATION IN VICTORIA—COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL : 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount Received.				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Federal—					
Customs Duties ..	5,835,394	7,648,521	8,226,378	8,167,185	8,237,801
Excise Duties ..	2,644,585	2,700,312	2,764,938	2,823,889	2,897,845
Income Tax* ..	4,533,000	3,485,000	2,986,000	3,007,000	2,932,000
Land Tax* ..	525,000	464,000	467,000	580,000	580,000
Succession Duties*	367,000	434,000	489,000	511,000	522,000
War-time Profits Tax* ..	280,000	72,000	18,000	..	..
Entertainments Tax	222,210	208,240	212,011	223,555	152,000*
Total Federal Taxation ..	14,407,189	15,012,073	15,163,327	15,312,629	15,321,646
State—					
Income Tax ..	1,443,209	1,514,256	1,702,483	2,076,656	2,238,429
Land Tax ..	372,060	392,594	412,165	421,662	457,441
Probate Duty ..	706,181	697,482	798,315	802,333	940,609
Betting Taxation (Stamp duties, Licences, and percentage) ..	169,007	185,309	186,141	170,998	133,067
Other Stamp Duties	779,430	950,896	1,011,966	963,307	1,017,351
Motor Car and Motor Omnibus Acts †	124,542	165,804	233,300	418,840	641,765
Liquor Taxation and Licences ..	290,884	302,574	320,331	343,524	352,826
Other Licences ..	28,613	32,173	43,007	39,360	37,647
Duties on Bank Notes ..	1,790	1,762	1,750	1,740	1,899
Total State Taxation ..	3,915,716	4,242,850	4,709,458	5,238,420	5,821,034
Municipal Taxation ..	2,399,256	2,671,783	2,963,431	3,278,598	3,507,089
Total Taxation	20,722,161	21,926,706	22,836,216	23,829,647	24,649,769

* Estimated. † See footnote on page 43.

The taxation in Victoria per head of population by the Commonwealth, the State, and Municipalities for each of the last five years was as follows :—

COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL TAXATION
PER HEAD OF POPULATION : 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Division.	Taxation per Head of Population in Victoria.				
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Commonwealth	9 5 9	9 8 10	9 6 7	9 4 10	9 2 0
State	2 10 6	2 13 4	2 17 11	3 3 3	3 9 2
Municipal	1 10 11	1 13 7	1 16 5	1 19 7	2 1 7
Total	13 7 2	13 15 9	14 0 11	14 7 8	14 12 9

**Additional
Taxation for
Financial Year
1925-26.**

From 1st January, 1925, under the *Motor Omnibus Act* 1924, No. 3378, additional fees in the nature of a tax on passenger seating capacity are payable on the registration of motor buses plying for hire within eight miles of the corporate limits of the City of Melbourne. These fees range from £3 7s. 6d. to £4 10s. per passenger seat and are in addition to the ordinary registration fee payable under the *Motor Car Act* 1915, which is now fixed under the Second Schedule of the *Highways and Vehicles Act*, No. 3379, at £5 per annum.

The provisions of the *Highways and Vehicles Act*, No. 3379, relating to registration fees of motor cars, &c., came into operation on 1st January, 1925. They require that the annual registration fee of motor cars, lorries, &c., shall be calculated on the power-weight unit, the charge ranging from 3s. per power-weight unit for ordinary motor cars to 5s. per power-weight unit for motor vehicles fitted with non-pneumatic tyres.

The *Income Tax Act* 1925 fixed the rate of income tax on incomes earned during the year ended 30th June, 1925. The rate for individuals on the amount of taxable income from personal exertion up to but

not exceeding £500 was increased to 3½d. in the £1. Where the taxable income exceeded £500 the rates on income from personal exertion were 4½d. for every £1 of the taxable amount thereof up to £500; 5½d. for every £1 between £501 and £1,000; 6½d. for every £1 between £1,001 and £1,500; and 7½d. for every £1 over £1,500. The rates on income from property are respectively double the rates on income from personal exertion.

In the case of companies (other than Mutual Life Assurance Companies) liable to tax the rate was increased from 15d. in the £1 to 16d. in the £1.

LICENCES.

Licences. The following is a statement of the net revenue received from each description of licence during the year 1925-26. Municipal licences for slaughtering, dairies, noxious trades, &c., are excluded, also insurance licences (£68,599), and book-makers' licences (£13,970), the two last mentioned having been shown under "Stamp Duties." Motor car licences, fees, etc. (£641,765) are included under the heading "State Taxation."

REVENUE OF STATE GOVERNMENT FROM LICENCES: 1925-26.

Description of Licence.	Net Revenue Received.
	£
Spirit Merchants and Grocers	37,163
Victuallers	288,248
" Temporary	4,451
Railway Refreshment Rooms	1,813
Packet	125
Australian Wine	4,869
Billiard Table	5,800
Brewers	114
Vignerons	80
Club Certificates	7,369
Permits (Extra Bars and Extended Hours)	2,794
Auctioneers	23,196
Real Estate Agents	6,632
Tobacco and Cigars—Selling	2,221
Pawnbrokers	790
Hawkers	2,184
Carriage, Stage Carriage, Forwarding Agents	438
Marine Stores	207
Explosives	931
Race Clubs	666
Gold-buyers	153
Second-hand Dealers	633
Farm Produce Agents	262
Total	391,139

In addition to the preceding, there are other licences issued in Victoria by the Department of Trade and Customs; the fees collected in respect of these during the calendar year 1926 were as follows:—

Description of Licence.					Amount of Fees collected.
<i>Customs.</i>					£
Carriage ..	..	..	..	..	309
Lighter and Boat ..	..	..	..	..	7
Custom House Agents ..	..	..	..	..	399
Warehouse ..	..	..	..	..	6,626
<i>Excise.</i>					
Distilling—					
General Distillers ..	..	..	..	..	200
Wine Distillers ..	..	..	..	..	150
Vignerons ..	..	..	..	..	35
Brewers ..	..	..	..	..	950
Manufacturing Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Snuff ..					1,930
Starch ..	..	..	..	..	15

POPULATION.

Population of
Victoria, 1836
to 1826.

According to manuscript notes made by Captain Lonsdale (afterwards the first Colonial Secretary of Victoria), the first enumeration of the people of this State was made within a year after the arrival of Batman (29th May, 1835) by an officer from Sydney, George Stewart, who came in the revenue cutter *Prince George* with orders from His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke to report upon the state of things in the new district. It was then found (25th May, 1836) that the band of first arrivals consisted of 142 males and 35 females, or, in all, 177 residents of European origin. This was the first official census of what was at that time known as Port Phillip. The settlers came from Tasmania and New South Wales. The second enumeration was made on the 8th November of the same year (1836) by order of Captain Lonsdale, who on the 29th day of the previous September arrived in H.M.S. *Rattlesnake* (Captain Hobson), which anchored in that part of the port now called Hobson's Bay. Captain Lonsdale had been appointed police magistrate, with instructions to take general charge of the district. On the 5th October the *Stirlingshire* (brig) arrived with the remainder of the Government establishment, consisting of a detachment of Captain Lonsdale's regiment (the 4th), a principal officer of Customs, three surveyors, an officer in charge of commissariat stores, a small number of Crown prisoners for public service, and three constables. Notwithstanding these additions to the population, the census of the following month showed an increase of 47 persons only—making a total of 224 persons (186 males and 38 females). The third census was taken nearly two years later, in September, 1838, when it was ascertained that the number of inhabitants had increased to 3,511. At the end of 1840 it was estimated that the Port Phillip district contained 10,291 persons. During each of the years 1840 and 1841 the population was doubled, owing principally to the number of assisted immigrants who arrived in the district, and good progress continued to be made to the end of 1850, when the community numbered 76,162 persons.

The discovery of gold in 1851, however, was the greatest factor in populating Victoria. When the discoveries were announced diggers came in thousands from New South Wales, South Australia, and

Tasmania, and later on crowds of emigrants from the United Kingdom and other European countries joined in the rush. America contributed its quota, even Californians leaving their own gold-bearing country to try their fortunes in Australia. Some idea of this influx may be gathered from the official figures, which show that the population numbered 463,135 at the end of 1857, or more than six times that of 1850. During the decade 1861 to 1870 the population increased by 188,752, all but 39,000 of which was due to the excess of births over deaths. In the next decennial period, 1871 to 1880, there was an increase of 133,468, but this would have been nearly 13,000 greater if the arrivals in had equalled the departures from the colony. Between 1881 and 1890 an addition of 273,000 was made to the population, about 112,000 of this number being due to immigration. The latter portion of this decennium is known as the "boom period," when land values were highly inflated, wages and prices were exceptionally high, and expenditure by the Government and the people generally was conducted on a most lavish scale. The inevitable reaction followed, and this is reflected in the records.

The net migration from the State during the ten years following 1890 amounted to 109,000 persons, the increase of 64,000 in the total population being accounted for by the fact that the births exceeded the deaths by 173,000. Most of the emigrants left for Western Australia, where gold had been discovered in large quantities. In 1902-3 a year of unexampled drought was experienced, which was felt severely by Victoria as well as all the other Eastern States. From 1903 to 1913 the seasons were usually good, with the result that employment was plentiful and that the State was able not only to retain its own people but also to attract a considerable number of immigrants from other States and countries. In the year 1914 there was a severe drought, and the outbreak of war led to the despatch of a large number of men to places outside Australia. The increase in population was therefore retarded in that year. Although there were record harvests in 1915 and 1916 there was a decrease of population in both of these years on account of the departure of soldiers for the front, and the practical cessation of immigration. In 1917 and 1918 there were increases in spite of the fact that 20,633 soldiers left the State in the earlier and 4,532 in the later year to take part in the war. In 1919 there was a substantial

addition to the population. The increases in the three years mentioned were entirely due to the return of soldiers to Victoria, the number who returned being 16,266 in 1917, 25,900 in 1918, and 77,468 in 1919. In the years 1920 to 1926, there were increases of 24,874, 22,777, 39,539, 35,155, 31,715, 26,922, and 27,810 respectively, included in which were 3,474 soldiers and 2,763 assisted immigrants in the first-mentioned year, and about 4,000 assisted immigrants in 1921, 9,145 in 1922, 9,504 in 1923, 8,721 in 1924, 8,589 in 1925, and 8,583 in 1926. The subjoined table shows the population in various years from 1836 to 1926 :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 1836 TO 1926.

Year.	Estimated Population, 31st December.			Estimated Mean Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1836 (25th May) ..	142	35	177	} 200
1836 (8th Novr.) ..	186	38	224	
1840	7,254	3,037	10,291	8,056
1850	45,495	30,667	76,162	71,191
1855	234,450	129,874	364,324	338,315
1860	328,251	209,596	537,847	534,055
1870	398,755	327,844	726,599	713,195
1880	451,456	408,611	860,067	850,343
1890	596,064	537,202	1,133,266	1,118,500
1900	602,487	594,719	1,197,206	1,193,338
1901	608,436	601,464	1,209,900	1,203,137
1902	604,318	603,913	1,208,231	1,207,527
1903	599,950	604,792	1,204,742	1,205,296
1904	597,617	607,991	1,205,608	1,202,814
1905	598,134	612,287	1,210,421	1,206,046
1906	600,856	618,976	1,219,832	1,213,672
1907	605,775	627,032	1,232,807	1,225,503
1908	614,937	635,512	1,250,449	1,240,488
1909	631,021	646,001	1,277,022	1,261,169
1910	646,482	654,926	1,301,408	1,282,477
1911	668,818	671,075	1,339,893	1,320,661
1912	690,056	692,497	1,382,553	1,357,864
1913	707,444	707,972	1,415,416	1,395,958
1914	713,307	721,881	1,435,188	1,427,512
1915	694,210	730,235	1,424,445	1,431,632
1916	666,245	738,418	1,404,663	1,414,480
1917	671,075	745,985	1,417,060	1,411,381
1918	684,243	753,002	1,437,245	1,424,054
1919	739,956	763,079	1,503,035	1,473,013
1920	753,893	774,106	1,527,999	1,512,093
1921	764,905	785,781	1,550,686	1,537,008
1922	788,626	801,599	1,590,225	1,570,824
1923	806,546	818,834	1,625,380	1,607,773
1924	824,182	832,913	1,657,095	1,641,852
1925	838,613	845,324	1,684,017	1,671,467
1926	852,399	859,428	1,711,827	1,696,670

The rates of increase in population in different years are given on page 120.

Population,
1923.

The elements of increase in the population of Victoria during 1926 are shown in the following table :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER,
1926.

	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1925.. ..	..	..	838,693	845,324	1,684,017
Births, 1926	18,203	17,159	..	..	..
Deaths, 1926	8,765	7,570	..	..	..
Natural Increase .. ..	..	..	9,438	9,589	19,027
Migration by Sea, 1926—					
Arrivals	48,059	39,967	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	39,424	34,685	..	..	..
Gain Seawards .. ..	..	..	8,635	5,282	13,917
Migration by Land, 1926—					
Arrivals	161,074	83,922	..	..	..
Departures (as adjusted)	165,441	84,689	..	..	..
Loss Overland .. ..	..	..	4,367	767	5,134
Estimated Population, 31st December, 1926.. ..	..	..	852,399	859,428	1,711,827
Full-blooded aborigines at the date of the 1921 census, not included in the estimate .. ..	..	..	80	64	144

The population of Victoria on 5th April, 1891, when the census of that year was taken, was 1,140,405 ; in 1901 it was 1,201,341 ; in 1911, 1,315,551 ; and, in 1921, 1,531,280. The table which follows shows the increase of population by excess of births over deaths, and the loss by emigration in each year since the first-mentioned date :—

Increase of
Population,
1891-1926.

INCREASE OF POPULATION BY EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS, AND LOSS BY EMIGRATION, 1891 TO 1926.

Year.	Natural Increase (i.e., Excess of Births over Deaths).	Loss by Emigration.	Net Increase.
1891 (from 5th April, Census) ..	15,859	+ 1,414	17,273
1892	21,980	11,058	10,922
1893	20,044	12,484	7,560
1894	18,828	12,698	6,130
1895	18,070	14,410	3,660
1896	16,464	22,134	- 5,670
1897	16,184	13,754	2,430
1898	11,477	11,127	350
1899	14,430	8,020	6,410
1900	15,564	7,828	7,736
1901 (to 31st March, Census) ..	3,613	+ 251	3,864
Total Intercensal period (10 years) ..	172,513	111,848	60,665
1901 (from 1st April)	11,491	2,661	8,830
1902	14,284	15,953	- 1,669
1903	13,974	17,463	- 3,489
1904	15,370	14,504	866
1905	15,431	10,618	4,813
1906	15,607	6,196	9,411
1907	16,826	3,851	12,975
1908	15,331	+ 2,311	17,642
1909	17,108	+ 9,465	26,573
1910	16,705	+ 7,681	24,386
1911 (to 2nd April, Census) ..	4,694	+ 9,449	14,143
Total Intercensal period (10 years) ..	156,821	42,340	114,481
1911 (from 3rd April)	13,116	+ 11,226	24,342
1912	19,207	+ 23,453	42,660
1913	20,496	+ 12,367	32,863
1914	19,719	+ 53	19,772
1915	19,186	29,929	- 10,743
1916	17,746	37,528	- 19,782
1917	18,478	6,081	12,397
1918	16,420	+ 3,765	20,185
1919	12,249	+ 53,541	65,790
1920	19,381	+ 5,493	24,874
1921 (to 4th April, Census) ..	4,679	1,308	3,371
Total Intercensal period (10 years) ..	180,677	+ 35,052	215,729
1921 (from 5th April)	14,747	+ 4,659	19,406
1922	21,133	+ 18,406	39,539
1923	18,658	+ 16,497	35,155
1924	19,637	+ 12,078	31,715
1925	20,085	+ 6,837	26,922
1926	19,027	+ 8,783	27,810

NOTE.—The plus sign (+) indicates that the arrivals exceeded the departures from the State by the number against which it is placed.

Immigration
and
emigration,
1922-1926.

The following table shows the total migration by sea to and from Victoria during the five years 1922 to 1926 :—

RECORDED IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION BY SEA, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of Immigrants.
1922	81,903	66,355	15,548
1923	87,248	69,986	17,262
1924	88,467	72,458	16,009
1925	77,487	64,276	13,211
1926	88,026	73,799	14,227

Migration
of Soldiers.

The number of soldiers belonging to the Australian Expeditionary Forces who arrived in Victoria from or left the State for oversea countries from the commencement of the war to the 31st December, 1920, is shown in the *Year-Book* for 1922-23, page 85.

Arrivals and
departures by
rail, 1922 to
1926.

The Inter-State railway passenger traffic, as well as the seaward traffic, is taken into account in framing estimates of population. The effect of the railway traffic during the past five years is shown in the following statement :—

RECORDED MIGRATION BY RAIL, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Arrivals.			Departures.			Excess of Arrivals.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1922	168,025	86,986	255,011	164,280	86,998	251,278	3,745	— 12	3,733
1923	171,436	88,430	259,866	172,580	87,132	259,712	1,144	1,293	154
1924	181,969	93,441	275,410	182,857	95,581	278,438	888	2,120	3,008
1925	192,390	99,285	291,676	194,982	102,137	297,119	2,592	2,851	5,443
1926	161,074	83,922	244,996	164,041	85,449	249,490	2,967	1,527	4,494

From the beginning of 1913 to 30th June, 1926, a systematic count was made of the passengers who travelled by rail between the States of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia. From 1st July, 1926, the count at the border station was abolished, and the interstate tickets issued by the various Railway Departments are from that time to be the data employed in the future in ascertaining the migration between the States on the mainland.

During 1926 Victoria lost by rail 876 persons to New South Wales and Queensland and 3,618 to South Australia and Western Australia.

Gain by
immigration
from various
countries and
vice versa.

The net result of the recorded immigration and emigration by sea between Victoria and the neighbouring States, the United Kingdom, and foreign countries (exclusive of soldiers) during each of the five years ended 1926 is shown in the following table. Where a minus sign (—) appears, it indicates

that the emigrants exceeded the immigrants by the number against which it is placed :—

RECORDED NET IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA BY SEA,
1922 TO 1926.

Excess of Immigration over Emigration between Victoria and—													
Year.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	United Kingdom.	Other British Dominions.	United States.	Other Foreign Ports.	Crews of Vessels.	Net Immigration.
1922	- 251	- 471	71	750	3,444	468	18	10,405	399	6	612	94	15,548
1923	- 450	- 355	- 116	764	3,610	592	127	11,181	563	15	431	..	17,262
1924	- 876	- 1,058	- 61	749	3,711	68	218	10,640	40	11	2,532	..	16,009
1925	- 959	- 1,442	- 142	64	3,405	- 433	1,05	10,736	- 10	7	1,880	..	13,211
1926	- 936	- 934	- 190	158	4,616	44	38	9,519	- 10	7	1,915	..	14,227
Total	- 2,572	- 4,260	- 438	2,485	18,791	739	536	52,484	982	46	7,370	94	76,257

The net result of the seaward migration for the five years has been an increase to Victoria of 76,257 persons, the principal gains having been from the United Kingdom, Tasmania, Foreign ports, Western Australia, and New Zealand. New South Wales, Queensland, and South Australia attracted persons from this State during that period.

The number of persons who have been assisted to come to Victoria from the foundation of the State to the end of 1926 will be found in the next table :—

STATE-ASSISTED IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA TO THE END
OF 1926.

Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.	Period.	Number of State-assisted Immigrants.
1838-50	28,632	1912	15,119
1851-60	87,963	1913	12,146
1861-70	46,594	1914	7,496
1871-80	5,545	1915	1,724
1881-90	2	1916	327
1891-00 .. ..	..	1917	146
1901 .. ..	..	1918	101
1902 .. ..	..	1919	139
1903 .. ..	..	1920	2,763
1904 .. ..	..	1921	3,987
1905 .. ..	..	1922	9,145
1906 .. ..	..	1923	9,504
1907	127	1924	8,721
1908	360	1925	8,589
1909	652	1926	8,583
1910	1,690		
1911	6,776	Total	266,831

In 1926 the immigrants assisted by the Government numbered 8,583, of whom 5,244 were nominated and 3,339 selected. Of the immigrants 2,286 were married persons. The sex distribution of the State-assisted immigrants was—males 5,219, and females 3,364.

Upon the outbreak of war in August, 1914, instructions were issued by the Victorian Government that no men who were within the limits of the recruiting ages should be accepted for assisted passages by its representatives in England. Partly for this reason and partly because of the existence of prosperous conditions in Great Britain the number of assisted immigrants to Victoria was very small during the years 1915 to 1919.

A statement of the arrangements which have been made for assisting immigrants to come to Victoria is given in a later portion of this volume under the heading "Immigration Bureau."

CENSUS OF 1921.

A census of Australia was taken on 4th April, 1921, under the general superintendence of the Commonwealth Statistician. The officer in charge of the collection in each State was the Commonwealth electoral officer for that State with the designation of "Deputy Supervisor of Census." Under him an enumerator was in charge of each Commonwealth electoral division, and under each enumerator there was a sub-enumerator in respect of each electoral subdivision or a group of subdivisions. In all cases the position of enumerator was filled by the divisional returning officer. Each subdivision was further cut up into collectors' districts for the actual work of collection. The collecting organizations for the States comprised six deputy supervisors, 75 enumerators, and about 1,100 sub-enumerators, and 7,000 collectors.

A deputy supervisor was appointed for each of the Territories, viz., Northern Territory, Federal Territory, Norfolk Island, and Papua, and for the late German New Guinea. In these cases the collectors worked under the immediate direction of the deputy supervisor.

The following statement shows the population of and number of dwellings in each of the municipalities of the State at the census of 4th April, 1921 :—

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA OF VICTORIA AS AT
THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921.

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Metropolitan.</i>						
Brighton	9,491	11,744	21,235	4,620	59	4,679
Brunswick	21,339	23,145	44,484	9,685	91	9,776
Camberwell	10,703	13,132	23,835	5,729	124	5,853
Caulfield	18,667	22,026	40,693	9,672	162	9,834
Coburg	8,952	9,162	18,114	3,857	40	3,897
Collingwood	15,956	18,283	34,239	7,564	1	7,565
Essendon	16,525	18,744	35,269	8,050	36	8,086
Fitzroy	16,311	18,627	34,938	7,708	4	7,712
Footscray	16,785	16,990	33,775	7,147	46	7,193
Hawthorn	12,870	16,295	29,165	6,563	29	6,592
Kew	7,711	9,671	17,382	3,650	57	3,707
Malvern	14,054	18,252	32,306	7,626	127	7,753
Melbourne	51,084	52,167	103,251	21,533	22	21,555
Northcote	14,694	15,825	30,519	6,841	112	6,953
Oakleigh	2,932	3,144	6,076	1,366	17	1,383
Port Melbourne ..	6,495	6,594	13,089	2,306	2	2,808
Prahran	21,706	28,584	50,290	11,479	18	11,497
Richmond	20,606	22,565	43,171	9,505	6	9,511
Sandringham	5,142	6,174	11,316	2,761	63	2,824
South Melbourne ..	22,167	24,706	46,873	10,153	16	10,169
St. Kilda	16,736	21,843	38,579	8,307	64	8,371
Williamstown	9,916	9,526	19,442	4,335	30	4,365
Total	340,842	387,199	728,041	160,957	1,126	162,083
<i>Extra Metropolitan.</i>						
Ararat	2,306	2,347	4,653	857	2	859
Ballarat	9,359	11,856	21,215	4,950	12	4,962
Ballarat East	6,194	7,258	13,452	3,308	3	3,311
Bendigo	11,755	13,927	25,682	5,970	15	5,985
Carrum	2,490	2,735	5,225	1,850	17	1,867
Castlemaine	2,509	2,822	5,331	1,249	1	1,250
Clunes	510	715	1,225	354	1	355
Creswick	764	906	1,670	429	..	429
Daylesford	1,468	1,860	3,328	771	..	771
Dunolly	405	448	853	242	..	242
Eaglehawk	2,134	2,585	4,719	1,171	..	1,171
Echuca	1,836	1,909	3,745	859	1	860
Geelong	6,850	7,955	14,805	3,245	2	3,247
Geelong West	4,518	5,123	9,641	2,221	10	2,231
Hamilton	2,406	2,691	5,097	1,155	2	1,157
Horsham	1,805	1,985	3,790	833	12	845

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Cities, Towns, and Boroughs—Extra Metro- politan—continued.</i>						
Inglewood	517	600	1,117	239	..	289
Koroit	856	904	1,760	364	..	364
Maryborough	2,216	2,528	4,744	1,172	2	1,174
Mentone and Mordialloc ..	2,629	3,045	5,674	1,361	7	1,368
Mildura	2,665	2,436	5,101	1,064	16	1,080
Newtown and Chilwell ..	3,312	3,928	7,240	1,596	5	1,601
Port Fairy	983	1,005	1,988	435	..	435
Portland	1,135	1,420	2,555	561	2	563
Queenscliff	1,102	1,384	2,486	502	..	502
Sale	1,766	2,003	3,769	824	6	830
Sebastopol	867	875	1,742	420	..	420
St. Arnaud	1,214	1,507	2,721	638	2	640
Stawell	2,041	2,372	4,413	1,046	1	1,047
Wangaratta	1,769	1,920	3,689	751	4	755
Warrnambool	3,718	4,012	7,730	1,655	4	1,659
Wonthaggi	2,809	2,361	5,170	1,045	19	1,064
Total	86,908	99,422	186,330	43,187	146	43,333
Total—Cities, Towns, and Boroughs ..	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
<i>Shires.</i>						
Alberton	3,114	2,508	5,622	1,339	5	1,344
Alexandra	1,890	1,464	3,354	920	1	921
Arapiles	1,198	1,126	2,324	480	..	480
Ararat	3,162	2,793	5,955	1,349	1	1,350
Avoca	1,658	1,649	3,307	818	4	822
Avon	1,287	1,097	2,384	543	3	546
Bacchus Marsh	1,738	1,561	3,299	675	9	684
Bairnsdale	3,888	3,831	7,719	1,794	3	1,797
Ballan	1,603	1,477	3,080	798	1	799
Ballarat	1,894	2,059	3,953	733	4	737
Bannockburn	1,345	1,244	2,589	633	..	633
Barrabool	968	843	1,811	411	..	411
Barwon South	1,529	1,639	3,168	857	1	858
Beechworth	2,358	2,293	4,651	1,014	1	1,015
Belfast	1,322	1,166	2,488	524	..	524
Bellarine	2,040	1,969	4,009	969	4	973
Benalla	3,895	3,652	7,587	1,771	3	1,774
Berwick	4,832	4,119	8,951	2,156	10	2,166
Bet Bet	1,424	1,255	2,679	698	1	699
Birchip	1,014	836	1,850	395	2	397
Borong	2,532	2,299	4,751	1,056	2	1,058
Braybrook	2,335	2,096	4,431	944	75	1,019
Bright	2,044	1,958	4,002	1,000	..	1,000
Broadford	710	622	1,332	347	1	348

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Broadmeadows ..	3,626	1,804	5,430	820	7	827
Bulla ..	1,264	1,337	2,601	370	..	370
Buln Buln ..	3,264	2,618	5,882	1,472	..	1,472
Bungaree ..	1,528	1,490	3,018	717	..	717
Buninyong ..	2,637	2,427	5,064	1,225	3	1,228
Charlton ..	1,325	1,140	2,465	535	..	535
Chiltern ..	1,063	1,077	2,140	536	..	536
Colac ..	6,248	5,851	12,099	2,662	23	2,685
Corio ..	2,256	1,683	3,941	766	8	774
Cranbourne ..	3,219	2,462	5,681	1,403	10	1,413
Creswick ..	1,505	1,539	3,044	774	..	774
Dandenong ..	3,439	3,441	6,880	1,583	27	1,610
Deakin ..	2,163	1,761	3,924	926	2	928
Dimboola ..	3,370	2,899	6,269	1,256	4	1,260
Donald ..	1,727	1,513	3,240	709	..	709
Doncaster ..	1,342	1,242	2,584	670	3	673
Dundas ..	1,788	1,699	3,487	794	1	795
Dunmunkle ..	2,486	2,097	4,583	982	2	984
Eltham ..	2,092	1,981	4,073	1,104	1	1,105
Euroa ..	1,994	1,914	3,908	898	1	899
Ferntree Gully ..	3,372	3,632	7,004	2,255	37	2,292
Flinders ..	2,505	2,250	4,755	1,237	3	1,240
Frankston and Hastings..	2,299	2,347	4,646	1,431	2	1,433
Gippsland South ..	2,615	2,058	4,673	1,037	1	1,038
Gisborne ..	1,089	1,286	2,375	564	..	564
Glenelg ..	2,815	2,664	5,479	1,235	4	1,239
Glenlyon ..	1,638	1,783	3,421	847	2	849
Gordon ..	1,717	1,433	3,150	708	1	709
Goulburn ..	1,145	1,001	2,146	506	1	507
Grenville ..	1,557	1,565	3,122	803	..	803
Hampden ..	5,370	5,133	10,503	2,282	6	2,288
Healesville ..	1,550	1,864	3,414	710	5	715
Heidelberg ..	7,942	8,674	16,616	3,420	43	3,463
Heytesbury ..	2,326	2,123	4,449	961	1	962
Huntly ..	1,696	1,402	3,098	767	1	768
Kara Kara ..	1,649	1,392	3,041	709	4	713
Karkaroc ..	3,139	2,354	5,493	1,210	5	1,215
Keilor ..	663	528	1,191	265	..	265
Kerang ..	5,697	4,779	10,476	2,353	12	2,365
Kilmore ..	942	848	1,790	431	..	431
Korong ..	2,611	2,262	4,873	1,141	2	1,143
Kowree ..	1,748	1,550	3,298	792	2	794
Kyneton ..	3,341	3,630	6,971	1,705	4	1,709
Lawloit ..	1,150	1,016	2,166	443	..	443
Leigh ..	807	716	1,523	387	..	387

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Lexton	894	729	1,623	414	..	414
Lilydale	4,651	4,758	9,409	2,463	35	2,498
Loddon East	971	800	1,771	407	..	407
Lowan	1,906	1,722	3,628	772	..	772
Maffra	3,082	2,571	5,653	1,282	9	1,291
Maldon	1,508	1,630	3,138	764	..	764
Mansfield	2,119	1,874	3,993	980	2	982
Marong	3,053	2,822	5,875	1,342	1	1,343
Melton	786	644	1,430	341	..	341
Metcalfe	1,350	1,323	2,673	647	1	648
Mildura	4,891	3,189	8,080	2,189	9	2,198
Minhamite	1,017	863	1,880	468	24	492
Mirboo	892	646	1,538	367	..	367
Moorabbin	3,786	3,657	7,443	1,499	19	1,518
Mornington	987	1,215	2,202	588	2	590
Mortlake	1,497	1,414	2,911	697	4	701
Morwell	2,105	1,580	3,685	969	1	970
Mt. Rouse	1,361	1,348	2,709	597	..	597
Mulgrave	1,600	1,610	3,210	714	3	717
Murray Upper	1,169	942	2,111	460	1	461
McIvor	1,744	1,590	3,334	811	..	811
Narracan	3,810	3,110	6,920	1,671	3	1,674
Newham and Woodend ..	984	1,108	2,092	481	..	481
Newstead and Mt. Alexander	1,356	1,344	2,700	733	..	733
Numurkah	3,000	2,765	5,765	1,327	..	1,327
Nunawading	6,238	6,393	12,631	2,855	52	2,907
Omeo	1,303	1,065	2,368	665	2	667
Orbost	2,204	1,624	3,828	999	1	1,000
Otway	2,339	1,701	4,040	997	4	1,001
Oxley	2,172	1,776	3,948	864	1	865
Phillip Island and Woolamai	2,721	2,379	5,100	1,111	2	1,113
Poowong and Jeetho	3,891	3,286	7,177	1,657	4	1,661
Portland	2,742	2,525	5,267	1,260	3	1,263
Preston	4,717	4,953	9,670	2,102	86	2,188
Pyalong	370	331	701	189	..	189
Ripon	1,730	1,700	3,430	803	..	803
Rochester	3,397	2,889	6,286	1,399	7	1,406
Rodney	3,913	3,481	7,394	1,642	7	1,649
Romsey	1,690	1,503	3,193	800	..	800
Rosedale	2,260	1,920	4,180	1,002	4	1,006
*Rutherglen	2,086	1,859	3,945	885	..	885
Seymour	2,028	1,778	3,806	870	2	872

*The borough of Rutherglen has been amalgamated with the shire, and the figures which are given above relate to the municipality in its altered form. In Census publications the population of the borough is shown as Males 572, Females 588—Total 1,160; and that of the shire as Males 1,514, Females 1,271—Total 2,785.

POPULATION OF AND DWELLINGS IN EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
OF VICTORIA AS AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921—*continued.*

Local Government Area.	Population.			Dwellings.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Built.	Being Built.	Total.
<i>Shires—continued.</i>						
Shepparton	4,019	3,692	7,711	1,685	5	1,690
Stawell	1,840	1,510	3,350	802	..	802
Strathfieldsaye	1,687	1,687	3,374	788	..	788
Swan Hill	6,723	4,830	11,553	2,721	16	2,737
Talbot	646	736	1,382	388	..	388
Tambo	2,235	1,993	4,228	929	1	930
Towong	2,412	1,915	4,327	1,008	2	1,010
Traralgon	1,729	1,609	3,338	791	4	795
Tullaroop	1,314	1,264	2,578	637	..	637
Tungamah	2,402	2,098	4,500	1,030	2	1,032
Upper Yarra	3,017	2,512	5,529	1,308	10	1,318
Violet Town	960	924	1,884	461	2	463
Walpeup	3,278	2,195	5,473	1,199	5	1,204
Wangaratta	1,268	1,117	2,385	525	..	525
Wannon	1,519	1,322	2,841	636	3	639
Waranga	2,909	2,462	5,371	1,321	2	1,323
Warragul	2,543	2,412	4,955	1,048	4	1,052
Warrnambool	4,256	3,978	8,234	1,760	..	1,760
Werribee	3,737	3,299	7,036	1,559	7	1,566
Whittlesea	1,835	1,645	3,480	788	..	788
Wimmera	2,346	1,810	4,156	870	2	872
Winchelsea	2,247	2,061	4,308	980	1	981
Wodonga	1,363	1,185	2,553	608	7	615
Woorayl	3,311	2,656	5,967	1,358	4	1,362
Wycheproof	2,428	1,785	4,213	1,000	..	1,000
Yackandandah	1,515	1,412	2,927	677	2	679
Yarrawonga	1,354	1,265	2,619	611	..	611
Yea	1,488	1,208	2,696	646	10	656
Total—Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579

SUMMARY.

Cities, Towns and Boroughs	427,750	486,621	914,371	204,144	1,272	205,416
Shires	322,205	288,782	610,987	141,842	737	142,579
Not Incorporated	106	68	174	64	..	64
Whole State	750,061	775,471	1,525,532	346,050	2,009	348,059
Shipping	4,663	1,085	5,748	..	..	..
Total Population	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	346,050	2,009	348,059

Population in
each District.

The enumerated populations of the districts of Victoria
at the last two census dates are shown hereunder :—

ENUMERATED POPULATIONS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS
OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

District.	1911.			1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Central ..	358,360	388,532	746,892	465,671	510,370	976,041
North Central	37,256	37,268	74,524	30,946	31,645	62,591
Western ..	69,746	68,792	138,538	67,178	67,380	134,558
Wimmera ..	31,636	28,067	59,703	30,533	27,940	58,473
Mallee ..	17,247	11,806	29,053	25,896	19,032	44,928
Northern ..	67,819	63,988	131,807	62,066	59,767	121,833
North-Eastern	30,795	27,488	58,283	25,902	23,577	49,479
Gippsland ..	38,650	33,296	71,946	41,869	35,760	77,629
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748
Total ..	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

In only three districts were increases shown in the intercensal period. The population of the Central District, which includes Melbourne and suburbs, advanced by 229,149; that of the Mallee District by 15,875; and that of the Gippsland District by 5,683 during the decennium. All the northern districts lost population during the period mentioned, and the Wimmera District, in which large quantities of wheat are grown, had 1,230 fewer residents in 1921 than in 1911.

The populations enumerated in each county of the State at the Censuses of 1911 and 1921 are given in the following statement, and the increases or decreases are shown :—

POPULATION OF COUNTIES IN VICTORIA, 1911 AND 1921.

County.	Enumerated Population in—						Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1921 compared with 1911.					
	1911.			1921.								
	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anglesey ..	4,772	4,180	8,952	5,508	4,581	10,089	+	736	+	401	+	1,137
Benambra ..	3,625	2,957	6,582	3,359	2,722	6,081	—	266	—	235	—	501
Bendigo ..	26,771	27,729	54,500	22,924	24,606	47,530	—	3,847	—	3,123	—	6,970
Bogong ..	14,681	13,224	27,905	11,639	10,668	22,307	—	3,042	—	2,556	—	5,598
Borong ..	16,289	14,562	30,851	16,173	14,721	30,894	—	116	+	159	+	43
Bourke ..	295,309	327,502	622,811	323,959	433,810	822,769	+	93,650	+	106,308	+	199,958
Buln Buln ..	22,283	18,774	41,057	24,546	20,344	44,890	+	2,263	+	1,570	+	3,833
Croajongo ..	1,510	1,190	2,700	1,684	1,275	2,959	+	174	+	85	+	259
Dalhousie ..	8,917	8,724	17,641	8,096	8,117	16,203	—	831	—	607	—	1,438
Dargo ..	3,077	2,441	5,518	2,353	2,050	4,403	—	724	—	391	—	1,115
Delatite ..	11,491	10,574	22,065	10,171	9,655	19,826	—	1,320	—	919	—	2,239
Dundas ..	5,298	5,152	10,450	5,330	5,258	10,588	+	32	+	106	+	138
Evelyn ..	9,026	8,265	17,291	12,460	12,090	24,550	+	3,434	+	3,825	+	7,259
Follett ..	1,372	1,339	2,711	1,611	1,552	3,163	+	239	+	213	+	452
Gladstone ..	8,752	7,961	16,713	6,516	5,939	12,455	—	2,236	—	2,022	—	4,258
Grant ..	34,991	36,486	71,477	35,677	38,110	73,787	+	686	+	1,624	+	2,310
Grenville ..	20,503	22,567	43,070	17,621	19,791	37,412	—	2,882	—	2,776	—	5,658
Gumbower ..	5,083	4,181	9,264	6,258	5,357	11,615	+	1,175	+	1,176	+	2,351
Hampden ..	6,707	6,188	12,895	6,443	6,244	12,687	—	264	—	56	—	208
Heytesbury ..	3,705	3,261	6,966	4,090	3,764	7,854	+	385	+	503	+	888
Kara Kara ..	8,265	7,274	15,539	7,627	7,195	14,822	—	638	—	79	—	717
Karkaroc ..	9,618	6,562	16,180	16,267	11,882	28,149	+	6,649	+	5,320	+	11,969
Lowan ..	7,082	6,231	13,313	6,733	6,024	12,757	—	349	—	207	—	556
Milliewa ..	56	28	84	49	21	70	—	7	—	7	—	14
Moir ..	16,814	15,028	31,842	14,878	13,623	28,501	—	1,936	—	1,405	—	3,341
Mornington ..	19,034	16,279	35,313	28,575	26,369	54,935	+	9,541	+	10,081	+	19,622
Normanby ..	5,900	6,007	11,907	5,857	5,922	11,779	—	43	—	85	—	128
Polwarth ..	7,367	6,533	13,900	7,981	7,173	15,154	+	614	+	640	+	1,254
Ripon ..	7,464	6,448	13,912	6,671	6,236	12,907	—	793	—	212	—	1,005
Rodney ..	10,299	9,089	19,488	11,490	10,242	21,732	+	1,091	+	1,153	+	2,244
Talbot ..	23,567	24,364	47,931	17,352	18,947	36,299	—	6,215	—	5,417	—	11,632
Tambo ..	1,650	1,329	2,979	2,240	1,876	4,116	+	590	+	547	+	1,137
Tanjil ..	10,130	9,562	19,692	11,046	10,215	21,261	+	916	+	653	+	1,569
Tatchera ..	6,318	4,519	10,837	7,076	5,321	12,397	+	758	+	802	+	1,560
Villiers ..	11,430	11,297	22,727	11,574	11,440	23,014	+	144	+	143	+	287
Weeah ..	1,255	697	1,952	2,504	1,808	4,312	+	1,249	+	1,111	+	2,360
Wonnangatta ..	998	733	1,731	733	532	1,265	—	265	—	201	—	466
Outside Counties—												
Shipping ..	4,082	723	4,805	4,663	1,085	5,748	+	581	+	362	+	943
Total ..	655,591	659,990	1,315,581	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	+	99,133	+	116,596	+	215,729

NOTE.—Full-blood aborigines, to the number of 196 in 1911 and 144 in 1921, are excluded from the foregoing statement.

Decreases of population were shown in 17 of the 37 counties in the ten-year period 1911-1921. The largest of these were in the counties of Talbot, Bendigo, Grenville, Bogong and Gladstone, where the mining industry was in a depressed condition during that decade. The north-eastern county of Moira, which is principally dependent on agriculture, showed a decline of about 10 per cent. The county of Bourke, which includes the metropolis, contained nearly 200,000 more people at the later census than at the earlier one. There were also large increases in the counties of Mornington, Evelyn, and Karkaroc.

The conjugal condition of the people, as ascertained at the census of 1921, is shown in the following table:—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE, 4TH APRIL,
1921.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Never married—			
Under age 15 years	231,086	224,850	455,936
Age 15 years and over	222,177	211,833	434,010
Married	277,183	282,494	559,677
Widowed	21,279	54,928	76,207
Divorced	1,092	1,221	2,313
Unspecified	1,907	1,230	3,137
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

Occupations
of the People,
1911 and
1921.

The number of breadwinners in each class of occupation at the last two censuses, and of the persons dependent on them, are shown hereunder :—

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, AS RETURNED
AT THE CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupation.	1911.	1921.
Breadwinners—		
Professional	43,819	60,585
Domestic	62,175	58,225
Commercial	91,611	108,011
Transport and Communication—		
Engaged in Railway Traffic ..	14,133	20,974
" " Traffic on Roads ..	11,047	16,255
" " " " Seas and Rivers ..	8,522	9,455
" " Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Service ..	5,371	6,354
" " Aviation .. .. .	..	52
Messengers, etc.	165	282
Total	39,238	53,332
Industrial	187,773	234,245
Primary Producers—		
Engaged in Agricultural Pursuits ..	86,152	103,116
" " Pastoral Pursuits ..	29,340	22,679
" " Capture, etc., of Wild Animals and their Produce ..	1,002	944
" " Fisheries	873	1,059
" " Forestry	5,151	8,153
" " Water Conservation and Supply	1,627	2,808
" " Mining and Quarrying ..	20,239	8,679
Total	144,384	147,438
Indefinite	8,053	7,617
Total Breadwinners	577,053	669,453
Dependents	721,137	856,379
Occupation not stated	17,361	5,448
Total	1,315,551	1,531,280

The grades of occupation of the population, as returned at the censuses of 1911 and 1921, were as follows :—

Grade.	Census of 1911.			Census of 1921.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Employer	59,713	7,315	67,028	40,636	4,071	44,707
Working on own account	37,753	11,987	49,740	82,436	14,624	97,060
Assisting but not receiving salary or wages ..	19,273	3,002	22,275	10,742	1,003	11,745
Receiving salary or wages	281,727	103,975	385,702	315,391	118,052	433,443
Unemployed	14,930	3,012	17,942	32,432	7,581	40,013
*Grade not applicable ..	229,594	528,264	757,858	266,661	629,013	895,674
Grade not stated ..	12,601	2,405	15,006	6,426	2,212	8,638
Total	655,591	659,960	1,315,551	754,724	776,556	1,531,280

* This relates principally to dependents and persons supported by voluntary and State contributions.

The mode of occupancy of private dwellings changed materially between the dates of the 1911 and 1921 censuses. Particulars for those two census years are given below :—

MODE OF OCCUPANCY OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS, TENEMENTS AND FLATS—CENSUSES OF 1911 AND 1921.

Occupied by—	4th April, 1921.				3rd April, 1911.	Increase during Ten years 1911-1921.
	Urban.		Rural.	Whole State.	Whole State.	
	Metro-politan.	Pro-vincial.				

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

Owner ..	45,036	18,778	66,998	130,872	118,716	12,156
Purchaser by Instalments	25,259	4,856	12,140	42,255	13,973	28,282
Tenant ..	83,087	14,280	30,398	127,745	119,562	8,183
Other and Un-specified ..	4,579	1,643	11,842	18,064	11,383	6,681
Total ..	158,001	39,557	121,378	318,936	263,634	55,302

The number of owner occupiers and purchasers by instalments of those dwellings for which definite information was given increased from 52.6 per cent. in the earlier to 57.5 per cent. in the later year. The prevailing scarcity of houses doubtless influenced many persons who were formerly classed as tenants to become prospective owners, by entering into arrangements to purchase their houses on the instalment principle.

Ages of the
people.

The following table shows the ages of the people at the dates of the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921, and the proportionate numbers living in successive age groups :—

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0-5 ..	66,807	65,179	73,061	70,417	79,210	76,426
5-10 ..	72,052	70,493	65,615	63,904	79,452	77,680
10-15 ..	67,389	66,640	63,586	62,523	72,424	70,744
15-20 ..	58,896	59,717	67,804	67,719	66,020	64,589
20-25 ..	50,593	57,632	61,895	65,217	62,096	67,503
25-30 ..	45,469	52,832	51,955	55,651	62,845	69,647
30-35 ..	46,635	48,156	44,928	48,694	59,244	63,439
35-40 ..	46,723	43,390	41,308	44,549	50,696	53,790
40-45 ..	37,118	33,551	42,512	42,480	44,885	47,914
45-50 ..	24,137	21,810	41,015	38,477	39,556	42,378
50-55 ..	18,348	17,601	31,866	29,420	40,174	40,391
55-60 ..	15,351	15,157	19,486	18,457	35,923	34,841
60-65 ..	14,979	14,292	13,834	14,316	26,660	27,016
65-70 ..	16,080	13,843	11,432	12,603	15,054	15,717
70-75 ..	11,781	8,360	9,415	9,972	9,035	10,204
75-80 ..	5,733	4,231	7,275	6,934	5,415	6,826
80-85 ..	2,453	2,065	3,903	3,387	2,991	3,831
85-90 ..	603	587	1,133	1,129	1,336	1,672
90-100 ..	160	152	301	321	404	567
100 and over ..	12	11	8	10	9	8
Unspecified ..	2,564	1,759	3,259	3,780	1,295	1,373
Total ..	603,883	597,458	655,591	659,960	754,724	776,556

AGES OF THE PEOPLE AT CENSUSES, 1901, 1911, AND 1921—*continued*.

Age Group (Years).	1901.		1911.		1921.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
PROPORTIONS PER CENT.						
0-5 ..	11·11	10·94	11·20	10·73	10·51	9·86
5-10 ..	11·98	11·83	10·06	9·74	10·55	10·02
10-15 ..	11·21	11·19	9·74	9·53	9·61	9·13
15-20 ..	9·80	10·03	10·40	10·32	8·76	8·33
20-25 ..	8·41	9·68	9·48	9·94	8·24	8·71
25-30 ..	7·56	8·87	7·96	8·48	8·34	8·98
30-35 ..	7·76	8·08	6·89	7·42	7·86	8·18
35-40 ..	7·77	7·28	6·33	6·79	6·73	6·94
40-45 ..	6·17	5·63	6·52	6·47	5·96	6·18
45-50 ..	4·02	3·66	6·29	5·87	5·25	5·47
50-55 ..	3·05	2·96	4·89	4·48	5·33	5·21
55-60 ..	2·55	2·54	2·99	2·81	4·77	4·49
60-65 ..	2·49	2·40	2·12	2·18	3·54	3·49
65-70 ..	2·67	2·32	1·75	1·92	2·00	2·03
70-75 ..	1·96	1·40	1·44	1·52	1·20	1·32
75-80 ..	·95	·71	1·11	1·06	·72	·88
80-85 ..	·41	·35	·60	·52	·40	·49
85-90 ..	·10	·10	·18	·17	·18	·22
90 and over ..	·03	·03	·05	·05	·05	·07
Specified Ages	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Persons at
dependent
and support-
ing ages.

By adopting larger groups a clearer idea is obtained of the age distribution of the population at the three census periods. The subjoined table shows the numbers and

proportions of males and females at ages 0-15, 15-45, 45-65 and 65 and upwards. Persons of unspecified ages have been omitted :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS AT DEPENDENT AND SUPPORTING AGES IN VICTORIA AT THREE CENSUS ENUMERATIONS.

Census Year.	Number of Persons at—							
	Dependent Ages (under 15 years).		Supporting Ages.				Old Age (65 years and upwards).	
			15 to 45 years.		45 to 65 years.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1901	206,248	202,312	285,434	295,278	72,815	68,860	36,822	29,249
1911	202,262	196,844	310,402	324,310	106,201	100,670	33,467	34,356
1921	231,086	224,850	345,786	366,882	142,313	144,626	34,244	38,825
Proportions per cent.								
1901	34·30	33·96	47·47	49·57	12·11	11·56	6·12	4·91
1911	31·00	30·00	47·59	49·42	16·28	15·34	5·13	5·24
1921	30·67	29·00	45·89	47·33	18·89	18·66	4·55	5·01

Australian Born and other Population in State.

The next table shows the length of residence in Australia, at the date of the census of 1921, of persons included in the population of the State who were born outside the Commonwealth :—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 4TH APRIL, 1921, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA.

No. of Completed Years of Residence.		Enumerated Population.			No. of Completed Years of Residence.		Enumerated Population.		
		Males.	Females.	Persons.			Males.	Females.	Persons.
0 to 1	..	8,559	9,588	18,147	90 and upwards	3	12	15	
2 " 4	..	1,389	1,595	2,984	Not stated	3,666	4,205	7,871	
5 " 9	..	24,576	20,039	44,615	Total	108,603	92,349	200,952	
10 " 19	..	12,586	7,338	19,924	Born in Commonwealth	646,121	684,207	1,330,328	
20 " 39	..	29,898	19,232	49,130	Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	
40 " 59	..	17,226	10,034	27,260					
60 " 79	..	10,570	14,080	24,650					
80 " 89	..	130	226	356					

There were 17 persons—9 males and 8 females—
 Centenarians in Victoria. aged 100 years and upwards in Victoria when the 1921
 census was taken.

In the following statement the persons and dwellings to
 the square mile, the persons and rooms to a dwelling, and
 Density of population, &c. the persons to a room are shown for the seven census
 years 1861-1921 :—

DENSITY OF POPULATION.—RETURN FOR SEVEN CENSUS
 YEARS.

Year of Census.	Persons to the Square Mile (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Inhabited Dwellings to the Square Mile.	Persons to the Inhabited Dwelling (exclusive of Persons in Ships).	Rooms to an Inhabited Dwelling.	Persons to a Room.
1861 ..	6·126	1·470	4·16	2·96	1·39
1871 ..	8·298	1·714	4·84	3·88	1·24
1881 ..	9·791	1·935	5·06	4·43	1·14
1891 ..	12·948	2·549	5·08	5·09	1·00
1901 ..	13·643	2·747	4·97	5·38	·93
1911 ..	14·915	3·103	4·80	5·51	·87
1921 ..	17·360	3·766	4·61	5·35	·85

The population returned at the census of 1921 represented a proportion of 17·4 persons to the square mile. In 1911 the proportion was 14·9 ; in 1901, 13·6 ; in 1891, 12·9 ; in 1881, 9·8 ; in 1871, 8·3 ; and in 1861, 6·1. There were 461 persons to every 100 inhabited dwellings in 1921—a number smaller than in any of the five preceding census years, but greater than in 1861.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA, 1921.

Birthplaces of the people, 1921. The census of 1921 gave the birthplaces of the people as follows :—

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Commonwealth of Australia	646,023	684,113	1,330,136
New Zealand	5,460	5,750	11,210
British Isles	83,712	77,405	161,117
British India	1,003	537	1,540
Union of South Africa	818	854	1,672
Canada	523	340	863
Denmark	835	200	1,035
Germany	2,462	1,231	3,693
France	393	353	746
Italy	1,411	439	1,850
Sweden	1,021	94	1,115
Norway	637	89	726
Russia	601	342	943
Greece	505	53	558
United States	952	641	1,593
China	2,740	85	2,825
Japan	52	20	72
Switzerland	321	118	439
Other Countries	2,710	1,484	4,194
At Sea	524	587	1,111
Unspecified	2,021	1,821	3,842
Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280
Allegiance—			
British	747,482	774,702	1,522,184
Foreign	6,873	1,496	8,369
Unstated	369	358	727

Australian born. The residents of Victoria at the date of the Census who were born in the Commonwealth of Australia numbered 1,330,136 or 87 per cent. of the total population. The number born in Australia or New Zealand was 1,341,346, the ratio to population being 88 per cent. The corresponding ratios in 1911 and 1901 were 85 per cent. and 79 per cent. respectively.

Foreign born. The number of persons in the State in 1921 who were born in countries outside the British dominions was 19,486, or 1·3 per cent. of the population. This is a decrease as compared with 1911, when they numbered 21,252, or 1·6 per cent. of the population.

Allegiance. The number of persons living in Victoria in 1921 who owed their allegiance to a foreign country was 8,369.

Chinese. In the interval between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 natives of China decreased from 4,302 to 2,825. These figures, however, do not represent all the Chinese in the State, as there are persons of this race born in places outside of China who are resident in Victoria. The total number of the Chinese race

in Victoria (including Chinese born in Australia) was 5,601 in 1911 and 4,179 in 1921.

The enumerated population at each of the last seven censuses and the decennial increases, numerical and centesimal, were as shown hereunder:—

POPULATION OF VICTORIA (INCLUDING ABORIGINES) AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Both Sexes.			Males.			Females.		
	Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.		Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.		Population.	Increase in Ten-year period.	
		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.		Numerical.	Centesimal.
1861	540,322	462,977	598·59	328,651	282,449	611·34	211,671	180,528	579·67
1871	731,528	191,206	35·39	401,050	72,399	22·03	330,478	118,807	56·13
1881	862,346	130,818	17·88	452,083	51,033	12·72	410,263	79,785	24·14
1891	1,140,405	278,059	32·24	598,414	146,331	32·37	541,991	131,728	32·11
1901	1,201,341	60,936	5·34	603,883	5,469	·91	597,458	55,467	10·23
1911	1,315,747	114,406	9·52	655,694	51,811	8·58	660,053	62,595	10·48
1921	1,531,424	215,677	16·39	754,804	99,110	15·12	776,620	116,567	17·66

NOTE.—The figures in this table include full-blood aboriginals. These numbered 144 in 1921, viz., 80 males and 64 females.

The increase in population between the censuses of 1911 and 1921, viz., 215,677, was larger than in any ten-year period subsequent to 1851-61, with the exception of the decennium 1881-91.

The masculinity of the population, or the ratio of males to females, at each of the last seven census enumerations, was as follows:—

Year.	Males to 100 Females.				
1861	155·26
1871	121·36
1881	110·19
1891	110·41
1901	101·08
1911	99·34
1921	97·19

The number of males to every 100 females in age-groups at the date of the 1921 census was as follows:—Age-group 0-10, 103·0; 10-20, 102·3; 20-40, 92·5; 40-60, 97·0; 60-80, 94·0; and 80 and over, 78·0. The ratios for certain age groups in the census years 1891, 1901, and 1911 are given in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, also the proportions existing between males and females at the census of 1911 in other parts of Australasia and England and Wales.

Population of Greater Melbourne, 1926. The following table shows the area in acres and the enumerated population at the census of 1921 of the various municipalities of Greater Melbourne, also the number of persons to the acre in these municipalities and the estimated population at the end of 1926:—

**POPULATION, ETC., OF GREATER MELBOURNE AT
CENSUS OF 1921, AND 31st DECEMBER, 1926.**

Sub-District.	Area in Acres, 31st Dec., 1926.	Enumerated Population at the Census of 1921.	Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1926.	Persons to the Acre, 31st Dec., 1926.
Melbourne City	7,555	103,251	103,600	13·7
*Box Hill City	5,120	†	11,280	2·2
Brighton City	3,308	21,235	27,060	8·2
Brunswick City	2,719	44,484	51,300	18·9
Camberwell City	8,322	23,835	39,770	4·8
Caulfield City	5,600	40,693	63,960	11·4
Coburg City	4,800	18,114	33,850	7·1
Collingwood City	1,139	34,239	33,700	29·6
Essendon City	4,000	35,269	41,400	10·4
Fitzroy City	923	34,938	33,930	36·8
Footscray City	3,982	33,775	45,100	11·3
Hawthorn City	2,402	29,165	32,220	13·4
Kew City	3,553	17,382	24,500	6·9
Malvern City	3,996	32,306	44,000	11·0
Northcote City	2,850	30,519	39,380	13·8
Oakleigh City	2,658	6,076	9,500	3·6
Port Melbourne City	2,366	13,089	13,200	5·6
Prahran City	2,320	50,290	52,000	22·4
Preston City	8,800	9,670	23,500	2·7
Richmond City	1,430	43,171	43,540	30·4
Sandringham City	3,740	11,316	19,500	5·2
South Melbourne City	2,303	46,873	47,300	20·5
St. Kilda City	2,049	38,579	41,600	20·3
Williamstown City	2,775	19,442	23,500	8·5
Remainder of District	76,956	40,557	41,000	·5
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River .. ..	..	4,711	4,710	..
Total	165,666	782,979	944,400	5·7†

* Excised from the Shire of Nunawading and proclaimed a borough on 15th December, 1925.

† Included with "Remainder of District" in 1921.

‡ In making this calculation persons in ships were excluded from the total population.

NOTE.—Oakleigh and Box Hill were proclaimed cities on 28th April, 1927.

Density of metropolitan population. Fitzroy is the most thickly populated municipality, with about 37 persons to the acre; Richmond has 30; Collingwood, 30; Prahran, 22; South Melbourne, 21; St. Kilda City, 20; Brunswick, about 19; and Melbourne City 14 persons. There are areas devoted to parks, gardens, and other reserves in many of the municipalities, so that the population is really living closer together than the figures in the table indicate. Melbourne City contains 1,969

acres of such reserves; Kew, 643; South Melbourne, 497; Williamstown, 446; Caulfield, 305; St. Kilda, 302; Richmond, 234; and Brighton, 191 acres. There are smaller areas in other districts, but they do not appreciably affect the question of density of population. The total area of all the reserves is 6,245 acres; if these be excluded, the number of persons to the acre in the places named will be as follows:—Richmond, 36; South Melbourne, 26; St. Kilda, 24; Melbourne City, 19; Caulfield, 12; Williamstown, 10; Brighton, 9; and Kew, 8.

In the appended statement Victoria is shown in three divisions, the first being the Metropolitan (Greater Melbourne) District, or the area extending in all directions for a distance of 10 miles from the centre of the city; the second, the other urban districts, outside the limits of Greater Melbourne; and the third, the remaining portions of the State, which are termed "rural districts." The second division includes not only all existing cities, towns and boroughs, but also the larger towns in shires. The population of each of these divisions at the end of 1926, the ratio of its population to that of the whole State, and the number of persons to the square mile were as follows:—

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION, 1926.

Divisions.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population, 31st Decr., 1926.		
		Total.	Proportion per cent.	Persons to the Sq. Mile.
Metropolitan	255	944,400	55·17	3,704
Other Urban	376	213,084	12·45	567
Total Urban	631	1,157,484	67·62	1,834
„ Rural	87,253	554,343	32·38	6·4
Total, Victoria ..	87,884	1,711,827	100·00	19·5

The urban is much greater than the rural population, and the population of the metropolis alone is nearly 55·2 per cent. of that of the whole State. The results of each census (except that of 1901), after the census of 1861, showed an increase in the proportion of the total population resident in the metropolitan area. The marked nature of this increase will be apparent from the following statement:—

PROPORTION OF POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE TO THAT OF THE WHOLE OF VICTORIA.

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1861 (Census) ..	25·9	1901 (Census) ..	41·3
1871 „ ..	28·9	1911 „ ..	45·1
1881 „ ..	32·8	1921 „ ..	51·1
1891 „ ..	43·0	1926 (estimated) ..	55·2

The next statement gives the population of the municipal districts in Greater Melbourne at the last three census dates. There was a slight falling-off in the cities of Melbourne and Port Melbourne between 1911 and 1921, but in all other districts there were increases during each decennial period. The most remarkable of these increases was in the City of Caulfield, where the population was enumerated as 9,541 in 1901 and 40,693 in 1921. Northcote, Malvern, and Camberwell also made great progress in the twenty-year period, their respective populations being* trebled.

RETURN SHOWING THE POPULATION OF GREATER MELBOURNE IN 1901, 1911, AND 1921.

Municipal District.	Population at the Census of—		
	1901.	1911.	1921.
Cities—			
Melbourne	97,440	103,593	103,251
Brighton	10,047	12,083	21,235
Brunswick	24,141	32,215	44,484
Camberwell	8,602	12,551	23,835
Caulfield	9,541	15,919	40,693
Coburg	6,772	9,505	18,114
Collingwood	32,749	34,190	34,239
Essendon	17,426	23,749	35,269
Fitzroy	31,687	34,283	34,938
Footscray	18,318	23,643	33,775
Hawthorn	21,430	24,450	29,165
Kew	9,469	11,152	17,382
Malvern	10,619	15,969	32,306
Northcote	9,677	17,519	30,519
Port Melbourne	12,176	13,515	13,089
Prahran	40,441	45,367	50,290
Richmond	37,824	40,442	43,171
Sandringham	*	*	11,316
South Melbourne	40,619	46,190	46,873
St. Kilda	20,542	25,334	38,579
Williamstown	14,052	15,275	19,442
Towns—			
Oakleigh	1,273	2,151	6,076
Preston	4,059	5,049	9,670
Shires—			
Parts of Shires, forming remainder of District	15,445	24,873	40,557
Shipping in Hobson's Bay and River	1,730	4,220	4,711
Total	496,079	593,237	782,979

* Included with Moorabbin Shire in 1901 and 1911.

The numbers of males and females in Melbourne and suburbs at each census date from 1861 to 1921, and as estimated in 1926, are shown in the following statement.

The proportion of males to the total population of the metropolis and the percentage of the population in the metropolitan area to that of the whole State are also given.

POPULATION OF MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, 1861 TO 1926.

Year.	Census Population.			Males Percentage of Total Population.	Proportion of Metropolitan to State Population.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
					per cent.
1861	71,300	68,616	139,916	51.0	25.9
1871	103,404	103,376	206,780	50.0	28.9
1881	139,003	143,941	282,947	49.1	32.8
1891	247,960	242,936	490,896	50.5	43.0
1901	235,203	260,876	496,079	47.4	41.3
1911	279,900	313,337	593,237	47.2	45.1
1921	370,016	412,963	782,979	47.3	51.1
1926 (estimated) ..	446,320	493,080	944,400	47.3	55.2

Outside Melbourne and suburbs, the most important towns in Victoria are Ballarat, comprising two municipalities; Geelong, three; Bendigo, two; and Warrnambool, Mordialloc, Castlemaine, Carrum, Wonthaggi, Mildura, Hamilton, and Ararat, one each. The populations of these, with their immediate suburbs, according to the census of 1921, and as estimated in 1926, were as follows :—

POPULATION OF CHIEF TOWNS IN VICTORIA, 1921 AND 1926.

Name of Town.	Population.	
	1921 (Census).	1926 (Estimated).
Ballarat	38,500	41,550
Geelong	36,170	40,880
Bendigo	33,170	33,550
Warrnambool	7,739	8,050
Mordialloc	5,225	7,760
Castlemaine	7,000	7,170
Wonthaggi	5,176	6,800
Carrum	5,674	6,750
Mildura	5,100	6,000
Hamilton	5,098	5,260
Ararat	4,653	5,010

The following is a list of the other towns in Victoria which contained a population of 1,000 persons or over in 1926 :—

Town.	Estimated Population in 1926.	Town.	Estimated Population in 1926.
Bacchus Marsh ..	1,400	Mooroopna ..	1,500
Bairnsdale ..	3,550	Mornington ..	1,940
Beaufort ..	1,100	Mortlake ..	1,000
Beechworth ..	2,550	Morwell ..	1,400
Benalla ..	3,270	Murtoa ..	1,160
Blackburn ..	1,900	Nhill ..	1,500
Camperdown ..	3,870	Numurkah ..	1,250
Casterton ..	1,550	Nyah ..	1,080
Charlton ..	1,130	Orbost ..	1,320
Clunes ..	1,230	Port Fairy ..	2,060
Cohuna ..	1,150	Portland ..	2,720
Colac ..	4,500	Queenscliff ..	2,780
Coleraine ..	1,050	Red Cliffs ..	1,100
Creswick ..	1,750	Ringwood ..	3,500
Dandenong ..	4,250	Rochester ..	1,500
Daylesford ..	3,440	Rushworth ..	1,210
Dimboola ..	1,520	Rutherglen ..	1,200
Donald ..	1,550	Sale ..	3,980
Drouin ..	1,000	Seymour ..	2,130
Echuca ..	4,000	Shepparton ..	4,000
Euroa ..	1,800	St. Arnaud ..	3,200
Healesville ..	2,500	Stawell ..	4,670
Heathcote ..	1,050	Sunshine ..	2,750
Horsham ..	4,500	Swan Hill ..	2,550
Inglewood ..	1,100	Tatura ..	1,240
Irymple ..	2,100	Terang ..	2,340
Kerang ..	2,600	Traralgon ..	2,150
Kilmore ..	1,050	Wangaratta ..	3,900
Koroit ..	1,860	Warburton ..	1,170
Korumburra ..	2,520	Warracknabeal ..	2,500
Kyabram ..	1,620	Warragul ..	1,800
Kyneton ..	3,200	Wedderburn ..	1,000
Leongatha ..	1,530	Werribee ..	1,700
Lilydale ..	1,870	Wodonga ..	1,630
Maffra ..	1,620	Woodend ..	1,350
Maldon ..	1,400	Yallourn ..	3,000
Maryborough ..	4,860	Yarram ..	1,100
Merbein ..	2,420	Yarrawonga ..	1,650
Mitcham ..	1,550	Yea ..	1,050

Rates of
increase of
population.

The average annual rates at which the population has increased (1) in the whole State, (2) in Melbourne and Suburbs, and (3) in the remainder of the State are shown hereunder :—

AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE OF POPULATION IN THE WHOLE STATE, IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS, AND IN REMAINDER OF STATE, 1851 TO 1926.

Period.	In Victoria.		In Melbourne and Suburbs.		In Remainder of State.	
	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.	Rate of Natural Increase.	Rate of Total Increase.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1851-60 ..	2·01	21·59	*	13·62	*	26·67
1861-70 ..	2·46	3·05	1·96†	3·91	2·63†	2·74
1871-80 ..	1·87	1·70	1·33	3·31	2·11	1·01
1881-90 ..	1·66	2·80	1·53	5·56	1·74	1·17
1891-1900 ..	1·47	·55	1·36	·25	1·55	·77
1901-10 ..	1·26	·89	1·05	1·74	1·42	·25
1911 ..	1·37	2·96	1·18	4·11	1·52	2·01
1912 ..	1·43	3·19	1·35	3·92	1·50	2·57
1913 ..	1·48	2·38	1·48	3·77	1·48	1·20
1914 ..	1·39	1·40	1·39	3·08	1·40	·07
1915 ..	1·34	·75	1·35	1·24	1·33	-2·54
1916 ..	1·25	-1·39	1·26	1·92	1·23	-4·48
1917 ..	1·32	·88	1·30	2·00	1·33	·23
1918 ..	1·16	1·42	1·13	2·05	1·19	·79
1919 ..	·85	4·58	·67	2·75	1·04	6·47
1920 ..	1·29	1·66	1·30	3·45	1·27	·13
1921 ..	1·27	1·49	1·26	2·35	1·28	·60
1922 ..	1·36	2·55	1·30	2·73	1·43	2·36
1923 ..	1·17	2·21	1·00	4·41	1·35	·12
1924 ..	1·21	1·95	1·06	3·85	1·37	·15
1925 ..	1·21	1·62	1·04	2·98	1·41	·06
1926 ..	1·13	1·65	·96	3·54	1·33	·58

* Not available.

† Average 1862-1870.

It will be observed that the rate of natural increase (excess of births over deaths) has during all periods, except the years 1915, 1916, and 1920, been less in Melbourne than in other portions of the State, while the rate of total increase has usually been greater. It would appear from this that the metropolis has been gaining population at the expense of the country districts. The higher rate of natural increase in extra-metropolitan areas is due principally to the low death rates prevailing there, and this favorable mortality can only be partially accounted for by the migration from country to town of persons in indifferent health. The light mortality in country districts shows the advantage to be derived from a large increase in the population of these portions of the State.

The small natural increase in 1919, both in Melbourne and the remainder of the State, is accounted for by a heavy death rate in that year due to the existence of an epidemic of influenza. The rate of total increase in 1919 was large on account of the return to the State of soldiers, and the extra-Metropolitan districts benefited to a greater extent proportionally by their return than Melbourne and suburbs.

**Population of
Australia and
New Zealand,
1861-1921.**

The following table shows the population of each Australian State and New Zealand at each census from 1861 to 1921 :—

**POPULATION OF THE SIX STATES OF AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND, 1861-1921.**

State.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Victoria..	540,322	731,528	862,346	1,140,405	1,201,070	1,315,551	1,531,280
New South Wales	350,860	503,981	751,468	1,132,234	1,354,846	1,648,448	2,02,943*
Queensland ..	30,059	117,960	213,525	393,718	498,129	605,813	755,972
South Australia ..	126,830	185,626	279,865	320,431	363,157	411,868	499,027†
Western Australia	15,100	25,270	29,708	49,782	184,124	282,114	332,732
Tasmania ..	89,977	101,020	115,705	146,667	172,475	191,211	213,780
Australia ..	1,153,148	1,665,385	2,252,617	3,183,237	3,773,801	4,455,005	5,435,734
New Zealand ..	84,536	257,810	489,933	626,658	772,719	1,008,407	1,218,270

* Including Federal Territory, 2,572.

† Including Northern Territory, 3,867.

**Population of
Australian
States and
New Zealand,
1926.**

In the next table is shown the estimated population of each Australian State (excluding aborigines) and of New Zealand at the end of 1926, also the increase of population since the census of 1921, and the number of persons to the square mile.

POPULATION OF EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND NEW ZEALAND, AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

State.	Estimated Population at 31st December, 1926.			Increase since Census of 1921 (4th April).	Persons to the Square Mile.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Victoria ..	852,399	839,428	1,711,827	180,547	19·48
New South Wales ..	1,196,559	1,151,222	2,347,781	247,410	7·59
Queensland ..	465,644	416,549	882,193	126,221	1·32
South Australia ..	292,846	273,548	566,394	71,234	1·49
Western Australia ..	203,210	175,536	378,746	46,014	·39
Tasmania ..	106,330	108,424	214,754	974	8·19
Territories—					
Northern ..	2,820	2,101	4,921	1,054	·01
Federal ..	2,773	1,125	3,898	1,326	4·15
Australia ..	3,122,581	2,987,933	6,110,514	674,780	2·05
New Zealand ..	697,113	668,304	1,365,417	147,147	13·22

Particulars of the movement of population by migration and of the natural increase by excess of births over deaths are given for each State from the year 1851 on page 300 of the *Year-Book* for 1921-22.

The enumerated populations of Australasian capital cities during the past 55 years are shown in the following table. Melbourne during that time has made great progress, the most noticeable advance having been in the decennial period 1881-91, when the increase of population was 73 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the population remained almost stationary, but in the intercensal period 1901 to 1911 there was an increase of 97,158 and in the period 1911 to 1921 an increase of 189,742 persons. Sydney, which since 1902 has been the most populous city in Australasia, had 1,070,510 inhabitants in 1926. These two cities contain about 33 per cent. of the population of the Commonwealth.

POPULATION OF AUSTRALASIAN CAPITAL CITIES, 1871 TO 1926.

Capital City (with Suburbs).	Enumerated Population at the Census of—						Estimated Population, 31st Dec., 1926.	Persons to the Acre, 1926.
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.		
Melbourne	206,780	282,947	490,896	496,079	593,237	782,979	944,400	5·70
Sydney ..	137,776	224,939	383,283	481,830	636,355	897,640	1,070,510	9·05
Brisbane ..	15,029	31,109	101,554	119,428	140,977	209,699	274,260	1·11
Adelaide ..	42,744	103,864	133,252	162,094	191,312	255,318	316,865	2·30
Perth ..	*	*	*	66,832	109,375	155,129	184,223	2·10
Hobart ..	26,004	27,248	33,450	34,604	40,335	52,385	55,130	1·00
Wellington	7,908	20,563	34,190	49,344	70,729	107,491	†117,986	3·63

* Not available. † Census, 20th April, 1926.

Density of
population in
capital cities.

It will be noticed that the population of Sydney is more concentrated than that of any other metropolitan city, the population of Melbourne being spread over about one and a half times the corresponding area. In Adelaide and Perth there are about two persons; and in Brisbane and Hobart, about one person to the acre.

Chinese and
Aborigines in
Victoria.

In the subjoined table is given the population of Victoria at each of the last seven census enumerations, Chinese and Aborigines being distinguished.

POPULATION OF VICTORIA, DISTINGUISHING CHINESE AND ABORIGINES, AT SEVEN CENSUS PERIODS.

Year of Census.	Total Population—including Chinese and Aborigines.			Chinese.			Aborigines.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1861	540,322	328,651	211,671	24,732	24,724	8	1,694	1,046	648
1871	731,528	401,050	330,478	17,935	17,899	36	1,330	784	546
1881	862,346	452,083	410,263	12,128	11,869	259	780	460	320
1891	1,140,405	598,414	541,991	9,377	8,772	605	565	325	240
1901	1,201,341	603,883	597,458	7,349	6,740	609	652	367	285
1911	1,315,747	655,694	660,053	5,601	4,956	645	643	340	303
1921	1,531,424	754,804	776,620	4,179	3,433	746	586	279	307

NOTE.—The population of the State at each census date since 1861, which appears in the above table and in the table on page 114, includes full-blood aboriginals. When comparisons are made elsewhere in this part with the populations at these census dates, the aboriginals referred to are not included.

Arrivals and
departures of
Chinese.

During each of the five years ended 1926 the number of Chinese who left Victoria was greater than the number who entered the State. The net decrease in the Chinese population in the last five years by excess of emigration over immigration was 451. The figures for each year are as follows:—

CHINESE IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.				Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+), Departures (-).
1922	..	..	..	346	509	- 163
1923	..	..	..	462	487	- 25
1924	..	..	..	290	363	- 73
1925	..	..	..	256	352	- 96
1926	..	..	..	311	405	- 94
Total				1,665	2,116	- 451

**Decrease of
Aborigines.**

At the first colonization of Victoria the Aborigines were officially estimated to number about 5,000, but according to other and apparently more reliable estimates they numbered at that time not less than 15,000. When the colony was separated from New South Wales the number was officially stated to be 2,693. At the 1921 census there were enumerated 586 Aborigines, consisting of 144 of pure blood and 442 half-castes. Between the censuses of 1911 and 1921 there was a decrease of 57, the reduction in the pure race being 51 and, in the half-castes, 6. These figures indicate that the race is gradually but surely dying out. From the records of the Aborigines Board it would appear that most of the natives are under the care of that body, the numbers in the different stations being as under:—

**NUMBER OF ABORIGINES UNDER CARE AT
STATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1925-26.**

Station.	Aborigines.	Three-quarter and Half-castes.	Total.
Coranderrk	1	5	6
Lake Condah .. .. .	..	33	33
Lake Tyers	48	184	232
Framlingham	1	30	31
Dépôts	1	28	29
In Institutions	2	..	2
In Service	2	2	4
Total	55	282	337

In addition to the above there are 272 half-castes and quadroons at Antwerp, Condah, Framlingham, Echuca, Colac, Dimboola, Healesville, Orbost, and Swan Hill.

Of the Aborigines not enumerated in the table, some are residing elsewhere than at the stations, but occasionally receive supplies of food and clothing when in need, while others prefer to lead a wandering life, and but rarely come under the notice of the Board.

During the year 1925-26, 4 deaths occurred—2 at Lake Tyers, 1 at Swan Hill, and 1 at Framlingham. There were 18 births—all of these took place at Lake Tyers. The births recorded were all half-castes, while, of the deaths, 2 were those of full-blood Aborigines, and 2 of half-castes. There were 5 marriages at Lake Tyers during the year mentioned.

The amount expended on the maintenance of Aborigines during the year was £6,610. There is a Trust Fund kept at the Treasury into which receipts from the sale of produce, etc., are paid. The amount at the credit of this Fund on the 30th June, 1926, was £4,262.

With a view to restricting the immigration of Asiatics and other coloured persons the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, which provides that any person, who, when asked to do so by a public officer, fails to write out from dictation and sign in the presence of the officer a passage of fifty words in any prescribed language, is prohibited from landing in Australia. Certificates of exemption are granted in certain cases, and members of the military and naval forces, as well as the master and crew of any public vessel of any government, are excepted. The Act appears to have achieved its purpose, judging by the small number of coloured persons who have been admitted into the Commonwealth since it commenced to operate. The following are the numbers of coloured persons, other than Chinese, who have entered or left Victoria since 1st April, 1901 :—

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION OF COLOURED PERSONS
(OTHER THAN CHINESE) FROM 1st APRIL, 1901, TO 31st
DECEMBER, 1926.

Year.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	Excess of— Arrivals (+) Departures (—)
From 1st April, 1901, to 31st Dec., 1905	1,118	1,311	— 193
1906-10	382	495	— 113
1911-15	491	406	+ 85
1916	80	92	— 12
1917	67	208	— 141
1918	52	46	+ 6
1919	46	151	— 105
1920	59	86	— 27
1921	70	64	+ 6
1922	65	47	+ 18
1923	76	64	+ 12
1924	109	53	+ 56
1925	89	85	+ 4
1926	114	85	+ 29
Total	2,818	3,193	— 375

Coloured
persons in
Victoria, 1921.

The number of coloured persons in Victoria was ascertained at the census of 1921. Chinese were found to number 4,179, and other coloured persons 1,932—a total of

6,111, as compared with 7,631 at the previous census in 1911. The figures for the different races are given below :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS OF COLOURED RACES (EXCLUSIVE OF FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES) IN VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Race.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.
Asiatic—						
Chinese	2,918	515	244	502	3,162	1,017
Hindus	431	62	15	50	446	112
Japanese	37	12	13	12	50	24
Syrians	292	20	240	31	532	51
Cingalese	19	9	2	4	21	13
Other	55	14	23	9	78	23
African—						
Negroes	11	24	..	12	11	36
Other	3	3	1	1	4	4
American—						
American Indians	1	..	..	3	1	3
Other	8	8	1	9	9	17
Polynesians—						
Maoris	2	3	1	2	3	5
Other	7	9	1	8	8	17
Australian Aborigines (H.C.) .. .. .	..	199	..	243	..	442
Indefinite	14	1	7	..	21	1
Total	3,798	879	548	886	4,346	1,765

Under the "Commonwealth Naturalization Act No. 11 Naturalization. of 1903," the right to issue certificates of naturalization was taken from the States, and vested in the Commonwealth. This Act came into force on 1st January, 1904. An epitome of its principal provisions is given in the *Year-Book* for 1920-21, page 340.

The number of persons naturalized in Victoria in the year 1926 was 186; in the fifty-six years, 1871 to 1926 inclusive, it was 16,102.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration
of Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.

The present official system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers—framed on the best models—are replete with all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has control over the local registrars of births and deaths, and the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) over the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by him or by the Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the head office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

Applicants for searches or certificates of births, deaths, or marriages should, in applying to the Government Statist, furnish particulars of the date and place of the event; also the names of the parties in the case of a marriage, and the name, age (if a death), and parentage in the case of a birth or death. The fee for a search in the Official Records, or an extract of an entry, is 2s. 6d., and for a certificate, including the cost of search, 7s. 6d. (except where the case appears in the records of the current quarter, when 5s. only is charged). For a search in the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is only 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate is required.

As evidence of the extent by which the information in the records is availed of, the number of transactions which took place in 1926 was 40,562, yielding £4,973 revenue. Included in the above number were 5,694 free ordinary searches and 413 free certificates.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on pages 301 to 303 a statement of the law relating to marriages and the registration of births and deaths in Victoria. Since 1915, when the Acts were consolidated, minor validating and other Acts (Nos. 2775, 2998, 3127, and 3282) have been passed.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—
Numbers and
Rates.

Marriages in Victoria in 1926 numbered 13,405. This was the third highest number for one year in the history of the State, being 1,493 less than the greatest number previously recorded—that for 1920.

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is somewhat unreliable in comparatively newly settled countries like Australia, especially in earlier periods, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

The numbers and rates relating to Victoria are given in the following table for different periods since 1879 :—

MARRIAGES IN VICTORIA—NUMBERS AND RATES, 1880 TO 1926.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
1880-84..	6,296	7·07	1910-14..	11,244	8·29
1885-89..	8,208	8·04	1915-19..	10,908	7·62
1890-94..	7,945	6·88	1920-24..	13,598	8·64
1895-99..	7,627	6·44	1925 ..	13,370	8·00
1900-04..	8,201	6·78	1926 ..	13,405	7·90
1905-09..	9,209	7·36			

The highest number of marriages in the history of the State—14,898, and also the highest rate per 1,000 of the population—9·85, were recorded in 1920. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of returned soldiers who had settled down to ordinary civilian life.

Marriage rates in Australasia. The subjoined statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in the various Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, in quinquennial periods for the years 1910 to 1924, and for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	8·29	9·17	8·54	9·38	8·22	7·94	8·72	8·51
1915-19	7·62	7·96	7·59	7·94	6·62	6·90	7·75	7·30
1920-24	8·64	8·55	7·80	8·53	7·60	7·93	8·38	8·44
1925 ..	8·00	8·14	7·60	7·82	7·46	7·05	7·91	7·85
1926 ..	7·90	8·28	7·34	8·06	7·58	6·79	7·92	7·90

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 7·15.

The marriages in Australia for 1926 numbered 47,865, as against 46,899 in 1925, 45,869 in 1924, 44,541 in 1923, 44,731 in 1922, and 46,869 in 1921. Of the total for 1926, 13,405 took place in Victoria, 19,219 in New South Wales, 6,428 in Queensland, 4,503 in South Australia, 2,844 in Western Australia, 1,435 in Tasmania, 14 in the Northern Territory, and 17 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Marriages to marriageable men and women. The marriages in proportion to the population, to the unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55, and to the unmarried women and widows aged 18 to 50, in each census year, 1857 to 1921, are given in the following table:—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION AND OF SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN, 1857 TO 1921.

Year of Census.	Exclusive of Chinese and Aborigines.						
	Enumerated Population.	Number of Unmarried and Widowed.		Marriages.	Proportion of Marriages per 1,000 of the—		
		Men (aged 21 to 55).	Women (aged 18 to 50).		Population.	Unmarried and Widowed Men (aged 21 to 55).	Unmarried and Widowed Women (aged 18 to 50).
1857 ..	383,668	88,456	18,128	4,465	11·64	50·48	246·30
1861 ..	513,896	98,665	24,009	4,528	8·81	45·89	188·60
1871 ..	712,263	77,078	40,836	4,715	6·62	61·17	115·46
1881 ..	849,438	77,250	75,098	5,732	6·75	74·20	76·33
1891 ..	1,130,463	133,576	113,276	9,007	7·97	67·43	79·51
1901 ..	1,193,340	123,691	137,267	8,468	7·10	68·46	61·69
1911 ..	1,309,950	132,642	158,556	10,984	8·39	82·81	69·28
1921 ..	1,531,280	136,569	163,488	14,009	9·15	102·57	85·69

NOTE.—The figures in this table relate to the twelve months of which the date of census is the central point.

Factors in marriage rates. An examination of the figures for the eight census periods shows how the crude marriage rate is affected by the proportion of marriageable persons in the community. The maximum marriage rate (per 1,000 of population), which occurred in 1857, was co-incidental with the highest proportion of marriageable

persons, while the minimum rate—in 1871—was associated with the lowest proportion of such persons. A further examination of the figures shows that the ordinary marriage rate is more directly affected by the proportion of eligible men than by that of eligible women in the population. Thus, the percentage of single women aged 18 to 50 rose from 4·7 in 1857 to 10·7 in 1921, while that of single men aged 21 to 55 fell from 23 to 8·9 in the same period. After allowing for the more uniform distribution of males and females of marriageable ages in the later years, the decrease in the percentage of marriageable men coincides fairly closely with the decline in the ordinary marriage rate. The female marriage rates show that, of females aged 18 to 50, the proportion entering wedlock each year fell from about 1 in 4 in 1857, and nearly 1 in 5 in 1861, to 1 in 16 in 1901, 1 in 15 in 1911, and nearly 1 in 12 in 1921.

The large number of discharged soldiers, who were settling down to civilian life, was responsible to a great extent for the high crude marriage rate recorded in 1921. This factor, however, only partially accounts for the very high proportion of marriageable men and women who entered wedlock in that year in comparison with the years 1901 and 1911, as, quite apart from the effect produced by the marriages of discharged soldiers, the improvement in the rate shown in 1911 became more prominent in the next decennial year.

Marriages
to marriage-
able males
in Austral-
asia.

The following statement shows for the period 1900-02 and for the years 1911 and 1921 the number of marriages per 1,000 marriageable males in Victoria, the other States of Australia, and New Zealand. It has been assumed that marriageable males are unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55 :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MALES IN AUSTRALASIA.

	1900-02.	1911.	1921.	Increase per cent. in 20 Years.
Victoria	56·0	67·3	81·7	45·9
New South Wales	58·3	68·0	73·9	26·8
Queensland	41·6	54·9	62·1	49·3
South Australia	56·8	81·3	88·7	56·2
Western Australia	41·9	45·8	62·5	49·2
Tasmania	65·7	69·3	81·9	24·7
Australia	55·7	64·7	77·2	38·6
New Zealand	55·1	58·8	78·9	43·2

In each State the proportion of marriageable men who married during the year 1921 was greater than that for the period 1900-02 or for 1911, the excess over the proportion for the earlier period, expressed as a percentage, being 56 in South Australia, 49 in Western Australia, 49 in Queensland, 46 in Victoria, nearly 27 in New South Wales, and nearly 25 in Tasmania. The comparatively low marriage rates for men in Western Australia and Queensland were due to the unequal distribution of marriageable men and women. At the 1921 census, to every 1,000 unmarried and widowed women aged 18 to 50 the numbers of bachelors and widowers between 21 and 55 years of age in each State and Australia were as follows:—Victoria, 837; New South Wales, 1,015; Queensland, 1,230; South Australia, 892; Western Australia, 1,330; Tasmania, 889; and Australia, 984.

**Marriageable
persons in
Metropolis
and Country.**

An examination of the sex distribution of persons residing in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State discloses the fact that, whether the comparison be made for all ages or for marriageable ages only, there is a great preponderance of women over men in the metropolis, while in the remainder of the State the men are in excess. In Greater Melbourne in 1921 there were 63,337 marriageable men aged 21 to 55, as compared with 95,024 marriageable women aged 18 to 50. In the rest of the State the eligible men and women at those ages numbered 73,232 and 68,464 respectively. It is thus seen that, while there was a surplus of 31,687 marriageable females in the metropolis as compared with males, there was a deficiency of 4,768 in the country.

The number of such males per 1,000 marriageable females in the metropolis was 667, while in the rest of the State the corresponding number was 1,070.

The following statement shows the proportions of marriageable men and women per 1,000 of the respective populations in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State:—

**MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN PER 1,000 OF
POPULATION IN GREATER MELBOURNE AND THE
REST OF THE STATE, 1921.**

District.	Males.	Females.
Greater Melbourne ..	82·6	124·0
Rest of the State.. ..	95·8	89·5

The marriage rates of marriageable men and women at different periods of life have been computed for various age groups at each of four census periods, and are shown in the following table :—

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group—	Men.				Women.			
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
15-21 ..	..	..	..	..	23·6	18·8	23·3	25·7
21-25* ..	44·3	44·6	55·2	64·9	106·0	87·2	105·6	123·8
25-30 ..	85·9	90·5	118·6	148·2	100·5	84·7	112·1	135·3
30-35 ..	75·2	82·1	101·1	126·0	66·4	57·9	66·0	79·6
35-40 ..	51·1	62·6	72·9	91·1	46·4	37·2	43·0	43·3
40-45 ..	33·4	39·9	44·7	50·5	27·7	22·3	20·7	22·2
45-50 ..	25·9	29·8	34·9	35·0	17·8	14·3	5·5	13·5
50 and upwards	9·1	9·1	12·1	12·8	4·2	2·4	2·6	3·1

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The probabilities of bachelors and spinsters marrying and of widowers and widows re-marrying have been obtained by comparing their marriages at specified ages with the respective numbers in the community at those ages at the census of 1921. The marriages per 1,000 of the above-mentioned persons are given in the following table for the year mentioned —

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 BACHELORS, WIDOWERS, SPINSTERS, AND WIDOWS, 1921

Age Group.	Marriages to every 1,000—			
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Spinsters.	Widows.
15-21 .. ..	..	..	25·7	..
21-25*	64·8	114·3	123·5	179·4
25-30	147·4	165·2	134·1	132·2
30-35	123·3	170·4	77·5	84·4
35-40	85·4	129·4	37·5	64·8
40-45	40·8	105·6	18·9	31·3
45-50	25·7	71·5	10·6	18·9
50 and upwards	6·7	20·2	3·3	2·9

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The figures show that the probability of a widower marrying within a year is greater than that of a bachelor of similar age, and further, that the difference in favour of the former is much greater at ages

over 30 than at earlier ages. Comparing the marriage rates for widows with those for spinsters it is seen that at every age under 50, except the age group 25-30, the chance of a widow marrying is considerably greater than that of a spinster of the same age. As 78 per cent. of both widowers and widows are over 50 years—a period of life when the chance of re-marrying is small—and the great majority of the bachelors and spinsters are under that age—a period when the probability of marrying is much greater—it was to be expected that the rates for the two former would be much lower than those for the two latter sections. In proportion to their respective numbers, the marriages of widowers were only slightly more than half as numerous as those of bachelors, and the marriages of widows were less than one-fourth of those of spinsters.

**Ages of
bridegrooms
and brides.**

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1926 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, IN VICTORIA, 1926.

Ages of Bride- grooms.	Ages of Brides.																			Total Bridegrooms.
	12.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 and over.	
16	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
17	...	1	2	1	5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
18	6	7	15	21	10	10	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
19	2	10	27	43	31	17	42	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
20	2	9	35	50	42	49	86	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	282
21 to 25	1	1	6	44	112	259	338	368	1,881	479	62	8	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,563
25 to 30	...	1	...	13	49	121	177	239	2,916	1,721	340	68	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	4,757
30 to 35	1	1	10	25	43	46	555	837	482	149	28	5	...	...	...	...	...	2,182
35 to 40	...	1	...	2	3	6	9	16	149	331	296	191	54	14	2	...	...	...	...	1,074
40 to 45	1	2	1	2	2	38	82	124	111	75	22	5	3	...	...	...	468
45 to 50	2	...	2	14	37	60	65	76	31	7	4	...	1	...	299
50 to 55	4	9	27	35	36	32	25	3	3	2	...	176
55 to 60	1	...	...	...	2	3	5	10	27	29	35	17	11	3	1	3	147
60 to 65	2	5	12	12	11	24	18	10	2	1	97
65 to 70	3	3	8	10	5	9	7	4	5	54
70 to 75	1	3	4	6	5	5	6	30
75 and over	1	3	...	2	3	1	11
Total Brides	1	4	20	90	253	528	654	751	4,794	3,515	1,410	670	333	169	89	56	31	16	16	13,405

Although age inequalities among contracting parties were relatively few, they were striking in degree. Thus four men between 45 and 50, and three men between 55 and 60, married women under 21, while sixteen women between 40 and 50 were married to men who were

under 30 years. The great majority of the parties were, however, of suitable ages. Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 705 were older and 191 younger than their brides, and 104 were of the same age as their partners.

The proportions of both sexes marrying in the various age groups are shown in the succeeding table for the periods 1881-90 and 1911-20, and the year 1926 :—

PROPORTIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES MARRYING AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1881-90, 1911-20, AND 1926.

Age Group.			Proportion per 1,000 of total—					
			Bridegrooms.			Brides.		
			1881-90.	1911-20.	1926.	1881-90.	1911-20.	1926.
Under 15	...	...	...	...	..	·15	·07	·37
15 to 16	...	...	...	...	...	1·17	·75	1·49
16 to 17	...	...	·03	·16	·15	6·53	3·79	6·71
17 to 18	...	...	·29	·62	·82	20·32	12·65	19·25
18 to 19	...	...	1·46	3·81	5·59	42·94	29·53	39·39
19 to 20	...	...	5·62	9·53	13·20	65·03	44·34	48·79
20 to 21	...	...	15·19	16·82	21·04	73·84	54·41	56·02
21 to 25	...	...	321·02	255·25	265·80	432·34	360·34	357·62
25 to 30	...	...	365·48	356·68	354·87	223·83	286·34	262·22
30 to 35	...	...	134·57	166·37	162·78	62·07	105·01	105·19
35 to 40	...	...	58·29	84·52	80·12	29·53	50·44	49·98
40 to 45	...	...	32·54	42·03	34·91	17·10	24·21	24·84
45 to 50	...	...	24·77	28·21	22·30	12·23	15·13	12·61
50 to 55	...	...	18·40	16·55	13·13	6·74	6·60	6·64
55 to 60	...	...	11·49	9·65	10·97	3·40	3·29	4·18
60 and over	...	...	10·85	9·80	14·32	2·78	3·10	4·70
Not stated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00	1,000·00

Of every 1,000 women who were married during 1926, 530 were under 25 years, and 262 were aged 25-30, as against 506 and 286 at corresponding ages in the years 1911 to 1920, and 642 and 224 in the years 1881 to 1890.

A high proportion of re-marriages has the effect of increasing the average marrying age of bridegrooms and brides. This is readily seen by comparing for 1926 the mean age at marriage of bachelors, 28·24, with that of divorced men, and of widowers—39·41 and 47·28 respectively. The average age of spinsters marrying was 25·51, as against 34·53 for divorced women and 41·18 for widows. The average age of men marrying women under 45 and

of their brides for certain periods since 1869 is shown in the following table :—

MEAN AGES AT MARRIAGE.

Period.	Average Age of—	
	Brides under 45.	Bridegrooms of Brides under 45.
	Years.	Years.
1870-74	24·13	29·93
1880-84	23·83	28·61
1890-94	24·66	28·66
1900-04	25·44	29·70
1905-09	25·88	29·80
1910-14	25·76	29·25
1915-19	25·97	29·40
1920-24	25·92	29·20
1925	25·75	29·00
1926	25·62	28·87

The mean age of women under 45 who married in 1926 differed very slightly from the average of the previous five years. In Victoria in 1926 the mean marrying age of all brides was 26·40, and of all bridegrooms, 29·64.

Marriage records show that, of the persons married in Victoria during 1926, 87·1 per cent. were born in Australia, 10·5 per cent. in the United Kingdom, and 1·2 per cent. in other British Possessions, and that only small proportions, about 1·6 per cent. of the bridegrooms and ·8 per cent. of the brides, were natives of foreign countries. The numbers born in Australia and other countries are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1913 and 1926 :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1913 AND 1926.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1913.	1926.	1913.	1926.
Australia	9,628	11,326	10,274	12,032
New Zealand	155	117	82	96
England and Wales	972	1,252	644	868
Scotland	213	302	141	206
Ireland	126	128	83	53
Other British Possessions	40	64	24	47
Germany	46	16	19	5
Russia	17	15	3	7
Italy	15	35	12	25
United States	30	22	14	12
Other Foreign Countries	82	128	28	54
Total	11,324	13,405	11,324	13,405

**Marriages
in quarters.**

Victorian experience shows that, prior to 1919, the Autumn quarter was the most frequently selected season for marrying. In the years 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924, however, the greatest proportion of marriages took place in the Spring. The numbers celebrated in the different seasons in 1926 were—3,757 in the Autumn, 3,551 in the Spring, 3,085 in the Winter, and 3,012 in the Summer.

Conjugal condition of persons marrying.

The following statement shows the percentages of persons in each conjugal condition who have married in different periods since 1870 :—

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1871-1926.

Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of total Marriages.					
	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1926.
Bachelors and Spinsters..	80·59	85·84	87·22	88·46	90·31	90·65
Bachelors and Widows ..	7·10	4·72	4·23	3·66	3·15	3·07
Widowers and Spinsters..	7·75	6·17	6·07	5·70	4·81	4·69
Widowers and Widows ..	4·56	3·27	2·48	2·18	1·73	1·59

NOTE.—In this table divorced men and women are included with bachelors and spinsters respectively.

Of every 1,000 persons of each sex married in Victoria during 1926, 63 were widowers and 47 were widows, as against 65 and 48 respectively in 1925, 64 and 51 in 1924, 65 and 47 in 1923, 71 and 55 in 1922, and 64 and 54 in 1921.

The number of divorced persons re-married during 1926 was 470, which was 5 less than the number for the preceding year. Of the 132,386 persons married during the last five years, divorced persons numbered 2,104, or 1 in every 63 persons, as compared with 1 in every 98 in the period, 1916-20. The following are the numbers of divorced persons who have re-married since 1921 :—

DIVORCED PERSONS RE-MARRYING, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1922	..	..	..	182	179	361
1923	..	..	..	209	192	401
1924	..	..	..	196	201	397
1925	..	..	..	238	237	475
1926	..	..	..	243	227	470

The divorced persons in the State at the census of 1921 numbered 2,313, of whom 1,092 were men and 1,221 women. A comparison of the re-marriages of divorced males and females during 1921 with these

numbers shows that, according to the experience of that year, 17·2 per cent. of the males and 13·5 per cent. of the females re-marry each year. As these proportions greatly exceed the rates for other sections of the community it is evident that many divorces are obtained with a view to early re-marriage.

The proportions of bridegrooms and brides under 21 years of age are given in the subjoined table for the years 1922 to 1926 :—

Marriages of
minors.

Year.			Percentage under 21 years of age.	
			Bridegrooms.	Brides.
1922	..	..	3·29	13·63
1923	..	..	3·51	15·14
1924	..	..	3·53	16·03
1925	..	..	4·28	16·32
1926	..	..	4·08	17·20

Marriages in
religious
denomina-
tions.

The numbers and proportions of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations and of those performed by registrars of marriages, for the years 1916 and 1926, are shown in the following table :—

MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.			1916.		1926.	
			Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	..	..	3,007	26·51	3,836	28·62
Roman Catholic Church	..	..	2,108	18·59	2,536	18·92
Presbyterian Church	..	..	2,055	18·12	2,487	18·55
Methodist Church	..	..	1,645	14·51	1,771	13·21
Congregational Church	..	..	1,104	9·74	852	6·36
Baptist Church	..	..	532	4·69	570	4·25
Church of Christ	..	..	268	2·36	306	2·28
Lutheran Church	..	..	65	·57	54	·40
Salvation Army	..	..	54	·48	58	·43
Hebrew	..	..	42	·37	51	·38
Other Sects	..	..	99	·87	267	1·99
Registrars of Marriages	..	..	362	3·19	617	4·61
Total	..	..	11,341	100·00	13,405	100·00

Marriages by Anglican clergymen represented 28·62 per cent. of the total in 1926, as compared with 28·35 per cent. in 1925,

29·10 per cent. in 1921, 26·51 per cent. in 1916, and 21·18 per cent. in the period 1904-08. Excepting the ratios for the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, there were great disparities between the proportion of marriages celebrated according to the rites of each of the principal denominations and the proportionate number of adherents possessed by it in the community.

In 1926, 4·61 per cent., in 1925, 3·95 per cent., in 1924, 4·95 per cent., in 1923, 3·87 per cent., in 1922, 3·35 per cent., and, in 1914 and 1913, 2·6 per cent. of the total marriages in Victoria were celebrated by lay registrars, as against 1 per cent. in 1909, and about 7 per cent. in the decade ended 1890. The decrease which occurred between the earlier period and 1909 was due to the competition of matrimonial agencies which sprang up about 1894, and the increase since 1909 has probably been due to the *Marriage Act* 1909 (now incorporated in the *Marriage Act* 1915—No. 2691) permitting the removal from the list of registered clergymen of the names of those who make a business of celebrating marriages. The proportion of civil marriages in Victoria averages only about one-seventh of the proportion in England and Wales, and approximately one-fourth of the proportion in New Zealand.

The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages in Victoria numbered 1,677 on 31st December, 1926. The numbers of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and lay registrars of marriages were as follows :—

REGISTERED MINISTERS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	437	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Roman Catholic ..	344	New Church ..	2
Presbyterian ..	307	Greek Orthodox Church ..	2
Methodist ..	281	Unitarian ..	1
Congregational ..	61	International Bible Students' Association ..	1
Baptist ..	87	Latter Day Saints (Mormons) ..	1
Church of Christ ..	70	Open Brethren ..	3
Lutheran ..	27		
Salvation Army ..	34		
Latter Day Saints (Re-organized) ..	3	Total Clergymen ..	1,677
Seventh Day Adventist ..	10	Lay Registrars of Marriages ..	23
Catholic Apostolic ..	2		
Free Christian ..	2		
Australian Church ..	1	Grand Total ..	1,700

Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted from the law relating to marriages in Victoria, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1926 was 35,362, of which 18,203 were of males and 17,159 of females. This was 560 less than the number recorded for the preceding year. Still births, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 1,051, and corresponded to a ratio of 3·0 per 100 infants born alive in 1926. There were 1,061 male to every 1,000 female births in 1926, as compared with 1,073 in 1925, 1,049 in 1924, 1,073 in 1923, and 1,068 in 1922.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent unreliable and misleading. In the earlier periods, when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, the rates are obviously high. As time proceeds, however, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, of necessity, the birth rate.

The following table shows the number of births and the birth rates in Victoria for different periods since 1879 :—

BIRTHS IN VICTORIA—NUMBERS AND RATES,
1880 TO 1926.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
1880-84..	27,286	30·64	1910-14..	34,500	25·42
1885-89..	32,941	32·27	1915-19..	33,101	23·13
1890-94..	36,945	31·99	1920-24..	36,022	22·89
1895-99..	31,675	26·76	1925 ..	35,922	21·49
1900-04..	30,316	25·08	1926 ..	35,362	20·84
1905-09..	30,994	24·76			

The following statement shows the birth rates per 1,000 of the population of each State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, since 1909 :—

**BIRTHS PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA,
1910 TO 1926.**

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	25·42	28·79	28·81	27·98	28·63	29·90	27·73	26·15
1915-19	23·13	26·64	27·86	25·51	25·21	27·78	25·89	24·37
1920-24	22·89	25·27	25·59	23·37	23·52	26·54	24·40	22·99
1925 ..	21·49	24·01	23·82	21·06	22·23	24·24	22·89	21·17
1926 ..	20·84	22·89	22·58	20·55	22·14	23·62	22·02	21·05

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 17·8.

The births in Australia were fewer by 4,821, or 3·5 per cent., in 1926 than in 1914, although in the intervening period the population had increased by 22·3 per cent. The number in 1926 was 133,162, as compared with 137,983 in 1914. Of the total recorded for 1926, 35,362 occurred in Victoria, 53,116 in New South Wales, 19,764 in Queensland, 11,483 in South Australia, 8,301 in Western Australia, 4,988 in Tasmania, 73 in the Northern Territory, and 75 in the Federal Capital Territory.

The birth rate of a community is almost wholly dependent upon the proportion of wives at the reproductive period of life and their internal age distribution. As these elements, especially the former, differ widely in certain Australian States, the crude rates of the different States are scarcely comparable. The figures for the census of 1921 showed that in every 1,000 of the respective populations of each State and the Commonwealth the married women aged 15 to 45 numbered 116·1 in Victoria, 127·5 in New South Wales, 119·3 in Queensland, 125·3 in South Australia, 118·0 in Western Australia, 117·3 in Tasmania, and 121·9 in Australia. In the case of Victoria, the deficiency in the proportion of married women at the ages mentioned was accentuated by a comparatively small proportion of them being at the younger and more fertile ages. During the years 1920-22 the crude legitimate birth rate per 1,000 of the population was lower in Victoria than in any other State. When, however, the rates for the other States were adjusted to Victorian conditions by eliminating the differences referred to, they were altered as follows :—New South Wales was reduced by 2·7

per 1,000 of the population, Queensland by 1·4, South Australia by 1·6, Tasmania by 1·1, and Australia by 1·3, while the rate for Western Australia was increased by ·4. The result was that, according to the adjusted figures, the legitimate rate for Victoria was more satisfactory than the rates for two of the other States, viz., New South Wales and South Australia.

Births to
wives in
Australasia
and England.

The next table shows the legitimate births per 1,000 married women under 45 (not allowing for their differing age distribution) in each State, New Zealand, and England and Wales in the four census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

LEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE.

Country.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women aged 15 to 45.				Decrease per cent. in 20 years.
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	
Victoria	297·0	229·0	223·0	190·5	16·8
New South Wales ..	298·9	235·6	235·4	194·2	17·6
Queensland	315·0	251·0	244·8	213·6	14·9
South Australia ..	311·1	235·0	235·9	186·9	20·5
Western Australia ..	352·8	244·0	221·8	190·9	21·8
Tasmania	315·9	254·6	244·8	216·9	14·8
New Zealand	279·1	246·1	211·7	181·0	26·9
England and Wales ..	268·8	234·2	196·2	176·3	24·7

Birthplaces
of parents
of legitimate
children.

The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria, in 1926, 82 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 95 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows :—78·8 in Victoria ; 87·2 in Australia ; ·7 in New Zealand ; 7·7 in England and Wales ; 1·8 in Scotland ; ·8 in Ireland ; ·3 in other British Possessions ; and 1·5 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were :—Victoria, 81·0 ; Australia, 89·4 ; New Zealand, ·5 ; England and Wales, 6·9 ; Scotland, 1·6 ; Ireland, ·5 ; other British Possessions, ·3 ; and foreign countries, ·8.

Standardized
birth rates
per 1,000
wives in
Victoria.

An accurate view of the alteration in the fertility of wives is obtained by comparing the ratio of legitimate births to wives at reproductive ages, and allowing for the difference in their age distribution at each period. The following

table shows for Victoria the distribution of married women in six five-year groups in the last six census years :—

PROPORTION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS TO TOTAL BETWEEN 15 AND 45 IN THE LAST SIX CENSUS YEARS.

Census Year.	Proportion in each Age Group to Every 1,000 Married Women between 15 and 45.					
	15-20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	40-45.
1871	20·3	130·4	211·4	230·7	233·2	174·0
1881	17·3	159·5	204·6	206·0	209·7	202·9
1891	13·5	156·9	275·2	244·1	172·1	138·2
1901	8·1	99·0	198·3	249·6	249·2	195·8
1911	12·4	113·8	206·9	226·6	221·2	219·1
1921	9·2	105·3	222·5	247·9	221·1	194·0

To estimate the effect which the alteration in age distribution has on the birth rate, the proportion in each of the above groups was multiplied by the average natality rate for the group according to a standard table—the standard used for this purpose being the Swedish table of 1891. The sum of the products for each census year represented the number of births which would have occurred in that year per 1,000 married women between 15 and 45 had the fertility of these women remained unaltered, i.e., the potential births. The year 1871 was used as a basis with which to compare the five subsequent census years, and adjustments were applied to the actual births (per 1,000) occurring in those years, so as to make them conform to the age constitution in the first-mentioned year. The correction factors were obtained by taking the number of births per 1,000 married women aged 15-45 which would have occurred in 1871 had the standard natality rates prevailed, and dividing this number by the corresponding numbers of potential births for 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921. The above method was applied to find what proportion of the alteration in the ratio of births to married women under 45 was due to causes other than varying age constitution. The last mentioned factor has been taken into account in the computation of the birth rates appearing in column (5) of the subjoined table :—

STANDARDIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES.

(1) Census Year.	(2) Married Women between 15 and 45 years of age.	(3) Legitimate Births.	(4) Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(5) Standardized Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	(6) Factor for Correction of Rate in Column 4.
1871 ..	88,561	26,805	302·67	..	..
1881 ..	84,831	25,675	302·66	303·14	1·0016
1891 ..	120,700	35,853	297·04	281·98	0·9493
1901 ..	127,858	29,279	229·00	238·75	1·0426
1911 ..	139,398	31,080	222·96	231·50	1·0383
1921 ..	177,803	33,879	190·50	195·47	1·0261

An inspection of the rates in column (5) shows that there was a fall of 7 per cent. in 1891 as compared with 1881, a further serious decline of over 15 per cent. in 1901 as compared with 1891, a decrease of 3 per cent. in 1911 as compared with 1901, and a further decline of nearly 16 per cent. in 1921 as compared with 1911, which were not due to variations in the age distribution of the married women between 15 and 45 in the community. A further examination of the standardized legitimate birth rates appearing in this column shows that the births in 1921 to every 1,000 married women of reproductive ages were 108 fewer than in 1881, 87 fewer than in 1891, 43 fewer than in 1901, and 36 fewer than in 1911.

Legitimate birth rates (per 1,000 of the total population) for widely separated periods do not give a correct indication of the relative fertilities of those periods, unless the number of married women at reproductive ages in proportion to the population and the age constitution of such women have remained unchanged. In order to allow for the disturbance which may have been introduced through variations in these elements it is necessary that adjustments be made in the crude rates. The factor to correct the result of changes in the proportion of married women between 15 and 45 is obtained by comparing the number of such women in the community at the period of observation with the number in a standard population. The method of obtaining the correcting factor for the disturbance due to the second element was explained in a previous paragraph.

The following table shows the crude legitimate birth rates in six census years, the adjustments to be applied thereto for the reasons mentioned above, the amended birth rates, and the difference between these and the crude rates. The standard used in the computation of the correction factors was the Victorian population of 1871. Standardized birth rates per 1,000 of the population in the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 are as follows:—

STANDARDIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Year.	Enu- merated Population.	Legiti- mate Births.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 of Population (crude Rates).	Wives aged 15-45 per 1,000 of Population.	Correction Factor for variations in—		Stan- dardized Birth Rate.	Difference between crude and stan- dardized Rates.
					Proportion of Wives aged 15-45.	Age Distribu- tion of Wives aged 15-45.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1871	731,528	26,805	36.64	121.1	..	..	..	..
1881	862,346	25,675	29.77	98.4	1.2307	1.0016	36.69	6.92
1891	1,140,405	35,853	31.44	105.8	1.1446	0.9493	34.39	2.95
1901	1,201,341	29,279	24.37	106.4	1.1382	1.0426	28.77	4.40
1911	1,315,551	31,080	23.63	106.0	1.1425	1.0383	27.89	4.26
1921	1,531,280	33,879	22.12	116.1	1.0431	1.0261	23.68	1.56

An inspection of the crude rates in the fourth column of the above table shows that legitimate births per 1,000 of population apparently declined by 6·87 in 1881, 5·20 in 1891, 12·27 in 1901, 13·01 in 1911, and 14·52 in 1921, as compared with the first-mentioned census date. After making allowance for the disturbing elements known to exist, the apparent decline of 6·87 in 1881 is altered to an increase of ·05 per 1,000, while the decline of 1891 is reduced from 5·20 to 2·25, that of 1901 from 12·27 to 7·87, that of 1911 from 13·01 to 8·75, and that of 1921 from 14·52 to 12·96 per 1,000 as compared with 1871. Between 1901 and 1921 there was a reduction of nearly 18 per cent. in the rate due to other than normal causes.

Chinese and half-caste Chinese births. During the last ten years the births to Chinese parents numbered 36, or 1 in every 9,183 legitimate births. There were 237 Chinese half-caste births (fathers only Chinese), or 1 in every 1,394 legitimate births registered in the same period.

Ages of parents of legitimate children. The average ages of fathers and mothers of legitimate children whose births were recorded in 1926 were 33·32 and 29·78 years respectively, which were 4·45 and 4·16 years above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides for the same year. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :—

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS IN AGE GROUPS, 1926.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.	Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.
Under 20	...	47	Under 20	...	3·53
20 to 25	...	10·52	20 to 25	...	20·69
25 to 30	...	25·53	25 to 30	...	29·74
30 to 35	...	26·37	30 to 35	...	24·83
35 to 40	...	19·66	35 to 40	...	15·69
40 to 45	...	10·36	40 to 45	...	5·15
45 to 50	...	4·57	45 and over	...	37
50 and over	...	2·52			
Total	...	100·00	Total	...	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1926, 50·4 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 40·5 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 36·0 and 46·0 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 legitimate births, about 35 were due to mothers under 20 years, and about 4 to mothers

aged 45 years and upwards. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 326 information relating to the ages of mothers of first-born children.

In editions of this work prior to 1923 birth rates for the various municipalities and divisions of the State were based on the births occurring therein in relation to their respective populations.

This method made no allowance for prospective mothers travelling from rural districts to towns where better lying-in facilities and attention were available, or to the metropolis, or for metropolitan residents, *enceinte*, travelling from one municipality to another. By reason of this the rates for the metropolis and urban districts were unduly inflated at the expense of the rural districts, and the recorded variations in the rates of the various municipalities were incorrect. Also, no provision was made for births which had occurred in the Women's and other public hospitals being credited to the districts in which the mothers resided. As about one-seventh of the metropolitan births occur in these institutions the rates for certain municipalities—particularly the poorer and more congested ones—were necessarily considerably understated.

In 1923, therefore, it was decided to allot all births registered in Victoria to the place of usual residence of the mother. Upon this being done for the year mentioned it was found that the total for the metropolis, i.e., the births registered therein, had decreased by approximately 1,200. This practice has been adhered to, and in 1924, 1925, and 1926 the decrease was approximately 1,250, 1,350, and 1,280 respectively. These numbers give a fair indication of the extent by which the rates in districts outside the metropolitan area suffered under the discarded system of compilation.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of births per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 to 1926:—

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN, AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 TO 1926.

Division.	Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Metropolitan District ..	21·10	20·90	19·93	19·31
Country Towns (other urban) ..	22·08	21·25	20·41	20·11
Rest of State ..	24·03	23·81	24·13	23·44
Total State ..	22·31	22·01	21·49	20·84

Birth rates in
metropolitan
municipalities.

The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 to 1926 the number of births, and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in the metropolitan municipalities :—

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

Municipality.	Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Melbourne	2,011	1,843	1,766	1,791	19·73	18·08	17·35	17·62
Box Hill	†	†	†	268	†	†	†	24·59
Brighton	482	479	523	433	20·51	19·21	20·19	16·20
Brunswick	1,130	1,206	1,113	1,191	24·26	25·22	22·61	23·51
Camberwell	632	746	833	864	22·97	23·96	24·01	22·72
Caulfield	1,050	1,073	1,057	1,105	21·35	19·84	18·34	17·96
Coburg	553	680	735	763	24·50	25·56	24·69	23·40
Collingwood	687	726	706	662	20·05	21·29	20·80	19·59
Essendon	833	876	833	805	22·23	22·62	20·96	19·78
Fitzroy	805	719	661	620	23·12	20·79	19·25	18·25
Footscray	1,022	960	992	974	26·73	23·41	23·20	21·99
Hawthorn	562	559	534	505	18·55	17·92	16·83	15·76
Kew	378	387	363	373	20·26	19·44	17·24	16·70
Malvern	625	691	664	594	15·89	16·68	15·62	13·66
Northcote	823	930	908	925	24·98	26·72	24·59	23·98
Oakleigh	235	226	*	*	34·36	31·22	*	*
Port Melbourne	305	291	276	283	23·21	22·13	20·99	21·49
Prahran	954	878	888	844	18·73	17·17	17·23	16·26
Preston	880	501	567	625	32·59	35·11	32·87	30·12
Richmond	388	946	890	861	20·64	21·68	20·39	19·76
Sandringham	221	288	275	307	15·79	17·29	15·94	16·16
South Melbourne	951	951	777	849	20·24	20·20	16·49	17·99
St. Kilda	648	677	641	665	16·12	16·59	15·58	16·06
Williamstown	499	490	525	474	24·62	22·78	23·10	20·40
Remainder of Metropolis	927	1,067	1,384	1,145	23·74	25·80	26·76	25·28
Whole Metropolis ..	17,611	18,170	17,911	17,926	21·10	20·90	19·93	19·31

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis." † Not available.

Birth rates
in country
towns.

Similar information relating to the twelve principal country towns is given in the table which follows :—

BIRTH RATES IN THE TWELVE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923 TO 1926.

Town.	Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Ballarat and Suburbs ..	785	790	708	708	19·64	19·46	17·27	17·04
Bendigo and Suburbs ..	653	634	614	569	19·50	18·85	18·22	16·96
Geelong and Suburbs ..	829	790	842	913	22·35	20·93	21·53	22·33
Carrum	133	125	127	133	22·17	20·16	19·54	19·70
Castlemaine and Suburbs	147	138	128	122	20·50	19·38	17·85	17·02
Hamilton	139	144	145	148	27·20	28·13	27·88	28·14
Maryborough	*	127	112	107	*	26·29	23·14	22·02
Mildura	200	211	186	195	36·04	37·02	31·79	32·50
Mordialloc	120	152	160	148	17·39	21·17	22·16	19·07
Stawell	130	107	112	107	28·26	23·01	24·03	22·91
Warrnambool	196	180	180	176	24·65	22·50	22·44	21·86
Wentthaggi	183	146	151	159	33·57	24·33	23·23	23·38

* Not available.

Twin and
triplet births.

The numbers of cases of twin and triplet births in Victoria in the last five years were as follows :—

CASES OF TWINS AND TRIPLETS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.
1922	394	8
1923	412	4
1924	378	3
1925	393	3
1926	377	4

On the average of the five years 1 mother in every 90 gave birth to twins, and 1 in every 8,072 was delivered of triplets. The proportions for the decennium ended 1917 were 1 in every 94 and 1 in every 9,538 respectively.

Children
legitimized.

In December, 1912, an Act was passed which provides that children born out of wedlock may be legitimized at any time after the marriage of the parents, on the application of the father, provided there was no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the birth. An amending Act passed in 1916 allowed legitimation to be effected on the application of the mother if the father were absent on war service or had died not more than two years previously. Up to the end of 1926 advantage was taken of these Acts, and of an Act (now repealed) passed in 1903, to legitimate 2,612 children, of whom 14 were registered in 1903, 19 in 1904, 34 in 1905, 43 in 1906, 58 in 1907, 60 in 1908, 51 in 1909, 71 in 1910, 126 in 1911, 106 in 1912, 157 in 1913, 149 in 1914, 141 in 1915, 140 in 1916, 136 in 1917, 162 in 1918, 159 in 1919, 165 in 1920, 168 in 1921, 133 in 1922, 133 in 1923, 121 in 1924, 133 in 1925, and 133 in 1926.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the States and New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1926, the numbers of legitimations in the various States and New Zealand during that year were as follows :—Victoria, 8·3; New South Wales, 19·4; Queensland, 16·5; South Australia, 14·0; Western Australia, 17·8; Tasmania, 8·3; and New Zealand, 23·4.

Illegitimate Births in Victoria. The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and their percentage to total births, in Victoria, since 1909 :—

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN VICTORIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Average Annual Number of Illegitimate Births.			Percentage of Total Births.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
1910-14	34,500	1,013	979	1,992	5·77
1915-19	33,101	941	912	1,853	5·60
1920-24	36,022	869	821	1,690	4·69
1925	35,922	809	734	1,543	4·30
1926	35,362	818	785	1,603	4·53

The percentages in the various States and New Zealand in 1926 were as follows :—Victoria, 4·53 per cent. ; New South Wales, 5·17 per cent. ; Queensland, 5·03 per cent. ; South Australia, 3·04 per cent. ; Western Australia, 3·92 per cent. ; Tasmania, 4·57 per cent. ; Australia, 4·72 per cent. ; and New Zealand, 5·17 per cent.

Illegitimate births to unmarried women in Victoria. The percentage of illegitimate to total births in Victoria varied from 5·36 in 1891 to 5·94 in 1911, and 4·82 in 1921. The proportion of infants born out of wedlock to the unmarried and widowed women between 15 and 45 years of age in Victoria is shown in the subjoined table for the census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921, when the conjugal condition of the population was known :—

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 SINGLE WOMEN.

Year.			Single Women aged 15 to 45.	Illegitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births per 1,000 Single Women.
1891			142,443	2,064	14·5
1901			167,760	1,729	10·3
1911			187,488	1,964	10·5
1921			189,737	1,714	9·0

The number of infants born out of wedlock per 1,000 unmarried and widowed women in Victoria was 9·0 in 1921. This was considerably lower than the latest available figures for most European

countries. The proportions ranged from 23 in Germany, 26 in Sweden, 24 in Denmark, 14 in Italy, and 16 in France, to 12 in Belgium, 13 in Scotland, 7 in England and Wales, 5 in Holland, and 4 in Ireland.

A larger proportion of illegitimacy prevails in Melbourne and suburbs than in the other urban and the rural districts of Victoria, the proportion in the country districts being the smallest of all. During the year 1926, in the metropolitan area 1 birth in every 19, in other urban districts 1 in 21, and in the rural districts only 1 in 29 were illegitimate. The corresponding rates for 1925 were 1 in 19, 1 in 23, and 1 in 33 respectively. One striking result attending the introduction of the system of allotting all births to the mother's place of usual residence has been the altered ratios of illegitimacy in town and country—both the urban areas outside the metropolis and the country districts having higher ratios than on the basis previously adopted. For 1922, the year prior to the introduction of the above system, the proportions of illegitimate to total births, based on the births which actually occurred in the various municipalities, were 1 in 15, 1 in 38, and 1 in 58 respectively.

DEATHS.

The following table shows the number of deaths—male and female—also the quarters in which they were registered and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1879 :—

DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1880 TO 1926.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1880-84..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885-89..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890-94..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895-99..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900-04..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910-14..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915-19..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920-24..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925 ..	15,836	8,582	7,254	3,744	4,039	4,334	3,719	9·47
1926 ..	16,335	8,765	7,570	3,622	4,439	4,239	4,035	9·63

The number of deaths in 1926 was 16,335, which was 159 above the average of the preceding five years.

The deaths in Australia in 1926 numbered 56,952, as against 54,567 in 1925, 54,980 in 1924, 56,236 in 1923, 51,312 in 1922, 54,076 in 1921, 56,289 in 1920, 65,930 in 1919, 50,249 in 1918, 48,029 in 1917, 54,197 in 1916, 52,782 in 1915, and 51,720 in 1914. Of the total deaths in the year under review 16,335 occurred in Victoria, 22,159 in New South Wales, 8,214 in Queensland, 4,877 in South Australia, 3,350 in Western Australia, 1,912 in Tasmania, 64 in the Northern Territory, and 41 in the Federal Capital Territory. The death rates per 1,000 of the population, for each of the Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, are shown in the following statement for quinquennial periods 1910-24, and for 1925 and 1926:—

DEATHS PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN
AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	11·57	10·41	10·30	10·30	10·02	10·55	10·70	9·35
1915-19	11·33	10·66	10·80	10·67	9·74	9·95	10·90	10·52
1920-24	10·40	9·50	9·56	9·66	9·48	9·82	9·79	8·98
1925 ..	9·47	9·16	8·86	9·15	9·00	9·35	9·20	8·29
1926 ..	9·63	9·55	9·39	8·73	8·93	9·05	9·42	8·74

The death rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 11·6.

The crude rate in Victoria is higher than in any other State, but this result is chiefly due to its containing a larger proportion of elderly persons, among whom the mortality rate is very high.

Comparisons of the crude death rates of a country for different periods, or of different countries for the same period, are frequently misleading, as they do not allow for variations in the age distributions of the population. In European countries, the proportion of elderly people, among whom the death rate is heavy, is higher than in the Commonwealth or any of the Australian States, and it is greater in South Australia, and lower in Western Australia, than in any of the other States. The proportions of each sex living in various age groups at the census of 1921 in each division of the Commonwealth, and those in a standard population,

Age
distribution
and crude
death rates.

which has been adopted by statisticians as a standard for this purpose, are shown in the following table :—

PROPORTIONS LIVING IN FIVE AGE GROUPS IN A STANDARD POPULATION AND AUSTRALIA.

Age Group.	Proportion per 10,000 of Population living in—							
	Standard Population.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
			MALES.					
Under 5 years	601	517	578	611	557	535	602	562
5 to 25 ..	1,942	1,826	1,879	1,962	1,866	1,948	2,017	1,884
25 to 45 ..	1,318	1,431	1,559	1,585	1,509	1,527	1,336	1,512
45 to 65 ..	791	929	859	889	829	1,134	849	897
65 and over	258	226	227	231	253	184	236	228
Total ..	4,910	4,929	5,102	5,278	5,014	5,328	5,040	5,083
			FEMALES.					
Under 5 years	597	497	561	582	529	516	593	541
5 to 25 ..	1,959	1,833	1,869	1,921	1,857	1,912	1,990	1,872
25 to 45 ..	1,368	1,539	1,517	1,388	1,536	1,347	1,381	1,491
45 to 65 ..	856	948	747	661	806	756	760	798
65 and over	310	254	204	170	258	141	236	215
Total ..	5,090	5,071	4,898	4,722	4,986	4,672	4,960	4,917

The figures show that the characteristic features of Australian populations, as compared with those of European countries, are a large preponderance of persons in the age group 25–45, and a relatively small number aged 65 and over. Among the Australian States, South Australia and Western Australia have the highest and lowest proportions respectively of persons aged 65 years and upwards, Queensland and Western Australia a large excess of males over females, particularly at ages over 25, and Victoria an excess of females in each group, except those under 5 years—points which should be kept in view when comparing their crude death rates.

The differences shown in the preceding table in the age and sex constitutions of the populations of the six States have been taken into account in computing their respective indexes of mortality. The results for each are based upon a standard

Index of
mortality.

population, distributed according to sex, into eleven age groups. In the preceding table, for the purpose of obtaining a readier comparison, the eleven groups have been reduced to five. Mortality indexes for each State, and detailed particulars for Victoria, for the undermentioned years, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows :—

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR AUSTRALIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Index of Mortality for—						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1922	9·85	9·79	10·15	9·39	10·91	9·81	9·89
1923	10·97	10·61	10·97	9·90	9·79	10·49	10·64
1924	10·31	10·31	9·90	9·50	10·82	10·43	10·20
1925	9·74	10·13	9·94	9·43	10·67	9·94	9·93
1926	9·91	10·62	10·47	9·02	10·63	9·70	10·20

VICTORIA, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Crude Rates.			Standardized Rates.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1922 ..	10·54	8·77	9·65	10·61	9·09	9·85
1923 ..	11·46	9·98	10·71	11·56	10·38	10·97
1924 ..	10·87	9·24	10·05	11·00	9·64	10·31
1925 ..	10·32	8·64	9·47	10·45	9·04	9·74
1926 ..	10·38	8·88	9·63	10·55	9·29	9·91

In each of the last five years the crude death rate was higher in Victoria than in any other Australian State, but the figures in the above table show that, by taking an average over those years, three States—New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia—had a higher index of mortality than Victoria.

A reliable estimate of the improvement in the health of the community is obtained by comparing the death rates for groups of ages at different periods. Such rates for Victoria are given in the subjoined table for the decennial periods 1891-1900, 1902-11, and 1912-21 :—

DEATH RATES IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS IN VICTORIA.

Age Group.				Deaths per 1,000 at each Age.		
				1891-1900.	1902-11.	1912-21.
<i>Males.</i>						
Under 5	...	...	...	39·29	26·73	23·85
5 to 10	...	...	...	3·36	2·16	2·42
10 to 15	...	...	...	2·20	1·87	1·75
15 to 20	...	...	...	3·28	2·72	2·37
20 to 25	...	...	...	4·79	3·51	3·57
25 to 35	...	...	...	6·60	4·75	4·71
35 to 45	...	...	...	9·03	7·81	7·14
45 to 55	...	...	...	15·32	13·48	13·10
55 to 65	...	...	...	32·90	25·38	25·05
65 to 75	...	...	...	62·99	59·04	53·18
75 and upwards	...	...	...	145·05	157·26	157·97
All ages	...	...	...	15·47	13·30	12·57
<i>Females.</i>						
Under 5	...	...	...	34·09	22·35	19·26
5 to 10	...	...	...	3·12	2·03	2·24
10 to 15	...	...	...	2·06	1·78	1·56
15 to 20	...	...	...	3·43	2·80	2·27
20 to 25	...	...	...	4·81	3·59	3·56
25 to 35	...	...	...	6·89	5·01	4·58
35 to 45	...	...	...	8·68	7·16	6·01
45 to 55	...	...	...	12·12	9·96	9·44
55 to 65	...	...	...	23·64	18·80	17·46
65 to 75	...	...	...	45·87	46·71	42·01
75 and upwards	...	...	...	124·33	131·77	136·61
All ages	...	...	...	12·36	10·66	10·35

The figures show that at all ages, excepting between 5 and 10, and 20 and 25, and 75 and over for males, and between 5 and 10, and 75 and over for females, much lower death rates were experienced during the decennium 1912-21 than in the preceding one. Compared with 1902-11, the mortality rate for the period 1912-21 for the two

sexes combined was lower by 10 per cent. for the age group 0-10, by 9 per cent. at ages 10-15, by 16 per cent. at 15-20, by 5 per cent. at 25-35, by 12 per cent. at 35-45, and by 4 per cent. at 45-55 and 55-65. The rates, up to age 65 and probably to age 75, are comparable, and the marked decrease at successive periods shows that there had been a general improvement in hygienic conditions.

In years prior to 1923 it was the custom, when computing local death rates, to treat the deaths in two main divisions—those occurring in public institutions and those occurring elsewhere. The latter were credited to the district in which they were registered. Of the institutional deaths those occurring in hospitals were allotted to the usual residence; the remainder, together with any deaths of persons unknown or whose residence was not stated, were allotted to the various divisions of the State according to the population of each.

For purposes of greater accuracy, and following the lead of England and other countries, the allotment to usual residence has, for 1923, *et seq.*, been extended to cover all deaths, only those institutional deaths where the usual residence is unknown being allotted to the various divisions of the State as before mentioned.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 to 1926:—

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN,
AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 TO 1926.

Division.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Metropolitan District ..	11·28	10·49	9·71	9·86
Country Towns (other urban) ..	12·46	11·27	10·69	10·72
Rest of State	9·48	9·09	8·79	8·94
Total State	10·71	10·05	9·47	9·63

The deaths in Victoria of residents of metropolitan municipalities, and their proportions to the populations of these municipalities are shown in the following table for the years 1923 to 1926 :—

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

Municipality.	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Melbourne	1,418	1,310	1,166	1,192	13·91	12·85	11·46	11·73
Box Hill	†	†	†	101	†	†	†	9·27
Brighton	249	250	213	243	10·60	10·02	8·42	9·09
Brunswick	534	502	495	509	11·46	10·50	10·05	10·05
Camberwell	264	332	304	336	9·59	10·66	8·76	8·84
Caulfield	402	477	457	462	8·17	8·82	7·93	7·51
Coburg	227	229	218	256	10·06	8·61	7·32	7·85
Collingwood	457	395	390	436	13·34	11·58	11·49	12·90
Essendon	401	417	395	410	10·70	10·77	9·94	10·07
Fitzroy	539	414	458	394	15·48	11·97	13·34	11·60
Footscray	385	411	376	388	10·07	10·02	8·80	8·76
Hawthorn	359	308	300	324	11·85	9·87	9·45	10·11
Kew	159	203	193	187	8·52	10·20	9·41	8·37
Malvern	358	350	353	372	9·10	8·45	8·31	8·55
Northcote	309	333	366	353	9·38	9·57	9·91	9·15
Oakleigh	87	72	*	*	12·72	9·94	*	*
Port Melbourne ..	158	142	135	157	12·02	10·80	10·27	11·92
Prahran	620	617	550	617	12·17	12·06	10·67	11·89
Preston	137	139	172	175	11·75	9·74	9·97	8·43
Richmond	561	471	464	478	12·90	10·80	10·63	10·97
Sandringham	111	122	131	117	7·93	7·87	7·59	6·16
South Melbourne ..	585	542	483	502	12·45	11·51	10·25	10·64
St. Kilda	446	414	407	470	11·09	10·15	9·89	11·35
Williamstown	240	236	208	240	11·84	10·97	9·15	10·33
Remainder of Metropolis ..	408	432	480	436	10·45	10·44	9·28	9·62
Whole Metropolis ..	9,414	9,118	8,724	9,155	11·28	10·49	9·71	9·86

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis." † Not available.

The outstanding features of the above figures are the high death rates prevailing in some of the old centres of population, of which Melbourne City, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Port Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond, and South Melbourne, are examples, and the low rates in comparatively recently settled areas, such as Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, and Sandringham. The deaths for 1926 were 11·61 per 1,000 in the former as against 8·15 in the latter group. Slight differences in the age distribution of the populations of these two divisions may exist, but they can account for only a small portion of the great disparity in their mortality rates. It would appear that the standard of health, as indicated by death rates, is much better in the outlying and less densely populated suburbs than in the central and more congested areas of the metropolis.

**Metropolitan
and country
death rates
compared.**

The ages of the people, as disclosed at the census of 1921, enable a comparison to be made between the death rates prevailing in Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State. On the average of the years 1923-25, the deaths of metropolitan residents were in the ratio of 10·47 per 1,000 of population, as against a ratio of 9·62 for residents of the rest of the State. The apparent difference in favour of the country is ·85, but a computation shows that, when allowances are made for the unequal age and sex distribution of the people in these areas, the actual difference is greater—the deaths per 1,000 of population being fewer by 1·34 among country than among metropolitan residents.

**Decrease in
Metropolitan
death rate.**

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1917-26, there were 11·33 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 35,730 lives in the last ten years. Many factors have contributed to this result, but it is probable that the introduction of the sewerage system, the notification of contagious diseases, the improvement in the conditions of labour, the increasing supervision of the manufacture and sale of articles of consumption, the greater proportion of females in the community, and the advance of medical science, have been the main causes of the decline. That the sanitary conditions of the metropolis have greatly improved is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1917-26 with those for the decennium 1892-1901. The following are the rates :—

Cause of Death.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1917-26.	Decrease in 1917-26.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1·654	0·721	0·933
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	0·446	0·154	0·292
Typhoid Fever ...	0·293	0·017	0·276
Scarlet Fever ...	0·033	0·020	0·013
Measles ...	0·215	0·034	0·181
Diphtheria ...	0·196	0·098	0·098
Total ...	2·837	1·044	1·793

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 63 per cent. in 1917-26—the decline representing a rate of 1·79 per 1,000 of the population. It is impossible to state which municipalities have contributed most to this result, as their mortality rates from the diseases referred to are not available for the earlier period. A comparison, however, of the general death rates in each, for the periods under review, shows that all divisions of the metropolis have, in varying degrees, shared in the improvement. The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4·43 per 1,000 of the population during the period mentioned.

The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 to 1926, the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the population in the twelve principal country towns:—

DEATH RATES IN THE TWELVE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923 TO 1926.

Town.	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Ballarat and Suburbs	552	451	470	489	13·81	11·11	11·47	11·77
Bendigo and Suburbs	474	470	410	434	14·15	13·97	12·17	12·94
Geelong and Suburbs	394	394	410	361	10·62	10·44	10·48	8·83
Carrum ..	71	52	41	61	11·83	8·39	6·31	9·04
Castlemaine and Suburbs	69	78	68	79	9·62	10·96	9·48	11·02
Hamilton ..	73	66	58	64	14·29	12·89	11·15	12·17
Maryborough ..	*	61	58	60	*	12·63	11·98	12·35
Mildura ..	70	69	67	63	12·61	12·11	11·45	10·50
Mordialloc ..	68	56	69	87	9·86	7·80	9·56	11·21
Stawell ..	61	52	46	43	13·26	11·18	9·87	9·21
Warrnambool ..	96	70	76	75	12·08	8·75	9·48	9·32
Wonthaggi ..	58	61	41	41	10·36	10·17	6·31	6·03

* Not available.

An examination of the particulars of residence of persons who have died in the public hospitals of Victoria during recent years reveals definite and interesting information regarding the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in different divisions of the State. For the metropolitan municipalities, the twelve principal country towns, and the

Residents of
different
areas dying
in hospitals.

remainder of the State, the percentages of the total deaths of residents thereof which occurred in public hospitals during the year 1926 were as follows :—

PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN
AREAS OCCURRING IN HOSPITALS, 1926.

Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1926.	Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1926.
Melbourne	41·5	St. Kilda	22·1
Box Hill	17·5	Williamstown	21·9
Brighton	18·8	Remainder of Metropolis	26·4
Brunswick	32·1	Ballarat	24·3
Camberwell	18·2	Bendigo	26·4
Caulfield	19·9	Geelong	28·0
Coburg	32·2	Carrum	36·7
Collingwood	39·3	Castlemaine	41·0
Essendon	27·7	Hamilton	20·6
Fitzroy	42·0	Maryborough	39·0
Footscray	36·2	Mildura	46·8
Hawthorn	19·2	Mordialloc	23·3
Kew	14·4	Stawell	35·7
Malvern	17·3	Warrnambool	32·4
Northcote	29·7	Wonthaggi	47·5
Port Melbourne	45·4		
Prahran	30·2	Summary—	
Preston	33·9	Greater Melbourne	29·3
Richmond	38·6	Twelve Country Towns	28·3
Sandringham	19·8	Remainder of State	22·4
South Melbourne	33·3	Whole State	27·0

Of the total deaths in the State 27·0 per cent. occurred in public hospitals in 1926, as against 25·9 per cent. in 1925, 24·4 per cent. in 1924, and 20·9 per cent. in 1910-15. The disparities in the proportions for different areas are very significant. Of the total cases of fatal illness which occurred amongst residents of the metropolitan districts mentioned in 1926, the percentage treated in public hospitals varied from 45·4 for Port Melbourne, 42·0 for Fitzroy, 41·5 for Melbourne City, 39·3 for Collingwood, and 38·6 for Richmond, to 18·8 for Brighton, 18·2 for Camberwell, 17·5 for Box Hill, 17·3 for Malvern, and 14·4 for Kew. For the whole metropolitan area the percentage was 29·3 as compared with 24·0 for the rest of the State. Taking the proportions for fatal cases as an index of all cases dealt with, it would appear that, relatively to population, the assistance rendered by public hospitals to the residents of Greater Melbourne exceeds by about 22 per cent. that given to people residing elsewhere.

Residents of Greater Melbourne who died in public hospitals in Victoria during 1926 numbered 2,685.

Deaths in
public
institutions
in Greater
Melbourne.

In 1926 the deaths in public institutions were 35·0 per cent. of the total in the State. The number of deaths in each public institution in the metropolis in 1926 is given in the subjoined table :—

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1926.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
Hospitals—		Asylums—	
Melbourne	942	Mental—	
Alfred	507	Kew	93
Children's	482	Mont Park	89
St. Vincent's	218	Receiving House, Royal Park	44
Austin	199	Macleod Military	3
Women's	171		
Homeopathic	128	Total Mental	229
Infectious Diseases	91		
Caulfield Repatriation	87	Benevolent—	
Queen Victoria	58	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	201
Williamstown	29	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	91
Caulfield Convalescent	19	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	46
Eye and Ear	13	Old Colonists' Homes	3
Police .. ..	..	
Total Hospitals	2,944	Total Benevolent	341
		Foundling Homes, Refuges—	
Sanatoria —		Broadmeadows	21
Heatherton	74	East Melbourne	1
Janefield	27	The Haven, Fitzroy	8
Macleod Military	6	Carlton	1
Greenvale	3	Children's Welfare Depot .. ..	..
		Total Others	31
Total Sanatoria	110	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	3,655

Infantile
mortality

The mortality of children under one year in proportion to births has been considerably less in recent than in earlier periods, but the necessity for reducing the risks to infant health and life, particularly amongst illegitimate children, is still apparent. The deaths of infants in 1926 numbered 1,967, and, as there were 35,362 births, it follows that of every 10,000 infants born approximately 556 died within twelve months. The rates for

Melbourne and suburbs, the extra metropolitan area, and the whole State, for different periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN VICTORIA, 1880 TO 1926.

Period.	Melbourne and Suburbs.		Rest of State.		Victoria.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.
1880-84..	1,649	17·01	1,626	9·23	3,275	12·00
1885-89..	2,576	17·85	1,812	9·79	4,388	13·33
1890-94..	2,311	14·04	1,926	9·49	4,237	11·47
1895-99..	1,650	13·15	1,913	10·00	3,563	11·25
1900-04..	1,417	11·65	1,565	8·62	2,982	9·82
1905-09..	1,209	9·65	1,307	7·15	2,516	8·12
1910-14..	1,345	8·42	1,201	6·49	2,546	7·38
1915-19..	1,302	7·62	886	5·54	2,188	6·61
1920-24..	1,328	7·16	1,024	5·86	2,352	6·53
1925 ..	1,079	6·02	967	5·37	2,046	5·70
1926 ..	1,104	6·16	863	4·95	1,967	5·56

In computing birth and death rates the system was introduced in 1923 of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infantile deaths the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. This accounts for the slight increase in the rate for the remainder of the State in the period 1920-24, and a corresponding decrease in the rate for the Metropolis.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 100 births in Greater Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and the rest of the State in the years 1923 to 1926 were as follows:—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF THE STATE, 1923 TO 1926.

Division.			Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.			
			1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Melbourne and Suburbs	..	..	7·34	6·77	6·02	6·16
Ballarat and Suburbs	..	..	8·54	6·58	7·49	5·51
Bendigo and Suburbs	..	..	10·57	10·25	6·19	5·10
Geelong and Suburbs	..	..	10·01	7·34	7·13	4·82
Rest of the State	..	..	5·29	5·15	5·15	4·93
Victoria	..	..	6·57	6·13	5·70	5·56

The prejudicial effect of city surroundings on infant life is evidenced by the mortality being heavier in urban than in country districts. During the years 1923 to 1926 the deaths of children under 1 year of age to every 1,000 births were 66 in Melbourne, 70 in Ballarat, 80 in Bendigo, and 73 in Geelong, as against 51 in the rest of the State.

The following table shows for each metropolitan municipality the deaths of infants under 1 year, and the number of such deaths per 100 births in the years 1923 to 1926 :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

Municipality.	Number of Deaths under One year.				Deaths under One year per 100 Births.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Melbourne ..	237	168	136	139	11·79	9·12	7·70	7·76
Box Hill ..	†	†	†	14	†	†	†	5·22
Brighton ..	22	21	20	17	4·56	4·38	3·82	3·93
Brunswick ..	85	79	72	74	7·52	6·55	6·47	6·21
Camberwell ..	25	37	32	41	3·96	4·96	3·84	4·75
Caulfield ..	56	63	35	56	5·33	5·87	3·31	5·07
Coburg ..	42	38	49	51	7·59	5·59	6·67	6·68
Collingwood ..	64	58	54	62	9·32	9·37	7·65	9·37
Essendon ..	59	52	53	46	7·08	5·94	6·36	5·71
Fitzroy ..	84	59	55	36	10·43	8·20	8·32	5·81
Footscray ..	68	74	75	51	6·65	7·71	7·56	5·24
Hawthorn ..	32	30	19	23	5·69	5·37	3·56	4·56
Kew ..	13	18	19	21	3·44	4·65	5·23	5·63
Malvern ..	31	27	28	23	4·96	3·91	4·22	3·87
Northcote ..	49	54	54	61	5·95	5·81	5·95	6·59
Oakleigh ..	10	8	*	*	4·26	3·54	*	*
Port Melbourne ..	25	26	24	26	8·20	8·93	8·70	9·19
Prahran ..	68	66	49	51	7·13	7·52	5·52	6·04
Preston ..	24	31	37	25	6·32	6·19	6·53	4·00
Richmond ..	73	66	65	56	8·13	6·98	7·30	6·50
Sandringham ..	16	16	14	16	7·24	5·97	5·09	5·21
South Melbourne ..	95	88	59	76	9·99	9·25	7·59	8·95
St. Kilda ..	31	34	28	39	4·78	5·02	4·37	5·86
Williamstown ..	32	38	32	34	6·41	7·76	6·10	7·17
Remainder of Metropolitan ..	51	69	70	66	5·50	6·47	5·06	5·76
Whole Metropolis	1,292	1,230	1,079	1,104	7·34	6·77	6·02	6·16

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis."

† Not available.

It is noticeable that the centres having the lowest infantile death rates are residential areas which are not so thickly populated as nearly all of the other metropolitan districts.

**Infantile
Mortality at
different
ages.**

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses a constant decrease in the infantile death rate, shared proportionately by each sex, since the earlier periods. Further analysis shows that the decrease was shared by all age periods except the period "under one week." Comparing the quinquennial periods 1910-14 and 1920-24 the mortality rate of infants whose age was over one week shows a decrease of 20·5 per cent., while that of infants under one week increased by 10·2 per cent.

In 1925 and 1926 the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 24·6 per cent. and 23·6 per cent. respectively.

The tables which follow show the percentage of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and male and female death rates at each age period for the year 1926 :—

**INFANTILE MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES,
1900 TO 1926.**

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.						
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week to 1 Month.	1 to 3 Months.	3 to 6 Months.	6 to 12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.	
1900-04 ..	34·4		16·9	21·0	25·9	98·2	105·7
1905-09 ..	33·0		13·8	15·1	19·3	81·2	89·3
1910-14 ..	21·5	11·1	12·1	12·4	16·7	73·8	81·8
1915-19 ..	23·3	10·1	10·5	9·4	12·8	66·1	73·0
1920-24 ..	23·7	9·3	9·8	10·0	12·5	65·3	71·8
1925 ..	23·1	7·8	7·9	7·1	11·1	57·0	62·9
1926 ..	22·6	7·1	7·1	7·5	11·3	55·6	61·3

**INFANTILE MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES,
MALES AND FEMALES, 1926.**

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.
Under 1 week ..	450	24·7	40·3	349	20·3	41·0
1 week to 1 month ..	149	8·2	13·4	104	6·1	12·2
1 to 3 months ..	142	7·8	12·7	111	6·5	13·1
3 to 6 months ..	155	8·5	13·9	109	6·3	12·8
6 to 12 months ..	220	12·1	19·7	178	10·4	20·9
Total ..	1,116	61·3	100·0	851	49·6	100·0

Probable
mortality of
infants.

The experience of the years 1921-26 shows that, of every 20,000 newly-born boys and girls in equal numbers, 690 boys and 561 girls died within twelve months, and 9,310 of the former and 9,439 of the latter, or 18,749 of mixed sexes, were living at the end of the year. The corresponding numbers surviving the first year in earlier periods were 17,765 in the ten years 1891-1900 and 17,463 in 1831-90. It is thus seen that, of every 20,000 births comprising equal numbers of each sex, there were 984 more survivors in 1921-26 than in 1891-1900, and 1,281 more than in 1881-90.

Infantile
death rates
from certain
causes.

An investigation of infantile mortalities would be incomplete if the diseases which have proved fatal in different periods of years were not ascertained, and their incidence in each period compared. Information of this nature reveals the causes of high death rates, and, when a fairly early period is selected for comparison with recent years, it shows in what direction improvements have taken place. The chief preventable and non-preventable causes of death, grouped under certain headings, are shown in the subjoined table for the periods 1891-93, 1901-10, 1911-20, and for the years 1925 and 1926:—

INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1891-93,
1901-10, 1911-20, 1925 AND 1926.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—				
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1925.	1926.
Whooping Cough	2.60	2.52	1.82	.81	2.35
Convulsions	6.83	3.10	1.63	.70	.79
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	11.37	8.13	6.86	4.90	5.40
Diarrhoeal Diseases, all forms ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	11.05	9.25
Congenital Malformations, &c.	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.62	4.55
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, &c.)	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.65	6.14
Prematurity	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.06	14.93
Violence	3.16	2.47	1.07	.67	.71
Injury at birth				3.45	2.83
Other diseases peculiar to early Infancy	24.49	14.46	9.40	3.57	2.51
All other causes				5.48	6.16
Total, all causes	116.93	87.89	69.55	56.96	55.62

INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT DIFFERENT AGES, FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1926.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.							
	Age Period.							
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	·20	·53	1·45	1·24	1·98	5·40	5·71	5·07
Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms	·37	1·27	2·66	4·95	9·25	10·55	7·87	
Congenital Malformations, &c.	2·06	·93	·62	·60	·34	4·55	5·11	3·96
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, &c.)	2·66	1·13	1·16	·74	·45	6·14	6·98	5·25
Prematurity	11·85	2·35	·62	·11	..	14·93	15·88	13·93
Early Infancy, Injury at Birth	4·75	·51	·08	..	..	5·34	6·15	4·49
All other causes	1·07	1·33	1·95	2·12	3·54	*10·01	10·93	9·03
Total, all causes	22·59	7·15	7·15	7·47	11·26	5·62	61·31	49·60

* 4·47 were deaths from Epidemic and Infectious diseases.

Of every 1,000 infants born 19 died from diarrhœal and wasting diseases during 1921-26 as against 29 in 1911-20, 37 in 1901-10, and 52 in 1891-93—a decrease of 63 per cent. since the last mentioned period. In 1921-26, acute bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia were responsible for 5·8 deaths per 1,000 births, as compared with 11·4 in 1891-93—a decline of 49 per cent. between the two periods. Of every 100 children who died in the last six years, 33 deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformations, which may be regarded as of a non-preventable nature, while 19 died from diarrhœal diseases. The mortality from the latter diseases was highest during the months December to April. Of every 1,000 children born during the years referred to 12 died from diarrhœal complaints within a year, a proportion which shows the necessity for further preventive measures in relation to these diseases.

An examination of the male and female mortalities from infantile diseases discloses the fact that the male rate was consistently higher than the female rate, except in the cases of whooping cough and convulsions.

The table which follows shows the number of deaths and the death rate of infants under one month for Melbourne and suburbs and the whole State for the years 1922 to 1926, also the principal causes of death.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1922 TO 1926.

Cause of Death.	Melbourne and Suburbs.					Victoria.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Convulsions	31	6	10	7	9	54	27	27	20	16
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	13	33	29	14	15	19	55	47	20	26
Diarrhoeal Diseases, all forms	11	11	3	9	7	22	26	14	19	13
Congenital Malformations, &c.	45	50	58	60	56	72	98	110	110	106
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus, Atrophy, &c.)	81	87	80	65	50	188	166	137	146	134
Prematurity	277	326	322	263	270	485	594	568	502	502
Violence	9	9	2	3	6	12	16	4	4	8
Injury at Birth	87	90	106	80	57	163	187	207	124	100
Early Infancy (162)	56	56	55	56	55	56	56	56	56	56
All other causes	32	24	22	19	39	50	42	45	42	61
Total all Causes	586	636	632	576	564	1,065	1,211	1,159	1,110	1,052
Deaths per 100 Births	3.10	3.61	3.48	3.22	3.15	2.93	3.38	3.21	3.09	2.97

On the average of the last ten years, 147 in every 1,000 illegitimate infants died within a year, as against 58 in every 1,000 legitimate children. It is thus seen that the proportion of illegitimate children dying before the age of 1 year is 2.5 times that of legitimate children. In the year 1926 the mortality rate of legitimate infants was 5.30 per 100 births. The children born out of wedlock during the same year numbered 1,603, and the deaths of illegitimate infants were 177, the death rate being thus 11.04 per 100 births. With the view of ascertaining the chief reasons for the marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes the following table has been constructed, showing the deaths from certain causes, per 1,000 legitimate and illegitimate births, for the periods 1904-08 and 1914-18 and the year 1926 :—

DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.					
	Legitimate.			Illegitimate.		
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1926.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1926.
Diarrhoeal Diseases	19.8	14.2	8.6	72.6	48.6	23.1
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.	30.3	27.2	24.8	52.1	64.9	43.0
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	6.9	6.1	4.9	18.6	12.5	16.2
Other causes	18.3	15.3	14.7	58.7	36.6	28.1
Total, all causes	75.3	62.8	53.0	202.0	162.6	110.4

The rates for 1926 show that of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock 23·1 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 8·6 deaths per 1,000 legitimate infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected among them than among legitimate infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of illegitimate infants.

Infantile
deaths in
each month
from certain
causes.

The influence of temperature on infantile mortality from the chief digestive and respiratory diseases is specially noticeable, whilst on deaths from other causes, particularly those of a developmental character, very little influence is apparent. The infantile deaths in Melbourne and suburbs from the two former classes of complaint in each month during the last five years are shown in the appended table :—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN EACH MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1922-26.

Month.	Infantile Deaths in Greater Melbourne in 1922-26 from—					
	Diarrhoeal Diseases.			Respiratory Diseases.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	144	107	251	17	16	33
February	119	92	211	23	12	35
March	87	83	170	15	14	29
April	82	59	141	20	19	39
May	50	43	93	22	21	43
June	23	17	40	32	25	57
July	11	7	18	55	47	102
August	5	5	10	50	40	90
September	6	8	14	37	36	73
October	15	14	29	20	14	34
November	18	8	26	24	14	38
December	37	33	70	20	17	37
Total, 1922-26 ..	597	476	1,073	335	275	610

The experience of the last five years shows that of the total infantile deaths in the metropolis from diarrhoeal diseases 87 per cent. occur during the six months December to May, and of the deaths from respiratory diseases 53 per cent. occur in the four months June to September.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age in the Commonwealth numbered 7,188 in 1926, as compared with 7,250 in 1925, 7,701 in 1924, 8,186 in 1923, 7,251 in 1922, 8,952 in 1921, 9,431 in 1920, 8,464 in 1919, 7,364 in 1918, and 7,302 in 1917. The next table gives the proportion of such deaths to the total births in each State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand for periods back to 1910 :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Period.	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.							
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	7·38	7·27	6·55	6·78	7·49	7·68	7·17	5·72
1915-19	6·61	6·44	6·33	6·18	6·19	6·53	6·43	4·86
1920-24	6·53	6·10	5·46	5·84	6·11	6·24	6·10	4·49
1925 ..	5·70	5·50	4·52	4·61	5·66	5·52	5·34	4·00
1926 ..	5·56	5·76	5·06	4·43	4·93	4·67	5·40	3·98

The infantile deaths per 100 births in the Australasian capitals in 1926 were as follows :—Melbourne 6·16, Sydney 6·12, Brisbane 5·26, Adelaide 5·17, Perth 5·89, Hobart 6·27, and Wellington 4·50.

In 1926 the deaths of male children under 5 years of age numbered 1,440, and the deaths of female children under that age, 1,087—the former being in the proportion of 16·43 per cent., and the latter of 14·36 per cent., to the total number

Deaths of children under 5.

of deaths of the respective sexes at all ages. The subjoined table gives the annual number of such deaths in the State at each year of age, and the proportion of the deaths under five years of age to the deaths at all ages in decennial periods from 1871 to 1920, and in the years 1921 to 1926 :—

MORTALITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS.

Period.	Year of Age at Death.					Total under 5 Years.	
	0.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Number.	Proportion Per 100 Deaths at all Ages.
<i>Males</i>							
1871-80 ..	1,783	508	206	148	119	2,764	39·41
1881-90 ..	2,158	464	161	114	92	2,989	34·28
1891-1900 ..	2,050	432	143	93	76	2,794	30·05
1901-10 ..	1,504	249	83	59	41	1,936	22·93
1911-20 ..	1,363	233	92	64	48	1,800	20·38
1921 ..	1,479	213	86	50	45	1,873	21·62
1922 ..	1,130	170	65	47	34	1,446	17·66
1923 ..	1,311	213	86	43	43	1,696	18·57
1924 ..	1,199	201	94	49	58	1,601	18·06
1925 ..	1,170	186	64	44	39	1,503	17·51
1926 ..	1,116	166	72	50	36	1,440	16·43
<i>Females</i>							
1871-80 ..	1,482	482	198	139	106	2,407	46·06
1881-90 ..	1,805	423	151	105	84	2,568	39·61
1891-1900 ..	1,702	385	129	82	68	2,366	33·61
1901-10 ..	1,192	217	81	51	40	1,581	23·58
1911-20 ..	1,029	190	74	59	49	1,401	19·00
1921 ..	1,107	183	73	36	57	1,456	19·41
1922 ..	805	123	61	34	27	1,050	15·07
1923 ..	1,047	159	71	33	32	1,342	16·60
1924 ..	1,017	175	66	44	19	1,321	17·29
1925 ..	876	150	47	35	26	1,134	15·63
1926 ..	851	165	64	40	27	1,087	14·36

The number of persons of advanced ages was greater in the later than in the earlier years mentioned in the above table, and, as the mortality is very heavy at the older ages, this accounts to some extent for the gradual decrease in the proportion of deaths under the age of 5 years. After making allowance for this there is still a marked reduction in the mortality under 5 years of age in recent years as compared with that in periods prior to 1901.

Ages at
death.

The ages of males and females who died in 1926 and in the two preceding years are shown in the following table:—

AGES AT DEATH IN VICTORIA, 1924 TO 1926.

Ages.	1924.			1925.			1926.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 ..	1,199	1,017	2,216	1,170	876	2,046	1,116	851	1,967
1 to 2 ..	201	175	376	186	150	336	166	105	271
2 " 3 ..	94	66	160	64	47	111	72	64	136
3 " 4 ..	49	44	93	44	35	79	50	40	90
4 " 5 ..	58	19	77	39	26	65	36	27	63
5 " 10 ..	136	99	235	127	97	224	124	91	215
10 " 15 ..	103	73	176	103	96	202	114	88	202
15 " 20 ..	161	148	309	162	124	286	168	132	300
20 " 25 ..	214	206	420	193	161	359	196	200	396
25 " 30 ..	204	230	434	194	215	409	191	212	403
30 " 35 ..	213	263	476	229	227	456	225	260	485
35 " 40 ..	281	260	541	299	248	547	271	284	555
40 " 45 ..	311	245	556	285	277	562	315	284	599
45 " 50 ..	363	309	677	363	301	664	426	342	768
50 " 55 ..	544	417	961	520	395	915	485	385	870
55 " 60 ..	673	487	1,160	656	449	1,105	673	511	1,184
60 " 65 ..	933	613	1,546	889	601	1,490	830	626	1,456
65 " 70 ..	842	637	1,479	857	657	1,514	940	722	1,662
70 " 75 ..	695	554	1,249	710	589	1,299	776	663	1,439
75 " 80 ..	609	606	1,215	580	596	1,176	643	595	1,238
80 " 85 ..	500	575	1,075	469	568	1,037	483	558	1,041
85 " 90 ..	301	375	676	296	343	639	300	337	637
90 " 95 ..	137	165	302	103	137	243	127	137	264
95 " ..	13	14	27	14	14	28	10	22	32
96 " ..	9	16	25	11	7	18	9	10	19
97 " ..	5	7	12	3	9	12	7	5	12
98 " ..	6	10	16	2	5	7	2	10	12
99 " ..	2	4	6	1	2	3	3	3	6
100 " ..	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	5
101 " ..	1	1	2	1	1	2	..	1	1
102 " ..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
103 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
104 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
105 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
107 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
110 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*2	..	2
Total ..	8,863	7,640	16,503	8,582	7,254	15,836	8,765	7,570	16,335

* Age not verified.

Of the 43,674 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 6,174 were aged 80 years and upwards, and 25—eleven males and fourteen females—had attained or passed the age of 100 years.

The highest age at death recorded in the period 1924-26 was 110 years, which was attained by two men. It was found impossible, however, to verify these ages. To every 100 female deaths there were 116 male deaths in 1926, as against 118 in 1925, 116 in 1924, 113 in 1923, and 117 in 1922.

The death rates from the chief diseases are shown in the appended table for the period 1908-12 and for the last five years :—

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Typhoid Fever	98	20	34	20	11	17
Measles	33	1	48	4	26	8
Scarlet Fever	16	8	11	13	10	9
Whooping Cough	77	26	12	160	27	71
Diphtheria and Croup	122	88	58	69	42	41
Influenza	109	46	248	104	41	118
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (previously Infantile Paralysis) .. .. .	..	5	2	2	15	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	8	8	20	17	11
Phthisis	855	565	620	585	561	545
Other Tubercular Diseases	182	120	123	127	97	84
Syphilis	51	22	26	24	24	24
Cancer	833	997	1,013	999	978	1,014
Diabetes	107	110	98	133	107	109
Anæmia, Chlorosis, Leucæmia	81	85	118	97	104	98
Simple Meningitis	133	68	67	46	38	39
Locomotor Ataxia and other diseases of Spinal Cord	71	38	49	55	29	39
Congestion and Hæmorrhage of the Brain	449	433	471	467	451	434
Epilepsy	35	27	39	25	34	31
Convulsions	76	59	45	31	18	22
Heart Disease (including Endocarditis, Pericarditis, and Angina Pectoris)	1,441	1,245	1,423	1,364	1,384	1,255
Acute and Chronic Bronchitis	348	209	233	199	161	170
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	834	746	978	741	543	673

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES—*continued.*

Cause of Death.	Deaths per Million of the Population.					
	1908-1912.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Pleurisy	45	29	32	30	29	30
Congestion of Lungs and Pulmonary Apoplexy	63	59	45	59	52	52
Asthma and Pulmonary Emphysema	60	32	42	26	30	24
Diseases of the Stomach (Cancer excepted)	99	81	81	71	91	88
Enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, and Diarrhoeal Diseases	833	358	480	354	376	332
Appendicitis	81	67	70	75	67	74
Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction	113	107	95	90	105	104
Hydatids	22	13	10	10	11	6
Cirrhosis and other diseases of the Liver (Cancer excepted)	158	81	90	87	86	89
Biliary Calculi	27	20	14	25	23	19
Simple Peritonitis (non-puerperal)	35	29	34	25	27	21
Acute and Chronic Nephritis, Uræmia, Bright's Disease	576	514	501	482	493	535
Calculi of the Urinary System	7	4	6	9	5	7
Diseases of the Bladder and Prostate	94	55	68	69	86	75
Old Age	1,030	873	867	770	762	743
Suicide	102	81	78	72	107	93
Accidental Violence	531	393	414	485	504	522
Homicide	19	15	13	11	13	20

The above and other causes of death are fully dealt with in subsequent paragraphs.

The following table shows for each month of the year the proportion of deaths per 1,000 due to nine well-known diseases and to all causes. The figures are based on the experience of the period 1920-26, and, in order to make the results comparable, adjustments have been made to correct the inequality of the number of days in each month. The average annual mortality from each disease is shown at the foot of the table :—

The Seasonal Prevalence of Diseases.

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF DISEASES IN VICTORIA, 1920-26.

Month.	Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia and Broncho- pneumonia.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	Bright's Disease.	Total from all Causes.
January	133	77	56	19	77	41	58	194	66	81
February	188	77	59	19	69	39	47	179	73	78
March	137	60	109	34	75	46	55	154	70	77
April	113	30	122	52	77	69	74	126	76	83
May	130	42	138	125	91	94	94	76	84	85
June	51	46	133	199	84	126	119	38	85	90
July	40	85	98	167	88	138	125	25	101	95
August	37	122	85	136	93	140	115	23	102	92
September	21	118	65	102	93	98	96	23	87	84
October	33	145	56	60	92	81	84	28	85	82
November	31	113	32	54	82	76	73	41	84	77
December	86	85	47	33	79	52	60	93	87	76
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Average Annual Number of Deaths 1920-26 ..	42	110	148	160	960	334	1,179	726	819	16,292

An inspection of the above table shows that the mortality from all causes was greatest in the winter months, the highest point being reached in July. It was lowest in the warmer months of the year, except January.

Typhoid fever, diarrhoea, and enteritis are essentially hot weather diseases, while pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis, and influenza are much more prevalent in the colder months than in the warmer ones. The greatest number of deaths from diphtheria occur in the autumn, while whooping cough reaches its zenith in the months of early spring. Phthisis and Bright's disease do not exhibit variations in mortality according to season to as great an extent as the other diseases mentioned, but reach their maximum mortality during the cold weather.

Vaccinations. The proportion of successful vaccinations to every 100 births for periods since 1875 is given in the following table. A great reduction in the percentage of vaccinations to births is shown since the year 1919. This is due to a large number of persons having taken advantage of the "Conscience Clause" of the Health Act of 1919, which came into operation on 24th March, 1920.

SUCCESSFUL VACCINATIONS PER 100 BIRTHS.

Period.	Vaccinations per 100 Births.
1876-99 ..	72
1900-04 ..	64
1905-09 ..	67
1910-14 ..	65
1915-19 ..	56
1920-24 ..	8
1925 ..	5
1926 ..	4

In 1926 the vaccinations of children were equal to nearly 4 per cent. of the births, as compared with 5 per cent. in 1925, 8 per cent. in the period 1920-24, 56 per cent. in the period 1915-19, and 72 per cent. in the period 1876-99.

Typhoid fever. The reported cases of typhoid fever for the whole State declined from 288 per 100,000 of population in 1895-99 to 53 per 100,000 in 1914-18, and 17 per 100,000 in 1926, or by 94 per cent. in the intervening years. The death rate from the disease also decreased by 94 per cent. during the same period. The deaths per 100 cases in 1926 were 10.1 as compared with 12.1 in 1920-24. The reported cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever and their pro-

portions to the population, also the percentage of cases that ended fatally, are given in the next table for periods back to 1890 :—

TYPHOID FEVER IN VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1926.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 reported Cases.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
1890-94	2,932	253·9	381	33·0	13·0
1895-99	3,397	288·4	355	30·1	10·4
1900-04	2,152	178·1	213	17·6	9·9
1905-09	1,569	125·4	135	10·8	8·6
1910-14	1,374	101·0	107	7·8	7·8
1915-19	563	39·3	60	4·2	10·6
1920-24	408	25·9	49	3·1	12·1
1925	181	10·8	19	1·1	10·5
1926	286	16·9	29	1·7	10·1

The death rate from typhoid fever for Victoria is considerably lower than that for the Commonwealth.

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population, in Greater Melbourne, are given in the subjoined table for different periods during the last thirty-seven years :—

TYPHOID FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS, 1890 TO 1926.

Period	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.	
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.
1890-94	1,645	349·3	205	43·5
1895-99	1,510	327·6	156	33·8
1900-04	701	140·0	74	14·8
1905-09	466	86·7	49	9·1
1910-14	385	61·4	36	5·8
1915-19	128	18·0	19	2·7
1920-24	105	13·0	16	2·0
1925	38	4·2	5	0·6
1926	74	8·0	9	1·0

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population declined by 98 and 97 per cent. respectively in Greater Melbourne between 1895-99 and 1926. The introduction and extension of the sewerage system coincide closely with, and in a large measure account for this great improvement.

Prevalence of typhoid fever in different areas.

The number of cases of typhoid fever during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926, are given in the following table :—

PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Area.	Reported Cases of Typhoid Fever.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1910-19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne ..	80	103	96	38	74	4.1	0.4	0.8
Ballarat and Suburbs	22	20	8	9	16	13.4	2.2	3.8
Bendigo and Suburbs	38	16	9	3	2	18.2	0.9	0.6
Geelong and Suburbs	7	3	1	..	1	9.0	..	0.2
Rest of the State ..	154	326	190	131	193	8.9	2.0	3.0

The cases in proportion to population were fewer by 80 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 72 per cent. in Ballarat, 97 per cent. in Bendigo, 98 per cent. in Geelong, and 66 per cent. in the rest of the State in 1926 than in the period 1910-19.

The mortality from typhoid fever is higher at early adult and middle ages than at other periods of life, and higher among males than females. This is shown in the next table, which gives the death rates in age groups for each sex in the years 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22, being the years adjoining the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921 :—

DEATH RATES FROM TYPHOID FEVER, 1900-02, 1910-12, AND 1920-22.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-15	0.97	0.38	0.12	1.46	0.44	0.28
15-20	2.65	1.76	0.40	2.23	1.22	0.46
20-25	4.39	1.82	0.97	1.84	1.32	0.54
25-35	3.28	1.71	0.41	2.04	0.82	0.38
35-45	2.25	1.26	0.45	1.21	0.68	0.36
45-55	1.95	0.82	0.54	0.93	0.39	0.20
55-65	0.66	0.20	0.42	0.34	0.50	0.16
65 and over ..	..	0.10	0.10	0.23	0.19	0.09
All ages	1.95	1.00	0.37	1.49	0.69	0.32

The experience of the three census periods mentioned shows that the rate for males exceeds that for females by 33 per cent., and that the heaviest mortality occurs between the ages 15 and 35. It is notable that at each census period there were proportionately fewer deaths of boys than of girls under the age of 15.

Small-pox—Deaths from. Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1926 only 31 deaths occurred from this cause, and of that number only 8 took place in the last forty-two years of the period.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. In 1926 there were 14 deaths attributed to this cause, representing a rate of 8 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 26 in 1925, 4 in 1924, 48 in 1923, 6 in 1922, 4 in 1921, 146 in 1920, 17 in 1919, 5 in 1918, and 11 in 1917.

On the average of the five years 1919 to 1923, 53 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years of age and 75 per cent. were under 5 years. The incidence of mortality at various ages for each sex for the period 1919-23 was as follows:—

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Measles per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males	4.17	7.64	2.83	1.69	0.87	0.75	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.46
Females	2.34	7.87	2.35	1.50	0.52	0.57	0.23	0.03	0.06	0.40

Scarlet fever. In 1926 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 15, which corresponded to a rate of 9 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 10 in 1925, 13 in 1924, 11 in 1923, 8 in 1922, 12 in 1921, 24 in 1920, and 34 in 1890-92. During 1926 there were 1,151 cases reported, as against 1,345 in 1925, 2,356 in 1924, 1,730 in 1923, and 1,972 in 1922. For the five years mentioned the deaths were equal to one per cent. of the cases. According to the experience of the last ten years the chance of dying from the disease is 62 per cent. greater for females than for males.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 121 deaths in 1926, which equalled a rate of 71 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 27 in 1925, 160 in 1924, 12 in 1923, 26 in 1922, 63 in 1921, 125 in 1920, 24 in 1919, 47 in 1918, and 51 in 1917. The infantile death rate

is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 83 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all of the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age. On the average of the last ten years the mortality rate from the disease was 25 per cent. higher among females than males.

Diphtheria. The prevalence of diphtheria throughout the State during the last sixteen years was an unsatisfactory feature of the statistics of sickness relating to that period. For the year 1926 the number of cases was 2,471, as against 2,631 in 1925, a yearly average of 5,739 in 1920-24, 4,901 in 1915-19, 4,612 in 1910-14, 1,410 in 1905-09, 1,680 in 1900-04, and 1,584 in 1895-99. On the other hand, a very great reduction took place from period to period in the proportion of cases which ended fatally. The case mortality rate was 2·8 per cent. in 1926, as compared with 4·3 per cent. in 1915-19, 6·3 per cent. in 1905-09, 9·5 per cent. in 1900-04, and 13·9 per cent. in 1895-99.

The appended table shows for the whole State and the metropolis the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, and their proportions to the population, also the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894 :—

**DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE,
1895 TO 1926.**

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
VICTORIA.					
1895-99	1,584	134·6	221	18·8	13·9
1900-04	1,680	139·0	159	13·2	9·5
1905-09	1,410	112·6	89	7·1	6·3
1910-14	4,612	339·1	212	15·6	4·6
1915-19	4,901	342·5	209	14·6	4·3
1920-24	5,739	364·6	179	11·4	3·1
1925	2,631	157·4	71	4·2	2·7
1926	2,471	145·6	70	4·1	2·8
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-04	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-09	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920-24	2,555	314·6	78	9·7	3·1
1925	1,567	174·3	41	4·6	2·6
1926	1,461	157·4	37	4·0	2·5

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in five divisions of the State in each of the last five years and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926, are given in the subjoined table :—

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1910-19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne ..	2,213	1,900	2,239	1,567	1,461	39·3	17·4	15·7
Ballarat and Suburbs	111	90	54	36	43	24·3	8·8	10·3
Bendigo and Suburbs	215	91	108	85	35	84·6	25·2	10·4
Geelong and Suburbs	200	98	127	133	167	43·4	34·0	40·9
Rest of the State ..	2,584	1,288	1,459	810	765	25·7	12·3	11·7

In 1926, the cases in each division of the State, except Ballarat and suburbs and Geelong and suburbs, were fewer than in the preceding year.

Of the 488 males and 506 females who died from diphtheria during the five years 1919-23, 521, or 53 per cent., were under 5 years, and 850, or 86 per cent., were under 10 years of age. The incidence of mortality for each sex at different ages, for the period mentioned, was as follows :—

DEATH RATES FROM DIPHTHERIA AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1919-23.

Sex.	Annual Deaths from Diphtheria per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.
Males..	5·08	9·09	9·28	7·67	6·23	3·67	0·83	0·33	0·07	1·29
Females	3·86	6·65	6·09	6·56	7·10	4·91	0·96	0·62	0·13	1·30

The deaths from influenza in 1926 numbered 200, which corresponded to a rate of 118 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 41 in 1925, 104 in 1924, 248 in 1923, 46 in 1922, 88 in 1921, 52 in 1920, 2,407 in 1919, 148 in 1918, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

In 1926, 61·5 per cent. of the deaths recorded were associated with specified pneumonic complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages.

The next table gives the death rate per 10,000 of each sex in age groups for the last five census periods:—

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA IN VICTORIA PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.				1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	·34	2·50	1·10	·40	·23
15-20	...	...	...	·07	·64	·34	·24	·30
20-25	...	...	...	...	1·20	·59	·21	·38
25-35	...	...	...	·07	1·50	·79	·17	·27
35-45	...	...	...	...	3·04	1·31	·59	·56
45-55	...	...	...	·24	5·12	3·20	·73	·92
55-65	...	...	...	·24	12·65	5·25	2·38	1·44
65 and upwards	...	...	...	2·36	27·13	17·02	12·27	4·18
All ages	...	...	...	·25	3·94	2·30	1·10	·65
<i>Females.</i>								
0-15	...	...	...	·34	1·86	1·15	·42	·25
15-20	...	...	...	...	·92	·83	·34	·26
20-25	...	...	...	...	1·28	·69	·35	·35
25-35	...	...	...	·07	2·35	·89	·22	·45
35-45	...	...	...	·08	4·11	1·86	·30	·46
45-55	...	...	...	...	5·39	2·02	·68	·68
55-65	...	...	...	·62	11·46	5·53	1·61	·91
65 and upwards	...	...	...	3·18	35·22	16·02	12·90	3·86
All ages	...	...	...	·24	3·72	2·13	1·10	·60

Influenza epidemic, 1919.

Information in regard to the epidemic of 1919 is given in the *Year-Book* for 1918-19, pages 214-216; and in the 1919-20 issue, pages 180-182.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

Opinions have been expressed by members of the medical profession that the name "infantile paralysis" as applied to "acute anterior poliomyelitis" is misleading, for adults are attacked and paralysis is not a constant symptom, consequently, deaths occurring from this disease are now indicated by the medical nomenclature.

Mortality returns show that acute anterior poliomyelitis was responsible for 8 deaths in 1926, 25 in 1925, 4 in 1924, 4 in 1923, and 8 in 1922. Of the above 49 deaths, 28 were of males and 21 were of females; 2 were under 1 year of age, 19 were between 1 and 5 years, 10 were between 5 and 10 years, and 18 were over 10 years.

Cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis. Cerebro-spinal meningitis was responsible for 19 deaths in 1926, 28 in 1925, 33 in 1924, 13 in 1923, 12 in 1922, 17 in 1921, 15 in 1920, 14 in 1919, 37 in 1918, 75 in 1917, 326 in 1916, and 338 in 1915. The cases reported to the Public Health Department in those years numbered 1,782, and the proportion of these that ended fatally was 52 per cent. The numbers of deaths from

cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis during the last thirteen years were as follows:—

DEATHS FROM DIFFERENT FORMS OF MENINGITIS, 1914-26.

Year.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.		Tubercular Meningitis.		Simple Meningitis.		Total—All Forms of Meningitis.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1914 ..	12	5	42	30	90	63	144	98
1915 ..	239	99	35	35	74	46	348	180
1916 ..	191	135	29	40	56	39	276	214
1917 ..	48	27	56	41	37	35	141	103
1918 ..	28	9	55	40	39	35	122	84
1919 ..	7	7	38	24	33	29	78	60
1920 ..	12	3	49	34	46	35	107	72
1921 ..	8	9	42	44	62	37	112	90
1922 ..	9	3	30	28	67	40	106	71
1923 ..	7	6	32	34	64	43	103	83
1924 ..	19	14	47	32	47	29	113	75
1925 ..	16	12	38	39	39	25	93	76
1926 ..	14	5	36	29	42	25	92	59

Deaths from
phthisis at
various ages.

The ages and sexes of those who died from pulmonary tuberculosis in each of the last five years are given in the next table:—

DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	Year.					Year.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
0-10 ...	6	4	2	4	3	5	3	3	5	1
10-15 ...	2	...	...	1	2	4	11	6	9	1
15-20 ...	20	20	20	11	18	34	42	43	48	35
20-25 ...	44	54	53	46	33	69	64	69	66	74
25-30 ...	59	67	62	60	45	57	77	67	71	53
30-35 ...	53	61	60	56	53	71	51	59	50	66
35-40 ...	47	63	66	75	61	45	53	39	41	41
40-45 ...	55	84	60	55	63	41	35	28	26	42
45-50 ...	42	51	47	43	57	27	31	21	22	39
50-55 ...	49	42	57	62	38	17	13	29	25	23
55-60 ...	43	38	49	49	46	16	25	24	10	23
60-65 ...	35	44	35	37	41	6	16	15	13	11
65-70 ...	20	19	18	21	26	7	8	4	9	8
70 and over	6	11	17	13	16	7	10	7	9	5
Total ...	481	558	546	533	502	406	439	414	404	422

For the year 1926, the average age of those who died from phthisis was 43·7 years for males and 36·1 years for females.

The deaths from phthisis in 1926 numbered 924—502 being of males and 422 of females—and equalled a rate of 545 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 561 in 1925, 585 in 1924, 620 in 1923, 565 in 1922, 667 in 1921, 658 in 1920, 739 in 1919, 701 in 1918, 677 in 1917, 743 in 1916, 661 in 1915, 724 in 1914, 755 in 1913, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State in 1925, the deaths from this cause were 833, 763, 1,251 and 1,229 per million of their respective populations. The rates for Victoria are more fully shown in the following table, which gives the mortality per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, at six census periods:—

DEATH RATES IN VICTORIA FROM PHTHISIS IN AGE GROUPS AT SIX CENSUS PERIODS.

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Phthisis per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	1870-72.	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>						
0 to 15 ...	1·22	1·74	·90	·38	·46	·42
15 " 20 ...	5·71	6·88	5·41	5·06	3·71	2·67
20 " 25 ...	18·75	21·19	18·29	14·35	8·45	7·88
25 " 35 ...	22·21	30·33	23·70	20·31	13·11	9·70
35 " 45 ...	21·83	25·11	28·28	22·07	15·63	12·43
45 " 55 ...	22·24	28·65	31·17	25·05	18·07	13·94
55 " 65 ...	27·86	31·41	36·48	35·75	18·88	13·03
65 and upwards ...	19·56	18·08	25·40	31·07	13·55	8·65
All Ages ...	12·89	15·33	15·73	13·51	8·98	7·11
<i>Females.</i>						
0 to 15 ...	·98	1·76	1·43	·93	·97	·38
15 " 20 ...	12·37	12·50	9·51	8·18	7·62	4·84
20 " 25 ...	19·28	21·00	18·49	12·79	12·68	10·20
25 " 35 ...	22·02	26·56	21·77	18·15	14·03	10·00
35 " 45 ...	21·65	24·06	22·53	17·74	11·51	9·15
45 " 55 ...	19·60	20·72	16·13	14·41	8·18	5·91
55 " 65 ...	10·51	14·26	12·35	12·52	7·47	4·95
65 and upwards ...	12·61	13·12	8·25	8·18	5·29	3·94
All Ages ...	10·62	12·75	11·51	9·72	7·61	5·55

A comparison of the mortalities from pulmonary tuberculosis at the census periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1920-22 than in 1910-12, and that the improvement was greater among females than males. By

combining the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, as shown above, with those from other forms of tubercular disease, given in a subsequent page, it appears that every section of the community experienced relief from tubercular diseases in 1920-22 as compared with the previous census-period.

The distribution of tuberculous mortality shows that certain urban centres—particularly Bendigo and suburbs—furnish considerably higher death rates than the rural portions of the State. The tubercular death rate among miners is considerably in excess of that among farmers and graziers, and, as the residents of Bendigo and suburbs are largely engaged in mining occupations, while most persons living in rural districts are associated with the farming and grazing industries, the distribution of callings accounts in a large measure for the disparity in the mortality rates from this cause in the divisions of the State referred to. On the average of the last five years the tubercular death rate of Bendigo exceeded the rates of Ballarat and Melbourne by 73 and 68 per cent. respectively. The rates in these localities from phthisis and other tubercular diseases are given in the appended table for the periods 1891-1900, 1901-05, 1906-10, 1911-15, 1916-20, 1921-25, and 1926:—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, AND BENDIGO, 1891 TO 1926.

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.								
	Phthisis.			Other Tubercular Diseases.			All Tubercular Diseases.		
	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.
1891-1900 ..	16·7	17·1	24·1	4·7	3·5	4·0	21·4	20·6	28·1
1901-05 ..	13·9	15·3	22·7	4·2	4·0	4·7	18·1	19·3	27·4
1906-10 ..	10·8	11·5	21·2	3·0	2·1	2·0	13·8	13·6	23·2
1911-15 ..	9·1	10·3	16·5	2·1	2·2	2·1	11·2	12·5	18·6
1916-20 ..	8·3	11·2	16·0	1·9	1·5	2·0	10·2	12·7	18·0
1921-25 ..	6·9	6·7	11·9	1·5	1·0	2·2	8·4	7·7	14·1
1926 ..	5·9	6·7	10·1	·9	·5	·3	6·8	7·2	10·4

Prevalence
of phthisis in
different
areas.

Relatively to population cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are fewer in country districts than in urban areas. The cases reported during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the populations of these divisions for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926 are given in the subjoined table :—

PHTHISIS IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area.	Reported Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.		
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1910-19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne ..	783	750	716	688	625	13·9	7·7	6·7
Ballarat and Suburbs	31	27	20	34	35	12·8	8·3	8·4
Bendigo and Suburbs	52	47	48	52	53	18·0	15·4	15·8
Geelong and Suburbs	10	19	24	24	21	7·9	6·1	5·1
Rest of the State ..	282	245	252	266	269	5·8	4·0	4·1
Whole State ..	1,158	1,088	1,060	1,064	1,003	10·4	6·4	5·9

Tubercular
diseases
(phthisis
excepted).

In 1926 there were in Victoria 143 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis), which corresponded to a rate of 84 per million, as compared with rates of 97 in 1925, 127 in 1924, 123 in 1923, 120 in 1922, 137 in 1921, 145 in 1920, 126 in 1919, 144 in 1918, 163 in 1917, 136 in 1916, 135 in 1915, 140 in 1914, 156 in 1913, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1925, the deaths from similar causes numbered 205, 338, 422, and 337 per million of their respective populations. The death rates in Victoria for various age groups are shown in the following table for five census periods :—

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES (PHTHISIS EXCEPTED) IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.				
	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males</i>					
0-15 ...	7·98	10·36	5·64	2·75	2·00
15-20 ...	·81	1·17	1·12	1·12	·83
20-25 ...	1·23	·89	1·77	1·23	1·55
25-35 ...	·66	·84	1·91	1·71	1·61
35-45 ...	·88	·77	1·39	1·38	1·15
45-55 ...	·85	·67	1·64	·82	1·17
55-65 ...	1·07	·78	2·40	1·29	1·06
65 and over	2·36	·56	1·17	·59	1·07
All ages	3·55	4·02	2·99	1·70	1·48
<i>Females.</i>					
0-15 ...	7·28	8·43	5·33	2·12	1·57
15-20 ...	1·30	1·27	1·95	2·34	1·13
20-25 ...	·69	1·23	2·09	2·59	1·73
25-35 ...	·41	·88	1·98	1·81	1·18
35-45 ...	·70	·42	1·77	1·33	·78
45-55 ...	·67	·34	1·01	·93	1·01
55-65 ...	·62	·69	·71	1·11	·70
65 and over	1·19	·64	·71	·29	·86
All ages	3·39	3·58	2·91	1·76	1·21

As compared with the period 1910-12 the proportion of persons under 15 years of age who died from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis) during 1920-22 represented a decline of 27 per cent. for males and of 26 per cent. for females.

**Tubercular
diseases—
Deaths of
recent arrivals.**

The experience of recent years shows that the tubercular death rate in Victoria is but slightly affected by the arrival from beyond Australia of persons suffering from tubercular diseases. Only five of those who died in 1926 had been born outside and resident less than one year in Australia, and 27 had resided in the continent for a shorter period than five years.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
various ages.**

The numbers dying from cancer in different age groups in each of the last five years are given below :—

DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
0-15	6	3	5	6	7	2	3	1	6	6
15-25	7	3	9	9	3	3	7	5	2	4
25-35	12	12	9	14	12	14	12	15	16	21
35-45	31	38	44	42	25	75	73	67	87	93
45-55	105	110	127	108	117	173	193	159	151	162
55-65	278	252	263	253	266	224	236	228	238	235
65-75	219	238	245	249	276	164	210	204	203	226
75-85	103	83	106	95	124	97	109	103	119	104
85 and over ..	21	25	17	18	24	32	21	33	14	15
Total	782	764	825	799	854	784	864	815	836	866

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and phthisis, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1926 the average age of those who died from cancer was 64·0 years for males and 60·3 years for females, while the corresponding averages for phthisis were 43·7 years for males and 36·1 years for females.

Deaths from cancer in 1926 numbered 1,720, and represented a death rate of 1,014 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 978 in 1925, 999 in 1924, 1,013 in 1923, 997 in 1922, 954 in 1921, 908 in 1920, 870 in 1919, 942 in 1918, 925 in 1917, 921 in 1916, 812 in 1915, 830 in 1914, 838 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1925, the deaths per million of population from this cause were 1,336, 1,364, 1,153, and 939 respectively.

**Cancer —
Death Rates
at different
ages.**

Cancer death rates, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and later periods, are not fairly comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. A more accurate mortality rate is obtained by comparing the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for four census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table:—

DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of each Sex.			
	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·18	·30	·73	·46
5 to 10 ...	·10	·42	·25	·13
10 " 15 ...	·11	·20	·16	·14
15 " 20 ...	·17	·22	·15	·30
20 " 25 ...	·32	·33	·71	·64
25 " 35 ...	·81	1·26	·96	·76
35 " 45 ...	4·29	3·69	3·16	3·31
45 " 55 ...	14·83	14·14	16·03	13·94
55 " 65 ...	31·92	36·00	36·36	40·46
65 " 75 ...	52·75	59·04	74·15	78·21
75 and over	53·55	74·04	88·40	110·12
All ages	6·16	7·52	8·50	9·52
<i>Females.</i>				
Under 5 ...	·09	·26	·19	·39
5 to 10 ...	·10	·04	·10	·17
10 " 15 ...	·06	..	·27	·05
15 " 20 ...	·12	·28	·44	·15
20 " 25 ...	·22	·23	·41	·30
25 " 35 ...	1·68	1·61	1·39	1·28
35 " 45 ...	7·43	6·05	7·26	6·61
45 " 55 ...	18·00	18·13	17·87	19·14
55 " 65 ...	31·79	33·05	38·03	34·48
65 " 75 ...	53·96	51·18	61·66	33·05
75 and over	49·55	62·70	86·19	92·86
All ages	5·57	6·64	8·76	9·63

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age, and reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group. From the figures for the periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 it will be seen that there was in the later period a considerable increase in, the death rate from cancer.

Seat of
cancer.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1926 :—

SEAT OF CANCER.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer of the buccal cavity (mouth, &c.) ..	70	9	79
„ the stomach and liver ...	355	239	594
„ the peritoneum, the intestines, and the rectum ...	137	134	271
„ the female genital organs ...	...	158	158
„ the breast ...	...	162	162
„ the skin ...	41	24	65
„ other and unspecified organs ...	251	140	391
Total Deaths ...	854	866	1,720

Thirty-five per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the stomach or liver. Of the females who died from the disease 37 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or the breast.

During 1926 diabetes was responsible for 77 male and 103 female deaths, representing a rate of 109 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 107 in 1925, 133 in 1924, 98 in 1923, 110 in 1922, 136 in 1921, 126 in 1920, 134 in 1919, 146 in 1918, 120 in 1917, and 107 in 1908-12. The deaths from diabetes per 10,000 of each sex in nine age groups, for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22, are shown in the subjoined table :—

DEATHS FROM DIABETES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males			Females.		
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10 ...	·09	·10	·13	·05	·15	·22
10-20 ...	·24	·20	·31	·26	·36	·39
20-30 ...	·17	·64	·48	·36	·30	·53
30-40 ...	·32	·58	·45	·51	·53	·54
40-50 ...	·49	1·11	·95	·42	·78	1·11
50-60 ...	1·38	1·80	2·14	1·42	3·18	2·79
60-70 ...	2·67	5·63	5·19	3·19	8·47	8·02
70-80 ...	4·36	7·34	7·37	5·01	11·54	12·51
80 and over ...	4·11	7·43	8·42	3·54	6·83	6·02
All Ages ...	·56	1·00	1·03	·60	1·26	1·45

In 1920-22 the female exceeded the male rate for each age group between 40 and 80, the excess for the twenty years of life 60 to 80 amounting to 61 per cent. For all ages combined the rate for females was 41 per cent. higher than that for males.

Anæmia, chlorosis, leucæmia. Anæmia, chlorosis, and leucæmia were responsible for 167 deaths in 1926, which corresponded to a rate of 98 per million of the population, as against rates of 104 in 1925, 97 in 1924, 118 in 1923, 85 in 1922, 104 in 1921, 90 in 1920, 93 in 1919, 90 in 1918, 97 in 1917, and 81 in 1908-12. Of the 47 persons who died from leucæmia in 1926, 30 were males.

Diseases of the spine. In 1926 locomotor ataxia and other diseases of the spine, excluding acute anterior poliomyelitis, accounted for 36 male and 31 female deaths, representing a death rate of 39 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 29 in 1925, 55 in 1924, 49 in 1923, 38 in 1922, 52 in 1921, 45 in 1920, 78 in 1919, 88 in 1918, 58 in 1917, and 71 in 1908-12. Of the 12 persons who died from locomotor ataxia in 1926, 10 were males.

Heart disease. During 1926 there were 1,905 deaths ascribed to organic heart disease, 13 to pericarditis, 83 to endocarditis and myocarditis, and 129 to angina pectoris. The deaths of persons, over 45 years of age, from endocarditis and myocarditis, are now ascribed to organic heart disease. The total—2,130—from these causes represented a rate of 1,255 per million of the population, as compared with 1,384 in 1925, 1,364 in 1924, 1,423 in 1923, 1,245 in 1922, 1,267 in 1921, 1,287 in 1920, 1,402 in 1919, 1,400 in 1918, 1,442 in 1917, and 1,441 in 1908-12. Of the 2,130 persons who died from these diseases in 1926, only 40, or 1·9 per cent., were under 15 years of age. On the average of the three years 1920 to 1922 the deaths from all forms of heart disease per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, were as follows :—

DEATH RATES FROM HEART DISEASE AT VARIOUS AGES, 1920-22.

Sex.	Deaths per 10,000 Persons aged—									
	0-15.	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65-75.	75 and upwards.	All Ages.
Males ..	1·52	1·92	2·04	2·64	5·40	14·52	40·62	112·20	247·10	13·74
Females ..	1·15	1·85	1·53	3·25	5·26	10·73	29·53	85·65	208·17	11·70

The figures indicate that the mortality rate from heart disease is a function of age, and that it attains its maximum at the oldest age. Of the deaths of persons aged 75 and upwards, approximately 1 in 5 is due to some form of this disease.

In 1926 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,752, which represented a rate of 1,033 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 887 in 1925, 1,143 in 1924, 1,441 in 1923, 1,195 in 1922, 1,141 in 1921, 1,329 in 1920, 1,430 in 1919, 1,160 in 1918, and 1,094 in 1917. Of the deaths from complaints of this nature in the year under review, 49 were referred to acute bronchitis, 111 to chronic bronchitis, 128 to bronchitis unspecified, 522 to broncho-pneumonia, 620 to pneumonia, 51 to pleurisy, and 34 to asthma. These six diseases accounted for 86 per cent. of the total respiratory mortality. The seasonal incidence of these maladies is evidenced by the deaths in May, June, July, August, and September, which represented 55 per cent. of the total for the whole year. Respiratory diseases are much more fatal at the extremes of life than at middle ages, and among males than females. This is shown in the appended table, which gives for each sex the death rates relating to groups of ages at five census periods:—

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Age Group.					1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
<i>Males.</i>									
0-15	...	...	...	...	29.02	28.52	16.53	12.94	10.25
15-20	...	...	...	...	3.30	2.92	2.70	1.66	1.76
20-25	...	...	...	...	5.34	4.88	4.85	2.35	2.73
25-35	...	...	...	...	8.31	6.85	5.94	3.86	3.71
35-45	...	...	...	...	15.80	13.55	9.49	10.50	8.01
45-55	...	...	...	...	26.59	25.18	18.04	18.25	15.69
55-65	...	...	...	...	51.65	56.51	38.37	32.68	30.42
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	136.54	141.07	112.38	138.87	112.17
All ages	...	...	...	...	24.48	24.30	18.66	17.17	14.42
<i>Females.</i>									
0-15	...	...	...	...	24.18	24.13	13.85	10.50	8.54
15-20	...	...	...	...	2.02	3.52	2.34	1.56	2.32
20-25	...	...	...	...	4.23	3.05	3.34	2.48	1.72
25-35	...	...	...	...	5.72	5.65	3.75	3.55	3.25
35-45	...	...	...	...	12.53	11.55	7.68	5.85	4.90
45-55	...	...	...	...	13.63	17.01	11.80	8.28	6.71
55-65	...	...	...	...	29.15	32.10	27.42	16.64	13.50
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	116.12	112.38	86.78	99.81	86.51
All ages	...	...	...	...	17.08	17.62	13.28	11.81	10.15

The mortality from respiratory diseases at all ages combined was less in the period 1920-22 than in any of the four previous census periods. At each census date the male exceeded the female rate, the average excess for the five census periods being 42 per cent.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1926 there were 746 male and 574 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 778 per million of the population, as against rates of 823 in 1925, 778 in 1924, 914 in 1923, 796 in 1922, 1,095 in 1921, 1,147 in 1920, 978 in 1919, 1,030 in 1918, 884 in 1917, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Diarrhoeal diseases were responsible for 564 deaths, which were equivalent to a rate of 332 per million of population, the corresponding rates in previous periods being 376 in 1925, 354 in 1924, 480 in 1923, 358 in 1922, 657 in 1921, 639 in 1920, 501 in 1919, 504 in 1918, 408 in 1917, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-92. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. Of the 564 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in the year under review, 408, or 72 per cent., were of children under 2 years of age, and 85, or about 15 per cent., were of persons over 65 years of age. There were 61 male and 24 female deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, 45 male and 68 female deaths from other affections of that organ (including hydatids), and 97 male and 79 female deaths from hernia and intestinal obstruction.

Appendicitis. The deaths from appendicitis numbered 126 in 1926, which represented a death rate of 74 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 67 in 1925, 75 in 1924, 70 in 1923, 67 in 1922, 57 in 1921, 63 in 1920, 61 in 1919, 66 in 1918, and 62 in 1917. Hospital records show that during the year ended 30th June, 1926, there were 3,056 cases treated, and that 55, or 1·8 per cent., ended fatally, as compared with fatality rates of 1·9 per cent. in 1925, 3·3 per cent. in 1924, 2·1 per cent. in 1923, 2·6 per cent. in 1922, 2·2 per cent. in 1921, 2·7 per cent. in 1920, 3·3 per cent. in 1919, 3·0 per cent. in 1918, 2·5 per cent. in 1917, 4·1 per cent. in 1916, 5·3 per cent. in 1915, and 6 per cent. in the period 1908-12. According to the experience of the three years 1920 to 1922 the death rate from appendicitis is approximately 63 per cent. higher among males than females. The mortality rates at various ages for that period were as follows:—

DEATH RATES FROM APPENDICITIS, 1920-22.

Sex.	Deaths from Appendicitis per 10,000 of each Sex aged—									
	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 and over.	All Ages.
Males..	0·31	0·87	1·31	0·86	0·74	1·08	0·79	0·85	0·68	0·78
Females	0·30	0·66	0·51	0·59	0·53	0·56	0·40	0·32	0·69	0·48

Hydatids. The deaths attributed to hydatids in 1926 numbered 11, being equivalent to a rate of 6 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 11 in 1925, 10 in 1924 and 1923, 13 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 13 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 14 in 1917, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92. According to the experience of the last ten years the death rate from this disease is 43 per cent. higher among males than females. Hospital returns for the period 1917-26 show that 639 cases of hydatids were treated therein and that 89, or, approximately, 1 in every 7, ended fatally.

Diseases of urinary system. In 1926 there were 1,148 deaths attributed to diseases of the urinary system, which corresponded to a rate of 677 per million of the population, as against rates of 627 in 1925, 626 in 1924, 628 in 1923, 624 in 1922, 643 in 1921, 697 in 1920, 645 in 1919, 741 in 1918, 710 in 1917, and 700 in 1909-12. Acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 908 deaths, or 79 per cent., and complaints of the bladder and prostate for 127 deaths, or 11 per cent. of the total referred to maladies of the urinary system. The deaths per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22 are shown in the following table :—

DEATH RATES FROM DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM.

Age Group.	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	Males.			Females.		
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
0-10	·93	·67	·67	·59	·79	·67
10-20	·45	·73	·53	·82	·71	·52
20-30	1·83	1·72	1·23	1·59	1·61	1·72
30-40	3·55	3·03	2·66	4·21	3·76	2·89
40-50	8·12	9·03	6·23	7·26	7·07	5·27
50-60	17·43	18·95	14·59	11·36	13·81	10·57
60-70	39·62	46·63	38·30	21·49	24·44	22·04
70-80	80·68	96·18	97·19	27·70	38·53	40·26
80 and over ...	128·48	153·04	167·09	27·15	43·70	54·38
All Ages ...	8·05	9·18	8·04	4·28	5·34	5·13

The figures for the latest period show that there is scarcely any difference between the rates for males and females under 50 years of age. For older ages, however, the excess of the male over the female rate is very pronounced, especially at ages 70 and upwards. For all ages the rate for males exceeds that for females by 57 per cent.

The death rate of women in childbed varies considerably at different ages, and is less at younger than at older age periods. The number of deaths of married mothers in childbed, and the death rates in various age groups are shown for the decade 1906-15 and the year 1926 in the following table:—

DEATH RATES OF MARRIED MOTHERS IN CHILDBED IN AGE GROUPS, 1906-1915 AND 1926.

Age Group.	Married Mothers.			
	Deaths.		Deaths per 1,000 Confinements.	
	1906-15.	1926.	1906-15.	1926.
Under 20 years	23	4	2·71	3·39
20 to 25 „	184	24	2·85	3·48
25 „ 30 „	326	45	3·60	4·53
30 „ 35 „	334	48	4·59	5·78
35 „ 40 „	346	40	6·86	7·64
40 years and over	156	17	6·90	9·23

The experience of the ten years 1906-15 showed that for the age period 35 years and upwards the deaths of mothers in childbed were 69 per 10,000, as against 37 per 10,000 for those under 35 years of age. For the same term of years the number of deaths per 1,000 married women of all ages in first confinements was 5·57, as against an average of 4·04 for other confinements.

Deaths in
childbed.

The death rate of women in childbed is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of births. The proportions for each of the last six years, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871 are given below :—

DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE) TO EVERY
10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE.

Period.	Number of Mothers who Died Annually of—			Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children Born Alive.
	Puerperal Diseases or Accidents. (Excluding Sep- ticæmia.)	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Total.	
1871-80 ..	127	46	173	64·38
1881-90 ..	121	64	185	59·19
1891-1900 ..	117	66	183	56·01
1901-05 ..	126	58	184	60·92
1906-10 ..	101	46	147	47·17
1911-15 ..	96	58	154	43·55
1916-20 ..	91	49	140	41·99
1921 ..	105	58	163	45·80
1922 ..	91	31	122	33·62
1923 ..	79	29	108	30·11
1924 ..	120	56	176	48·70
1925 ..	117	39	156	43·43
1926 ..	130	64	194	54·86

It will be seen that the death rate of women in childbed fluctuates considerably, and, in 1926, reached a higher rate than had occurred in the last twenty years. Portion of this fluctuation may be ascribed to faulty certification of causes. However, doubtful certifications were noticeably few in 1926, and this result is probably due to the campaign commenced in 1925, now being carried out by Dr. R. Marshall Allan, Director of the Obstetrical Research Committee. The deaths of mothers per 10,000 children born alive were 54·9 in 1926, as compared with 40·3 in 1921-25, 42·0 in 1916-20, 43·5 in 1911-15, 47·2 in 1906-10, and 60·9 in 1901-05.

**Puerperal
septicæmia.**

In 1926 there were 64 deaths of married and unmarried mothers from puerperal septicæmia, which corresponded to a death rate of 18·1 per 10,000 births, as against 10·9 in 1925, 15·5 in 1924, 8·1 in 1923, 8·5 in 1922, 16·3 in 1921, 17·1 in 1920, 12·3 in 1919, 13·6 in 1918 and 1917, 16·1 in 1916, 11·4 in 1915, 16·8 in 1914, 18·1 in 1913, 16·0 in 1908-12. and 18·1 in 1901-07.

**Medical
Attendance at
Confinement.**

With a view to ascertaining the effect of the passing of the Commonwealth Maternity Allowance Act 1912 on the number of mothers who availed themselves of medical attention in confinement, the birth registration records for the years 1911, 1918, and 1924 have been examined, and the proportions so attended have been ascertained for the metropolitan area, the rest of the State, and the whole State.

**MEDICAL ATTENTION OBTAINED AT CONFINEMENTS,
PROPORTION OF TOTAL CONFINEMENTS, 1911, 1918,
AND 1924.**

Year.				Metropolitan Area.	Rest of the State.	Total State.
				per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1911	..	..	..	73	65	68
1918	..	..	..	81	77	79
1924	..	..	..	87	90	89

NOTE.—Stillbirths and abortions have not been taken into consideration.

The above figures give evidence of the beneficial effects of the Act, especially in the country areas, where the proportion of births medically attended has risen from 65 per cent. in 1911 to 90 per cent. in 1924. It will be observed that, in 1924, the proportion for the Rest of the State exceeded that for the Metropolitan area.

In the three years mentioned there were 11, 12, and 9 births respectively registered where no one was shown as being in attendance at birth, but, in the majority of these cases, the children were foundlings.

Senile decay. During the year 1926, the deaths of 597 men and 663 women were ascribed to senile decay. The deaths at ages 65 and over from all causes during the year numbered 6,375—3,307 of men and 3,068 of women.

Accidental violence. Death rates from accidental violence have been lower in late years than in earlier periods, a result that is chiefly due to the lighter mortality rate from accidental drowning, the smaller proportion of the population engaged in country occupations, which are generally of a more hazardous nature than those in towns, and the increasing proportion of females in the community. In 1926, 690 male and 194 female deaths were attributed to accidents and negligence, which represented a rate of 522 per million of the population. This proportion was 15·8 per cent. above the average rate—449—for the previous five years, and 35·8 per cent. below the rate—811—for 1890-92. The numbers of deaths from various accidents in 1926 are given in the appended table :—

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1926.

Nature or Place of Accident.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Poisoning by Food	3	2	5
Snake Bite	3	..	3
Other Acute Poisonings	7	4	11
Conflagration (Bush fires, &c.)	23	5	28
Burns	38	33	71
Absorption of Poisonous Gases	10	10	20
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	8	4	12
Suffocation in bed (infants) .. .. .	..	1	1
Drowning	111	20	131
Firearms	23	4	27
Falls	64	8	72
In Mines and Quarries	5	..	5
Machines	10	1	11
Vehicular Accidents	249	60	309
Other Crushings	23	1	24
Injuries by Animals	10	1	11
Effects of Heat	6	1	7
Excessive Cold	2	..	2
Electricity	8	..	8
Lightning .. .. .	..	..	..
Fractures, Unspecified	37	25	62
Other Violence	50	14	64
Total	690	194	884

On the average of the last three years the female mortality rate from accidents was about 31 per cent. of the rate for males.

Vehicular Accidents. In 1926, deaths from vehicular accidents numbered 309, as against 299 in 1925, 245 in 1924, 201 in 1923, 163 in 1922, 178 in 1921, and 153 in 1920. Motor vehicles were involved in 193 deaths in 1926, as against 174 in 1925, 135 in 1924, 103 in 1923, 65 in 1922, 38 in 1921, and 43 in 1920.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of conveyances, pedestrians killed, and other fatal accidents in which vehicles were concerned, for the year 1926 :—

DEATHS FROM VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS, IN VICTORIA, 1926.

	Collisions between—						Pedestrians killed.	Fall from vehicles and other accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	Railway train.	Motor omnibus, car, lorry.	Motor cycle.	Horse drawn vehicle.	Bicycle.	Total.					
Railway train ..	3	15	1	1	..	20	47*	7	74	57	17
Tramcar	3	1	..	1	5	11	1	17	13	4
Motor omnibus	2	1	..	..	3	2	1	6	5	1
„ car	2	11	5	1	19	69	33	121	91	30
„ lorry, &c.	5	1	..	6	19	11	36	30	6
„ cycle	1	..	1	2	7	10	10	..
Vehicle drawn by horse	11	20	31	30	1
Bicycle	1	5	6	5	1
Aeroplane	6	6	6	..
Other or undefined	2	2	2	..
Total ..	3	22	19	8	2	54	162	93	309	249	60

* Including 10 railway employees.

Fatal accidents among males at different ages. The mortality rate from accidents is only one-half as great among males aged 15 to 45 as among men over age 45. The deaths per 10,000 males at certain ages from drowning and other accidents, for the period 1920-22, were as follows :—

DEATH RATES FROM ACCIDENTS—MALES, 1920-22.

	Accidental Deaths per 10,000 Males Aged—							
	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65 and over.	15 and upwards.
Drowning ..	1·92	1·13	1·06	1·11	1·46	1·91	2·43	1·44
Other Accidents ..	3·43	4·34	4·91	5·26	6·05	8·24	14·38	5·91
Total Accidents ..	5·35	5·47	5·97	6·37	7·51	10·15	16·81	7·35

For men aged 20 to 35 the death rate from accidental violence is about one-third of that for men over age 65 and slightly greater than one-half of the rate for those aged 55 to 65.

Suicide. In the year 1926, 121 males and 37 females took their own lives. The deaths represented a rate of 93 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 107 in 1925, 72 in 1924, 78 in 1923, 81 in 1922, 99 in 1921, 95 in 1920, 89 in 1919, 72 in 1918, 88 in 1917, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than males, the rate for the former being 26·2 per cent. of that for the latter on the average of the last five years.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1926 numbered 34, of which 16 were of males and 18 of females. These represented a rate of 20 per million of the population, as against rates of 13 in 1925, 11 in 1924, 13 in 1923, 15 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 12 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 13 in 1918 and 1917, and 19 in 1908-12.

NATURAL INCREASE.

The average annual natural increase, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the population, in the various Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, for different periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables :—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

AUSTRALASIA.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03	16·80
1915-19	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99	16·80
1920-24	12·49	15·80	16·03	13·72	14·04	16·71	14·62	14·19
1925 ..	12·02	14·85	14·96	11·91	13·23	14·89	13·69	12·88
1926 ..	11·21	13·34	13·19	11·82	13·21	14·57	12·60	12·31

VICTORIA.

Period.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Population.			Period.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95	1925 ..	20,086	21·49	9·47	12·02
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1926 ..	19,027	20·84	9·63	11·21
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83					

The mean increase in the Australian States for the period 1922-26 was 13·88 per 1,000 of population, which is probably greater than will prevail when the age constitution of the people becomes similar to that of old settled countries. At present the proportion of elderly people is smaller than in those countries, and, partly as a consequence of this, the death rate is lower. The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. The Australian annual rate of increase due to excess of births over deaths for 1922-26—13·88—would enable a population to double itself in 50 years, while, at the Victorian rate of 12·05 per 1,000 of population, a period of 58 years would be required. In England and Wales in 1926 the excess of births over deaths was 6·2 per 1,000 of population.

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 55 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.

Municipal
electors.

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 any) necessary to maintain the property in a state to command such rent; provided that no rateable property shall be computed as of an

Rateable
property.

annual value of less than £5 per centum upon the fair capital value of the fee-simple thereof. A council may, however, with the consent of the ratepayers at a poll to be held, if demanded, levy rates on the basis of the unimproved capital value of the land. In the case of certain Crown lands occupied (other than under lease) for pastoral purposes only the provision that the annual value must not be less than 5 per cent. on the capital value does not apply, and the occupier is rated on the actual net annual value of the property.

Rates levied in municipal districts are of three kinds, viz. :—General, extra, and separate rates. General rates are levied at least once in each year by the council of every municipality, and 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.

A comparatively small number of 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.

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.

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 Municipalities. A portion of the Shire of Nunawading was excised on 26th May, 1925, and a new shire entitled Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted. The remaining portion of the Shire of Nunawading was proclaimed a borough with the name of Box Hill Borough on 15th December, 1925, which was subsequently constituted a city on 28th April, 1927. A portion of the Shire of Shepparton was excised on 31st May, 1927, and a new borough entitled Borough of Shepparton created.

Municipalities : 1922-23 to 1926-27. The total number of municipalities throughout the State in which local government was being administered at the end of the year 1926 was 194. Of these, 29 ranked as cities, 4 as towns, 22 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 1926-27 :—

MUNICIPALITIES : 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Popula- tion.	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—							
1922-23 ..	963,180	270,058	217,518	522	£ 233,586,201	£ 13,116,589	£ 2,992,159
1923-24 ..	998,950	279,292	225,458	911	264,693,364	14,964,345	3,354,343
1924-25 ..	1,031,670	291,910	233,400	1,689	288,230,793	16,388,842	3,763,373
1925-26 ..	1,072,510	314,386	244,164	2,061	314,333,446	17,778,661	4,191,063
1926-27 ..	1,106,010	319,568	253,471	1,917	339,221,826	19,020,312	..
Shires—							
1922-23 ..	616,410	200,834	140,875	1,802	221,623,773	11,200,825	1,496,764
1923-24 ..	627,420	213,317	144,845	1,714	235,274,597	11,816,074	1,646,410
1924-25 ..	635,340	221,345	148,717	1,887	250,480,405	12,588,177	1,815,707
1925-26 ..	632,550	246,161	148,546	1,703	257,350,043	12,933,459	1,921,483
1926-27 ..	643,950	254,403	151,568	1,730	267,100,576	13,426,424	..
Total—							
1922-23 ..	1,579,590	470,892	358,393	2,324	455,209,974	24,317,414	4,488,923
1923-24 ..	1,626,370	492,609	370,303	2,625	499,967,961	26,780,419	5,000,753
1924-25 ..	1,667,010	513,255	382,117	3,576	538,711,193	28,977,019	5,579,080
1925-26 ..	1,705,060	560,547	392,710	3,764	571,633,489	30,712,120	6,112,546
1926-27 ..	1,749,960	573,971	405,039	3,647	606,322,402	32,446,736	..

Increases in
value of
rateable
properties and
municipal
revenue.

It will be observed from the figures given below 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.		
	1926-27 over 1922-23.		1925-26 over 1922-23.
	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Revenue from all sources.
	Total.	Annual	
	£	£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	105,635,625	5,903,723	1,198,904
Shires	45,476,803	2,225,599	424,719
Total Increase	151,112,428	8,129,322	1,623,623

The number of ratepayers returned for 1926-27 was 573,971, and the total capital value of rateable property £606,322,402, which is equivalent to about 18½ years' purchase on the basis of the annual value of £32,446,736.

Unimproved
Value of
Rateable
Property.

The estimated unimproved or ground value of rateable property in 1926-27 in cities, towns, and boroughs was £169,610,913, and in shires £178,067,050. 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, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Properties Rated.		
	In Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	In Shires.	Total.
1922-23	313,055	283,062	596,117
1923-24	332,794	300,168	632,962
1924-25	343,462	310,250	653,712
1925-26	366,494	339,421	705,915
1926-27	374,095	353,632	727,727

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, 1926-27, except as regards the items "revenue" and "annual endowment," the amounts of which are those for the year 1925-26 :—

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHS, 1926-27.

Name.	Estimated Popula- tion.	Number of Rate- payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue, 1925-26.	Annual Endow- ment pay- able by the Govern- ment.
				Total.	Annual.		
GREATER MELBOURNE.							
Box Hill ..	11,280	5,660	s. d.	£	£	£	£
Brighton ..	27,060	8,000	2 8	3,972,320	198,616	59,189	..
Brunswick ..	51,300	11,296	2 6	9,279,920	463,996	72,366	..
Camberwell ..	39,770	17,600	*0 7	9,380,532	607,446	180,727	..
Caulfield ..	63,960	18,560	*0 5	13,540,146	759,643	143,335	..
Colburg ..	33,850	11,000	*0 4½	17,113,497	965,821	156,940	..
Collingwood ..	33,700	7,632	*0 5	7,080,720	354,036	104,429	..
Essendon ..	41,400	12,323	2 3	9,954,580	497,729	64,932	..
Fitzroy ..	33,930	7,620	*0 5	10,303,278	634,538	99,855	..
Footscray ..	45,100	13,500	2 2	7,887,630	525,842	63,328	..
Hawthorn ..	32,220	8,258	2 6	10,600,200	530,010	156,664	..
Kew ..	24,500	6,195	2 8	11,308,920	565,446	85,427	..
Malvern ..	44,000	12,911	2 6	5,214,705	347,647	66,347	..
Melbourne ..	103,600	32,405	2 6	16,423,960	821,198	145,078	..
Northcote ..	39,380	10,550	2 0	88,861,620	4,443,081	1,275,873	..
Oakleigh ..	9,500	3,182	2 6	8,655,640	432,782	115,716	..
Port Melbourne ..	13,200	2,887	*0 5	2,280,447	156,362	32,910	..
Prahran ..	52,000	13,243	2 3	2,064,125	165,130	44,119	..
Preston ..	23,500	16,000	1 11	13,484,400	1,123,700	131,943	..
Richmond ..	43,540	9,202	2 6	6,012,160	300,608	86,829	..
Sandringham ..	19,500	6,683	2 5	10,259,352	569,964	77,395	..
South Melbourne ..	47,300	10,560	*0 3½	5,500,000	293,007	75,094	..
St. Kilda ..	41,600	10,226	2 6	17,163,020	858,151	133,980	..
Williamstown ..	23,500	5,240	2 0	11,743,092	978,591	114,951	..
			2 6	3,111,700	218,000	108,246	..
Total ..	898,690	260,733	..	301,195,964	16,811,344	3,595,673	..

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGHES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
OUTSIDE MELBOURNE.							
CITIES.			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Ballarat ..	37,550	8,997	2 9	5,617,485	374,499	88,728	..
Bendigo ..	26,300	6,417	2 9	4,017,885	287,859	61,796	..
Geelong ..	16,000	4,800	2 8	5,234,720	261,736	52,567	..
Mordialloc ..	7,760	4,077	*0 3½	2,645,540	132,277	40,739	..
Warrnambool ..	8,050	1,781	2 9	1,626,509	95,677	45,292	..
TOWNS.							
Geelong West ..	11,390	2,832	2 9	1,958,640	97,932	21,280	..
Mildura ..	6,000	1,462	3 0	1,402,520	70,126	31,555	..
Newtown and Chilwell ..	8,750	2,295	*0 5½	2,122,465	107,974	17,829	..
Sale ..	3,980	1,069	2 9	761,280	38,064	13,506	..
BOROUGHES.							
Ararat ..	5,010	998	2 3	656,500	32,825	19,132	25
Carrum ..	6,750	4,668	*0 3	1,645,800	82,290	27,553	50
Castlemaine ..	5,500	1,700	3 0	589,800	47,184	11,061	25
Clunes ..	1,230	476	1 6	77,854	11,122	3,028	37
Creswick ..	1,750	540	1 9	76,220	7,622	2,457	38
Daylesford ..	3,440	812	2 6	544,440	27,222	6,164	25
Eaglehawk ..	4,750	1,350	2 6	265,980	22,165	8,690	25
Echuca ..	4,000	875	3 0	775,450	42,100	10,113	25
Hamilton ..	5,260	1,268	2 6	1,110,140	55,522	11,612	50
Horsham ..	4,500	1,500	2 6	1,015,995	67,733	13,568	25
Inglewood ..	1,100	290	2 0	94,200	7,850	2,895	25
Koroit ..	1,860	406	2 6	450,240	22,512	6,115	25
Maryborough ..	4,860	1,148	2 9	360,000	36,000	14,599	25
Port Fairy ..	2,060	522	2 8	425,040	21,252	7,269	25
Portland ..	2,720	1,136	*0 4½	583,399	30,806	8,580	25
Queenscliffe ..	2,780	711	2 6	460,800	23,040	5,019	50
Ringwood ..	3,500	2,073	2 0	1,159,060	57,953	13,100	50
Sebastopol ..	1,900	472	2 9	191,280	9,564	2,541	40
St. Arnaud ..	3,200	854	3 0	582,000	29,100	7,781	25
Stawell ..	4,670	1,014	2 9	306,120	30,612	16,743	25
Wangaratta ..	3,900	990	3 0	820,000	41,000	14,605	25
Wonthaggi ..	6,800	1,302	3 0	448,200	37,350	9,473	46
Total ..	1,106,010	319,568	..	339,221,826	19,020,312	4,191,063	711

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

Shires,
1926-27.

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

SHIRES, 1926-27.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
Alberton ..	5,740	1,356	s. d. 2 0	£ 2,105,560	£ 105,278	£ 15,033	£ 697
Alexandra ..	3,560	890	2 0	1,253,000	62,650	9,819	389
Arapiles ..	2,450	640	1 6	1,270,400	63,520	5,732	153
Ararat ..	6,050	1,690	1 6	4,334,180	216,709	22,386	641
Avoca ..	3,370	1,254	2 0	928,160	46,408	5,956	239
Avon ..	2,600	781	1 9	1,501,060	75,053	7,225	301
Bacchus Marsh ..	3,430	862	2 0	1,466,000	73,300	11,087	204
Bairnsdale ..	8,140	2,430	1 6	2,794,440	139,722	16,444	705
Ballan ..	3,200	1,220	2 0	1,124,480	56,224	5,734	286
Ballarat ..	4,000	1,200	1 6	1,236,940	61,847	6,308	286
Bannockburn ..	2,760	735	2 0	1,060,400	53,020	6,559	203
Barrabool ..	1,870	519	2 0	1,100,000	55,000	6,818	212
Beechworth ..	4,550	1,418	2 0	640,000	40,000	10,482	271
Belfast ..	2,620	680	2 0	1,635,540	81,777	9,413	323
Bellarine ..	4,180	2,013	1 9	1,310,000	65,500	6,540	240
Benalla ..	8,100	3,213	1 9	3,102,300	155,115	27,201	715
Berwick ..	9,550	3,650	2 0	2,776,480	138,824	21,768	495
Bet Bet ..	3,570	1,240	1 6	837,600	41,880	5,902	236
Birchip ..	2,080	584	1 6	1,036,200	51,810	6,359	199
Blackburn and Mitcham ..	5,970	3,715	2 9	1,976,220	98,811	14,585	329
Borong ..	5,140	1,500	1 6	2,680,560	134,028	14,165	492
Braybrook ..	6,240	8,500	1 9	3,129,860	156,493	24,944	129
Bright ..	4,140	1,370	2 0	719,000	35,950	6,921	370
Broadford ..	1,400	411	1 9	500,120	25,066	3,678	148
Broadmeadows ..	4,540	10,807	1 9	2,296,700	114,835	17,183	251
Bulla ..	2,670	424	1 6	874,980	43,749	6,967	172
Buln Buln ..	6,050	1,600	2 6	1,460,100	73,005	14,267	616
Bungaree ..	3,200	976	2 0	799,720	39,986	5,134	395
Buninyong ..	5,150	1,663	1 9	1,323,060	66,153	7,703	296
Charlton ..	2,650	750	2 0	1,556,740	76,837	7,572	271
Chiltern ..	2,200	710	1 6	693,160	34,658	4,628	216
Cohuna ..	3,200	710	1 6	1,179,600	58,980	17,006	114
Colac ..	13,000	2,960	1 7	6,651,320	332,566	43,750	138
Corio ..	4,120	4,237	2 6	2,850,520	117,526	17,174	255
Cranbourne ..	6,050	1,940	2 6	2,424,540	121,227	16,838	342
Creswick ..	3,070	919	1 6	1,135,020	56,751	5,123	383
Dandenong ..	8,900	9,000	* 0 2½	2,660,200	133,010	25,630	209
Deakin ..	4,250	1,200	1 6	1,973,380	98,669	9,341	219
Dimboola ..	6,570	1,366	2 0	3,461,620	173,081	19,603	305
Donald ..	3,650	1,040	1 6	2,258,680	112,934	20,516	323
Doncaster and Templestowe ..	3,000	1,500	1 9	1,100,000	55,000	13,145	194
Dundas ..	3,670	1,313	2 0	2,969,400	148,470	14,438	517
Dunmunkle ..	4,860	1,160	1 6	2,896,980	144,849	21,521	612
East Loddon ..	1,850	460	1 6	1,566,920	78,346	7,184	271
Eitham ..	4,420	3,160	2 0	1,200,000	60,000	12,220	208
Euroa ..	4,040	1,140	2 0	1,429,720	71,486	11,307	321
Ferntree Gully ..	9,000	6,300	3 0	2,924,800	146,240	30,750	444
Flinders ..	5,000	5,500	1 9	1,668,820	83,441	14,722	128
Frankston and Hastings ..	5,600	4,250	3 0	1,950,640	97,532	48,482	213
Gisborne ..	2,450	1,056	2 0	805,200	40,260	6,694	168
Glenelg ..	5,600	1,800	2 0	3,114,500	155,725	20,971	591
Glenlyon ..	3,620	1,426	1 9	884,600	44,230	4,626	223
Gordon ..	3,370	902	1 6	1,898,700	94,935	9,116	365
Goulburn ..	2,260	634	1 6	1,126,280	56,314	4,652	172
Grenville ..	3,310	1,210	1 6	960,030	64,002	7,167	299
Hampden ..	11,330	2,332	2 6	6,654,100	332,705	55,372	370
Healesville ..	3,786	1,346	3 0	888,960	44,448	12,269	332
Heidelberg ..	24,460	16,000	2 0	7,204,060	360,203	116,044	245
Heytesbury ..	4,560	1,085	2 0	2,226,780	111,339	13,644	530

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers.	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			s. d.	£	£	£	£
Huntly ..	3,200	1,084	1 6	1,247,060	62,353	5,787	198
Kara Kara ..	3,160	1,290	1 9	2,180,400	109,020	10,264	316
Karkarocoe ..	5,750	1,300	1 6	4,580,000	229,000	16,806	469
Kellor ..	1,800	5,000	1 9	1,328,180	66,409	5,605	49
Kerang ..	9,000	2,177	1 6	3,798,700	189,935	32,328	380
Kilmore ..	1,810	513	2 0	273,370	27,337	5,342	136
Korong ..	5,030	1,566	1 6	2,033,360	101,668	10,170	321
Korumburra ..	7,600	2,045	2 0	2,708,720	135,436	18,741	982
Kowree ..	3,500	1,219	1 9	1,968,580	98,429	12,341	430
Kyneton ..	8,100	2,180	2 0	1,766,080	88,304	20,752	365
Lawloit ..	2,310	652	1 9	1,277,985	85,199	10,070	196
Leigh ..	1,370	500	1 6	1,245,760	62,288	5,292	272
Lexton ..	1,680	564	1 9	990,140	49,507	4,959	198
Lillydale ..	9,500	3,600	2 6	2,652,920	132,646	22,537	345
Lowan ..	3,800	1,300	2 3	2,072,000	103,600	17,713	296
Maffra ..	6,100	1,220	1 6	3,187,120	159,356	14,237	483
Maldon ..	3,170	1,069	1 6	703,120	35,156	3,777	185
Mansfield ..	4,100	1,340	2 6	1,716,060	85,803	12,404	542
Marong ..	5,930	1,400	2 0	2,032,540	101,627	12,180	454
Melton ..	1,480	457	1 9	1,086,160	54,306	5,947	145
Metcalfe ..	2,760	1,000	1 6	807,320	40,366	3,911	162
Mildura ..	9,000	2,500	2 0	2,760,380	138,019	18,000	184
Minhamite ..	2,020	765	2 0	1,849,300	92,465	12,303	321
Mirboo ..	1,640	430	3 0	678,060	33,903	7,334	355
Moorabbin ..	11,470	9,500	2 6	4,062,600	203,130	33,042	296
Mornington ..	2,820	2,331	2 0	1,295,720	64,786	14,480	114
Mortlake ..	3,100	852	1 9	3,590,060	179,503	17,356	346
Morwell ..	4,000	897	2 3	1,805,300	65,265	11,354	435
Mount Rouse ..	2,810	746	1 6	2,082,640	104,132	10,058	198
Mulgrave ..	4,270	2,980	2 6	1,488,060	74,403	11,075	221
McIvor ..	3,550	950	1 6	1,212,000	60,600	7,561	221
Narracan ..	7,130	1,392	2 0	2,172,360	108,618	14,176	920
Newham and Woodend ..	2,260	720	2 0	643,500	32,175	7,150	148
Newstead and Mt. Alexander ..	2,700	884	1 9	539,340	26,967	2,880	166
Numurkah ..	5,930	1,280	1 6	3,160,880	158,044	18,951	591
Omeo ..	2,520	776	2 3	970,500	48,525	8,456	836
Orbost ..	4,050	1,046	2 6	1,290,000	64,500	11,598	472
Otway ..	4,360	1,047	3 0	894,000	44,700	10,423	471
Oxley ..	4,040	1,020	1 9	1,437,000	71,850	8,055	370
Phillip Island and Woolamai ..	5,560	1,490	2 6	1,601,620	80,081	13,070	545
Portland ..	5,480	2,089	1 6	2,255,040	112,752	10,551	494
Pyalong ..	760	275	1 6	585,060	29,250	2,354	113
Ripon ..	3,620	1,100	2 0	2,474,400	123,720	16,767	221
Rochester ..	6,460	1,684	1 6	2,986,460	149,323	14,950	246
Rodney ..	8,200	1,950	2 3	3,303,580	165,179	24,386	432
Romsey ..	3,300	850	2 0	1,252,940	62,647	8,076	320
Rosedale ..	4,620	1,220	0 1½	3,000,000	150,000	11,004	537
Rutherford ..	4,120	1,125	1 9	1,018,000	50,900	7,440	257
Seymour ..	3,950	1,082	2 0	1,059,020	52,951	11,857	420
Shepparton ..	8,150	1,910	1 6	3,062,000	153,145	20,276	469
South Barwon ..	3,800	2,473	2 9	1,172,020	58,601	9,175	137
South Gippsland ..	4,800	1,142	2 3	1,390,240	69,512	9,661	517
Stawell ..	3,500	1,270	2 0	2,045,880	102,294	12,304	308
Strathfieldsaye ..	3,460	1,005	2 0	541,320	27,066	3,132	137
Swan Hill ..	12,400	3,960	1 6	5,559,480	277,974	32,482	272
Talbot ..	1,460	553	1 4	578,780	28,939	3,395	134
Tambo ..	4,340	1,080	2 9	1,120,840	56,042	9,741	513
Towong ..	4,500	1,200	2 0	1,817,200	90,860	15,064	578
Traralgon ..	3,460	741	2 3	1,356,840	67,842	12,202	441
Tullaroop ..	3,000	864	1 9	690,675	46,045	5,452	206
Tungamah ..	4,700	1,598	1 6	3,200,400	160,020	11,010	444
Upper Murray ..	2,300	515	1 9	1,060,360	53,018	6,536	307
Upper Yarra ..	5,760	1,415	2 6	790,740	39,537	16,112	221
Violet Town ..	1,980	652	1 9	761,720	38,086	5,670	221
Walpeup ..	5,770	1,665	1 6	2,535,880	126,794	12,073	300

* Levied on unimproved value of land.

SHIRES, 1926-27—continued.

Name.	Estimated Population.	Number of Rate-payers	Amount of General Rate levied in the £.	Estimated Value of Rateable Property.		Total. Revenue 1925-26.	Annual Endowment payable by the Government.
				Total.	Annual.		
			<i>s. d.</i>	£	£	£	£
Wangaratta ..	2,520	902	1 6	968,820	48,441	5,119	146
Wannon ..	3,200	1,042	1 6	2,467,360	123,368	19,560	426
Waranga ..	5,700	1,656	2 0	2,013,260	100,663	13,996	370
Warragul ..	5,160	1,315	2 6	1,926,840	96,342	18,046	885
Warrnambool ..	8,460	1,780	1 9	4,750,460	237,523	31,120	678
Werribee ..	5,750	6,500	2 3	2,619,880	130,994	18,115	296
Whittlesea ..	3,600	1,042	2 0	1,520,000	76,000	10,866	226
Wimmera ..	4,340	1,070	1 0	3,935,360	196,768	13,556	360
Winchelsea ..	4,480	1,640	2 6	1,873,660	93,683	15,243	413
Wodonga ..	2,900	670	1 9	754,440	37,722	4,806	169
Woorayl ..	6,300	1,800	2 9	2,182,580	109,129	17,780	1,030
Wycheproof ..	4,360	1,309	1 6	3,083,480	154,174	16,780	328
Yackandandah ..	3,020	948	2 0	1,217,560	60,878	6,315	337
Yarrawonga ..	2,740	790	1 6	1,220,020	61,001	6,973	281
Yea ..	2,840	692	*0 2½	1,189,916	60,411	9,230	371
Total ..	643,950	254,403	..	267,100,576	13,426,424	1,921,483	47,716

* 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, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Amount levied in the £.	Number of Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.					Number of Shires.				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
<i>s. d.</i>										
0 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	4	3	1
1 0 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 2 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 3 ..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	1	..	..
1 4 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	1
1 6 ..	..	..	..	..	..	53	53	47	45	40
1 7 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	1
1 8 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 9 ..	3	3	2	1	1	19	18	24	27	25
1 10 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
1 11 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 0 ..	7	4	3	4	4	26	27	31	30	39
2 1 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
2 2 ..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 3 ..	6	8	6	6	3	7	6	7	7	7
2 4 ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..
2 5 ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
2 6 ..	21	18	15	18	14	9	11	13	14	13
2 7 ..	1	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 8 ..	1	2	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..
2 9 ..	2	5	7	6	8	..	..	1	4	4
2 10 ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 0 ..	1	2	3	4	6	..	1	4	4	5
Total ..	44	44	44	46	44	136	136	136	136	136

The particulars in this table for the five years ended 1926-27 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. 5½d. in the £ in cities, towns, and boroughs, and of 1s. 9¾d. in shires. The average rating in the urban districts is thus shown to be 7½d. 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 eleven municipalities.

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.

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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES, 1924 TO 1926.

Sources of Revenue.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Taxation—			
Rates	2,847,282	3,152,570	3,380,749
Licences	155,009	162,430	161,682
Dog Fees	26,211	27,836	28,131
Government Endowment and Grants	87,783	88,335	147,014
Contributions for Streets, Footpaths, &c.	180,502	264,996	320,582
Market and Weighbridge Dues	97,794	111,548	114,773
Sanitary Charges	175,520	185,091	202,360
Rents	125,544	133,623	137,941
Electric Light and Gas Works	913,471	986,101	1,057,596
Other Sources	391,637	466,550	561,718
Total	5,000,753	5,579,080	6,112,546
Heads of Expenditure.			
Salaries, &c.	359,493	381,815	407,009
Sanitary Work, Street Cleansing, &c.	433,220	457,885	454,107
Lighting	134,025	144,064	153,292
Contributions to Fire Brigades	55,412	58,250	64,508
Public Works—			
Construction	404,661	479,690	454,247
Maintenance	1,845,278	2,104,402	2,195,045
Formation of Private Streets, &c.	343,978	426,689	446,961
Electric Light and Gas Works	680,568	715,498	757,456
Redemption of Loans	180,987	211,152	229,913
Interest on Loans	386,946	457,669	513,222
Charities	28,550	30,187	35,469
Other Expenditure	393,545	433,154	581,493
Total	5,246,663	5,900,455	6,292,722

As compared with 1925, the revenue of 1926 increased by £533,466, as follows:—Rates increased by £228,179, sanitary charges by £17,269, rents by £4,318, dog fees by £295, electric light and gas works by

£71,495, contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., by £55,586, market and weighbridge dues by £3,225, Government endowment and grants by £58,679, and "other sources" by £95,168. Licences decreased by £748. The expenditure was in excess of the amount for the previous year by £392,267. Most of the items showed increases as under :—Salaries, £25,194; lighting, £9,228; contributions to fire brigades boards, £6,258; public works maintenance, £90,643; electric light and gas works, £41,958; formation of private streets, &c., £20,272; redemption of loans, £18,761; interest on loans, £55,553; charities, £5,282; and other expenditure, £148,339. Public works construction decreased by £25,443, and sanitary work and street cleansing by £3,778.

Fifty-six per cent. of municipal revenue in 1926 was derived from rates, 17 per cent. from electric light and gas works, 3 per cent. from licences of all kinds, 2 per cent. from market and weighbridge dues, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from dog fees, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from Government endowments and grants, 5 per cent. from contributions for streets, footpaths, &c., 3 per cent. from sanitary charges, 2 per cent. from rents, and 9 per cent. from all other sources.

Salaries. In 1926 the salaries of the municipal officers amounted to £407,009, or nearly 7 per cent. of the entire revenue.

Local charities. A sum of £35,469, or a little more than $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

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, 1924 TO 1926.

Assets.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Uncollected Rates	231,623	282,495	286,338
Other Assets	1,098,843	1,390,966	1,049,190
Loan Funds—			
Sinking Funds—			
Amount at Credit ...	500,214	496,522	545,712
Arrears Due ...	127	724	210
Unexpended Balances ...	501,858	495,980	587,609
Property—			
Halls, Buildings, Markets, &c. ...	3,956,760	4,254,220	4,782,140
Waterworks ...	264,630	258,890	340,920
Gasworks ...	174,660	176,330	185,690
Electric Light Works... ..	1,816,760	1,966,810	2,060,140
Total Assets	8,545,475	9,322,937	9,837,949

MUNICIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1924 TO 1926—*continued.*

Liabilities.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Municipal Fund—	£	£	£
Due on Current Contracts	161,031	144,677	145,051
Arrears due to Sinking Funds	127	724	210
Overdue Interest	7,445	8,440	9,475
Bank Overdrafts	892,893	1,106,264	902,820
Other Liabilities	767,691	990,177	819,356
Loan Funds—			
Loans Outstanding	7,574,523	8,146,750	9,076,787
Due on Loan Contracts	237,695	256,794	359,496
Total Liabilities	9,641,405	10,653,826	11,313,195

Municipal assets and liabilities compared. The total of the assets of municipalities in 1926 was £9,837,949 and of the liabilities £11,313,195. The aggregate of the current liabilities (Municipal Fund) was £1,876,912, against which there were assets amounting to £1,335,528. The gross liability on account of loan expenditure for works completed and in progress was £9,436,283, which, after deducting sinking funds and unexpended balances, was reduced to £8,302,752. If credit were taken for the value of municipal properties in markets, halls, buildings, gasworks, electric light works, water works, &c. (£7,368,890), the net burden on account of loan moneys would be £933,862.

The valuation of municipal properties is probably an under-estimate, as the particulars furnished under this heading were not in every instance 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 eleven succeeding years under the authority of Acts passed periodically. The endowment is payable in March of each year, and no city or town is entitled to receive any part of it. The distribution amongst the boroughs and shires is as set out in the Second Schedule to the *Muni-*

cipal Endowment Act 1907, No. 1229, but this has been altered from time to time by adjustments rendered necessary owing to various changes in municipalities.

The allocation of amounts paid to municipalities in 1925-26 is shown on pages 206 to 209 *ante*.

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, 12 for each of the years 1922-23 to 1925-26 inclusive, and 14 for 1926-27. 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 1926-27:—

RATING ON UNIMPROVED VALUES, 1926-27.

Municipality.	Capital Value.	Capital Unimproved Value.	Annual Improved Value.	Amount of Rate in the £ on Unimproved Value.	Equivalent Rate on Annual Improved Value.	Amount Collectible in 1927 on Unimproved Value.	Percentage Unimproved to Capital Value.
	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	£	
Brunswick City ..	9,380,532	2,952,700	607,446	0 7	2 10	86,120	31·48
Camberwell City ..	13,540,146	5,047,903	759,643	0 5	2 9½	105,165	37·28
Carrum Borough ..	1,645,800	928,578	82,290	0 3*	2 9½	11,607	56·42
Caulfield City ..	17,113,497	5,683,455	965,821	0 4½	2 2½	106,565	33·21
Coburg City ..	7,080,720	2,285,850	354,036	0 5	2 8½	47,622	32·28
Essendon City ..	10,303,278	3,816,164	634,538	0 5	2 6	79,503	37·04
Mordialloc City ..	2,645,540	1,243,512	132,277	0 3½†	2 9	18,135	47·00
Newtown and Chilwell Town ..	2,122,465	625,593	107,974	0 5½	2 6½	13,685	29·47
Oakleigh City ..	2,280,447	976,644	156,362	0 5	2 7	20,347	42·83
Portland Borough ..	583,399	237,645	30,806	0 4½	2 9	4,208	40·73
Sandringham City ..	5,500,000	2,888,541	293,007	0 3½	2 10½	42,125	52·52
Dandenong Shire ..	2,660,200	1,323,000	133,010	0 2½‡	2 0½	13,781	49·73
Rosedale Shire ..	3,000,000	1,506,000	150,000	0 1¼§	1 0½	7,844	50·20
Yea Shire ..	1,189,916	592,516	60,411	0 2¾||	2 0½	6,172	49·79

NOTE.—In addition, there is an extra rate in the £ of—

* ½d. in the Centre and North Wards.

† ½d. in the Mordialloc Ward.

‡ 1½d. in the Centre Riding, and of ½d. in the South Riding.

§ 3d. in the township of Rosedale.

|| 4d. in the township of Yea.

HOUSING AND RECLAMATION ACTS 1920, 1922, AND 1923.**ERECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES BY STATE SAVINGS BANK COMMISSIONERS.**

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. Amending Acts (No. 3249 and 3317) were passed on 21st December, 1922, and 22nd December, 1923, respectively. An eligible person is defined as one who is not the owner of a dwelling-house and is not in receipt of an income of more than £400 a year. 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 for houses of wood, or £950 for brick, stone or concrete dwellings.

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.

The number of contracts entered into for the erection of dwellings has been—

For year ended 30th June, 1923	..	..	813
do. do. 1924	..	..	806
do. do. 1925	..	..	549
do. do. 1926	..	..	594
do. do. 1927	..	..	758

The position at 30th June, 1927, with regard to the erection of houses was—

Houses completed	..	..	..	3,786
In course of erection	..	..	..	345
Approved sites for which tenders had not then been accepted	..	..	..	383

Total number of applications approved 4,514

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 £800 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, 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.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Under agreement with the Commissioner for War Service Homes, the State Savings Bank Commissioners are building dwellings for returned soldiers and other eligible persons under the War Service

Homes Acts, the funds being provided by the Commonwealth Government. The dwellings erected or being erected under this agreement are based on the same plans as are used in accordance with the Housing Act, and, as nearly as possible, they are built under the same conditions.

Up to 30th June, 1927, the Bank had entered into contracts for the erection of 3,017 War Service Homes buildings, of which 2,881 have been completed. In addition, the Bank had made advances to 166 soldiers for purchase of existing dwellings or repayment of existing mortgages, and to 25 eligible applicants to enable them to build homes according to their own plans.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Country Roads Board. With the object of improving the main roads of the State an Act was passed on 23rd December, 1912 (Consolidated Act No. 2635), which empowered the Governor in Council to appoint a board to consist of three members. The chairman is paid an annual salary not exceeding £1,550, and each of the other members a salary not exceeding £1,200 (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. Additional sums were made available as follow :—£500,000 under Act No. 3057 passed in September, 1920, which sum was to be raised in the two financial years 1920–21 and 1921–22 at the rate of £250,000 per annum; £500,000 under Act No. 3137 for expenditure during the two financial years commencing 1st July, 1922; £1,000,000 (by Act No. 3334) over a period of three years from 1st July, 1923, and £822,000 over five years commencing on 1st July, 1925. 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. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and the balance sinking fund) on the amount due by each municipality is provided for, thus liquidating the liability in $31\frac{1}{2}$ years; 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. By Act No. 3057 it is provided that, where any amount remains unpaid on the 1st day of July in any year, such amount, together with interest at 6 per cent. per annum, may be deducted by the Treasurer from any moneys that become payable by him to the municipality out of the Consolidated Revenue or on account of any fees, fines, penalties or the equivalent of licence fees.

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 under the *Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act* 1903 (incorporated in the *Local Government Act* 1915), are credited to the Country Roads Board Fund for maintenance of main roads, and in addition thereto a sum of £10,000 is appropriated from Consolidated Revenue each year.

The amount of the municipal contribution towards the cost of maintenance works is one-third of the amount expended; the contribution is due on the first day of January following the financial year in which the expenditure is incurred and it must be paid before the succeeding first day of July. Power is given by Act No. 2986 to reduce contributions in respect of maintenance 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.

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 which are now being constructed or reconstructed will be kept in good condition, while those which are in a fair state of efficiency will be kept up to that standard.

During the year 1925-26 constructional work to the value of £302,844, and maintenance work involving an expenditure of £788,332 were undertaken.

The loan expenditure to 30th June, 1926, for permanent works was £3,464,603, and for developmental roads £3,775,618.

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.

Registration of motor cars, &c. 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 £1; of trailers, fore-cars or side cars, 10s.; of traction engines, £6 to £15 according to weight; of motor cars, 3s. to 5s. for each power-weight unit according to the class of motor car; and of trailers attached to motor cars, £1 to £4 according to weight and type.

Developmental roads. 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 additional amounts not exceeding £2,000,000, £1,000,000 and £1,475,000 by Acts Nos. 3255, 3334 and 3,425 respectively. 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. An amount of £155 was expended under Acts No. 2944 and 2985, and of £658,409 under Act No. 3255, during the year ended 30th June, 1926.

State Highways. The *Highways and Vehicles Act* 1924, No. 3379, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1925, provides for the declaration of State Highways, the full cost of maintenance of which is charged against the moneys to the credit of the Country Roads Board Fund.

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
To Balance, 1st July, 1925					94,138	4	4									
„ Motor Car Act No. 2702—																
Registration Fees ..	609,325	11	0							792,440	14	5				
Licence Fees ..	31,788	6	0							3,259	13	8				
Fines ..	16,458	17	6										789,190	0	9	
	657,572	14	6										258,311	13	11	
Less Refunds and Cost of Administration ..	25,485	16	3		632,086	18	3						305,099	0	7	
Unused Roads and Water Frontages Act No. 1894—														9,294	2	9
Licence Fees ..	22,132	18	11											1,113	19	10
Less Refunds and Cost of Administration ..	2,175	0	0		19,957	18	11									
„ Country Roads Act No. 2635—																
Registration of Traction Engines ..	1,566	0	0											1,424	7	1
Width of Tires Ad- ministration, Fines and Costs ..	136	11	0		1,702	11	0							3,042	6	3
„ Municipalities Repayments—																
Permanent Works ..	88,147	10	0										26,351	3	9	
Maintenance ..	178,091	15	6		266,239	5	6						476	7	6	
														25,874	16	3
„ Appropriation for Main- tenance—																
Main Roads Act No. 2986	50,000	0	0													
Less Amount Approp- riated under Act 3379	40,000	0	0		10,000	0	0									
„ Hire of Plant ..	15,729	12	11													
„ Stores and Materials ..	7,347	15	3													
„ Sundries ..	11,627	8	10		34,704	17	0									
					964,691	10	8									
„ Advance to Loan Account on account of Permanent Works, refunded ..					307,889	9	0									
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Act No. 3235, Item 4, Tourist Vote, refunded ..					10,422	1	2									
„ Advances on account of Expenditure under Prov. 73, Mt. Buffalo Road, refunded ..					1,271	13	10									
„ Advances under Prov. 73 for Relief of Unemployment, refunded ..					15,247	10	3									
„ Advance under Prov. 73, Construction of Roads for Isolated Settlers, refunded ..					1,374	7	1									
„ Advance for Construction of Williamstown Short Road, refunded ..					20,501	15	8									
					£1,415,536	12	0						£1,415,536	12	0	

Ordinary receipts and payments.

The following is a statement of the receipts and payments during 1925-26 of the fund established under the Country Roads Act :—

Municipal Statistics.

Loan receipts
and
expenditure.

The expenditure out of loan money on the construction of permanent works (main roads) for the year ended 30th June, 1926, is shown below :—

COUNTRY ROADS BOARD LOAN ACCOUNT, ACT No. 2635.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1925 ..	17,243	1	0	By Permanent Works	305,099	0	7
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	310,995	11	7	<i>Deduct</i> Refunds	2,254	14	9
„ Advances from Country Roads Board Fund ..	305,099	0	7				
„ Transfers ..	23	13	7	„ Temporary Advance from Country Roads Board Fund, refunded ..	307,889	9	0
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1926	22,627	11	11
	<u>£633,381</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£633,361</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>

Developmental
Roads Loan
Account.

The following statement shows, for the year ended 30th June, 1926, the expenditure out of loan funds on the construction of developmental roads, under the provisions of Acts Nos. 2944, 2985, 3255, and 3334 :—

DEVELOPMENTAL ROADS LOAN ACCOUNT—

(ACTS Nos. 2944, 2985, 3255, AND 3334).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 1st July, 1925 ..	35,624	7	1	By Expenditure	661,509	0	11
„ Proceeds of Loans ..	1,168,877	0	9	<i>Less</i> Refund	2,943	13	6
„ Transfers ..	2,115	6	9				
				„ Balance, 30th June, 1926	658,565	7	5
	<u>£1,206,616</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>548,051</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>
					<u>£1,206,616</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>

LICENSING FUND.

Licensing
Fund.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Licensing Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1926 :—

LICENSING FUND.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1925-1926.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 30th June, 1925	20,714 10 0	Salaries and expenses of Board, office, &c. ...	6,323 15 7
Fees	3,216 6 6	Incidental Expenses ...	13,319 8 3
Fines	9,786 3 8	Annual payment to municipalities ...	63,853 0 0
Sale of confiscated liquor	118 7 1	Compensation	61,650 0 0
Licences.	Spirit Merchants and Grocers ...	Transferred to Police Superannuation Fund under section 44 of Act No. 2855	23,000 0 0
	Victuallers	Transferred to Revenue under section 39 of Act No. 3259	192,040 12 1
	Temporary	Balance £381,714 10 0	
	Railway Refreshment Rooms ...	Deduct	
	Packet	Investments	
	Australian Wine	in Stock 341,000 0 0	
	Billiard-table		40,714 10 0
	Brewers		
	Vignerons		
	Club certificates		
Permits—Extra Bars	1,460 0 0		
„ Extended Hours	1,333 10 0		
Expenses of holding extended annual sitting of court ...	19 17 0		
Interest	14,170 0 0		
Cost of taking Poll ...	50 0 0		
Sale of Rolls	0 10 0		
Total	£400,901 5 11	Total	£400,901 5 11

Licence fees.

In addition to the endowment of £50,000 the municipalities received from the Government in 1925-26 a sum of £63,853 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., 1925-26.

					£
Paid to Cities	...	...	...	...	30,476
„ Towns	...	...	...	...	1,037
„ Boroughs	...	...	...	...	6,911
„ Shires—					
1st Class	...	...	...	...	228
2nd „	...	...	...	...	10,364
3rd „	...	...	...	...	9,156
4th „	...	...	...	...	743
5th „	...	...	...	...	3,132
6th „	...	...	...	...	1,197
Total					63,244
Add payments on account of 1924-25					609
Amount paid in 1925-26					£63,853

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 1925-26 was £9,076,787, which was due to the Government and the public respectively, as follows :—

MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS, 1926.

				Due to the Government.	Due to the Public.
				£	£
Cities, Towns, and Boroughs	...			903,144	6,585,384
Shires	...	...	...	134,380	1,453,879
Total	...	...	...	1,037,524	8,039,263

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

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1926.

	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.	Shires.	Total.
	£	£	£
Receipts during the year	1,111,649	292,917	1,404,566
Balance unexpended from previous year ...	384,513	116,717	501,230
Expenditure during the year	1,060,690	257,497	1,318,187
Balance unexpended at the end of 1926 ...	435,472	152,137	587,609

Municipal loan expenditure, 1922 to 1926. The municipal expenditure of loan moneys during the year 1926 amounted to £1,318,187, of which £1,060,690 was spent by cities, towns, and boroughs, and £257,497 by shires. The following statement shows the loan receipts and expenditure for the last five years :—

MUNICIPAL LOAN RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE : RETURN FOR FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1922	797,676	706,677
1923	1,093,858	885,303
1924	1,289,041	1,281,423
1925	1,527,690	1,535,960
1926	1,404,566	1,318,187

Loans raised by municipalities, 1926. The loan receipts for the year 1925-26 amounted to £1,404,566, and the loan expenditure to £1,318,187. The unexpended balance of loan moneys at the end of the year 1925-26 was £587,609—£435,472 to the credit of cities, towns, and boroughs, and £152,137 to the credit of shires. The following are the particulars :—

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926.

	Loans from Government.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
CITIES, TOWNS AND BOROUGH—					
In GREATER MELBOURNE—		£	£	£	£
Box Hill	4,216	5,235	1,019
Brighton	10,418	22,788	12,370
Brunswick	57,300	24,380	13,045	45,965
Camberwell	35,000	16,467	31,552	50,085
Caulfield	76,750	31,307	31,212	76,655
Coburg	25,245	29,109	3,864
Collingwood	35,000	19,817	817	16,000
Essendon	28,000	29,298	5,844	4,546
Fitzroy	30,000	28,506	873	2,367
Footscray	15,617	22,248	6,631
Hawthorn	23,500	10,533	9,719	22,686
Kew	19,000	12,920	17,902	23,982
Malvern	61,051	37,312	16,591	40,330
Melbourne	493,073*	493,073	..	..
Northeote	36,000	48,853	18,407	5,554
Oakleigh	3,758	8,772	5,014
Port Melbourne	11	983	972
Prahran	612	11,472	10,860
Preston	33,100	17,644	981	16,437
Richmond..	30,000	42,018	22,637	10,619
Sandringham	2,500	17,261	14,761	..
South Melbourne	70,000	57,576	13,454	25,878
St. Kilda	13,000	23,700	43,960	33,260
Williamstown	2,566	5,058	2,492
Total	1,043,274	973,108	347,420	417,586

* Of this amount £80,806 was transferred from the Electric Supply Depreciation and Renewals Fund, and £22,382 from the General Depreciation and Renewals Fund to Loan Account. The amount of £39,885 due to Loan Account is also included.

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—*continued*.

	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
CITIES, TOWNS, AND BOROUGH— <i>continued</i> .					
OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—		£	£	£	£
Ballarat	2,625	2,625	..
Bendigo	5,525	7,305	1,780
Carrum	375	422	220	173
Castlemaine	642	1,365	723
Daylesford	3,166	4,130	964
Echuca	4,000	3,040	103	1,063
Geelong West	3,627	3,627	..
Horsham	1,463	1,463	..
Maryborough	2,500	1,746	365	1,119
Mildura	7,000	6,996	602	606
Mordialloc	39,000	38,986	6,824	6,838
Portland	62	62
Queenscliffe	1,511	2,878	1,367
Ringwood	7,000	6,513	..	487
Sale	372	399	27
St. Arnaud	2,410	2,470	60
Stawell	3,500	3,726	226	..
Wangaratta	245	245
Warrnambool	687	722	35
Wonthaggi	5,000	4,125	1,462	2,337
Total	68,375	87,582	37,093	17,886
Total Cities, Towns and Boroughs	1,111,649	1,060,690	384,513	435,472

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—*continued*.

	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
SHIRES—		£	£	£	£
Alberton	2,836	2,836	..
Alexandra	1,800	1,800	..	..
Arapiles	18	18	..
Beechworth	3,000	839	..	2,161
Berwick	4,145	5,651	1,506
Borong	4,000	603	..	3,397
Braybrook	47	47	..
Bright	1,250	653	1,105	1,702
Broadford	3,000	3,000	..	..
Chiltern	332	332
Colac	32	152	120
Corio	2,000	3,728	4,747	3,019
Cranbourne	9,529	11,600	2,071
Dandenong	3,630	7,181	4,547	996
Donald	147	147
Doncaster and Tem- plestowe	1,800	1,800	..	..
Dunmunkle	1,200	1,200	..	..
Eltham	1,050	1,199	289	140
Euroa	1,500	1,914	917	533
Ferntree Gully	3,129	5,700	2,571
Flinders	3,500	3,500	..	..
Frankston and Hast- ings	4,500	8,328	7,961	4,133
Glenelg	1,000	917	..	83
Healesville	2,000	2,000	..	..
Heidelberg	82,101	62,302	5,981	25,780
Heytesbury	93	93
Huntly	569	569
Kara Kara	1,425	1,425	..
Karkaroc	746	758	12
Keilor	2,800	2,681	50	169
Kerang	10,000	4,525	..	5,475
Korong	7,000	5,882	..	1,118
Kyneton	1,944	1,944	..
Lillydale	19,500	13,903	3,275	8,872
Mansfield	500	1,270	774	4
Melton	2,900	4,429	2,116	587
Mildura	1,526	2,561	1,035
Moorabbin	47,736	33,698	16,795	30,833
Mornington	5,000	3,463	114	1,651
Mulgrave	12,450	6,351	..	6,099
Omeo	1,000	1,000	..	..
Phillip Island and Woolamai	5,950	8,533	2,583
Portland	2,000	2,000	..	..
Rochester	192	773	581
Rodney	85	2,844	2,759
Romsey	1,500	53	..	1,447

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, 1926—continued.

-----	Loans from Govern- ment.	Loans from Public.	Loan Expenditure.	Balance Unexpended at end of year—	
				1925.	1926.
SHIRES—continued.		£	£	£	£
Seymour	5,000	5,000	..	..
Shepparton	3,000	3,040	1,950	1,910
South Barwon	254	254
Stawell	7,000	3,693	..	3,307
Swan Hill	27,000	5,576	6,265	27,689
Traralgon	2,500	5,184	2,684	..
Tungamah	700	24	35	711
Violet Town	361	361	..
Walpeup	3,000	2,435	314	879
Wangaratta	87	87
Warragul	1,856	1,856	..
Werribee	3,852	6,625	2,773
Whittlesea	16	217	201
Winchelsea	379	379
Wodonga	756	756
Woorayl	9,000	9,250	250	..
Yea	6,000	5,387	..	613
Total	292,917	257,497	116,717	152,137

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, the amounts of which were 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, 1926, are given hereunder :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE FUND TO 30TH JUNE, 1926.

	Receipts.			Expenditure.	
	1925-26.	To 30th June, 1926.		1925-26.	To 30th June, 1926.
	£	£		£	£
Balance, 30th June, 1925 .. ..	..	..	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 .. ..	..	309,133
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 .. ..	..	115,000	Debentures matured ..	40,745	538,668
Contributions by municipalities ..	52,942	423,705	Redeemable in instalments ..	7,349	76,394
Stock realized .. ..	..	90,748	Ordinary loans	1,600	98,225
Other receipts .. ..	..	300	Interest due to the Treasurer of Victoria on account of municipalities' loan liability outstanding under Acts Nos. 1352 and 2591 ..	..	13,923
			Interest on debit balance of fund	3,248	10,353
			Sundries .. ..	..	19
			Balance, 30th June, 1926 ..	..	..
Total	52,942	1,341,753	Total	52,942	1,341,753

* 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, 1926, was £167,305.

CITY OF MELBOURNE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1926—*continued*

Heads of Expenditure— <i>continued</i> .							Amount.
							£
Interest on Bank Overdrafts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,739
Contributions to Charitable Institutions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,840
" " Infectious Diseases Hospital .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,376
" " Heatherton Sanatorium .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,655
Law Costs .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,241
Printing, Advertising, and Stationery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,296
Miscellaneous—							
Rat Destruction .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,334
Hydraulic Power .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	20,853
Fees—Dog Act .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	721
Insurance and Guarantee Premiums .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,021
Libraries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	425
Town Planning Commission .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	622
Band Performances .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500
Milk Supply .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	785
Ceremonials .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,453
Ambulance Service .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	500
National War Memorial .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,000
Superannuation Fund Contribution .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,020
Retiring Allowance to Employees .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,649
Visit of American Fleet .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	412
Sundries .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,909
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,202,742

Of the total revenue of the City of Melbourne in 1926, about 36 per cent. was derived from rates, 38 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, 5 per cent. from licences, 2 per cent. from hydraulic power, and 7 per cent. from other sources. For public works such as roads and bridges, markets, abattoirs, &c., about 30 per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred; for interest on loans and on bank overdraft and expenses of paying interest, 14 per cent.; for payments to sinking funds and repayment of loans, 3 per cent.; for electric supply, 31 per cent.; for lighting, 1 per cent.; for street cleansing, 7 per cent.; for salaries, allowances, and commissions, 5 per cent.; and for miscellaneous expenditure, 9 per cent.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS' FIDELITY 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

**Municipal
Officers'
Guarantee
Fund.**

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, 1926, amounting to £279,725, were obtained from the Association for a contribution of £921. The amount to the credit of the fund on 30th September, 1926, was £14,612. The claims paid from the inception of the fund to 30th September, 1926, amounted to £2,868.

MELBOURNE HARBOR TRUST.

Melbourne
Harbor Trust
—receipts and
expenditure.

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 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, 1926, was £2,968,970. 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: 1922 TO 1926.**

Heads of Revenue and Expenditure.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
	£	£	£	£	£
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	510,240	600,161	630,992	632,018	658,944
Rents	37,449	39,725	36,391	35,804	37,116
Interest	80	328	669	285	79
Other Revenue	50,836	46,194	56,391	64,363	60,111
	598,605	686,408	724,443	732,470	756,250
Less Amount paid to Consolidated Revenue	114,986	135,520	140,382	136,494	143,002
Total	483,619	550,888	584,061	595,976	613,248
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	40,502	35,175	42,484	37,527	68,442
Flotation and Redemption of Loans Expenses ..	35	750	5	10	15
Maintenance—Dredging ..	90,129	39,774	74,564	96,759	81,128
„ Harbor	3,183	4,613	4,478	4,027	4,240
„ Wharfs	21,475	25,725	32,978	45,555	43,451
„ Approaches ..	11,264	15,345	18,214	20,269	14,098
Interest on Loans* ..	131,516	112,659	119,526	151,891	140,318
Depreciation, Renewals Account, and Sinking Fund ..	100,000	213,000	213,000	213,000	213,000
Total	398,104	447,041	505,249	569,038	564,692
Surplus on Revenue Account ..	85,515	103,847	78,812	26,938	48,556
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	11,906	33,407	560	37,699	30,962
Deepening Waterways ..	98,331	150,885	137,488	145,808	169,053
Wharfs Construction ..	45,613	67,360	194,318	285,072	129,382
Approaches Construction ..	9,084	7,519	25,483	46,130	15,412
Other Harbor Improvements ..	25,311	8,204	23,826	18,631	40,416
Floating Plant	1,708	632	3,192	97,354	9,221
General Plant	925	2,025	3,429	2,718	4,891
Stock Account .. ..	..	..	..	..	6,119
Total	192,878	270,032	388,296	633,412	405,456

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

GEELONG HARBOR TRUST.

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

An Act to provide for the construction of works in connexion with the harbor at Geelong was passed on 12th December, 1905. This measure made provision for the constitution of the Geelong Harbor Trust and the appointment of three commissioners, the chairman to receive £400 per annum, and each of the other commissioners £200 per annum. The management of the port and shipping is vested in the commissioners. Power is given to the Trust to borrow £591,000 (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.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
REVENUE.					
Wharfage and Tonnage Rates ..	£ 21,737	£ 26,387	£ 30,571	£ 40,137	£ 35,468
Rents, Fees, and Licences ..	4,363	4,563	5,487	5,589	5,559
Sparrovale Farm ..	7,852	8,952	6,799	4,880	5,381
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	16,752	15,754	15,475	15,766	16,318
Other Revenue	3,530	3,024	3,024	19,958	4,347
Total	54,234	58,680	61,356	86,330	67,073
REVENUE EXPENDITURE.					
General Management and Expenses	7,856	8,362	6,368	6,239	6,657
Maintenance—Wharfs and Approaches ..	2,325	4,311	3,282	4,518	8,210
" Harbor ..	505	669	530	824	952
" Floating Plant ..	710	405	987	650	615
" Other ..	925	1,421	1,649	2,386	2,564
Interest on Loans and Sinking Fund	25,087	27,849	27,755	27,756	27,755
Sparrovale Farm	5,768	6,601	5,324	4,797	7,312
Corio Freezing Works and Abattoirs	3,240	3,361	4,599	7,969	6,622
Corio Quay Power-house ..	4,377	2,332	888	..	..
Miscellaneous	1,274	754	933	1,888	5,543
Total	52,067	56,065	52,315	57,027	66,230
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.					
Land and Property	8,541	7,915	10,056	2,209	2,564
Deepening Waterworks ..	..	341	14,991	20,587	15,716
Wharfs and Approaches Construction	115	10	95	3,283	8,973
Other Harbor Improvements ..	..	..	746	810	955
Floating and General Plant ..	..	14	11	..	29
Total	8,656	8,280	25,899	26,889	28,237

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, called commissioners, 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 (part of), and Preston. The 39 Commissioners therefore represent 22 municipalities or part municipalities.

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 main and general sewerage; to provide for the commerce and recreation of the inhabitants of the metropolis in so far as the vesting powers of the Board's principal Act, together with the *Metropolitan Drainage and Rivers Act* 1923, relate to the bed, soil and banks of the River Yarra; to deal also with main drains and main drainage works; and to prevent the pollution of the River Yarra and certain other rivers, creeks, and water-courses within the metropolis, and for other purposes. 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 territory has an area of 434 square miles (277,760 acres) of land area, and on 31st December, 1926, comprised 22 cities and part of another, 1 town, 1 borough and parts of 13 shires, or 38 municipalities in all. Sixteen of these municipalities—or part municipalities—are without representation on the Board. The whole of the city of Mordialloc

and of the Shire of Moorabbin are included in the metropolis for water supply purposes, and the Board 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, 1926, was 1,009,772.

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

The Board is authorized to borrow £16,750,000, this amount being exclusive of loans amounting to £2,389,934 originally contracted by the Government for the construction of the waterworks for the supply of Melbourne and suburbs. These works were vested in and taken over by the Board on 1st July, 1891.

The liability under loans raised by the Board was £17,037,090 on 30th June, 1926. The Board was at that date empowered to borrow £2,102,844 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 1925-26 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 £15,455,814 in 1925-26, and £16,359,213 in 1926-27.

Revenue and expenditure of water supply system.

The total revenue was £664,926, as against £579,502 in the previous year. The cost in 1925-26 of maintenance and management was £105,597, and the amount of interest was £326,476, the total charge being £432,073, as compared with a payment in 1924-25 of £97,992 for maintenance and management, and of £294,845 for interest, or a total charge of £392,837.

Cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan waterworks system.

The total cost of the water supply system up to 30th June, 1926, was as follows :—

Original water supply works, tank pumping station, &c.	£
Yan Yean system	84,885
Maroondah system	637,508
O'Shanassy system	1,385,608
Service reservoirs	1,176,880
Large mains.. .. .	365,630
Reticulation	1,439,438
	<hr/> 2,095,256
Total	<hr/> £7,185,205

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 area.

The total area from which water is collected at present from the three systems is 108,840 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 Yeau
system.**

The Yan Yeau system embraces Silver and Wallaby Creeks, Plenty River and Jack's Creek, 28,857 acres, and the catchment areas of Yan Yeau Reservoir, 5,105 acres, the total area being 33,962 acres. The water is collected into the Toorourrong Reservoir, and taken thence to the Yan Yeau 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 1926 was 21 ft. $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. on 1st January, and the minimum depth, 14 ft. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. on 3rd, 13th and 14th 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, 1926, the total intake of the Reservoir was 3,850,058,000 gallons, and the total output was 4,500,097,000 gallons exclusive of loss by evaporation.

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

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

MAROONDAH SYSTEM.

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

O'SHANASSY AND UPPER YARRA SYSTEM.

**O'Shanassy
and
Upper Yarra
watershed.**

The watershed of the O'Shanassy River comprises 32,650 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. The catchment area of Silvan Reservoir, near Mount Dandenong, is about 2,228 acres.

OUTPUT OF THE VARIOUS WATER SYSTEMS IN 1926.

The total output of water from the various sources of supply in 1926 was as follows:—

			Gallons.
From Yan Yean Reservoir	..	..	4,500,097,000
„ Maroondah Streams	..	..	8,807,509,000
„ O'Shanassy River ..	..	..	6,201,054,000
Total Output			19,508,660,000

Storage and service reservoirs. There are two storage reservoirs with a total capacity of 6,460,000,000 gallons and fifteen service reservoirs (including one at the Metropolitan Farm, Werribee), with a total capacity of 176,900,000 gallons, and it is proposed to have, in the immediate future, two other service reservoirs. The Year-Book for 1920-21 contains, on page 218, figures showing the then capacity of the reservoirs in gallons and their reduced level at by-wash.

Consumption of water in Melbourne and suburbs. The average number of people supplied with water during 1926 was 990,561, and the average daily consumption was 53.91 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 1926:—

TOTAL AND DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1926.

Month.	Total Consumption of Water.	Daily Average Consumption of Water.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
January	2,070,805,000	66,800,161
February	2,056,889,000	73,460,321
March	1,700,449,000	54,853,193
April	1,316,056,000	43,868,533
May	1,260,776,000	40,670,193
June	1,216,128,000	40,537,600
July	1,277,061,000	41,195,516
August	1,268,362,000	40,914,903
September	1,394,982,000	46,499,400
October	1,636,855,000	52,801,774
November	1,995,597,000	66,519,900
December	2,298,450,000	74,143,548
Total for the year ...	19,492,410,000	...
Daily average for the year ... ..	...	53,403,863

NOTE.—The maximum daily consumption for 1926 occurred on 16th December and the minimum daily consumption on 30th May of that year. The consumption was 96,996,000 gallons on the former and 31,539,000 gallons on the latter of these two days.

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, 1917 TO 1926.**

Year.	Estimated Population supplied with Water to 30th June.	Houses sup- plied 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.	
1917 ...	700,321	158,086	148,395	38,604,178	55·12
1918 ...	716,521	161,743	151,622	40,838,819	57·00
1919 ...	731,154	165,046	155,238	42,455,225	58·07
1920 ...	755,536	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
1923 ...	867,230	195,763	175,379	50,691,134	58·45
1924 ...	918,485	207,333	182,987	50,187,508	54·64
1925 ...	954,558	215,476	191,318	55,633,000	58·28
1926 ...	990,561	223,603	199,918	53,403,863	53·91

These figures show that additional houses to the number of 8,127 were supplied with water during the year ended 30th June, 1926.

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 1926-27 was £16,659,372, inclusive of assessments on vacant lands, and unsewered area and undertakings.

By Act of Parliament the Board is empowered to levy a general sewerage rate not exceeding 1s. 2d. in the £1 in sewered areas. The sewerage rate for 1925-26 was 9d. in the £1 in the sewered area. The total annual value of property assessed for sewerage purposes and liable to the 9d. rate was £14,177,912 in 1925-26.

The receipts from the general sewerage rate in 1925-26 amounted to £546,402.

The sewerage revenue for 1925-26 was £600,445, as against £537,657 in the previous year. The outlay in 1925-26 for management, working expenses and repairs was £133,988, and for interest £520,508, the total charges being £654,496, compared with an outlay in 1924-25 of £129,050 for management, working expenses, and repairs, and of £485,027 for interest, or a total expenditure of £614,077.

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, 1926, was £10,029,988, divided as follows:—

	£
Farm purchase and preparation	916,574
Rising Mains and outfall sewer	451,088
Pumping station buildings and engines	285,873
Main and branch sewers	2,443,055
Street reticulation	3,118,807
Reticulation of rights-of-way	1,535,223
House connexions branches	650,663
Cost of house connexions chargeable to capital	583,590
Night soil depots	45,115
<hr/>	
Cost of sewerage system	£10,029,988
Householders' debts for house connexions	291,535
River improvements	7,493
<hr/>	
Total	£10,329,016

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

PROGRESS OF SEWERAGE WORK WITHIN THE BOARD'S METROPOLITAN AREA UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1926.

On 31st December, 1926, the sewerage system was practically completed in the following municipalities, viz.:—Melbourne, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Hawthorn, Prahran, Richmond, St. Kilda, and the thickly populated portions of Essendon.

The Sewerage System was nearly completed in the municipalities of Brighton, Brunswick, Caulfield, Malvern, the older parts of Footscray and Box Hill (the latter being formerly known as Nunawading), and the thickly populated portions of Camberwell, Coburg, Kew, Northcote, Preston and Williamstown, while considerable progress had been made in the municipalities of Heidelberg, Oakleigh and Sandringham.

A small portion of the municipality of Moorabbin had been completed, and the Five Mile Creek Branch Main had been extended through Essendon to Keilor.

During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1926, work has progressed more particularly in Camberwell, Heidelberg, Malvern, Kew, Moorabbin and Oakleigh, and in a lesser degree in Coburg, Sandringham, Footscray and Brighton.

Mains and Branch Sewers.—The Deepdene Branch Main, Kew and Camberwell; Well-street Branch Section 3, Brighton; Kilby-road Intercepting Sewer Section 1, Kew; Grenville-street Branch Section 1, Sandringham; Dry Creek Branch Section 2, Heidelberg; Surrey Hills Branch, Camberwell; and Youell-street Branch Section 5, Footscray, have been constructed to meet the requirements of reticulation areas in the respective municipalities mentioned.

Reticulation contracts have been completed in Brighton, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Footscray, Heidelberg, Kew, Malvern, Moorabbin, Oakleigh, Sandringham, and Williamstown. A reticulation area was also constructed by day labor in Coburg. Contract and day labor reticulation extensions have been carried out, principally in Caulfield, Camberwell, Preston, Malvern, Northcote, Essendon, and Hawthorn, and in a lesser degree in Heidelberg, Brighton, Brunswick, Footscray, Williamstown, Sandringham, Coburg, Melbourne, St. Kilda, Kew, Oakleigh, and Prahran.

Work in progress—Mains and Branch Sewers.—Merri Creek Main Sewer Sections 5 and 6, day labor, Coburg and Preston; Burleigh-street Branch, day labor, Williamstown; and Gilbert-road Branch, Coburg and Preston, are now in course of construction. *Reticulation contracts* are now being carried out in Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Heidelberg, Preston and Sandringham; while day labor reticulation alterations and extensions to meet the requirements of new buildings or fresh subdivisions are being carried out in Footscray, Hawthorn, Malvern and Prahran.

In all 1,832 miles 33 chains of reticulation and 188 miles 30 chains of main and branch sewers have been completed, making a total length of 2,020 miles 63 chains.

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

Number of
Houses for
which sewers
were provided
on 31st Decr.,
1926.

The first house was connected in Port Melbourne in August, 1897. On 31st December, 1926, the number of houses for which sewers were provided was 202,229, including 607 outside gazetted areas.

During the year 1925-26, 7,589 new houses were erected in the metropolitan area, and provision was made for the sewerage of 8,600 houses.

The following statement shows the progress of house connexions to the 31st December, 1926 :—

**NUMBER OF HOUSES FOR WHICH SEWERS WERE
PROVIDED ON 31st DECEMBER, 1926.**

Municipality.	No. of Houses for which sewers were provided on 31st December, 1926.
Melbourne City	27,372
South Melbourne City	10,917
Prahran City	12,718
Fitzroy City	8,128
Richmond City	10,463
St. Kilda City	9,403
Collingwood City	8,715
Footscray City	8,636
Hawthorn City	7,977
Brunswick City	12,108
Essendon City	9,979
Malvern City	9,775
Caulfield City	14,041
Northcote City	9,422
Camberwell City	7,262
Brighton City	6,242
Port Melbourne City	3,095
Williamstown City	4,704
Kew City	4,443
Coburg City	4,709
Sandringham City	2,882
Preston City	3,764
Oakleigh Town	1,548
Box Hill Borough	413
Heidelberg Shire (part of)	3,393
Moorabbin Shire (part of)	189
Werribee Shire (part of)	1
Total	202,229

In addition to the above, the total area comprises part of a city and parts of ten shires, or 38 municipalities, or part municipalities, in all, in which sewerage facilities for houses are not yet provided.

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 from the two mains enters the pumping station at a level of 37 feet and 45 feet respectively 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 *débris* and fibrous matter is caught in the straining cages, the bars of which are 1½

**Pumping
station.**

inches apart. The matter collected in the cages is carted away and buried under earth, and in course of time it totally decomposes. There are seven steam driven reciprocating pumping engines installed of about 300 horse-power each, with a daily capacity of about 8,000,000 gallons. In addition to these there are five electrical centrifugal pumping units installed, three of 18,000,000 gallons and two of 12,000,000 gallons daily capacity, making a total capacity of 134,000,000 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 from 120 feet to 125 feet. The sewage is raised and forced through two 6-ft. rising mains (one of mild steel and one of wrought iron) and one 4-ft. rising main with $3\frac{3}{4}$ chains of concrete at the top end. The three mains run side by side, each about 2 miles $63\frac{1}{2}$ chains long. Only two of them are in use at the same time, the other one being kept as a stand-by. There are also two 6-ft. exterior by-pass rising mains laid north and south of the pumping station and having a total length of 14 chains 3 feet. These are provided so that the flow can be by-passed and cleaning and repairs effected to the mains and valves in the immediate vicinity of the pumping station. The total length of all the rising mains is 8 miles $44\frac{1}{2}$ chains. From Brooklyn the sewage 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 present maximum capacity of the outfall sewer (which is only half of the full amount) is 12,500 cubic feet a minute, or $112\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons of sewage per day.

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 21,311 acres 2 roods and $12\frac{1}{2}$ perches (33.3 square miles) 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 for the past 33 years to 31st December, 1926, of 17.50 inches. The farm has the Werribee River for its eastern boundary, and a frontage of about 6 miles to Port Phillip Bay on the south (extending from the mouth of the Werribee River to the mouth of the Little River). It extends as far north as the main Geelong Road, the land gradually sloping from the north, and the highest point being 44 feet above low-water mark. The head of the outfall sewer 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.

The land required for sewage filtration purposes is divided into 20-acre blocks (20 chains by 10 chains), which are graded into bays of

Statistical details relating to the farm for the year 1925-26, or as at 30th June, 1926, are as follows:—

Total area of farm	21,312 acres
Average quantity of sewage delivered daily on to farm for year 1925-26 = in gallons	35,477,863
= 130·688 acre-feet per day = 4·9161 feet per annum over the total area available for sewage disposal, viz., 9,703 acres.	
Total capital cost of farm to 30th June, 1926	£916,574
Profit on farm trading account for the year after charging up working expenses of farm	£33,945
Net cost of sewage purification (after charging £17,257 working expenses of sewage disposal, and £41,578, interest on capital cost)	£24,890
Net cost per head per annum of sewerage purification for past 10 years	6·54d.
Population served by sewerage system	885,637
Rainfall for year ended 30th June, 1926	12·90 inches
" " " 31st December, 1926	13·37 "
Average rainfall for 33 years to 31st December, 1926	17·50 "

THE BALLARAT WATER COMMISSION AND THE BALLARAT SEWERAGE AUTHORITY.

The Ballarat Water Commission was constituted on 1st July, 1880, by Act 44 Vict. No. 656 (Consolidated Act No. 2747). The Ballarat Sewerage Authority was constituted under the provisions of the *Sewerage Districts Act* 1915 by Order in Council, dated 30th November, 1920, which provides that the members of the Water Commission shall be the Sewerage Authority. The Commissioners number seven; three (one of whom is chairman) being appointed by the Government, and four being elected by the Council of the City of Ballarat.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply District embraces an area of about 27 square miles, including the city of Ballarat, the borough of Sebastopol, and portions of the shires of Ballarat, Buninyong, and Bungaree, and it contains a population of about 43,000. The works comprise six reservoirs, two of which (the Upper Gong Gong and Kirks) are situated about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Ballarat, and are service reservoirs. The two last-mentioned are connected with three of the other basins by an open aqueduct about 8 miles long, which is lined with masonry and concrete. The sixth reservoir (the Moorabool) situate $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east of Wallace, was completed on 12th August, 1915, and is connected to the aqueduct before mentioned by a reinforced concrete gravity pipe line having a diameter of 2 feet and about 5 miles long. The total storage capacity of the six reservoirs is 2,215,558,327 gallons.

Finance.—The capital cost of construction of the waterworks is £640,000. The liabilities are loans due to the Government, amounting to £309,709 as at 31st December, 1926. The annual revenue is £33,800.

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. in the £ on the net annual value of properties, with a minimum rate of £1 per annum for properties supplied.

Sewerage.—The actual construction of sewerage works for the city began in December, 1922. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, and progress has been made with branch and reticulation sewers and with the treatment or disposal works. The scheme in its initial stages will provide for about 38,000 persons, and eventually for not less than 90,000 persons. The method of disposal of sewage is by sedimentation, oxidation and sludge digestion. The main and outfall sewers have been completed, the latter being 3 ft. 3 in. in diameter, and about 1 mile long, while the former is about 2 1-10th miles long. Branch and reticulation sewers have been constructed to the extent of 18 miles. Nineteen sewered areas have been declared, as at 1st July, 1927, comprising 2,268 tenements. The service was put into action in July, 1925, when the first house connexion was made.

Finance.—The scheme is being financed by loans from financial institutions, £170,000 having been provided up to 31st December, 1926, for constructional works, and £50,000 for house connexions.

Rating.—To provide for preliminary administration and interest charges, the rating has been as follows:—1922, 2d. in the £; 1923, 3d. in the £; 1924–25–26, 6d. in the £ on the net annual value of all rateable property within the sewerage district. A special rate of 4d. in the £ on all rateable property was imposed for the year 1927.

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 town 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, £710,000 for sewerage undertaking, and £220,000 for sewerage installations to properties under deferred payment conditions. The expenditure on these services to 30th June, 1926, was:—Water supply, £552,159; sewerage, £520,075; and sewerage installation, £197,661. The annual revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £48,677 on account of waterworks and £41,655 on account of sewerage.

The population supplied is about 40,000. The number of buildings situated within the "Drainage Area" is 10,500; the number within the "Sewered Areas," 10,000; and the number connected with the sewers, 9,501.

Water Supply.—The catchment area is about 16,000 acres. Particulars of the works and storage capacity of the various reservoirs are given in the *Year-Book* for 1920–21, pp. 226 and 227. The total storage capacity of the reservoirs and service basins is 2,738,119,808 gallons.

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

Rating.—The water rate is 1s. 1d. in the pound on the net annual value of properties as certified to by the municipalities, with minimum rates of £1 per annum for properties supplied and 5s. for vacant land.

The sewerage rate is :—

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.

In addition to the general and additional rates, the Trust, to prevent or minimize the pollution of the River Barwon, has power to strike a differential or special rate on properties which drain 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 for 1927 is Cr. G. D. Garvin, 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 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Owing to an extension of the sewered area, and an increase in the cost of labour and materials, it was found necessary during the year 1924 to borrow an additional amount of £50,000 from the Commonwealth Bank at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These loans are secured by debentures, and the former is repayable in twenty years, and the latter in ten years on a 30 years' basis of half-yearly payments of sinking fund and interest. A further loan of £80,000 for extensions in hand has recently been authorized, the interest rate being $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with repayment in 20 years on a 30 years' basis of equal half-yearly payments. For the purpose of meeting the loan repayments a special rate of 3d. in the pound of net annual value is levied upon all property within the Sewerage District, the whole city being rated, although the present sewerage proposals are confined to the central area. A sewerage rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound on properties actually sewered was struck on the 25th February, 1927.

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. It includes two aqueducts, 42 feet and 80 feet long, respectively. The main sewer has been completed to the end of sewerage area No. 1, a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Branch sewers have been laid within the city, having an aggregate length of over 35 miles, and providing for the connexion of over 3,400 tenements. The first house was connected on 31st March, 1923; and by 30th June, 1927, 2,631 houses had been connected, while 147 others were in course of being sewered.

The method of disposal of the sewage is by liquefying tanks, with land filtration, the effluent being used for growing grass and fodder crops. The disposal site is surrounded by Crown lands and unimproved grazing lands, and is at Ironstone Hill, a mile west of Epsom, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Bendigo Post Office.

The Act provides for a sewerage rate not exceeding 2s. 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 quarterly instalments. For this purpose a loan of £35,000, at 6 per cent., and a further advance of £35,000 were 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 1 per cent. more than the Authority pays. The whole scheme is expected to cost about £380,000.

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 that area. The districts referred to are the Borough of Ringwood, Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham, and portions of the Shires of Braybrook, Keilor, Broadmeadows, Heidelberg, Lilydale (Croydon), Doncaster and Templestowe, 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, 1927, had under its control the following :—Forty stations, 281 members of permanent staff, 76 members of special service staff, 8 members of clerical staff, 64 men engaged in the workshops, 14 employees engaged in the tailoring department, 175 partially paid firemen, 1 steam motor fire engine, 7 petrol motor fire engines, 2 motor salvage wagons, 22 combination hose carriages and pumps, 4 motor combination appliances, 21 motor hose wagons, 4 motor cycles, 3 motor lorries, 3 special service vans, 1 Chief Officer's motor car, 1 Deputy Chief Officer's motor car, 3 extension ladders and fire escapes, 4 pompier ladders, 9 inspection cars, 104,000 feet of hose, 12 smoke helmets, 1 smoke jacket, and 467 fire alarm circuits having 1,437 street fire alarms, all of which were with telephones. There were also 1,203 auxiliary boxes and 245 automatic systems in public and other buildings, 192 direct telephone lines, 64 of which were acting as fire alarms to buildings, and 107 watchmen's clock systems.

During 1926-27 the cost of maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was £207,707, 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 808d. in the pound over an area wherein the property was valued at £17,902,810, and that of the insurance companies was equal to £5 13s. 1·8d. for every £100 of premiums on insured property. The premiums received in the Melbourne Fire District in 1925 amounted to £1,036,816, and the total of the payments made by the companies in 1926-27 for the maintenance of the fire brigade system was £59,256.

**Country Fire
Brigades
Board.**

The Country Fire Brigades Board consists of nine members. Three are appointed by the Governor in Council, two are elected by the municipal councils of the districts in which there are brigades registered under the Board, two by the fire insurance companies carrying on business in such districts, and two by the registered fire brigades. The board elects one of its members as president each year. The tenure of the Board members is two years. The Board's revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1926, was £29,733, which was obtained from the following sources :—(a) Government, £9,573 ; (b) municipalities, £9,595 ; (c) insurance companies, £9,573 ; and (d) other sources, £992. The expenditure for the same year amounted to £31,113. There are 114 municipal councils and 93 insurance companies included in the operation of the Act. The premiums received by the insurance companies in country districts during the year 1924 amounted to £316,205. The total value of rateable property assessed within the Board's district in 1925 was £2,733,051. 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 143 registered

brigades, and the number of registered firemen is 2,428. 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.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works **Water Supply.** 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, 1926, the Board had fixed to its 265 miles $50\frac{1}{4}$ chains of leading mains and 1,798 miles $76\frac{3}{4}$ chains of reticulation mains, 6,317 pillar hydrants, 29 Tregear patent hydrants, and 17,023 ball fire plugs (viz., 17,002 Bateman and Moore, of which 3,654 are with spring, and 21 Fowler patent)—a grand total of 23,369. 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, 1926, are as follows:—

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

	1922.	1923.	1924.*	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ordinary Receipts.</i>					
Contributions — Govern- ment, Municipal, and Insurance	148,139	144,587	148,576	175,977	186,613
Receipts for Services ...	12,300	14,028	16,486	20,138	21,180
Interest and Sundries ...	13,751	9,778	9,881	12,120	17,567
Total ...	174,190	168,393	174,943	208,235	225,360
<i>Ordinary Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries	106,046	103,416	105,749	130,723	139,087
Fire Expenses	4,022	4,205	2,196	4,133	4,315
Administrative Charges, &c.	25,403	29,699	28,433	32,282	39,676
Plant—Purchase and Re- pairs	8,255	9,394	17,383	16,950	19,551
Interest	9,213	7,468	7,746	7,753	8,823
Repayment of Loans ...	12,052	2,959	3,115	3,946	4,185
Firemen's Accident Fund	250	...	...	...	...
Superannuation Fund ...	...	4,684	3,900	4,880	5,046
Miscellaneous	11,143	7,737	3,095	4,230	7,904
Total ...	176,384	169,562	171,617	204,897	228,587
<i>Loan Expenditure.</i>					
Purchase of Land and Erection of Buildings, &c.	25,205	1,443	1,201	19,047	14,236

* The figures relating to the Country Fire Brigades Board included in this column are for a period of six months to 30th June, 1924.

ACCUMULATION.

BANKING.

**Victorian
Banking.**

Excluding the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, there were on 30th June, 1927, fourteen institutions, having 900 branches or agencies, which were engaged in the ordinary business of banking in Victoria. These are referred to in the succeeding tables as Joint Stock Banks. During the financial year 1926-27, the Royal Bank of Australia Ltd. was absorbed by the English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd., and the Bank of Victoria Ltd. amalgamated with the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.

The particulars of the Commonwealth Bank, which are shown separately on page 260, include the balances of the Savings Bank department of that institution, as it issues one general statement only of assets and liabilities.

**Capital
Resources.**

The paid-up capital of the Joint Stock Banks operating in Victoria, together with their reserve funds, the rate per cent., and the amount of their last dividends, are shown in the following table :—

CAPITAL RESOURCES OF THE JOINT STOCK BANKS IN VICTORIA.—30TH JUNE, 1927.

Bank.	Paid-up Capital.	Rate per cent. per annum of last Dividend and Bonus.	Amount of last Half-yearly Dividend and Bonus.	Amount of Reserved Profits.
	£	%	£	£
Bank of Australasia ..	4,000,000	14	280,000	3,945,508
Union Bank of Australia Ltd. ..	3,500,000	15	262,500	4,295,513
English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd. ..	2,625,000	12½	281,250*	2,280,722
Bank of New South Wales	6,875,000	10	343,750	4,880,314
Australian Bank of Commerce Ltd. ..	2,208,000	8	73,600	845,303
Primary Producers' Bank of Australia Ltd. ..	419,866	..	..	2,895
National Bank of Australasia Ltd. ..	4,804,472	10	200,000	2,966,392
Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd. ..	3,299,050	4 Pref., 15 Ord.	106,039	1,066,141
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. ..	4,710,412	10	226,818	4,010,184
Ballarat Banking Co. Ltd.	127,500	8	5,100	73,116
Queensland National Bank Ltd. ..	1,500,000	10	75,000	761,649
Bank of Adelaide ..	1,000,000	10	46,042	889,827
Total Australian Banks	35,069,300	..	1,900,099	26,017,564
Bank of New Zealand	6,637,239	"A" Pref. 10, "B" Pref. 13½, Ord. 14½. Long Term Mortgage shares 6 & 7½.	771,814*	3,609,656
Comptoir National d'Es-compte de Paris ..	10,000,000	14	700,000	3,304,558
Grand Total ..	51,706,539	..	3,371,913	32,931,778

* For twelve months.

Shareholders' capital, which represents the capital of the shareholders without as well as within Victoria, amounted to nearly 52 millions on 30th June, 1927. The reserves at the end of 1926-27 totalled £32,931,778, which amount equalled 63·7 per cent. of the paid-up capital.

The subjoined statement shows the average liabilities and assets *within Victoria*, and the capital and profits, of the Joint Stock Banks for the June quarters of each of the years 1923 to 1927. The liabilities are those to the general public, and are exclusive of the banks' liabilities to their shareholders, which are shown in the preceding table.

VICTORIAN BANKING RETURNS, 1923 TO 1927.

(Excluding Commonwealth Bank.)

Heading.	Quarter ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Number of Banks in Victoria furnishing returns ..	15	15	15	15	14
Number of Branches or Agencies ..	818	856	859	883	900
<i>Liabilities within Victoria.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Notes in circulation not bearing interest ..	88,031	87,278	86,909	86,601	86,411
Bills in circulation not bearing interest ..	323,860	388,374	429,199	482,843	468,266
Balances due to other Banks ..	1,110,053	1,160,104	1,186,464	1,316,330	1,059,994
Deposits not bearing interest ..	34,530,904	33,194,062	33,825,829	33,618,224	33,616,887
Deposits bearing interest ..	50,604,835	51,107,426	51,849,166	56,449,495	58,307,022
Total ..	86,657,683	85,937,244	87,377,627	91,953,493	93,538,580
<i>Assets within Victoria.</i>					
Coined Gold and Silver and other metals ..	5,156,654	5,367,063	7,272,507	8,462,690	8,084,719
Gold and Silver in Bullion and Bars ..	46,195	35,790	987,728	48,124	54,805
Government and Municipal Securities ..	3,177,611	2,595,209	4,422,831	6,427,484	4,981,418
Landed and House Property ..	1,545,947	1,639,793	1,630,648	1,729,417	1,895,220
Notes and Bills of other Banks ..	708,707	792,834	861,299	863,375	850,584
Balances due from other Banks ..	2,460,808	2,043,725	810,985	912,479	850,163
Discounts, Overdrafts, and other assets ..	61,055,847	63,914,412	63,181,481	67,568,544	75,668,559
Australian Notes ..	8,928,524	7,859,885	7,362,658	6,833,737	7,576,120
Total ..	83,170,293	84,248,711	86,530,137	92,845,850	99,961,538
<i>Capital and Profits.</i>					
Capital Stock paid-up ..	38,914,827	41,627,576	45,581,952	45,928,051	51,706,539
Reserved and Undivided Profits ..	22,194,469	24,442,499	26,817,098	28,790,768	32,931,778

The principal item in each case of the liabilities and assets of the Joint Stock Banks is shown for a series of years in the next statement.

Deposits in and
advances by
banks.

DEPOSITS IN AND ADVANCES BY JOINT STOCK BANKS IN VICTORIA (*excluding Commonwealth Bank*), 1918 to 1927.

(Average of the June quarter of each year.)

Year.	Deposits.			Advances.*	Excess of Deposits over Advances.
	Bearing Interest.	Not bearing Interest.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1918	31,954,868	23,642,921	55,597,789	40,067,342	15,530,447
1919	37,765,167	26,714,621	64,479,788	50,306,414	14,173,374
1920	38,454,025	37,785,998	76,240,023	44,092,846	32,147,177
1921	42,197,473	33,326,736	75,524,209	55,681,441	19,842,768
1922	44,420,620	32,125,952	76,546,572	53,151,759	23,394,813
1923	50,604,835	34,530,904	85,135,739	61,055,847	24,079,892
1924	51,107,426	33,194,062	84,301,488	63,914,412	20,387,076
1925	51,849,166	33,825,829	85,674,995	63,181,481	22,493,514
1926	56,449,495	33,618,224	90,067,719	67,568,544	22,499,175
1927	58,307,022	33,616,887	91,923,909	75,668,559	16,255,350

* Including discounts, overdrafts and all other assets, but excluding Government and municipal securities.

The succeeding statement shows for ten years the
Rates of average rate of interest per annum paid by the Joint
Interest. Stock Banks in Melbourne to depositors for twelve
 months:—

Year.					Average rate of Interest per annum allowed to depositors for 12 months.
					Per cent.
1917-18	...	...	...	...	4
1918-19	...	...	...	...	4
1919-20	...	...	...	...	4
1920-21	...	...	...	...	4½
1921-22	...	...	...	...	4½
1922-23	...	...	...	...	4½
1923-24	...	...	...	...	4½
1924-25	...	...	...	...	4½
1925-26	...	...	...	...	4½
1926-27	...	...	...	...	4½

**Analysis of
Returns of the
Joint Stock
Banks.**

The percentages of coin, bullion, and Australian notes on "liabilities at call," and of advances on deposits, the relative proportion of deposits and the amount of the latter per head of population, are shown in the following table, for each of the last ten years :—

ANALYSIS OF RETURNS OF JOINT STOCK BANKS IN VICTORIA, 1917-18 TO 1926-27.

(Excluding Commonwealth Bank.)

Quarter Ended 30th June.	Percentage of—		Deposits—		Amount of Deposits per Head of Population.
			Relative Proportion—		
	Coin, Bullion, and Australian Notes on Liabilities at Call*.	Advances on Deposits.	Bearing Interest.	Not Bearing Interest.	
	%	%	%	%	£ s. d.
1918 ..	46·61	72·08	57·48	42·52	39 2 3
1919 ..	40·29	78·02	58·57	41·43	43 19 9
1920 ..	40·20	57·83	50·44	49·56	50 10 6
1921 ..	45·38	73·73	55·87	44·13	49 5 0
1922 ..	44·61	69·44	58·03	41·97	48 17 1
1923 ..	40·82	71·72	59·44	40·56	53 1 6
1924 ..	39·85	75·82	60·62	39·38	51 9 0
1925 ..	46·07	73·75	60·52	39·48	51 6 8
1926 ..	45·53	75·02	62·67	37·33	53 4 2
1927 ..	46·63	82·32	63·43	36·57	53 6 7

* Deposits not bearing interest, and bank notes in circulation.

The foregoing statements relate to all banks in Victoria excluding the Commonwealth Bank. The average liabilities and assets of that bank *within Victoria* for the June quarters in each of the last five years were as follows:—

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS OF THE COMMONWEALTH BANK IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Heading.	June Quarter—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Liabilities—					
Bills in circulation..	79,607	69,932	103,349	180,954	95,438
Balances due to other banks	25,450	19,718	1,058,922	2,073,744	2,522,068
Deposits not bearing interest ..	3,091,446	4,735,131	3,275,551	3,225,469	3,275,011
Deposits bearing interest	6,439,855	2,767,377	2,680,799	1,077,530	1,707,612
Savings Bank deposits	5,485,773	5,370,284	5,320,159	5,705,035	5,887,485
Total ..	15,122,131	12,962,442	12,438,780	12,262,732	13,487,614
Assets—					
Coin and bullion ..	447,240	338,403	1,625,442	1,743,577	610,260
Australian notes ..	966,925	2,969,035	3,231,260	2,727,848	2,282,245
Government and Municipal securities	3,254,720	3,910,972	3,965,538	3,663,876	6,210,694
Landed property ..	224,618	350,942	405,867	341,000	236,346
Notes and bills of other banks ..	4,339,509	160,583	167,892	161,061	586,360
Balances due from other banks ..	537,977	1,608,494	577,647	577,063	462,661
Advances ..	2,563,292	2,018,369	2,002,659	2,068,885	3,677,086
Total ..	12,334,281	11,356,798	11,976,305	11,283,310	14,065,652

Melbourne
Clearing
House.

The following table contains particulars in regard to the clearances through the Melbourne Clearing House in each of the last ten years :—

MELBOURNE CLEARING HOUSE TRANSACTIONS,
1917 TO 1926.

Year.	Clearances.		Average Weekly Clearances.
	By exchange of Cheques, Bills, &c.	By payments in Australian Notes, balances, &c.	
	£	£	£
1917 ..	377,301,000	56,120,000	7,255,800
1918 ..	493,769,000	97,305,000	9,548,400
1919 ..	544,211,000	98,466,000	10,465,600
1920 ..	725,006,000	122,290,000	13,942,400
1921 ..	609,336,000	105,682,000	11,718,000
1922 ..	623,789,000	92,073,000	11,995,000
1923 ..	697,051,000	105,197,000	13,405,000
1924 ..	734,081,000	106,642,000	14,117,000
1925 ..	803,083,000	92,865,000	15,444,000
1926 ..	790,111,000	75,984,000	15,194,000

In this table the two sides of the clearance are considered as one transaction. The amount passed through the Melbourne Clearing House during 1926 was larger than in any other year with the exception of 1925, when the aggregate of the clearances by cheques, bills, etc., was £803,083,000, thus exceeding the total for 1926 by £12,972,000.

State Savings
Bank of
Victoria.

The subjoined table shows the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit in the State Savings Bank at various dates since the year 1875. Particulars of depositors and deposits in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock, and

in the Penny Bank Department of the State Savings Bank are excluded.

STATE SAVINGS BANK: DEPOSITORS AND DEPOSITS, 1875 TO 1926.

(Exclusive of Penny Bank Accounts and Savings Bank Deposit Stock.)

On 30th June—	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Total.	Average per Depositor.
			£	£ s. d.
1875	65,837	81	1,469,849	22 6 6
1880	92,115	108	1,661,409	18 0 9
1885	170,014	174	3,337,018	19 12 7
1890	281,509	252	5,262,105	18 13 10
1895	338,480	286	7,316,129	21 12 3
1900	375,070	314	9,110,793	24 5 10
1905	447,382	369	10,896,741	24 7 2
1910	560,515	429	15,417,887	27 10 2
1915	721,936	506	24,874,811	34 9 1
1920	886,344	589	37,232,543	42 0 2
1925	1,095,462	656	53,145,015	48 10 3
1926	1,130,121	667	56,461,928	49 19 3

On 30th June, 1926, sixty-seven persons out of every hundred in the State (including children under 15 years of age who represent 30 per cent. of the population) were depositors with an average balance of £49 19s. 3d. The figures given in the above table include each year a large number of inoperative accounts, that is to say, of small sums under £1 upon which the depositors had ceased to operate. On 30th June, 1926, these inoperative accounts numbered 247,846; omitting these, the balance of 882,275 operative accounts averaged £63 19s. 1d. each, as compared with an average of £61 15s. 9d. in the previous year.

The following statement shows the transactions in connexion with the ordinary accounts for each of the last five years :—

SAVINGS BANK TRANSACTIONS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.*
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1922	40,780,185	39,377,122	153,043	110,621	970,431	45,968,222
1923	44,729,496	42,890,382	161,236	116,371	1,015,346	49,540,039
1924	50,831,162	50,700,221	171,216	127,554	1,059,008	51,497,200
1925	47,655,989	47,902,408	168,966	132,512	1,095,462	53,145,015
1926	50,098,580	48,777,945	164,884	130,225	1,130,121	56,461,928

* Excluding Penny Bank and Deposit Stock Accounts.

The State Savings Bank on 30th June, 1926, had 1,236,103 depositors with £57,340,615 to their credit, of whom 105,982 depositors in the Penny Bank Department with £140,614 to their credit have been excluded from the preceding table, a sum of £738,073 in the Savings Bank Deposit Stock account being also excluded. From 1st February, 1923, to 31st March, 1924, the rate of interest allowed to depositors in this bank was 4 per cent. on all sums from £1 to £500, and 3 per cent. on any excess over £500 up to £750. From 1st April, 1924, interest has been allowed on the excess over £500 up to £1,000 at the rate of 3½ per cent. On 1st July, 1927, a further alteration was made and interest is now being allowed on ordinary accounts at 4 per cent. on balances up to £1,000. The last mentioned sum is the maximum which is received as an ordinary deposit. Depositors are permitted, however, to place an additional sum, not exceeding £1,000, in Deposit Stock account, which is a form of fixed deposit withdrawable at short notice—one week for every £10 up to £40, one month for sums of from £50 to £100, and longer periods for larger amounts, with a maximum of six months for sums of from £910 to £1,000. Interest was allowed on this stock at the same rate as on ordinary deposits, viz. :—4 per cent., but since 1st August, 1927, the rate has been 4½ per cent. Of the amount (£56,461,928) on ordinary current account deposit in the State Bank on 30th June, 1926, about 20 per cent. belonged to depositors with accounts up to £100 each, 31 per cent. to those with accounts over £100 and up to £300, 22 per cent. to those with accounts over £300 and up to £500, and 27 per cent. to those with accounts exceeding £500.

The next statement shows the assets and liabilities of the State Savings Bank as at 30th June, 1926, the former indicating the manner in which deposits are invested or held :—

STATE SAVINGS BANK, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES,
30TH JUNE, 1926.

<i>Assets.</i>	<i>£</i>
Government Debentures, Stock and Bonds	26,440,702
Fixed Deposits with eight Banks	10,546,000
Crédit Foncier Debentures	11,183,136
Municipal Debentures	2,082,359
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Stock and Debentures	1,360,779
Commonwealth Inscribed Stock, Treasury Bonds, War Savings Certificates, etc.	1,829,177
English, Scottish and Australian Bank Stock	36,454
Mortgage Securities	1,307,215
Accrued Interest, &c., on Investments	791,250
Bank premises	650,000
Current Accounts with Bankers, Deposits at short notice	2,091,788
Cash at Head Office, Branches, Agencies, and in transit	1,036,974
Other Assets	7,933
Total	59,363,767
<i>Liabilities.</i>	
Depositors' balances, with Interest to date	57,340,615
Other liabilities	323,258
Surplus Funds allotted as follows :—	£
Reserve Fund	1,500,000
Fidelity Guarantee Fund	10,000
Profit and Loss Account	189,894
Total Surplus Funds	1,699,894
Total	59,363,767

The amount of the funds held in a liquid state at 30th June, 1926, was £13,826,484, being £3,136,696 in cash and money at call or short notice and £10,689,788 in Bank deposit receipts; the latter are fixed for two years, but are so arranged that an average amount of about £365,000 of the receipts matures each month. The liquid assets under this arrangement earn a considerable amount of income, without which the interest paid to depositors could not be maintained at the present rate.

**State Savings Bank—
Advances department.**

The "Crédit Foncier" or advances department of the State Savings Bank was established by Act of Parliament in 1896 for the purpose of making advances on farm properties in sums ranging from £50 to £2,000, and in 1910, under the authority of Act No. 2280, the system was extended to house and shop securities, permission being given to make advances of from £50 to £1,000. Funds for the purpose were obtained at the initiation of the system by the sale of mortgage bonds redeemable by half-

yearly ballots; but since 1901 by the sale of debentures in denominations of £100 and over, redeemable at fixed dates not more than twenty years from date of issue. The *Savings Banks Act* 1915 gives power to substitute stock for debentures on the application of any debenture-holder or any person offering to purchase debentures. The balance of debentures and stock current on 30th June, 1926, was £16,839,850. Of this amount, £5,634,550 is held by the public, and the balance by the Commissioners themselves because of money having been invested by them out of Savings Bank funds. The sum advanced during the year 1925-26 was £2,008,259, making with the amounts previously advanced a total of £26,826,531, of which £10,113,563 had been repaid by 30th June, 1926; leaving outstanding on that date an amount of £16,712,968, representing 4,600 loans to farmers for £3,228,655, which thus averaged £702; 25,384 loans to owners of houses or shops for a total of £11,240,529, or an average per borrower of £443; and 3,822 advances under the Housing Act for £2,243,784. Under the provisions of Act No. 3007 the Commissioners were empowered to extend the "Crédit Foncier" loan facilities granted by the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act* 1917. In the first mentioned Act provision is made for advances to soldiers and sailors and their dependants, also to Red Cross and transport workers, at a lower rate of interest and on longer terms than are allowed to others, to assist them to acquire farms or to purchase or erect dwellings. The total amount advanced on these conditions to 30th June, 1926, was £4,974,015 (including £93,627 transferred from ordinary loans). Of this sum £1,248,136 had been repaid, leaving outstanding at that date £3,725,879, which is included in the total of £16,712,968 shown above.

The *Housing and Reclamation Act* 1920 authorizes the Commissioners of the Savings Bank to purchase and build houses for persons who have an income of not more than £400 per annum, and who do not own a house. Applicants are required to pay a deposit of 10 per cent. of the total cost of house and land (which is limited to £850 if the house is of wood, and to £950 if of brick, stone, or concrete). During the year under review the rates of repayment by borrowers were as follows:—The rate current at 1st July, 1925, was fifteen shillings per month for each £100 (including interest at $7\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.). A reduction was made on 19th August, 1925, to fourteen shillings and two pence per month (including interest at $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.); and on 27th January, 1926, a further reduction was made to the present rate of thirteen shillings and four pence per month (including interest at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.), which pays off the loan in $24\frac{5}{12}$ years. The funds for this branch of the Bank's operations are raised by the issue of Crédit Foncier debentures, guaranteed by the Government of Victoria. The amount expended and remaining at debit of borrowers and purchasers at 30th June, 1926, was £2,243,784. This represented £2,165,276—the balance owing on 3,385 houses erected or purchased; and £78,508—the expenditure on 437 houses in course of erection

and sites for dwellings. The purchase of dwellings ceased from 31st July, 1921, since which date the policy of the Bank has been to build and not to purchase houses, except in certain country towns where it would be considered inadvisable to build new houses.

The total transactions in the "Crédit Foncier" department, under the three sections thereof, are shown below :—

TRANSACTIONS IN ADVANCES DEPARTMENT.

Heading.		At 30th June, 1925.	During 1925-26.	At 30th June, 1926.
Stock and debentures issued ..	£	38,658,600	3,200,000	41,858,600
" " redeemed ..	£	22,518,750	2,500,000	25,018,750
" " outstanding ..	£	16,139,850	..	16,839,850
<i>House or Shop Property.</i>				
Applications received ..	No.	50,481	3,200	53,681
" " amount ..	£	21,880,415	1,739,110	23,619,525
Applications granted ..	No.	42,700	2,609	45,309*
" " amount ..	£	17,844,547	1,377,085	19,221,632*
Amount advanced ..	£	16,121,063	1,196,835	17,317,898
" repaid ..	£	5,148,721	928,648	6,077,369
" outstanding ..	£	10,972,342	..	11,240,529
<i>Pastoral or Agricultural Property.</i>				
Applications received ..	No.	23,937	850	24,787
" " amount ..	£	14,375,320	791,755	15,167,075
Applications granted ..	No.	14,600	540	15,140†
" " amount ..	£	8,118,515	437,905	8,556,420†
Amount advanced ..	£	6,640,927	407,723	7,048,650
" repaid ..	£	3,552,826	267,169	3,819,995
" outstanding ..	£	3,088,101	..	3,228,655
<i>Housing and Reclamation Act.</i>				
Applications received ..	No.	5,452	1,035	6,487
" granted ..	No.	3,394	695	4,089
Amount advanced ..	£	2,056,282	403,701	2,459,983
" repaid ..	£	135,019	81,180	216,199
" outstanding ..	£	1,921,263	..	2,243,784

* Including £1,053,197 offered to, but not accepted by 2,804 applicants.

† Including £930,445 offered to, but not accepted by 1,561 applicants.

The net profit for the year in the advances department was £15,230 on working account, and £14,683 on reserve fund investments, making a total profit of £29,913. This amount will be transferred to reserve fund, and will make the total of that fund £359,002, which is held, in accordance with Act No. 2729, for the purpose of meeting any loss or deficiency that may occur in the department.

As a measure of the safety with which this department has been conducted, it may be mentioned that the amount of interest in arrear to 30th June, 1926, and outstanding at 14th September, 1926, was only £4,812—less than ten shillings per cent. of the total due (£988,078).

In addition to the foregoing statement, the following table gives more detailed information relating to the transactions of the Advances Department during the financial years, 1924-25 and 1925-26 :—

ADVANCES DEPARTMENT—DETAILS OF NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF ADVANCES, 1924-25 AND 1925-26.

Heading.	Advances Made During Year Ended 30th June, 1925.		Advances Made During Year Ended 30th June, 1926.		Total Loans Current at 30th June, 1926	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£		£
On Houses and Shops—						
Ordinary Borrowers ..	2,625	1,557,344	1,395	862,474	18,978	7,809,749
Discharged Soldiers ..	928	598,875	405	299,222	6,307	3,395,641
In course of erection ..	56	13,208	99	35,139	99	35,139
Total	3,609	2,169,427	1,899	1,196,835	25,384	11,240,529
On Farms—						
Ordinary Borrowers ..	450	501,082	302	344,573	4,232	2,898,417
Discharged Soldiers ..	81	90,950	56	63,150	368	330,238
Total	531	592,032	358	407,723	4,600	3,228,655
Housing Act Advances—						
Erected or Purchased ..	723	403,994	536	325,193	3,385	2,165,276
In course of erection and sites for Dwellings ..	292	46,857	437	78,508	437	78,508
Total	1,015	450,851	973	403,701	3,822	2,243,784
GRAND TOTAL ..	5,155	3,212,310	3,230	2,008,259	33,806	16,712,968

Commonwealth Savings Bank in Victoria.

The Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Bank commenced business on 15th July, 1912. The following table shows the business transacted in Victoria during each of the last five years :—

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK IN VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June—	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Number of Accounts.			Amount at credit of Depositors.
			Opened.	Closed.	Remaining open at end of period.	
	£	£				£
1922 ..	5,795,036	5,995,362	24,805	18,180	134,014	5,404,114
1923 ..	6,227,476	6,207,762	23,671	16,694	140,991	5,741,782
1924 ..	6,143,773	6,544,235	24,566	17,483	148,074	5,669,977
1925 ..	5,457,224	5,894,368	24,073	19,267	152,880	5,563,241
1926 ..	6,130,955	6,102,461	24,457	17,002	160,335	5,912,911

**Total
Deposits in
Savings
Banks.**

The foregoing tables deal separately with the Savings Banks in Victoria, but in the appended statement the aggregate amount on deposit, and the amount deposited per head of population, in the State Savings Bank and the Commonwealth Savings Bank in Victoria, are given for each of the last ten years:—

SAVINGS BANKS.—DEPOSITS IN VICTORIA, 1916-17 TO 1925-26.

(Including Commonwealth Savings Bank.)

Year Ended 30th June—	Amount of Deposits—			Amount per Head of Population.	
	State Savings Bank.*	Commonwealth Savings Bank.	Aggregate Amount.		
	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1917	28,656,995	2,924,271	31,581,266	22	7 6
1918	31,103,337	3,494,849	34,598,186	24	5 10
1919	34,511,567	4,260,457	38,772,024	26	6 4
1920	37,745,228	4,572,635	42,317,863	27	19 8
1921	43,665,392	5,305,597	48,970,989	31	17 8
1922	46,726,918	5,404,114	52,131,032	33	3 10
1923	50,359,478	5,741,782	56,101,260	34	17 11
1924	52,358,213	5,669,977	58,028,190	35	7 9
1925	53,988,654	5,563,241	59,551,895	35	12 10
1926	57,340,615	5,912,911	63,253,526	37	6 7

* Including School Bank and Deposit Stock Account.

PRICES OF VICTORIAN STOCK.

The highest and lowest London prices of Victorian representative stocks are shown for each of the last five years in the following statement:—

QUOTATIONS OF VICTORIAN STOCK IN LONDON.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)		3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)		4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)		5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)		5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1922	73	57 ³ / ₈	79	64 ¹ / ₂	88	74 ¹ / ₂	104	94	105 ¹ / ₄	99 ³ / ₄
1923	76	69 ¹ / ₂	81 ³ / ₄	76 ¹ / ₂	92	85 ¹ / ₂	103	99 ³ / ₈	104	101 ¹ / ₂
1924	74 ³ / ₄	70 ¹ / ₄	80 ³ / ₄	77	89 ¹ / ₂	84	102 ³ / ₄	99 ⁷ / ₈	104	101
1925	74	69 ³ / ₄	80 ¹ / ₂	76 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	83 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	99 ³ / ₈	104 ³ / ₁₆	100 ¹ / ₂
1926	72 ¹ / ₂	69 ¹ / ₄	79 ¹ / ₈	75 ¹ / ₂	84 ³ / ₄	80 ¹ / ₂	102	99 ³ / ₈	102 ³ / ₄	99 ¹ / ₂

The annual interest return to investors in the above Victorian stocks, based on the mean between the highest and lowest quotations during the year, is shown hereunder. Allowance is made for an average of three months' accrued interest, which is deducted from the market price before the computation is made, and the gain by redemption at par at maturity is taken into account.

INVESTORS' ANNUAL INTEREST RETURN FROM VICTORIAN STOCKS.

Year.	3 Per Cents. (1929-49.)	3½ Per Cents. (1929-49.)	4 Per Cents. (1940-60.)	5½ Per Cents. (1924-34.)	5½ Per Cents. (1930-40.)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1922	5 11 2	5 12 2	5 4 1	5 15 7	5 8 0
1923	4 18 4	5 0 4	4 14 0	5 9 10	5 7 9
1924	5 0 2	5 1 9	4 17 0	5 10 0	5 7 10
1925	5 2 0	5 2 10	4 17 6	5 11 3	5 8 4
1926	5 5 1	5 5 8	5 3 0	5 11 7	5 10 6

NOTE.—The latest date of redemption in each case was adopted in the calculation.

The amount of Victorian Government stock and debentures under certain loans repayable in Melbourne, which were outstanding on 30th June, the price in January, and the annual return to the investor per cent. for each year since 1922 are shown in the statement which follows—

PRICES OF STOCK AND DEBENTURES IN MELBOURNE, 1923 TO 1927.

Year.	Amount Outstanding on 30th June.	Price in January.	Annual Return to Investor per cent.
	£	£	£ s. d.
3 PER CENT. STOCK, DUE 1917 OR AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER.			
1923	2,804,630	60-63	4 17 7
1924	2,792,723	57½-59	5 3 0
1925	2,763,944	59½	5 0 10
1926	2,735,822	68½-70	4 6 10
1927 .. ..	..	68	4 8 3
3 PER CENT. DEBENTURES, DUE 1921-30.			
1923	972,650	79	6 11 11
1924	972,650	87½-89	5 3 0
1925	972,650	87	6 2 0
1926	972,650	92	5 5 5
1927 .. ..	..	94½	5 0 11

The prices quoted in the above table do not include an allowance for accrued interest, the practice on the Melbourne Stock Exchange differing from that on the London Exchange, where accrued interest is

included in prices quoted. The 3 per cent. stock has been regarded as interminable, as the Government has the option of redeeming it at any time after giving twelve months' notice. In the case of the 3 per cent. debentures it has been assumed that redemption will be made at the latest optional date, viz., 1930.

PROBATE RETURNS.

Probates and Letters of Administration Granted.

The accompanying table shows the number and value of estates of deceased persons of each sex in connexion with which probate or letters of administration were granted during each of the last ten years. Included in the return are the estates of deceased persons administered by the Curator, also the estates of soldiers who died while on service abroad.

PROBATES AND LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1917 TO 1926.

Calendar Year.	Number of—		Total Number of Estates.	Gross Value of Estates—		Liabilities.	Net Value of Estates.	Average to Each Estate.
	Probates.	Letters of Administration.		Real.	Personal.			
				£	£	£	£	£
MALES.								
1917 ..	2,626	1,490	4,116	3,730,578	5,161,865	1,300,406	7,592,037	1,845
1918 ..	3,065	1,974	5,039	4,360,748	5,914,850	1,370,441	8,905,157	1,767
1919 ..	2,981	1,993	4,974	4,614,969	8,041,646	1,657,902	10,998,713	2,211
1920 ..	2,393	1,203	3,596	4,461,595	8,716,822	1,436,956	11,741,461	3,265
1921 ..	2,483	1,082	3,565	4,475,921	6,310,227	1,370,934	9,415,214	2,641
1922 ..	2,290	956	3,246	4,022,807	6,759,599	1,322,407	9,459,999	2,914
1923 ..	2,771	985	3,756	4,977,950	7,365,102	1,546,999	10,796,053	2,874
1924 ..	2,443	919	3,362	4,196,823	6,235,127	1,249,747	9,182,203	2,731
1925 ..				(not available)				
1926 ..	2,469	1,057	3,526	4,489,284	7,197,436	1,357,029	10,329,691	2,930
FEMALES.								
1917 ..	1,237	482	1,719	920,635	1,168,936	195,024	1,894,547	1,102
1918 ..	1,325	571	1,896	999,680	1,301,190	196,733	2,104,137	1,110
1919 ..	1,604	826	2,430	1,357,717	1,820,357	332,601	2,845,473	1,171
1920 ..	1,511	730	2,241	1,240,319	1,924,827	233,868	2,930,778	1,308
1921 ..	1,545	659	2,204	1,430,073	2,021,739	312,161	3,139,651	1,425
1922 ..	1,555	644	2,199	1,373,177	2,114,738	306,651	3,181,264	1,447
1923 ..	1,845	682	2,527	1,967,718	2,698,526	391,572	4,274,672	1,692
1924 ..	1,610	568	2,178	1,645,591	2,334,101	330,627	3,649,065	1,675
1925 ..				(not available)				
1926 ..	1,684	653	2,337	1,617,413	2,686,555	320,292	3,983,676	1,705
TOTAL.								
1917 ..	3,863	1,972	5,835	4,651,213	6,330,801	1,495,430	9,486,584	1,626
1918 ..	4,390	2,545	6,935	5,360,428	7,216,040	1,567,174	11,009,294	1,587
1919 ..	4,565	2,819	7,404	5,972,686	9,862,003	1,990,503	13,844,186	1,870
1920 ..	3,904	1,933	5,837	5,701,914	10,641,149	1,670,824	14,672,239	2,514
1921 ..	4,028	1,741	5,769	5,905,994	8,331,966	1,683,095	12,554,865	2,176
1922 ..	3,845	1,600	5,445	5,395,984	8,874,337	1,629,058	12,641,263	2,322
1923 ..	4,616	1,667	6,283	6,945,668	10,063,628	1,938,571	15,070,725	2,399
1924 ..	4,053	1,487	5,540	5,842,414	8,569,228	1,580,374	12,831,268	2,316
1925 ..	3,764	1,440	5,204	14,652,925		1,425,682	13,227,243	2,542
1926 ..	4,153	1,710	5,863	6,106,697	9,883,991	1,667,321	14,313,367	2,441

ROYAL MINT.

Royal Mint
returns.

The Melbourne branch of the Royal Mint was established in 1872, the date of opening being the 12th June. The following table shows for the period 1872 to 1922 and for each of the last four years the quantity of gold received at the Mint, where the same was raised, and its coinage value; also the gold coin and bullion issued during the same periods:—

GOLD RECEIVED AND ISSUED AT ROYAL MINT, 1872 TO 1926.

Gold Received.	1872 to 1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Gross Weight.</i>					
Raised in Victoria oz.	28,322,048	109,823	76,874	51,280	52,411
„ New Zealand	3,823,985	2	18	16,579	52,378
„ Western Australia	2,940,994	210	9,020	1	8
„ Elsewhere	4,421,936	55,994	23,310	764,894	66,183
Total	39,508,963	166,029	109,222	832,754	170,980
Coinage Value £	154,824,835	613,641	369,782	3,439,680	636,258
<i>Gold Issued.</i>					
Coin—					
Sovereigns No.	141,675,943	510,870	278,140	3,311,662	211,107
Half-Sovereigns	1,893,559	..	..	..	..
Bullion—Quantity oz.	2,944,344	27,277	26,028	32,776	38,292
„ Value £	12,188,367	106,209	101,347	127,584	149,100
Total value, Coin and Bullion £	154,811,089	617,079	379,487	3,439,246	360,207

N.B.—The large increase in the issue of sovereigns during 1925 was due to the receipt of gold from overseas.

Since the opening of the Mint 40,787,948 ounces of gold have been received thereat, the coinage value at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce standard being £159,884,196, thus averaging about £3 18s. 5d. per ounce gross. Of the total quantity of gold received at the Mint, 28,612,436 ounces were raised in Victoria, 3,892,962 ounces in New Zealand, 2,950,233 ounces in Western Australia, 1,312,917 ounces in Tasmania, and 850,110 ounces in South Australia. The number of deposits received during 1926 was 1,225, of a gross weight of 170,980 ounces. The average composition of these deposits was gold 876, silver 64, and base 60 in every 1,000 parts. The average value of Victorian gold received at the Mint during the year 1926 was £3 14s. 7d. per ounce gross, £3 14s. 5d. being the value of the gold and 2d. the

value of the silver contained therein. The output of the Mint since its establishment has consisted of 145,987,722 sovereigns, 1,893,559 half-sovereigns, and 3,068,717 ounces of gold bullion; the total value of coin and bullion being £159,607,108.

In the following table particulars of the coinages and the issue of silver and bronze pieces for the requirements of the Commonwealth Treasury are given for each of the last five years:—

**COINAGE OF SILVER AND BRONZE AT ROYAL MINT,
1922 TO 1926.**

Denomination.	Number of Pieces Issued to Commonwealth Treasury.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Silver—</i>					
2s. ..	2,057,000	1,038,000	870,000	2,399,000	2,072,000
1s. ..	1,644,000	396,000	388,000	1,114,000	1,936,000
6d. ..	..	208,000	616,000	2,176,000	3,404,000
3d. ..	5,704,000	816,000	1,160,000	3,024,000	5,400,000
Total Silver Pieces..	9,405,000	2,458,000	3,034,000	8,713,000	12,812,000
Value .. £	359,200	139,000	136,300	387,800	456,600
<i>Bronze—</i>					
1d. ..	7,646,400	5,289,600	1,339,200	1,639,200	981,600
½d. ..	..	..	681,600	1,147,200	2,140,800
Total Bronze Pieces	7,646,400	5,289,600	2,020,800	2,786,400	3,122,400
Value .. £	31,860	22,040	7,000	9,220	8,550

The next table shows the quantity and value of silver extracted from gold at the Mint and the quantities of silver and gold issued for industrial purposes in each of the last five years :—

ROYAL MINT—EXTRACTIONS OF SILVER AND ISSUE OF
SILVER AND GOLD FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES,
1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Silver extracted from Gold at Mint.		Silver extracted from Victorian Gold at Mint.		Silver issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.	Gold issued by Mint to Jewellers, &c.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	Standard oz.
1922	16,807	2,601	6,978	1,080	24,373	23,504
1923	12,409	1,897	6,304	963	19,174	27,276
1924	14,479	2,216	4,216	645	71,078	26,005
1925	6,909	999	2,082	291	16,862	32,776
1926	9,330	1,207	2,374	307	15,537	38,292

The revenue derived from Mint Charges, &c. from the opening of the Mint to 31st December, 1926, is shown in the following statement :—

REVENUE DERIVED FROM MINT CHARGES, 1872 TO 1926.

Period.	Revenue.		
	From Mint Charges on Gold.	From Sale of Silver and Other Sources.	Total Revenue.
	£	£	£
1872-1879	30,055	26,082	56,137
1880-1889	48,152	61,114	109,266
1890-1899	85,961	84,553	170,514
1900-1909	93,703	75,374	169,077
1910-1919	55,288	130,981	186,269
1920	2,370	23,468	25,838
1921	1,719	33,162	34,881
1922	1,577	32,187	33,764
1923	1,500	21,885	23,385
1924	1,319	14,170	15,489
1925	5,358	28,071	33,429
1926	1,989	33,909	35,898
Total	328,991	564,956	893,947

INSURANCE.

There were twenty-nine companies transacting life assurance business in Victoria during 1926. Eight of these companies have their head offices in Victoria, fourteen in New South Wales, one in Queensland, one in New Zealand, one in America, and four in the United Kingdom. The following table shows the number and amount of policies in force in Victoria with companies whose head offices are within, and with those whose head offices are outside Victoria, for the years 1917 to 1926 :—

LIFE POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.	Companies with Head Offices in—						Total.
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	New Zealand.	United Kingdom.	America.	
NUMBER.							
1917	164,638	250,982	..	5,803	552	3,506	425,481
1918	178,198	265,044	..	6,712	516	3,254	453,724
1919	192,595	281,936	..	6,959	435	3,040	484,965
1920	210,200	303,326	..	7,767	435	2,792	524,520
1921	225,821	325,947	..	7,562	427	2,575	562,332
1922	247,998	348,809	37	8,249	427	2,320	607,840
1923	266,893	371,945	452	9,189	402	1,551	650,432
1924	287,587	390,213	519	9,575	390	1,427	689,711
1925	305,947	404,027	595	9,570	366	157	720,662
1926	321,936	414,627	761	9,342	369	156	747,191
AMOUNT.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1917	13,941,629	32,776,565	..	163,126	259,157	1,248,869	48,389,346
1918	15,442,555	34,498,021	..	205,224	241,572	1,176,262	51,563,634
1919	17,318,071	36,827,095	..	219,548	171,226	1,120,676	55,656,616
1920	19,736,511	40,207,515	..	235,805	155,085	1,070,989	61,405,905
1921	20,993,483	43,688,946	..	257,046	148,966	1,014,189	66,102,630
1922	23,090,011	47,839,132	8,681	271,705	146,122	991,571	72,347,222
1923	25,712,908	51,571,604	136,914	305,591	134,743	828,859	78,690,619
1924	28,046,381	54,752,084	189,212	329,460	136,441	820,142	84,273,720
1925	31,004,123	57,536,252	258,028	338,319	124,770	66,493	89,327,985
1926	33,140,784	59,785,134	304,061	332,248	125,770	66,743	93,754,740

The figures in the preceding table relate to simple life assurance, endowment assurance, and pure endowment policies, in both the ordinary and industrial classes.

In addition to the 29 companies included in the above table there is one which is registered as a life assurance company with its head office in Victoria but has not transacted ordinary life assurance business. It contracts for medical, sick and funeral benefits, and its premium income for the year ended 31st December, 1926, was £13,605.

Of the total amount assured (£93,754,740), at the end of 1926, 99·80 per cent. was in Australasian, ·13 per cent. in British, and ·07 per cent. in American offices. The corresponding percentages at the end of 1916 were 96·57, ·58, and 2·85.

The business transacted by the different offices comprises many varieties of assurance, but these may be grouped into three large classes—(1) simple assurance payable only at death; (2) endowment assurance, payable at the end of a specified term or at previous death; (3) endowments payable only should a person named survive a specified term. An endeavour has been made to obtain direct from each office the business under each of these classes; but in the case of three of the offices the separation between simple assurance and endowment assurance cannot be effected.

Industrial Assurance policies are usually for small amounts, and the premiums are collected at weekly or fortnightly intervals by agents of the insurance company who call at the homes of the assured. Many of these policies are on the lives of children. The Commonwealth *Life Assurance Companies Act* 1905 places a limitation on the amount which may be assured on the life of a child under the age of ten years, the amount varying from £5 in the first to £45 in the tenth year.

The next table contains particulars of life assurance policies in force in the Ordinary and Industrial departments of companies in each of the last five years:—

LIFE ASSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE, 1922 TO 1926.

Heading.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance ..	246,161	257,410	263,044	264,965	262,019
Endowment Assurance ..	13,342	13,806	14,848	15,131	15,135
Pure Endowment ..					
Total ..	259,503	271,216	277,892	280,096	277,154
<i>Amount Assured—</i>					
Assurance ..	£ 59,231,002	£ 63,769,366	£ 67,329,725	£ 70,645,684	£ 73,371,626
Endowment Assurance ..	1,586,356	1,689,842	1,864,373	1,948,878	1,978,844
Pure Endowment ..					
Total ..	60,817,358	65,459,208	69,194,098	72,594,562	75,350,470
<i>Bonus Additions—*</i>					
Assurance ..	(not available)	{	£ 9,828,131	£ 10,774,791	£ 11,730,697
Endowment Assurance ..			42,952	44,591	46,578
Pure Endowment ..					
Total ..	..	..	9,871,083	10,819,382	11,777,275
<i>Annual Premiums—</i>					
Assurance ..	£ 2,039,230	£ 2,196,554	£ 2,327,265	£ 2,432,980	£ 2,526,625
Endowment Assurance ..	63,320	67,884	75,323	79,013	79,921
Pure Endowment ..					
Total ..	2,102,550	2,264,438	2,402,588	2,511,993	2,606,546
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance ..	54,658	54,165	53,360	52,481	52,401
Endowment Assurance ..	273,890	303,586	334,745	362,295	389,666
Pure Endowment ..	19,789	21,465	23,714	25,790	27,970
Total ..	348,337	379,216	411,819	440,566	470,037
<i>Amount Assured—</i>					
Assurance ..	£ 1,145,328	£ 1,162,881	£ 1,132,587	£ 1,107,839	£ 1,108,738
Endowment Assurance ..	9,726,499	11,287,221	13,038,890	14,608,565	16,169,859
Pure Endowment ..	658,037	781,309	908,145	1,017,019	1,125,673
Total ..	11,529,864	13,231,411	15,079,622	16,733,423	18,404,270
<i>Bonus Additions—</i>					
Assurance ..	(not available)	{	£ 32,967	£ 34,382	£ 36,473
Endowment Assurance ..			80,846	111,514	140,856
Pure Endowment ..			426	257	220
Total ..	..	..	114,239	146,153	177,549
<i>Annual Premiums—</i>					
Assurance ..	£ 62,365	£ 63,197	£ 62,879	£ 61,695	£ 62,354
Endowment Assurance ..	621,432	707,988	815,300	907,077	1,000,192
Pure Endowment ..	42,209	49,367	58,204	65,560	72,970
Total ..	726,006	820,552	936,383	1,034,332	1,135,516

* Excluding one small company which has been unable to supply the figures.

Since 1925 there has been a decrease of 2,942 ordinary policies, though the aggregate amount assured increased by £2,755,908. Industrial policies increased by 29,471 in number, and by £1,670,847

in the amount assured. The average amount of policy in the former category for 1926 was £272, and—calculated from the returns of those societies which distinguish between simple assurance and endowment assurance—the average amount of the simple assurance policy in the ordinary branch was £459, and that of the endowment assurance policy £183, the total amounts of the policies in the two forms of assurance being £28,393,838 for simple assurance, and £25,054,118 for endowment assurance. The amount secured under pure endowment policies was £1,978,844, or an average of £131 under each policy. In the industrial branch of the business the average amount of policy was £39·2, the average amounts in the three classes being:—simple assurance, £21·2; endowment assurance, £41·5; and pure endowment, £40·2. The total amounts assured in the three classes were £1,108,738, £16,169,859, and £1,125,673 respectively. Taking these figures in conjunction with those relating to the ordinary business (with the restriction before mentioned) a preference in favour of endowment assurance is shown. A better test of popularity is furnished by the number of policies in the respective classes. In the ordinary branch of the business of the companies where the distinction is made there were 61,813 simple assurance, and 136,588 endowment assurance policies, and, in the industrial branch, 52,401 and 389,666 policies respectively. The popularity of the endowment assurance policy has been evidenced by the figures for many years past.

The following statement shows for each of the last ten years the average amount of policy held in the Ordinary and Industrial branches of the business respectively, also the amount assured and the premium payable per head of population in both branches combined:—

**AVERAGE AMOUNTS OF ORDINARY AND INDUSTRIAL
POLICIES, AND BUSINESS PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1917 TO 1926.**

Year.	Average Amount of Policy.		Ordinary and Industrial Business per head of Population.			
	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.	Amount Assured.		Annual Premium Payable.	
	£	£	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1917	211	23·2	34	2 10	1	6 5
1918	215	24·4	35	17 5	1	7 7
1919	220	26·1	37	0 6	1	8 7
1920	223	28·4	40	3 8	1	11 3
1921	228	30·9	42	12 5	1	13 2
1922	234	33·1	45	9 9	1	15 7
1923	241	34·9	48	8 3	1	18 0
1924	249	36·6	50	17 2	2	0 4
1925	259	38·0	53	0 11	2	1 1
1926	272	39·2	54	15 5	2	3 9

**Annuity
policies.**

The following are the number and amount of annuity policies which were in force in Victoria at the end of each of the last ten years, a distinction being made between those in force in companies whose head offices are inside, and those in companies whose head offices are outside Victoria :—

**ANNUITY POLICIES IN FORCE IN VICTORIA,
1917 TO 1926.**

Year.	Head Offices in Victoria.		Head Offices outside Victoria.		Total.	
	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.	Number.	Amount per Annum.
		£		£		£
1917 ..	194	11,598	437	20,427	631	32,025
1918 ..	196	11,934	415	19,364	611	31,298
1919 ..	201	12,464	396	18,875	597	31,339
1920 ..	204	12,584	388	18,484	592	31,068
1921 ..	203	12,880	376	17,846	579	30,726
1922 ..	206	13,633	363	17,627	569	31,260
1923 ..	242	16,072	319	16,067	561	32,139
1924 ..	249	16,243	322	17,220	571	33,463
1925 ..	253	14,641	317	17,089	570	31,730
1926 ..	259	15,874	310	16,834	569	32,708

Of the 310 annuities held in 1926 in companies whose head offices were outside Victoria, 299 for £15,731 per annum were in New South Wales offices, 6 for £999 in English offices, and 5 for £104 in American offices. The figures in the above table include annuities granted by industrial departments of life assurance companies, of which there was one for £49 in force on 31st December, 1926.

**Life
assurance—
new business.**

The preceding tables relate to policies in force. The succeeding table contains summarized information in relation to the new business written by all life assurance companies during each of the last five years, the number of policies, sum assured, and premium income being given.

LIFE ASSURANCE—NEW POLICIES ISSUED, 1922 TO 1926.

Heading.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
<i>Ordinary Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	7,542	8,385	7,542	8,751	8,371
Endowment Assurance ..	17,171	20,211	16,121	14,332	12,923
Pure Endowment	2,001	2,077	2,776	2,297	2,215
Total	26,714	30,673	26,439	25,380	23,509
Annuities	28	57	35	32	22
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	3,925,308	4,490,334	4,350,260	5,333,679	5,298,898
Endowment Assurance ..	3,695,133	4,273,358	3,881,965	3,238,341	3,096,875
Pure Endowment	301,481	321,488	419,498	362,084	355,986
Total	7,921,922	9,085,180	8,651,723	8,934,104	8,751,759
Annuities	2,414	3,786	3,123	2,128	2,043
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	11,399	5,356	2,720	11,331	8,123
Endowment Assurance ..	428	2,565	804	3,204	3,031
Pure Endowment	503	1,307	..	540	365
Total	12,330	9,228	3,524	15,075	11,519
Annuities	17,998	32,322	21,624	18,052	10,565
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	127,918	141,329	143,210	171,686	169,043
Endowment Assurance ..	140,952	170,151	160,007	135,162	128,665
Pure Endowment	12,116	13,193	17,178	15,100	14,202
Total	280,986	324,673	320,395	321,948	311,970
Annuities	72	178	..	23	..
<i>Industrial Business.</i>					
Number of Policies—					
Assurance	4,065	3,576	3,120	2,784	3,273
Endowment Assurance ..	60,137	64,291	73,407	76,644	78,394
Pure Endowment	6,607	7,982	7,862	8,875	7,977
Total	70,809	75,849	84,389	88,303	89,644
Sum Assured—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	161,225	148,143	131,466	108,175	116,423
Endowment Assurance ..	2,849,401	3,021,393	3,522,512	3,718,810	3,763,930
Pure Endowment	314,865	397,008	354,209	388,585	354,718
Total	3,325,491	3,566,544	4,008,187	4,215,570	4,235,071
Single Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	23	113	28	412	65
Endowment Assurance ..	..	107	80	11	..
Pure Endowment .. ..	..	113	25	..	..
Total	23	333	133	423	65
Annual Premiums—	£	£	£	£	£
Assurance	10,059	9,304	8,507	7,114	8,258
Endowment Assurance ..	173,009	186,759	216,322	230,718	237,647
Pure Endowment	19,458	23,503	22,741	24,940	23,018
Total	202,526	219,566	247,570	262,772	268,923

The new business for 1926 includes 23,509 ordinary assurance policies for £8,751,759 and 89,644 industrial policies for £4,235,071, the former averaging £372 and the latter £47 in amount. After

taking into consideration the number of policies in force and the sum assured at the end of the years 1925 and 1926, and allowing for new business during the latter year, those which became claims by death or maturity or were discontinued in 1926 have numbered 26,451 for £5,995,851 in ordinary, and 60,173 for £2,564,224 in industrial assurance business.

Insurance—
Other than
life.

There were 126 companies transacting general insurance (other than life) business in Victoria during 1925-26. The revenue and expenditure relating to the principal classes of insurance are shown in detail for that year in the following statement:—

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS IN VICTORIA, 1925-26.

Nature of Insurance.	Revenue in Victoria.			Expenditure in Victoria.			
	Premiums less Reinsur- ances and Returns.	Other Revenue (Interest, Rent, Fees, etc.).	Total.	Losses, less Reinsur- ances.	Expenses of Management.		Total.
					Commis- sion and Agents' Charges.	Other.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire	1,750,365	95,500	1,845,865	1,136,975	275,903	521,705	1,934,583
Marine	343,766	13,081	356,847	162,483	29,911	75,035	267,429
Accident (personal) ..	68,585	3,040	71,625	39,437	17,895	19,030	76,362
Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensa- tion	353,450	23,365	376,815	200,053	31,982	81,557	313,592
Public Risk, Third Party	20,580	838	21,418	6,103	3,087	5,174	14,364
Plate Glass	38,719	1,023	39,742	13,105	7,206	9,091	29,402
Motor Car and Motor Cycle	476,649	22,612	499,261	274,781	67,266	104,089	446,136
Hailstone	7,212	350	7,562	949	1,128	1,880	3,957
Boiler Explosion	503	51	554	6	39	127	172
Live Stock	14,515	205	14,720	6,722	2,248	3,378	12,348
Burglary	63,299	2,156	65,455	22,235	9,621	15,479	47,335
Guarantee	17,085	1,336	18,421	2,408	2,103	4,977	9,488
Loss of Profits	44,969	678	45,647	15,924	6,107	7,636	29,667
Other	10,070	31	10,101	3,337	948	2,616	6,901
Grand Total	3,209,767	164,266	3,374,033	1,884,518	455,444	851,774	3,191,736

The total premiums amounted to £3,209,767, and losses to £1,884,518, the latter being 58·71 per cent. of the premiums. The expenses for commission and agents' charges were £455,444, and for general management £851,774, making a total of £1,307,218, or 40·73 per cent. of the premium income, and 38·74 of the gross revenue.

The percentages of losses and management expenses to premium income for the year 1925-26, in the different classes of insurance, were as follows:—

**GENERAL INSURANCE EXPENDITURE, 1925-26—
PROPORTION OF PREMIUM INCOME.**

Nature of Insurance.	Proportion of Premium Income.		
	Losses.	Commission and Agents' Charges.	Other Expenses of Management.
	%	%	%
Fire	64·96	15·76	29·81
Marine	47·27	8·70	21·83
Accident (Personal)	57·50	26·09	27·75
Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation	56·60	9·05	23·07
Public Risk, Third Party	29·66	15·00	25·14
Plate Glass	33·85	18·61	23·48
Motor Car and Motor Cycle	57·65	14·11	21·84
Hailstone	13·16	15·64	12·20
Boiler Explosion	1·19	7·75	25·25
Live Stock	46·31	15·49	23·27
Burglary	35·13	15·20	24·45
Guarantee	14·09	12·31	29·13
Loss of Profits	35·41	13·58	16·98
Other	33·14	9·41	25·98
Total	58·71	14·19	26·54

The ratio of losses to premium income was highest in regard to the following, in the order named—fire, motor vehicles, accident (personal), employers' liability, marine.

The following table shows the transactions of insurance companies doing other than life business which operated in Victoria during the period 1922 to 1925-26. The returns for the latter year comprise only those which relate to companies whose financial years ended in the period between 1st July, 1925, and 30th June, 1926, and therefore the figures are not strictly comparable with those of the preceding years.

INSURANCE—OTHER THAN LIFE, 1922 to 1925-26.

Nature of Insurance.	Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
		Premiums.	Other.	Total.	Losses.	Other.*	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fire ..	1922	1,521,868	82,812	1,604,680	438,127	692,491	1,130,618
	1923	1,600,514	75,716	1,676,230	589,613	703,530	1,293,143
	1924	1,735,975	85,443	1,821,418	744,309	766,495	1,510,804
	1925	1,761,308	73,028	1,834,336	1,033,833	786,407	1,820,240
	1925-26	1,750,365	95,500	1,845,865	1,136,975	797,608	1,934,583
Marine ..	1922	342,544	18,923	361,467	84,820	111,434	196,254
	1923	326,955	12,017	338,972	134,037	100,448	235,085
	1924	336,658	12,334	348,992	217,514	114,744	332,258
	1925	335,151	18,821	353,972	149,914	104,798	254,712
	1925-26	343,766	13,081	356,847	162,483	104,946	267,429
Guarantee ..	1922	14,163	799	14,962	1,321	5,932	7,253
	1923	16,279	732	17,011	2,758	6,404	9,162
	1924	18,716	1,148	19,864	2,605	7,531	10,136
	1925	17,783	817	18,600	2,499	7,388	9,887
	1925-26	17,085	1,336	18,421	2,408	7,080	9,488
Live Stock ..	1922	13,745	208	13,953	7,340	5,844	13,184
	1923	13,376	259	13,635	5,194	5,096	10,290
	1924	15,081	296	15,377	7,401	5,916	13,317
	1925	13,589	197	13,786	4,248	5,897	10,145
	1925-26	14,515	205	14,720	6,722	5,626	12,348
Plate Glass ..	1922	31,344	966	32,310	10,821	13,028	23,849
	1923	35,131	907	36,038	12,640	14,273	26,913
	1924	37,431	1,122	38,553	13,398	15,469	28,867
	1925	37,810	803	38,613	13,068	15,816	28,884
	1925-26	38,719	1,023	39,742	13,105	16,297	29,402
Motor Car ..	1922	156,839	3,996	160,835	85,718	59,791	145,509
	1923	236,213	5,623	241,836	123,021	81,332	204,353
	1924	355,071	8,127	363,198	221,133	118,795	339,928
	1925	452,091	7,771	459,862	259,395	161,509	420,904
	1925-26†	476,649	22,612	499,261	274,781	171,355	446,136
Accident (Personal)	1922	56,686	1,521	58,207	20,714	25,235	45,949
	1923	57,520	1,196	58,716	22,292	22,955	45,247
	1924	61,160	1,407	62,567	17,026	19,061	36,087
	1925	73,348	1,112	74,460	28,775	33,571	62,346
	1925-26	68,585	3,040	71,625	39,437	36,925	76,362
Workers' Compensation	1922	288,060	16,875	304,935	149,036	97,156	246,192
	1923	313,912	17,375	331,287	176,701	98,424	275,125
	1924	339,474	18,745	358,219	235,308	101,340	336,648
	1925	346,892	19,192	366,084	198,251	110,061	308,312
	1925-26†	353,450	23,365	376,815	200,053	113,539	313,592
Other ..	1922	87,181	4,395	91,576	35,679	38,248	73,927
	1923	102,181	4,170	106,351	40,540	43,557	84,097
	1924	115,422	4,520	119,942	40,970	48,113	89,083
	1925	128,415	5,644	134,059	43,251	56,066	99,317
	1925-26	146,633	4,104	150,737	48,554	53,842	102,396
Totals ..	1922	2,512,430	130,495	2,642,925	833,576	1,049,159	1,882,735
	1923	2,702,081	117,995	2,820,076	1,107,396	1,076,019	2,183,415
	1924	3,014,988	133,142	3,148,130	1,499,064	1,197,464	2,697,123
	1925	3,166,387	127,385	3,293,772	1,733,234	1,281,513	3,014,747
	1925-26	3,209,767	164,266	3,374,033	1,884,518	1,307,218	3,191,736

* Including Commission and Agents' Charges.

† Motor Car and Motor Cycle.

‡ Employers' Liability and Workers' Compensation.

The particulars given in the above tables relate to Victorian risks, that is, to all business written on the Victorian registers of the companies represented in the returns. The figures are net, being, in the case of premiums, the amount thereof after deduction of premiums

paid to reinsuring offices in Australasia and returns; the losses are reduced by the amounts recovered from Australasian reinsuring offices, but include losses on Victorian risks wherever paid. Premiums paid and losses recovered under re-insurances of Victorian business effected outside Australasia have not been deducted in compiling the figures.

The total amount at risk is not available, but it is obvious, from the extent of the premiums, that the amount covered must be very large. The total losses on all classes of insurance for the five years given in the table represent 48·3 per cent. of the premiums.

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

A State Accident Insurance Office was established shortly after the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act for the purpose of enabling employers to obtain from the State policies of insurance indemnifying them against their liability in relation to workers' compensation. It commenced business on the day on which the Act came into operation—7th November, 1914.

The following table contains a statement of the premium income, the claims paid, and the accumulated funds for each year since the establishment of the office :—

PREMIUMS RECEIVED, CLAIMS PAID, AND ACCUMULATED FUNDS OF THE STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE, 1914-15 to 1926-27.

Year.		Premiums received, less Reinsurances, Rebates, &c.	Claims (including those outstanding).	Accumulated Funds.	
				General Reserve.	Bonus Reserve.
		£	£	£	£
1914-15*	..	27,502	3,006	2,750	1,494
1915-16	..	25,647	12,370	9,750	5,459
1916-17	..	26,249	13,977	14,750	7,506†
1917-18	..	27,426	14,250	19,000	3,824
1918-19	..	28,650	17,567	23,000	6,986
1919-20	..	32,473	21,412	26,000	10,080†
1920-21	..	39,363	26,863	28,500	2,702
1921-22	..	42,475	26,765	32,000	6,747
1922-23	..	50,222	26,752	38,500	14,552†
1923-24	..	57,748	38,664	42,500	6,094
1924-25	..	62,627	37,049	49,500	13,363
1925-26	..	64,825	45,800	56,000	20,738†
1926-27	..	72,175	48,049	63,500	7,338

* Refers to a period of eight months only (7th November, 1914, to 30th June, 1915). Insurance was not compulsory until 7th May, 1915.

† Bonus distributed amongst policy holders in the year.

The net profit for the year amounted to £14,838, of which £7,500 has been set aside for the General Reserve Fund, and £7,338 for Bonus Reserve. The expense rate of the year 1926-27 was 12 per cent. This satisfactory figure is the result of careful regard to economy, and is the lowest expense rate of any insurance office in Australasia transacting Workers' Compensation Insurance business. The number of claims settled in the year mentioned, and in course of settlement at the end of the year, was 3,765, including 31 death claims.

Compulsory Insurance. It is obligatory on every employer to obtain from the State Accident Insurance Office or from an insurance company approved by the Governor in Council a policy of accident insurance for the full amount of his liability to pay compensation under the Act. The number of insurance companies approved by the Governor in Council as at 30th June, 1927, was 62. One of the conditions of approval was that the company should deposit with the Treasurer a sum of not less than £6,000 (except in the case of subsidiary or acquired companies, where provision has been made for a smaller deposit), which sum was to be held in trust to insure the due fulfilment of policy obligations. The total amount lodged by all the companies which had been approved at the date mentioned was £344,000. Up to the present (October, 1927) one scheme of compensation has been certified by a Judge of County Courts in accordance with Section 13 of the Act.

Accounts. The Revenue Account and Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th June, 1927, and the Balance-sheet as at the end of that year, are appended :—

STATE ACCIDENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1927.

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Claims	£	47,443	14	11		
Less claims recovered ..	274	12	3			
And provision for unadjusted claims as at 30th June, 1926	13,078	0	0			
			13,352	12	3	
Provision for unearned premiums					34,091	2 8
Provision for unadjusted claims					32,479	1 5
Net Revenue, carried down					18,998	0 0
					20,778	17 3
Total					£101,347	1 4

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Premiums for year	74,798	11 7		
Less reinsurances and rebates	2,622	17 4		
			72,175	14 3
Provision for unearned premiums, 1926			29,171	7 1
Total			£101,347	1 4

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1927.

	£	s. d.
Administration Expenses, Acts Nos. 2750 & 3217	200	0 0
Agents' Expenses and Commission	2,692	5 5
Expenses of Management, including Salaries	5,804	1 5
Net Profit	14,838	7 5
Total	£23,534	14 3

	£	s. d.
Net Revenue, brought down	20,778	17 3
Interest on Investments and on Funds at Treasury	2,755	17 0
Total	£23,534	14 3

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Liabilities.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Unearned Premiums			32,479	1 5
Outstanding Claims			13,998	0 0
Sundry accounts unpaid—				
On account Agents	773	0 0		
Others	90	19 2		
			863	19 2
General Reserve			56,000	0 0
Bonus Distribution Account 1926 (amounts unclaimed)			2,216	6 8
Profit for year 1926-27 to be appropriated—				
To General Reserve	7,500	0 0		
Bonus Reserve	7,938	7 5		
			14,838	7 5
Total			£120,395	14 8

Assets.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Amount of Funds at Treasury			60,331	9 1
Premiums due			1,139	16 1
Treasury Interest Accrued			665	6 4
Stamps on hand			42	16 6
General Reserve Fund			56,000	0 0
Bonus Distribution Fund, 1926—				
Balance at Bank	2,191	6 8		
Cash on Hand	25	0 0		
			2,216	6 8
Total			£120,395	14 8

Accumulation.

Workers' Compensation Act.

The principal provisions of this Act are outlined in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 552 to 558. It was amended by an Act (No. 3,217) passed in December, 1922.

The latter Act made the following alterations :—

- (a) The maximum weekly compensation was increased from £1 10s. to £2.
- (b) The maximum compensation for total disability or on death (with total dependency) was increased from £500 to £600.
- (c) The payment for funeral expenses was increased from £50 to £75.
- (d) The minimum weekly payment to an adult worker was fixed at £1.
- (e) Various anomalies in the Fourth Schedule were corrected, and
- (f) Men who contract to fell trees and deliver timber were included in the definition "worker."

COMPANIES.

Trading companies registered.

A statement of the number and the nature of the business of trading companies floated and registered in Victoria during the year 1926 is appended :—

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1926.

Nature of Business.	No. Registered.	Nature of Business.	No. Registered.
MANUFACTURING—		MANUFACTURING—continued.	
Tanneries	1	Flour milling	2
Brick, pottery, tile	9	Confectionery	4
Concrete	5	Breweries, distillers, &c. ..	1
Fibro-plaster	4	Ice	5
Glass	3	Woollens and knitting	12
Sawmilling, timber mer- chants, &c.	20	Clothing, dressmaking, &c. ..	42
Engineering, ironfounding, and machinery	36	Boot, shoe, heel	8
Other metal working	6	Paper	2
		Printing and publishing	28

TRADING COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1926—*continued.*

Nature of Business.	No. Registered.	Nature of Business.	No. Registered.
MANUFACTURING—<i>continued.</i>			
Motor bodies, &c. ..	7		
Furniture ..	11	TRANSPORT—	
Drugs, chemicals ..	9		
Paints, etc. ..	8		
Electrical apparatus ..	1	Motor garage, taxi-cab ..	23
Leather Goods ..	3	Motor Service ..	28
Rubber Goods ..	7	Carriers ..	12
Gas ..	1	Shipping ..	1
Miscellaneous ..	26		
PRIMARY PRODUCTION—			
Plantations ..	4		
Pastoralists ..	21	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Farmers ..	5		
Mining and prospecting ..	10	Hotels, restaurants, &c. ..	46
Nurserymen ..	5	Builders and contractors ..	45
Dairymen ..	9	Clubs ..	16
Fisheries ..	1	Educational ..	5
Quarries ..	13	Caterers for amusement ..	30
TRADING—		Grocers, storekeepers ..	19
Warehousemen, merchants, dealers, &c. ..	162	Drapers ..	8
FINANCIAL—		Advertising ..	12
Land and property invest- ment ..	105	Weighbridge ..	2
Auctioneering, estate agents ..	20	Butchers ..	2
Indenting, agency, importers, &c. ..	43	Booksellers ..	1
Insurance, brokers, and under- writers ..	15	Bakers ..	6
Financiers ..	17	Chemists ..	1
		Jewellers ..	3
		Plumbers ..	4
		Furriers ..	8
		Ironmongers ..	4
		Laundries ..	1
		Other ..	24

The figures in the above table refer only to companies floated and registered in Victoria under Part I. of the *Companies Act* 1915, and are exclusive of 45 foreign companies registered during the year. Fifty ordinary mining companies were registered during 1926 under Part II. of the Act. These, as well as insurance companies doing life business only, and building societies, are also excluded from the table.

Of the 992 companies registered during 1926 as shown above, 893, or about 90 per cent., were registered as proprietary companies.

Particulars relating to companies registered under Parts I. and II. of the *Companies Act* 1915, in so far as these are recorded in the Registrar General's office, are shown for the last five and a half years in the following statement:—

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN VICTORIA, 1922 TO 30TH
JUNE, 1927.

(Parts I. and II. of *Companies Act* 1915.)

Year ended 31st De- cember—	New Companies.						Number of existing Trading Companies.		Increase in Nominal Capital of Existing Companies during the year.*	
	Number Registered.				Nominal Capital.		Victorian.	Foreign.	Victorian Trading.	Mining.
	Victorian Trading.	Foreign.	Mining.	Total.	Victorian Trading (excluding Foreign).	Mining.				
					£	£			£	£
1922	601	45	68	714	26,438,980	1,684,350	2,709	709	2,490,250	315,225
1923	732	59	65	856	27,397,945	1,419,500	3,221	753	3,692,347	490,417
1924	781	46	47	874	29,852,473	1,070,800	3,858	790	12,725,036	204,750
1925	788	51	38	877	37,397,557	1,613,775	4,583	836	4,370,600	391,000
1926	992	45	50	1087	38,125,586	2,869,075	5,575	881	7,753,050	277,000
1927 (to 30th June)	446	18	26	490	14,384,860	1,086,200	6,021	907	7,236,031	195,000

* Increase in nominal capital subsequent to first registration.

The subscribed capital of the mining companies registered during 1926 was £2,127,617, and of those registered during the first six months of 1927, £843,103.

Since the *Building Societies Act* 1874 came into operation, 158 societies have been registered in accordance with its provisions up to 31st December, 1926. The business of the societies was extensive up to the year 1892, but it has since declined. The number of companies still carrying on business is 26, of which 4 were established on the Starr-Bowkett principle. The following table gives particulars of the principal items of business for the last five years:—

**Building
Societies.**

BUILDING SOCIETIES, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Heading.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
Number of societies ...	29	27	27	27	26
" shareholders	8,329	8,919	9,707	10,050	10,751
" borrowers ...	9,298	9,673	9,936	10,618	11,394
Transactions during the Year—					
Income from loans and investments	£ 235,261	£ 262,421	£ 294,921	£ 311,069	£ 339,810
Loans granted ...	840,398	1,094,994	1,022,272	970,284	1,025,581
Repayments ...	831,610	962,390	921,176	879,332	1,028,014
Deposits received	1,013,665	1,268,266	1,355,493	1,548,022	1,795,306
Working expenses, including interest on deposits, &c.	96,075	106,740	122,521	137,054	152,335
Assets—					
Loans on mortgage	2,870,430	3,277,145	3,552,523	3,882,236	4,147,594
Properties in possession or surrendered	170,288	93,491	112,980	101,372	121,800
Other advances ...	11,619	12,648	11,707	12,005	15,234
Cash in hand, &c. ...	43,099	43,039	22,925	39,671	46,649
Other assets* ...	86,701	68,474	60,380	67,753	72,747
Total ...	3,182,137	3,494,797	3,760,515	4,103,037	4,404,004
Liabilities—					
To shareholders ..	1,455,837	1,530,426	1,623,680	1,773,059	1,844,788
" depositors ..	1,002,550	1,170,352	1,289,191	1,493,119	1,654,006
Bank overdraft ...	55,814	65,483	97,695	80,975	72,008
Other ...	94,449	67,501	85,683	87,627	91,967
Total ...	2,608,650	2,833,762	3,096,249	3,434,780	3,662,769
Reserve Funds ...	492,338	549,427	536,970	549,954	598,011

* Including Commonwealth War Loans Stock, £72,108 in 1921-22, £56,188 in 1922-23, £49,344 in 1923-24, £58,109 in 1924-25, and £51,342 in 1925-26.

The appended table contains particulars for the year 1925-26 of the Co-operative Societies operating in Victoria. In past issues of the *Year-Book* only societies registered under the Provident Societies Act have been taken into consideration, but in the figures since 1924 are included the returns of those trading companies which are actually co-operative in principle and which comply with the following definition, i.e., Co-operative Societies are such producing, manufacturing, marketing, or distributing societies as fulfil these conditions:—(1) Dividend on share capital not to exceed 8 per cent.; (2) The greater portion of the business of the company to be done with its own shareholders; (3) Any distribution of surplus, after payment of dividend on share capital, to be amongst suppliers or customers, in proportion to the business done with the company; (4) Limitation of voting powers.

Co-operative
societies.

The returns have been divided into two classes — (i) those engaged in the manufacture and marketing of primary products and trade requirements, and (ii) those engaged in retailing general household requirements. The former may be described briefly as Producers' Co-operative and the latter as Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1925-26.

Heading.				Producers' Societies.*	Consumers' Societies.	Total— All Societies.
Number of Societies	..	..		68	54	122
Number of Branches	..	..		35	18	53
Membership	..	..	..	50,847	16,906	67,753
				£	£	£
Total Sales	..	..	..	11,730,709	1,424,266	13,154,975
Other Income	..	..	..	461,838	24,424	486,262
Total Income	..	..	..	12,192,547	1,448,690	13,641,237
Total Working Expenses	..	..	..	1,959,442	229,692	2,189,134
Total Net Profits	..	..	..	79,746	39,220	118,966
Interest paid on Loan Capital—						
Amount	..	..	£	24,726	2,693	27,419
Rate per cent.	..	..	..	5·87	6·09	5·98
Interest paid on Bank Overdraft—						
Amount	..	..	£	96,307	7,493	103,800
Rate per cent.	..	..	..	5·89	6·96	6·42
Dividend paid on Share Capital—						
Amount	..	..	£	38,807	11,598	50,405
Rate per cent.	..	..	..	6·44	6·47	6·45
Rebates paid on Purchases—						
Amount	..	..	£	9,152	28,281	37,433
Rate per cent.	..	..	..	7·50	5·45	6·47
Other Dividends paid—						
Amount	..	..	£	486	2,429	2,915
Rate per cent.	..	..	..	6·00	3·50	4·75
				£	£	£
<i>Liabilities—</i>						
Share Capital—Paid-up	..	..	..	1,285,936	227,016	1,512,952
Loan Capital	..	..	..	302,807	63,248	366,055
Bank Overdraft	..	..	..	788,665	133,251	921,916
Accumulated Profits	..	..	..	244,068	64,903	308,971
Reserve Funds	..	..	..	226,533	95,080	321,613
Sundry Creditors	..	..	..	486,174	120,527	606,701
Other Liabilities	..	..	..	71,830	25,971	97,801
Total	..	..	..	3,406,013	729,996	4,136,009

* The figures of the Victorian Wheatgrowers Corporation Ltd. are included. This Association was incorporated to market Victorian wheat, and it does not trade for the purposes of profit.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, 1925-26—*continued.*

Heading.	Producers' Societies.	Consumers' Societies.	Total—All Societies.
<i>Assets—</i>	£	£	£
Land and Buildings ..	1,396,431	222,882	1,619,313
Fittings, Plant and Machinery }			
Stock	577,829	240,175	818,004
Sundry Debtors	1,016,267	224,242	1,240,509
Cash in hand or on Deposit ..	31,925	18,739	50,664
Profit and Loss Account ..	115,947	5,285	121,232
Other Assets	267,614	18,673	286,287
Total	3,406,013	729,996	4,136,009

**Trustees,
Executors,
and Agency
Companies.**

There are eight trustee companies transacting business in Victoria. From their published balance-sheets the following particulars for 1925-26 have been obtained:—Paid-up capital, £461,780; reserve funds, &c., £316,565; other liabilities, £181,075; total liabilities, £959,420. The assets were:—Deposits with Government, £122,404; other investments in public securities, &c., £241,829; loans on mortgage, £39,213; property, £318,099; other assets, £237,875. The net profits for the year were £82,593, and the amount of dividends and bonuses was £57,557. The net profits are equivalent to 10·6 per cent. on the shareholders' funds, as represented by paid-up capital, reserves, and undivided profits.

LAND TRANSFERS, MORTGAGES, LIENS, ETC.

**Dealings under
the Transfer of
Land Acts.**

A summary of land transactions under the Transfer of Land Acts in the Titles Office for each of the last ten years is given hereunder.

DEALINGS LODGED AT THE TITLES OFFICE (UNDER THE TRANSFER OF LAND ACTS), 1917 TO 1926.

Year.	Transfers.	Mortgages.		Leases.	Plans of Sub-division.	Other Dealings.	Total Dealings.
		Number.	Amount.*				
	No.		£	No.	No.	No.	No.
1917 ..	26,796	9,487	5,327,321	122	244	16,426	53,075
1918 ..	33,771	10,627	5,956,609	100	264	19,075	63,837
1919 ..	45,555	13,581	7,815,209	136	368	23,051	82,691
1920 ..	64,555	19,373	12,489,329	136	663	31,191	115,918
1921 ..	48,670	19,822	14,588,121	112	522	26,462	95,588
1922 ..	57,772	20,704	15,046,025	150	594	27,798	107,018
1923 ..	62,225	24,513	17,268,625	113	922	30,117	117,890
1924 ..	54,735	27,209	20,722,146	88	979	29,535	112,546
1925 ..	49,842	24,238	18,770,112	103	1,541	29,653	105,377
1926 ..	53,231	24,717	20,123,751	85	1,337	32,332	111,702

* Excluding the amounts lent by building societies which are secured by transfers, and the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts on current accounts.

TITLES OF LAND ISSUED, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.			Certificates of Title.	Crown Grants.	Crown Leases.	Total Titles.
			No.	No.	No.	No.
1917	..	..	13,148	2,108	1,618	16,874
1918	..	..	15,426	2,057	1,504	18,987
1919	..	..	19,120	1,762	1,117	21,999
1920	..	..	25,583	2,186	1,437	29,206
1921	..	..	21,027	1,759	1,410	24,196
1922	..	..	26,041	1,879	2,597	30,517
1923	..	..	27,781	2,086	2,378	32,245
1924	..	..	27,996	2,122	2,086	32,204
1925	..	..	24,251	2,138	1,841	28,230
1926	..	..	25,700	2,599	2,629	30,928

Dealings
under the
Real Property
Act.

A statement of mortgages registered and reconveyances under the *Real Property Act* 1915 (commonly known as the General Law) is also appended :—

DEALINGS UNDER THE REAL PROPERTY ACT, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.			Mortgages Registered.		Reconveyances.	
			Number.	Amount.*	Number.	Amount.
				£		£
1917	..	..	529	434,464	509	193,204
1918	..	..	548	721,888	646	281,265
1919	..	..	635	471,870	741	343,500
1920	..	..	970	840,050	1,057	524,242
1921	..	..	983	881,325	933	404,685
1922	..	..	950	915,443	889	379,880
1923	..	..	1,043	1,409,242	869	434,548
1924	..	..	1,132	1,357,048	806	294,047
1925	..	..	858	1,453,041	784	411,999
1926	..	..	851	1,194,039	710	280,483

* Excluding the amounts owing under mortgages given to secure overdrafts on current accounts.

Stock mortgages, liens on wool and crops.

The number and amount of stock mortgages, liens on wool, and liens on crops registered during each of the last five years were as shown below. Releases are not shown, as releases of liens are not required to be registered, the liens being removed from the register after the expiration of twelve months, with the exception of some liens to the Closer Settlement Board which cover a period of two or three years. Very few of the mortgagors of stock trouble to secure themselves by a registered release.

**STOCK MORTGAGES AND LIENS ON WOOL AND CROPS,
1922 TO 1926.**

Security.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Stock Mortgages—					
Number ..	2,253	2,053	1,371	1,437	1,090
Amount £	404,803	385,080	306,299	289,574	238,048
Liens on Wool—					
Number ..	25	16	26	33	46
Amount £	18,935	10,420	22,040	52,124	41,160
Liens on Crops—					
Number ..	3,758	4,069	3,190	3,989	4,249
Amount £	839,709	1,347,004	2,007,790	2,389,695	1,260,481
Total—					
Number ..	6,036	6,138	4,587	5,459	5,385
Amount £	1,263,447	1,742,504	2,336,129	2,731,393	1,539,689

Bills and contracts of sale.

Two forms of security are taken by lenders over personal chattels, viz., a bill of sale (absolute or conditional), or a contract of sale for letting and hiring. The former is a simple mortgage of the chattels, whilst the latter purports to be an absolute sale of the chattels to the lender, with an agreement by the lender to hire the goods back to the borrower at a certain rental, which takes the place of interest. Before filing a bill of sale fourteen days' notice of intention to file must be lodged with the Registrar-General, within which period any creditor may lodge a

"caveat" to prevent the filing of the bill without the payment by the borrower of his claim. The following are the numbers and amounts of bills and contracts of sale which have been filed in each of the last five years:—

BILLS AND CONTRACTS OF SALE, 1922 TO 1926.

Security.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Bills of Sale—					
Number ..	1,470	1,429	1,551	1,542	1,635
Amount £	801,298	526,940	658,815	580,737	608,661
Contracts of Sale—					
Number ..	27	23	27	24	77
Amount £	2,865	3,275	5,170	4,321	5,154

LAW, CRIME, ETC.**THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN VICTORIA.**

The law of Victoria, in its basic principles and main provisions, is founded on the law of England. All laws in force in England in 1828 were, so far as they should be held to apply to the circumstances of Australia, by Imperial Statute made law in New South Wales (which then included Victoria); and, in case of any doubt as to their applicability, the Colonial Legislature was empowered to declare whether or not they did apply, or to establish any modification or limitation of them within the colony. The same Statute established a Legislature within New South Wales with power to make laws for that colony; and Supreme and other courts were constituted. On the separation of Port Phillip from New South Wales in 1851 the new colony of Victoria was invested with similar powers, which were widened on the establishment of responsible government in 1855. In order, therefore, to ascertain the law of Victoria as to any particular matter or point, considerable research is often involved. The first step is a search of the Victorian Statutes. If the matter is fully dealt with there, the labour is concluded; but, if it has never been dealt with by any Victorian Act, recourse must be had to the Statutes of New South Wales and the Imperial Statutes specially applicable to New South Wales passed between 1828 and 1851. If no law on the point is obtainable from these sources, the law of England in 1828 must be ascertained, which in most cases is found in the English text-books. Having found the apparent law from one of these sources, it is still necessary to search through series of law reports for decisions which may either modify or interpret the same.

LITIGATION AND LEGAL BUSINESS.

Supreme Court civil business. The Supreme Court of Victoria was first established in 1852, and its constitution and powers remain substantially unaltered by recent legislation, although the procedure was entirely remoulded by the "Judicature Act 1883" (now incorporated in the Supreme Court Act 1915). There were in 1927 seven Judges, viz., a Chief Justice and six Puisne Judges.

The following is a statement of Supreme Court business during the last year of each of the six decennial periods ended 1920, and the last five years :—

SUPREME COURT CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1926.

Year	Writs of Summons.		Causes Entered for Trial.	Causes Tried.	Verdicts for—		Amount Awarded.
	Number Issued.	Amount Claimed.			Plaintiff.	Defendant.	
		£					£
1870 ..	5,583	154,296	237	165	133	29	29,298
1880 ..	5,065	185,131	221	161	133	28	47,401
1890 ..	6,619	687,503	535	297	229	65	68,592
1900 ..	825	137,083	161	106	62	31	101,896
1910 ..	743	69,182	129	85	37	16	7,984
1920 ..	632	74,288	132	80	39	17	9,036
1922 ..	726	155,329	187	67	31	23	13,063
1923 ..	779	178,542	201	75	43	12	17,543
1924 ..	946	383,399	171	94	41	16	13,623
1925 ..	992	229,398	182	71	27	18	35,187
1926 ..	1,074	227,253	224	73	46	10	21,560

Decline in Litigation. There has been a considerable decline in litigation in the Supreme Court since 1890. In 1926 the writs issued were one-sixth, the amount sued for was one-third and the causes which actually came to trial were one-fourth of the corresponding numbers in 1890. The figures show that a very small proportion of writs result in actual trials, whilst a large number of trials are either abandoned before a verdict is given, postponed to the following year, or settled.

County Court business. County Courts have a jurisdiction both in equity and common law cases, limited to £500; also in cases remitted by the Supreme Court. The cause of action must have arisen within 100 miles of the court in which proceedings are taken, which court must not be more than ten miles further away from defendant's residence than some other County Court in which the plaintiff might have sued. In 1926 there were 116 sessions lasting 533 days and held in 40 places. Particulars of litigation in the last

year of each of the six decennial periods ended 1920 and in each of the last five years are as follows :—

COUNTY COURT CASES, 1870 TO 1926.

Year.	Number of Cases Tried.	Amount Sued For.	Amount Awarded.	Costs Awarded to—	
				Plaintiff.	Defendant.
		£	£	£	£
1870 ..	11,866	277,236	102,822	13,815	4,268
1880 ..	9,498	215,929	99,338	13,765	3,956
1890 ..	12,635	340,028	127,433	15,363	6,072
1900 ..	789	160,676	49,595	5,188	2,782
1910 ..	626	144,550	45,196	5,199	1,992
1920 ..	680	283,238	113,804	*	*
1922 ..	796	385,074	200,534	*	*
1923 ..	934	428,153	219,602	*	*
1924 ..	959	570,951	289,517	*	*
1925 ..	961	613,781	305,997	*	*
1926 ..	1,003	680,502	309,087	*	*

* No record.

The number of cases tried in 1926 was above the average of recent years, but was only about 8 per cent. of the number in 1890. The amounts sued for and awarded were, however, greater than the amounts for that year. The decline in the number of cases would seem to indicate that the public is less inclined than formerly to institute legal proceedings for the settlement of disputes; and that the County Court is not resorted to for the recovery of petty and trade debts to the same extent as in former years.

The number of requests for arbitration under the Workers' Compensation Act during the year 1926 was 278. The aggregate amount of compensation claimed was £51,193, and the amount awarded, £50,487. These figures are not included in the above table.

Courts of Petty Sessions were held at 229 places in Victoria in 1926 by stipendiary magistrates and honorary justices. Clerks of courts of ten years' standing, who have passed the prescribed examination, and barristers of five years' standing are eligible for appointment as police magistrates, but there is no legal training or knowledge of the law required as a condition precedent to the appointment of a person as an honorary justice of the peace. The jurisdiction in civil cases is limited to what may be called ordinary debts, damages for assault, and restitution of

Workers' Compensation—Arbitration cases.

Petty Sessions civil business.

goods, where the amount in dispute does not exceed £50. Particulars of such cases heard during a series of years are given hereunder :—

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS: CIVIL CASES, 1870 TO 1926.

Year.	Cases Heard.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
		£	£
1870	27,722	190,242	105,086
1880	19,983	75,684	50,764
1890	30,466	196,917	132,663
1900	17,577	95,890	80,960
1910	29,902	186,538	146,234
1920	38,300	218,408	158,198
1922	47,140	384,441	295,697
1923	58,502	528,968	413,417
1924	73,264	637,137	497,833
1925	82,589	727,013	552,788
1926	90,299	809,240	611,528

In addition to the ordinary cases above mentioned, and to the criminal jurisdiction hereafter mentioned, Courts of Petty Sessions deal with other business of a civil and quasi-criminal nature. During the year 1926, 421 appeals against municipal ratings, 17 Children's Maintenance Act cases, 751 ejectment cases, 1,529 fraud summons cases against debtors, 2,620 garnishee cases, 12,158 cases relating to licences and certificates, 1,656 maintenance cases, 110 prohibition cases, and 1,871 miscellaneous cases were heard, and 291 persons alleged to be lunatics were examined.

A statement is given below of the number of writs received by the Sheriff in the last year of each of the six decennial periods ended 1920 and the last five years, from which it will be seen that the numbers in recent years have been much less than in 1890 :—

WRITS RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF, 1870 TO 1926.

Year.	King's Writs against Person and Property.	Subjects' Writs against—		Total.
		The Person.	Property.	
1870	35	75	2,146	2,256
1880	35	58	1,944	2,037
1890	13	21	2,282	2,316
1900	4	3	199	206
1910 ... ..	...	4	166	170
1920 ... ..	...	3	124	127
1922	3	3	187	193
1923	6	1	237	244
1924	3	6	353	362
1925	1	5	315	321
1926	4	8	350	362

High Court of
Australia.

A statement showing the nature of this court and the powers vested in it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 433.

Intestate
Estates.

The rules by which the property and effects, both real and personal, of persons dying intestate are by law distributed are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 437.

INSOLVENCIES.

Insolvencies,
&c.

The number of failures and the declared assets and liabilities during the last year of each of the six decennial periods ended 1920 and in each of the last five years were as follows :—

INSOLVENCIES AND DEEDS OF ARRANGEMENT, 1870 TO 1926.

Year.	Insolvencies.			Deeds of Arrangement.		
	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.	Number.	Declared Liabilities.	Declared Assets.
		£	£		£	£
1870	996	479,491	150,170	*	*	*
1880	768	526,130	298,384	*	*	*
1890	795	2,301,271	2,041,200	*	*	*
1900	344	183,531	88,760	149	168,700	159,771
1910	359	132,841	54,381	131	113,597	91,271
1920	186	154,658	53,229	69	82,692	73,591
1922	322	349,118	189,016	99	178,986	127,657
1923	414	323,540	152,602	133	199,074	139,757
1924	520	504,678	311,290	232	350,350	263,124
1925	563	446,438	249,251	233	321,877	273,933
1926	683	493,428	224,316	204	287,767	222,693

* Information not available.

The number of insolvencies in 1926 was the highest recorded in years subsequent to 1896, when the number was 741. The average yearly number during the ten years 1909 to 1918 was 358, and the average declared liabilities, £226,517. During the ten years 1899 to 1908 the average yearly number was 445, with declared liabilities of £244,538, whereas, during the ten years 1889 to 1898, when the failures resulting from the financial crisis of that period swelled the returns, the average yearly number was 833, with declared liabilities of £2,213,592. During the ten years 1879 to 1888 the average yearly number was 612, with declared liabilities of £661,720.

Insolvencies are of two kinds, voluntary and compulsory. The following table shows the number of petitions of each kind in the last five years :—

Year.	Voluntary.	Compulsory.	Total.
1922 ... ..	... 289	33	322
1923 ... ..	... 376	38	414
1924 ... ..	... 462	58	520
1925 ... ..	... 519	44	563
1926 ... ..	... 603	75	683

**Occupations
of Insolvents.**

In the next return will be found the occupations, in six classes, of those who became insolvent or compromised with their creditors during the last five years, also the number of breadwinners in each class at the census of 1921, and the proportion of the former to the latter. The total number of insolvents does not include 133 whose occupations were not stated :—

OCCUPATION OF INSOLVENTS, 1922 TO 1926.

Occupation Groups.	Number of Breadwinners, Census, 1921.	Average Yearly Number of Insolvents, 1922 to 1926.	Insolvents to every 10,000 Breadwinners.
Professional	60,585	24	3·96
Domestic	58,225	19	3·26
Commercial	108,011	220	20·37
Transport and Communication	53,332	42	7·88
Industrial	234,245	272	11·61
Primary Producers	147,438	77	5·22
Total	661,836*	654	9·88

* Exclusive of 7,617 persons of independent means.

The number of breadwinners of the domestic and professional classes who became insolvent was smaller, in proportion to their numbers in the community, than those of any other class, whilst a greater proportion of the commercial than of any other class found it necessary to file their schedules or compound with their creditors.

A table showing the occupations of insolvents in detail for the years 1912 to 1916 appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 444.

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act* 1915, and a summary thereof is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 445. The Act of 1915 was amended by Acts passed in 1919, 1921, and 1923, but the amendments relate to minor matters and do not affect the main features of the principal Act. The grounds upon which divorce might be granted were considerably extended by an Act passed in 1889.

Number of Divorces.

Since jurisdiction was first conferred upon the Supreme Court of Victoria in matters matrimonial in 1861, 7,526 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 117 decrees for judicial separation have been granted. Of these, 7,178 and 46 respectively have been issued since 1890; so that, during the 30 years ended 1890, only 348 decrees for dissolution of marriage and 71 for judicial separation were issued, or an average per annum of about twelve of the former and two of the latter; whereas, since the Divorce Act of 1889 received the Royal Assent in 1890, no fewer than 199 decrees per annum for dissolution of marriage have been granted, while the decrees for judicial separation have decreased to about one per annum.

Divorces, Sex.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husband and wife respectively, and the number of decrees granted for divorce, judicial separation, and nullity of marriage during the year 1926 :—

DIVORCES, 1926.

	Petitions filed by—			Decrees granted to—		
	Husband.	Wife.	Total.	Husband.	Wife.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	261	315	576	186	280	466
Judicial Separation ...	1	8	9	...	2	2
Nullity of Marriage ...	1	1	2	1	1	2
Total ...	263	324	587	187	283	470

Grounds of divorce.

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1926 were as follows :—

Grounds on which Granted.	Divorce.		Judicial Separation.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.	Husband.	Wife.
Adultery ...	54	68	...	2	...	...
Bigamy ...	...	2	...	...	1	1
Cruelty, repeated acts of ...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Desertion ...	120	191	...	...	...	...
Desertion and adultery ...	3	3	...	...	...	...
Drunkenness ...	5	12	...	...	...	...
Insanity ...	4	3	...	...	...	...
Total ...	186	280	...	2	1	1

Divorces, 1881 to 1926.

The following is a statement of the number of petitions and decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation in the State of Victoria during the last year of each of the five

decennial periods ended 1921 and each of the last five years, also of the proportion of decrees per 100,000 married couples living :—

DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS IN VICTORIA, 1881 TO 1926.

Year.	Petitions for—		Decrees for—		Divorces and Separations per 100,000 Married Couples Living.
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.	
1881	18	10	9	..	7
1891	153	1	99	..	57
1901	148	2	83	..	46
1911	262	2	211	..	99
1921	446	4	380	3	136
1922	478	2	370	1	129
1923	528	3	426	2	145
1924	533	5	399	2	133
1925	535	3	445	1	146
1926	576	9	466	2	151

The extension of the grounds upon which divorce might be obtained had the effect of greatly increasing the number of petitions and decrees.

In New South Wales, where the law in regard to divorce does not differ much from that in Victoria, there were, in 1926, 1,061 decrees for dissolution of marriage and judicial separation. The number of divorces and separations in that year per 100,000 married couples living was 245. The average annual number for the five-year period 1922-26, in proportion to a like number of married couples, was 231, as compared with an average of 141 for the same period in Victoria.

CRIME.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

In nearly all cases where the criminal law has been broken the alleged offender is brought at the very first opportunity before a Court of Petty Sessions, before two honorary justices or a police magistrate, or both, or in some cases a single magistrate, and the court, if the matter is one which comes within its summary jurisdiction, disposes of the case summarily. If the offence is an indictable one, the magistrates hold a preliminary investigation, and, if they are satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out by the prosecution, the accused is committed for trial to a superior court. There are two superior courts with criminal jurisdiction, viz., the Supreme Court, and a Court of General Sessions, which are held at various places throughout the

State. The latter court may deal with all cases of an indictable nature except such as are expressly excluded from its jurisdiction, viz., ten of the most serious crimes. A person may be brought before magistrates by three modes of procedure, viz., by an arrest by a police officer on warrant issued on a sworn information; or in a limited number of cases without warrant if the offence has been witnessed by the arresting constable; or by a summons. If at a coroner's inquest a verdict is returned of murder or manslaughter, the accused person is sent for trial to the Supreme Court without any investigation before magistrates. The Attorney-General or Solicitor-General also has the power of presenting any person for trial before a superior court without the necessity of a preliminary magisterial hearing; and upon the application of any person, properly supported by affidavit, a grand jury may be summoned, on the order of the Full Court, if the affidavit discloses that an indictable offence has been committed by a corporate body; or that such an offence has been committed by any person, and that some justice has refused to commit such person for trial; or in the case of a committal that no presentment has been made at the court at which the trial would in due course have taken place. The grand jury, which consists of 23 men, investigates the charge, and, if it is of opinion that a *prima facie* ground of action has been made out, the case is sent for trial. The cases which are presented under these latter forms of procedure are, however, very rare.

Indeterminate sentences.

The Indeterminate Sentences Act came into force on 1st July, 1908. Its principal provisions are—

1. The adoption of the indeterminate sentence for (a) habitual criminals, and (b) certain classes of other offenders.
2. The appointment of an Indeterminate Sentences Board.
3. The establishment of reformatory prisons.
4. A system of probation applicable to adults as well as minors.

A Board was appointed on 18th August, 1908. Its present members are:—The Hon. S. Mauger (chairman), Dr. C. S. Godfrey, and Mr. W. R. Anderson, I.S.O., P.M., formerly Secretary to the Crown Law Department. The secretary is Mr. G. F. Dicker, Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne.

The chief functions of the Board are to make visits of inspection monthly to each reformatory prison, to examine the conduct reports of the inmates and accounts of their earnings, to authorize promotion in grade, to approve of indulgences, and to make careful inquiries as to whether any persons detained in a reformatory prison are sufficiently reformed to be released on probation, and submit recommendations accordingly to the Chief Secretary; also generally to report on the working of the Indeterminate Sentences Act and the regulations. Other important powers were vested in the Board

under the provisions of the Amending Indeterminate Sentences Act of 1915, chief among which are :—

- (a) To parole a prisoner temporarily for the purpose of testing his reform ;
- (b) To impose conditions of release ;
- (c) To transfer prisoners from one reformatory prison to another ;
- (d) To hear charges of misconduct and impose punishment at a reformatory prison for the detention of persons not habitual criminals, the power formerly conferred on visiting justices in this regard being cancelled ;
- (e) To control the disbursement of a prisoner's earnings upon release ; and
- (f) To recommend to the Minister that he make an order permitting a prisoner detained in a reformatory prison to leave such prison temporarily—
 - (1) for the purpose of being treated in a hospital ; or
 - (2) to visit a relative believed to be dying ; or
 - (3) for any other reason which appears to the Board to be sufficient.

An important alteration under the Amending Act is the substitution of "Minister" for "Governor in Council" as the authority by whose direction a prisoner may be released on probation on the Board's recommendation. Regulations governing the treatment of declared habitual criminals, and of offenders not habituals, who are detained under indeterminate sentence in a reformatory prison, are now in operation.

In the early part of the financial year 1916-17 the Board brought into operation two valuable aids to the reformation of the inmates of the reformatory prisons, by the Government sanctioning the purchase of a farm in connexion with the Castlemaine Reformatory, and the establishment of a forestry settlement at French Island.

The equipment of the Castlemaine Reformatory was further improved in 1917 by the addition of the necessary plant and tools for imparting technical instruction to the inmates. A new workshop has since been erected and also a new schoolroom with modern equipment. The appointment to the staff of this reformatory in 1924 of a trained teacher from the Education Department to take charge of the school work has led to very satisfactory results. The inmates received class instruction in the forenoon and also tuition from seven to nine o'clock on five nights of each week. At the beginning of 1926 an instructor from the Education Department, trained in technical subjects, was also added to the staff, and to him is entrusted the practical training of the lads in the use of tools, framing, joining, &c. Much useful work has already been accomplished, and it is intended in the near future to form a class for instruction in sheet metal work.

During 1926 a swimming pool was constructed, the work being carried out by the inmates themselves. Classes in life saving operations

and in First Aid to the injured are now held, and all inmates are put through a course of physical drill.

At the farm a number of improvements have been carried out and additional buildings erected. Accommodation is now provided for two married officers and their families, and for fifteen inmates. Poultry farming is carried on upon a fairly large scale, and additional land has been purchased for agricultural purposes.

At the Afforestation Camp, French Island, the industry of the prisoners has won the commendation of the officers of the Forests Commission. The land previously held by the Commission has recently been handed over to the Penal Department, and is being utilized for agricultural pursuits, as well as for afforestation (pines and wattles).

Some marked improvements have been effected at this camp within the last two or three years, and a considerable area of land, formerly a swamp, has been reclaimed and is now under crop. Several acres of suitable land have been set aside for the purpose of a nursery, and pine seedlings, which formerly were received from State nurseries, are now raised locally. The planting season usually extends from May to September in each year. During other months a number of the men are employed in cutting fire breaks and preparing for the next planting season, also in breaking up and ploughing other areas of land for cultivation. The men at this establishment are chosen from those under indeterminate detention at Pentridge. At no time are they under lock and key, and they enjoy a considerable amount of freedom, yet with few exceptions they have responded loyally to the trust placed in them. Any who fail to rise to the standard of conduct and industry required of them are immediately returned to Pentridge.

The number of prisoners under indeterminate detention on 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

Name of Reformatory Prison.	Year ended 30th June.				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	31	41	51	54	59
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	39	60	66	86	84
Reformatory for Females, Coburg ..	..	..	1	1	2
McLeod Settlement, French Island ..	35	31	37	39	38
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	..	6	7	7	9
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	..	..	..	..	21
Total	105	138	162	187	213

Probation officers to supervise first offenders released by the courts on recognizance under the provisions of the *Crimes Act* 1915 are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Board. The position is honorary and a number of persons connected with religious and philanthropic organizations have been appointed to the office.

OFFENCES HEARD BY MAGISTRATES.

Arrests and
summonses
for various
offences.

The following are particulars of the different classes of offences dealt with by magistrates in 1926 :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1926.

Nature of Offence.	Total.	Summarily Convicted, &c.		Discharged by Magistrates.		Committed for Trial.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—							
Murder and attempts at	5	...	...	...	...	3	2
Manslaughter	10	...	...	5	...	5	...
Shooting at, wounding, &c. ...	38	...	...	5	...	29	4
Assaults ...	1,465	728	49	601	85	2	...
Others ...	230	38	5	44	10	122	11
Total ...	1,748	766	54	655	95	161	17
Against Property—							
Robbery, burglary, &c.	367	74	4	51	3	230	5
Larceny and similar offences ...	2,204	1,313	108	465	53	238	27
Wilful damage	509	352	26	109	20	2	...
Others ...	761	536	15	170	17	23	...
Total ...	3,841	2,275	153	795	93	493	32
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	21	1	...	...	...	20	...
Against Good Order—							
Drunkenness ...	10,150	5,728	733	3,298	391	...	...
Others ...	9,062	6,373	807	1,595	286	1	...
Total ...	19,212	12,101	1,540	4,893	677	1	...
Other Offences—							
Perjury ...	15	...	...	...	...	15	...
Breaches of—							
Defence Act ...	877	765	...	112	...	...	...
Education Act ...	12,000	9,240	1,587	917	256	...	...
Electoral Act ...	1,049	480	185	227	157	...	...
Licensing Act ...	5,152	3,273	485	1,117	277	...	...
Pure Food Act ...	520	359	46	100	15	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	31,121	25,998	1,420	3,433	248	19	3
Total ...	50,734	40,115	3,723	5,906	953	34	3
Grand Total ...	75,556	55,258	5,470	12,249	1,818	709	52

These particulars include the arrests and summonses disposed of in Children's Courts, which are detailed in the next table, other than arrests of neglected children.

Of the persons dealt with in the 56,703 summons cases, 48,086 were summarily convicted, 8,575 were discharged, and 42 were

committed for trial. Of the total persons dealt with (75,556), 60,728 were summarily convicted, 14,067 were discharged, and 761 were committed for trial.

The table which follows shows the number of arrests and summonses for various offences which were disposed of in Children's Courts during the year 1926 :—

CHILDREN'S COURTS: ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES, 1926.

Nature of Offence.	Number of Offences for which—				Others (Application to board out, &c.).		Total Offences.	
	Arrests were made.		Summonses were issued.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Against the Person—								
Assaults	63	3	34	3	..	..	97	6
Others	6	..	9	..	..	..	15	..
Total	69	3	43	3	..	..	112	6
Against Property—								
Larceny, &c.	602	26	821	26	..	..	1,423	52
Wilful Damage	5	..	231	1	..	..	236	1
Others	28	2	126	..	..	..	154	2
Total	635	28	1,178	27	..	..	1,813	55
Against Good Order—								
Drunkenness	4	..	2	..	..	..	6	..
Others	56	8	437	3	..	..	493	11
Total	60	8	439	3	..	..	499	11
Other Offences—								
Miscellaneous	116	21	1,223	9	111	53	1,450	83
Grand Total	880	60	2,883	42	111	53	3,876	155

The arrests of neglected children, which in 1926 numbered 67, viz., 49 males and 18 females, have been included in this table to indicate the business done by Children's Courts, but they are eliminated from all other criminal tabulations.

Of the persons who were brought before magistrates during the last five years, 25 per cent. were arrested, and 75 per cent. summoned. The great increase in summons cases since 1906 is due principally to the number of prosecutions under the Licensing, Pure Foods, Commonwealth Electoral, and Defence Acts, and is also partially accounted for by more parents having been summoned for neglecting to send their children to school than in previous years—the compulsory clauses of the Amending Education

**Arrests and
summons
cases.**

Act requiring children to attend a greater number of times than formerly. Particulars for the last year of each of the five decennial periods ended with 1921, and for each of the last five years, are given in the subjoined table :—

ARRESTS AND SUMMONSES, 1881 TO 1926.

Year.	Arrested by the Police.	Brought before Magistrates on Summons.	Total.
1881	22,640	19,384	42,024
1891	31,971	24,525	56,496
1901	27,855	21,130	48,985
1911	19,398	25,128	44,526
1921	15,249	47,153	62,402
1922	16,163	47,550	63,713
1923	17,223	49,889	67,112
1924	17,786	50,708	68,494
1925	17,922	55,424	73,346
1926	18,853	56,703	75,556

**Neglected
children
arrested.**

The arrests of neglected children, which are excluded from the above table and the tables which follow, numbered 115 in 1922, 98 in 1923, 108 in 1924, 104 in 1925, and 67 in 1926.

There has been a great falling off in the arrests in the last seven years, as compared with previous years, the principal reason being that children boarded out with their own mothers by the Children's Welfare Department are not now arrested by the police.

The following table shows for each of the last five years the number of offences for which persons were arrested or summoned, summarily convicted, discharged by magistrates, committed for trial, and convicted after commitment, also the number per 10,000 of the population :—

NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND SUMMONS CASES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Total.	Summarily Convicted.	Discharged by Magistrates.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.
1922 ...	63,713	49,464	13,516	733	463
1923 ...	67,112	53,183	13,295	634	400
1924 ...	68,494	54,376	13,516	602	401
1925 ...	73,346	58,879	13,723	744	510
1926 ...	75,556	60,728	14,067	761	461
Number per 10,000 of Population.					
1922 ...	405·5	314·8	86·0	4·7	2·9
1923 ...	412·9	327·2	81·8	3·9	2·5
1924 ...	417·2	331·2	82·3	3·7	2·4
1925 ...	438·8	352·3	82·1	4·4	3·1
1926 ...	445·3	357·9	82·9	4·5	2·7

In regard to persons arrested, minor charges are excluded, and only that charge which throughout the hearing of the case was most prominent is taken account of; but, in summons cases, the unit is each separate charge or case, and the number of convictions, discharges, &c., is, therefore, greater than the number of persons concerned.

CRIME AND DRUNKENNESS.

Offences and drunkenness. The subjoined table shows, for a series of years, the number of persons arrested or summoned, also the number per 1,000 of the population, for the only classes of offence for which complete comparisons can be made:—

CRIME IN THE STATE OF VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1926.

Year.				Number of Persons Arrested or Summoned for—				
				Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
1890	...	...	...	4,091	5,036	18,501	36,456	64,084
1895	...	...	...	2,344	3,336	11,143	20,843	37,666
1900	...	...	...	2,103	3,106	15,878	28,003	49,090
1910	...	...	...	1,663	3,052	12,719	34,626	52,060
1920	...	...	...	1,909	4,877	7,154	42,758	56,698
1922	...	...	...	1,570	3,639	8,773	49,731	63,713
1923	...	...	...	1,687	3,605	10,131	51,689	67,112
1924	...	...	...	1,767	3,626	9,814	53,287	68,494
1925	...	...	...	1,637	3,672	9,430	58,607	73,346
1926	...	...	...	1,748	3,841	10,150	59,817	75,556
				Number per 1,000 of the Population.				
1890	...	...	...	3·66	4·50	16·54	32·59	57·29
1895	...	...	...	1·98	2·82	9·41	17·60	31·81
1900	...	...	...	1·76	2·60	13·31	23·47	41·14
1910	...	...	...	1·30	2·38	9·92	27·00	40·60
1920	...	...	...	1·26	3·23	4·73	28·27	37·49
1922	...	...	...	1·00	2·32	5·58	31·66	40·56
1923	...	...	...	1·04	2·28	6·17	31·80	41·29
1924	...	...	...	1·08	2·21	5·98	32·45	41·72
1925	...	...	...	·98	2·20	5·64	35·06	43·88
1926	...	...	...	1·03	2·26	5·98	35·26	44·53

Drunkenness. The most noticeable feature of the above table is the large decrease in the arrests for drunkenness in the last five years as compared with the years prior to 1920.

Offences against the person and property. Almost all serious crimes are either offences against the person or offences against property. The first-named consist mainly of assault, but include murder, manslaughter, shooting, wounding, and all crimes of lust. Offences against property consist principally of larceny and similar offences; but include burglary, robbery, &c., cattle stealing, and wilful damage to property.

The only serious crimes included under "Other Offences" are forgery, counterfeiting, conspiracy, and perjury, and these are very few in number, there having been in Victoria in 1926 only 40 of such crimes out of a total of 59,817 in the category to which they belong. A large proportion of the cases under the heading "Other Offences" are merely breaches of various Acts of Parliament, by-laws, &c., which indicate no degree of criminal instinct or intent on the part of the person charged. There is also among them a large number of offences against good order, including insulting behaviour, vagrancy, &c.

If it be desired to compare the above figures with those relating to other States or countries several considerations must be taken into account. The first point necessary is that the criminal law in the places compared be substantially the same; the second, that it be administered with equal strictness; and the third, that proper allowances be made for differences in the age and sex constitution of the population. These considerations must also be taken into account in comparing crime in recent years with that in previous periods when there may have been differences in the law and when the population was very differently constituted in regard to sex and age.

SENTENCES PASSED.

The results of summary disposal of cases by magistrates during 1926 were as follows:—

SUMMARY DISPOSAL BY MAGISTRATES OF PERSONS ARRESTED, 1926.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	5,433	710	6,143
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	3,215	539	3,754
1 and under 6 months	1,218	171	1,389
6 and under 12 months	156	40	196
1 to 2 years ... ..	...	...	...
2 years	2	...	2
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety ...	387	33	420
Admonished	472	64	536
Sent to Industrial or Reformatory Schools ...	82	3	85
Otherwise dealt with	112	5	117
Total sentenced	11,077	1,565	12,642
Discharged	4,827	665	5,492
Total summarily disposed of ...	15,904	2,230	18,134
Sentenced per 10,000 of population ...	131·2	18·4	74·5

Sentences in
superior
courts.

The following were the sentences of the arrested persons tried and convicted in superior courts during 1926:—

SENTENCES OF ARRESTED PERSONS TRIED AND CONVICTED, 1926.

Sentence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Fines paid	3	...	3
Imprisonment for—			
Under 1 month	9	...	9
1 and under 6 months	50	5	55
6 „ 12 „	144	4	148
1 „ 4 years	83	2	85
4 „ 7 „	9	...	9
10 years	1	...	1
15 „	1	...	1
Ordered to find bail or sentence suspended on entering surety	78	6	84
Sent to Reformatory Prison	39	1	40
„ Lunatic Asylum ... ..	...	1	1
Total convicted	417	19	436
Acquitted	223	19	247
Not prosecuted	32	1	33
Convictions per 10,000 of population...	4.94	.22	2.57

In addition to being sent to gaol, seven prisoners were ordered one whipping each, and one prisoner two whippings, with a birch or a cat-o'-nine-tails.

Prisoners remaining for trial from the previous year and sentenced in the year mentioned are included in the above statement, but those awaiting trial at the end of the year are excluded.

In compiling the criminal statistics of the State each year a person arrested more than once is counted as a separate individual in respect of each arrest. It is possible to ascertain approximately the number of distinct persons passing through the hands of the police by making a close comparison

Arrests of
distinct
individuals.

DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED, 1926.

[illegible]

of names, ages, birth-places, religions, occupations, &c., of the individuals dealt with. This has been done for 1936, in so far as the sex and age of the persons arrested are concerned, and the result is given in the following table :—

Individuals arrested more than once. Of the total number of arrests, 18,853, only 14,454, or 77 per cent., were of distinct individuals. Of these, 12,125, or 84 per cent., were arrested only once; 1,452, or 10 per cent., twice; 450, or 3 per cent., three times; 178, or 1 per cent., four times; and 249, or 2 per cent., five times and over—one of these persons having been arrested eighteen times. The table which follows gives a comparison of 1926 with 1907—a year in which an important Act relating to the obtaining and holding of licences came into force. From this it will be seen that there was a large decrease in the later year in the number of distinct persons arrested:—

DISTINCT PERSONS ARRESTED, 1907 AND 1926.

Year.	Distinct Persons Arrested.						Percentage Arrested.				
	Number.			Per 100,000 of the Population.			Once.	Twice.	Thrice.	Four Times.	More than Four Times.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.					
1907 ...	14,519	2,297	16,816	2,410	369	1,372	83	10	3	2	2
1926 ...	13,033	1,421	14,454	1,544	167	852	84	10	3	1	2

Sexes of those arrested more than once. The tendency of females to be arrested over and over again is much greater than that of males, for, while only 15 per cent. of the males who fell into the hands of the police were arrested more than once in 1926, as many as 24 per cent. of the females were so arrested.

Distinct persons arrested more than once for drunkenness. The distinct persons arrested for drunkenness during 1926 numbered 7,482, and, of these, 1,315, or 18 per cent., were arrested more than once, viz., 795 twice; 264 thrice; 99 four times; 51 five times; and 106 more than five times, of whom 4 were arrested fifteen times.

Drunkenness, 1907 and 1926. The number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness was 10,944 in the year 1907, and 7,482 in 1926. The proportions per 1,000 of the population were 8·93 and 4·41 respectively in the years mentioned, the decrease in the later year being equivalent to a reduction of 51 per cent.

Whilst the number of distinct persons arrested for drunkenness in 1926 was 7,482, the charges of drunkenness brought against them numbered 10,066; these persons were also charged with 1,412 other offences, so that the total number of charges of all kinds against drunkards was 11,478. Fifty-three per cent. of the arrests during 1926 consisted of persons who were charged with drunkenness.

The number of persons and the number per 1,000 of the population arrested or summoned for drunkenness during the last five years are given hereunder:—

PERSONS ARRESTED OR SUMMONED FOR DRUNKENNESS,
1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Number of Persons—			Number per 1,000 of Population.
	Arrested.	Summoned.	Total.	
1922 ...	8,684	89	8,773	5·58
1923 ...	10,029	102	10,131	6·17
1924 ...	9,713	101	9,814	5·98
1925 ...	9,318	112	9,430	5·64
1926 ...	10,066	84	10,150	5·98

The amount of drunkenness in proportion to population, as evidenced by arrests, being taken as 100 in 1874-8, the corresponding numbers for subsequent periods will show the increase or decrease by comparison. These numbers are given in the following statement:—

Period.	Index Number.	Period.	Index Number.
1874-78	100	1919	29
1879-85	88	1920	32
1886-92	106	1921	34
1893-97	65	1922	38
1898-1902	84	1923	42
1903-07	77	1924	40
1908-12	68	1925	39
1913-17	59	1926	41
1918	29		

A very considerable decrease in drunkenness is shown for the five years 1893-97, which was a period of general depression. In the five years following an increase occurred, but since that time the arrests for this offence have declined. In the middle of the year 1915 an Act was passed limiting the number of hours during which alcoholic liquors could be sold in hotels, and a further limitation was made in the following year. This probably accounts for the marked decrease in drunkenness in the last eleven years. The index numbers for that period are the lowest on record.

The accompanying table shows the number of persons under 20 years of age arrested for drunkenness, also the number arrested per 100,000 of the population under that age, from which it will be seen that very few young persons are arrested for this offence :—

ARRESTS OF PERSONS UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE CHARGED WITH DRUNKENNESS, 1895 TO 1926.

Year.	Number.	Number per 100,000 of the Population under 20 years of age.
1895	185	35·60
1900	222	42·38
1910	128	24·19
1920	140	24·15
1922	118	19·58
1923	143	23·07
1924	159	25·24
1925	130	20·27
1926	142	21·81

One per cent. of the distinct individuals arrested in 1926 were entirely illiterate, 98 per cent. could read only, or read and write, and under 1 per cent. were possessed of superior or good education.

Education of persons arrested.

CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR.

The next table shows for a period of years the average yearly consumption of intoxicating liquors in Australia and New Zealand. It is not possible to give the Victorian consumption for a later year than 1909, as the Commonwealth Government discontinued keeping records of Inter-State trade in the following year.

AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS, BEER, AND WINE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

	Yearly Average Quantity Consumed. 1st July, 1921, to 30th June, 1926.			Consumption per Head.		
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Commonwealth of Australia ..	2,361,000	64,819,100	2,590,400	·41	11·27	·45
*Dominion of New Zealand ..	592,500	13,053,600	185,300	·45	10·03	·14

* Average for five years ended 31st December, 1926.

The quantities consumed per head in Australia and New Zealand during three quinquennial periods in the years 1909 to 1926, were as follows :—

	Australia.			New Zealand.		
	1909-13.*	1916-21.†	1921-26.†	1909-13.*	1917-21.*	1922-26.*
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Spirits	·82	·46	·41	·79	·69	·45
Beer	12·40	12·29	11·27	9·69	11·31	10·03
Wine	·42	·38	·45	·14	·15	·14

Average for five years ended—

* 31st December.

† 30th June.

With the assistance of the figures in the preceding table, it is possible to estimate for Australia and New Zealand, with some degree of accuracy, the approximate expenditure of the people on intoxicating liquors in a year. The following table shows the average yearly consumption over a period of years :—

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DRINK BILL.— YEARLY AVERAGE.

	Expenditure by the People on—					
	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Total.		
				Amount.	Per Head.	Per Adult Individual.
	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Commonwealth of Australia ..	9,935,000	18,812,700	2,397,700	31,145,400	5 8 2	9 6 7
†Dominion of New Zealand ..	2,499,500	3,790,800	179,600	6,469,900	4 19 2	8 10 11

* Average for five years ended 30th June, 1926.

† Average for five years ended 31st December, 1926.

These figures show that the average yearly expenditure on drink in Australia during the five years ended 30th June, 1926, was £31,145,400, and that in New Zealand during the quinquennium 1922 to 1926 it was £6,469,900. The expenditure per head for the Commonwealth was £5 8s. 2d., and for New Zealand, £4 19s. 2d. The corresponding expenditures for the quinquennium 1909–13 were £3 10s. 2d., and £2 18s. 2d. per head, and for a similar period in the years 1916 to 1921, £3 17s. 1d., and £4 8s. 6d. per head.

LOCAL OPTION.

Local Option Act of 1920. At the general elections for the State Legislative Assembly, held on 21st October, 1920, the provision in the *Licensing Act 1906* (incorporated in the Act of 1915), which required a poll of the electors to be taken on the question of the number (if any) of liquor licences to be held in the various licensing districts of the State, was submitted to the electors. The resolutions were :—

- A. That the number of licences existing in this district continue.
- B. That the number of licences existing in this district be reduced.
- C. That no licences be granted in this district.

If resolution C had been previously carried and was in force in the district, the following was to be submitted instead of the resolutions mentioned above :—

- D. That licences be restored in this district.

Resolution A or B was carried if a majority of the votes given was in favour of such resolution. Resolution C was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution, it being provided that, where less than such number was given, the votes recorded in favour of resolution C should be added to the votes given for resolution B. Resolution D was carried if three-fifths at least in number of the votes given was in favour of that resolution. Resolutions C and D could not be carried unless 30 per cent. or more of the number of electors on the electoral rolls for the district voted for the resolution.

In two licensing districts in the State, viz., Boroondara and Nunawading, resolution C was carried. Seven hotels in the former district and three in the latter had, therefore, to be closed. The amount of compensation awarded by the Licences Reduction Board was £12,100, or an average of £1,210 for each hotel.

Act of 1922. By an amending Licensing Act (No. 3259) assented to on 21st December, 1922, it is provided that a vote of the electors for the Legislative Assembly be taken on the licensing question once in every eighth year on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council, published in the *Government Gazette*, not being a day within three months before or after the day for a general election, the first of such polls to be taken in the year 1930.

At the first of such votes and at any subsequent vote, whenever licences exist, the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors:—

Abolition.—That licences shall be abolished (Resolution I.).

If at any vote Resolution I. is carried the following resolution only shall be submitted to the electors at each subsequent vote until carried:—

Restoration.—That licences shall be restored (Resolution II.).

Hotels Closed, 1885-1905. During the period 1885 to 1905, 217 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls. The amount of compensation awarded was £212,771, or an average of £980 for each hotel. This sum was provided partly out of the Licensing Fund, and, when this was insufficient for the purpose, out of the general revenue.

Restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants. In the year 1915 an Act was passed (No. 2584) which fixed the hours during which alcoholic liquors might be sold in hotels during the period of the war at from 9 o'clock in the morning until half-past 9 at night. By an Act passed in 1916 (No. 2827) the closing hour was fixed at 6 o'clock instead of 9.30. The latter provision was made permanent by Act No. 3028, passed on 19th December, 1919.

LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.

Licences
Reduction
Board.

The Licences Reduction Board, provided for by the *Licensing Act* 1906, was appointed on 21st May, 1907. At the same time a Compensation Fund was instituted, which was raised by means of a percentage fee of £3 for every £100 of purchases of liquor, the owner of the premises being chargeable with two-thirds and the tenant with one-third of the fee. The duties of the Board are referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 476. Just before the close of the year 1916 an amending Licensing Act (No. 2855) was passed, by which the members of the Licences Reduction Board were constituted a Licensing Court for the whole State. The taking of a local option poll was postponed to the second general election after January, 1917, and the court was authorized in the meantime to close hotels to the extent of the Compensation Fund available, as if reduction had been carried in every Licensing District. No alteration was made in the provisions abolishing the statutory number of hotels for a district, so that the number existing on 1st January, 1917, is now the maximum number, a similar provision applying to spirit merchants' licences, grocers' licences, Australian wine licences, and club licences. The Mallee area was made the subject of special legislation, under which it is possible after a petition and a poll to obtain victuallers' licences in proclaimed areas containing at least 500 electors. These victuallers' licences are to be 12 miles apart, except at Mildura, where there can be three hotels. The whole system of licence-fees was re-cast, fixed fees in the retail liquor trade being abolished and percentage fees substituted. In the wholesale section there are now percentage fees for the sales to private customers, and fixed fees in respect of the balance of the trade. The percentage fee in the case of hotels has been fixed at 6 per cent. of the annual liquor purchases, the owner paying three-eighths, and the licensee five-eighths. This combines and takes the place of the old fixed fees, the 3 per cent. compensation fee, and the assessments for lost licence fees arising out of the closing of hotels. Spirit merchants and holders of grocers' licences and Australian wine licences pay 4 per cent. of the cost of liquors sold to non-licensed purchasers.

Provision was made by Act No. 2776 for an adjustment of rents owing to the reduction effected by the "9.30 Closing Act" in the number of hours allowed for selling liquor, and this provision was extended by Act No. 2855 so as to provide for adjustments by reason of the further restrictions imposed by Act No. 2827—the "6 o'clock Closing Act." The work of adjustment was entrusted to the Board. Under the provisions of these Acts over 700 applications were received from licensees for adjustment of rent and licence-fee rebates.

Up to 30th September, 1927, 1,661 hotels had been closed by the Board or had surrendered their licences. The total sum paid in compensation was £1,074,191, or an average of £647 each. Five hundred and twelve of these hotels were located in the Greater Melbourne district;

the compensation paid in connexion with these totalled £548,907, making an average of £1,072 each. There were 1,149 hotels closed in country districts, whose owners and licensees received £525,284, or an average of £457 for each hotel.

Particulars of the hotels closed and compensation awarded in metropolitan and country districts in each year since the constitution of the Board are set forth in the following table:—

NUMBER OF HOTELS CLOSED AND COMPENSATION AWARDED, 1907 TO 1927.

Year Ended—	Number of Hotels Closed.			Amounts Awarded Owners and Licensees.		
	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.	Greater Melbourne.	Country.	Total.
31st December—				£	£	£
1907 ..	26	37	63	26,471	6,125	32,596
1908 ..	43	90	133	33,764	32,817	66,581
1909 ..	30	78	108	20,021	21,648	41,669
1910 ..	28	78	106	27,636	26,507	54,143
1911 ..	17	85	102	15,501	32,953	48,454
1912 ..	24	72	96	20,511	30,877	51,388
1913 ..	26	76	102	24,775	25,346	50,121
1914 ..	19	70	89	20,040	30,033	50,073
1915 ..	30	82	112	25,800	35,883	61,683
1916 ..	40	103	143	35,485	48,658	84,143
1917 ..	23	60	83	19,193	30,415	49,608
30th June—						
1918 ..	10	34	44	7,475	15,802	23,277
(six months)						
30th June—						
1919 ..	22	57	79	19,825	29,635	49,460
1920 ..	39	36	75	39,080	21,595	60,675
1921 ..	35*	57	92*	43,355	34,230	77,585
1922 ..	7	41	48	9,070	35,915	44,985
1923 ..	21	12	33	33,000	5,185	38,185
1924 ..	11	11	22	18,270	3,025	21,295
31st December—						
1925 ..	27	31	58	44,335	21,450	65,785
(18 months)						
1926 ..	31	17	48	59,700	17,715	77,415
30th September—						
1927 ..	3	22	25	5,600	19,470	25,070
Total ..	512	1,149	1,661	548,907	525,284	1,074,191

* Including ten hotels closed as the result of a Local Option poll held on 21st October, 1920.

In addition to the above closings, the following have been deprived of their licences, as a result of the local option poll held on 21st October, 1920:—5 spirit merchants, 4 grocers, 1 club, and 4 Australian wine licensees. The amount of compensation awarded was £550. Since 1922, 3 spirit merchants', 2 grocers', and 34 Australian wine licences have been taken away, for which compensation to the amount of £8,118 has been awarded.

A section of the Board's work which has grown rapidly in extent and importance, is the improvement in the type of structure and in the class of accommodation of licensed houses.

Since 1922 plans have been passed by the Board for new and improved licensed premises, the estimated cost being £2,103,477, in the following districts :—

ESTIMATED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS AND OF IMPROVEMENTS TO LICENSED PREMISES, 1923 TO 1926.

Licensing District.	Amount.	Licensing District.	Amount.
	£		£
<i>Metropolitan.</i>		Dalhousie	7,635
Abbotsford	37,320	Dandenong	34,400
Albert Park	25,840	Daylesford	33,410
Boroondara	28,900	Dundas	2,210
Brighton	36,900	Eaglehawk	3,000
Brunswick	29,580	Evelyn	17,000
Carlton	51,090	Geelong	69,462
Collingwood	27,460	Gippsland East	8,575
East Melbourne	174,915	Gippsland North	16,443
Essendon	49,950	Gippsland South	1,910
Fitzroy	82,599	Gippsland West	22,633
Flemington	40,950	Glenelg	10,940
Hawthorn	6,110	Goulburn Valley	3,547
Jika Jika	39,273	Grenville	2,610
Melbourne	406,090	Gunbower	21,405
North Melbourne	42,650	Hampden	6,500
Port Melbourne	85,983	Kara Kara	6,150
Prahran	52,255	Korong	8,050
Richmond	39,720	Lowan	34,080
St. Kilda	66,160	Maryborough	4,000
Toorak	14,750	Mornington	49,635
Williamstown	48,360	Ovens	9,030
Total Metropolitan ..	1,386,855	Polwarth	8,870
<i>Country.</i>		Port Fairy	2,580
Allandale	13,200	Rodney	20,410
Ballarat East	8,000	Stawell and Ararat	21,577
Ballarat West	6,076	Swan Hill	118,890
Barwon	12,035	Upper Goulburn	18,700
Benalla	10,112	Walhalla	5,290
Benambra	10,160	Wangaratta	2,122
Bendigo East	12,800	Waranga	11,524
Bendigo West	2,495	Warrenheip	3,500
Borung	19,540	Warrnambool	4,496
Bulla	22,750	Total Country	716,622
Castlemaine and Maldon ..	8,870	Grand Total	2,103,477

The return given hereunder shows the number of hotels, including roadside licences, in Victoria in 1885, 1906 and 1927, and the number of persons to each hotel in those years. The years 1885 and 1906 have been selected, because in those years important alterations were made in the liquor licensing laws :—

NUMBER OF HOTELS, 1885, 1906 AND 1927.

Year.				Estimated Population.	Number of Hotels.*	Persons to each Hotel.
1885	...	...	...	969,200	4,339	223
1906	...	...	...	1,244,470	3,520	354
1927	...	...	...	1,726,445	1,860†	928
Increase, 1885 to 1927				757,245	...	705
Decrease, „ „				...	2,479	...

* Including Roadside Licences.

† Fifteen of these hotels will be closed on the 1st January, 1928.

While the population has increased by 78 per cent. since 1885, the number of hotels has decreased by 57 per cent., and the number of persons to an hotel is now 316 per cent. more than it was in that year. During the period 1885-1927, 227 hotels were closed as the result of local option polls, 1,661 were deprived of their licences by the Licences Reduction Board, or surrendered their licences to the Board, and 663 were closed voluntarily. During the period of twenty-one years, 1907 to 1927, 57 new licences were granted.

The *Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act* 1906 (now Section 152 of the *Police Offences Act* 1915) provides that all race-courses shall be licensed, for which a fee of £1 per annum is charged. It is stipulated that, in addition to this fee, there shall be paid annually a sum equal to 3 per cent. of the gross revenue derived from all sources. Where the gross revenue is less than £1,500, but more than £600, the annual sum payable is 2 per cent. of the revenue, and, where the gross revenue is £600 or less, no percentage is charged. The amounts paid into the Consolidated Revenue in licence fees and percentages on receipts during the last ten years were as follows :—

REVENUE FROM RACE-COURSE LICENCES AND PERCENTAGE FEES, 1918 TO 1927.

Year ended 30th June.			Amount.	Year ended 30th June.			Amount.
			£				£
1918	..	..	11,346	1923	..	..	20,124
1919	..	..	11,557	1924	..	..	20,516
1920	..	..	13,416	1925	..	..	21,714
1921	..	..	17,731	1926	..	..	23,270
1922	..	..	17,578	1927	..	..	24,148

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

Gaols and prisoners.

There are seven gaols in Victoria, including the Pentridge Penal Establishment, and six reformatory prisons, also two police gaols which are used as receiving stations; the figures given below show that there is accommodation in the gaols for nearly twice the average number of prisoners in confinement. The following statement contains information for the year 1926 in regard to the accommodation for prisoners, the daily average number in confinement, the number received during the year, and the number in confinement at the end of the year :—

GAOL ACCOMMODATION AND PRISONERS, 1926.

Name of Institution.	Number of Prisoners.							
	For whom there is Accommodation.		Daily Average.		Total Received.		In Confinement, 31.12.26.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Pentridge ..	669	..	543	..	1,597	..	522	..
Pentridge Reformatory Prison ..	68	..	54	..	86	..	57	..
Ballarat ..	62	18	20	..	269	10	23	..
Beechworth Reformatory Prison ..	69	..	2	..	12	..	11	..
Bendigo ..	116	28	14	..	209	12	13	..
Castlemaine Reformatory Prison ..	97	..	76	..	114	..	70	..
Coburg Female Prison ..	..	123	..	47	..	688	..	42
Coburg Reformatory Female Prison ..	..	10	..	..	..	1	..	1
Geelong ..	177	29	65	..	337	2	69	..
Geelong Reformatory Prison ..	10	..	7	..	9	..	10	..
McLeod Settlement Reformatory Prison ..	42	..	36	..	31	..	35	..
Metropolitan ..	111	..	107	..	3,871	..	103	..
Sale ..	30	5	4	..	59	..	6	..
Police Gaols ..	26	..	4	..	152	1	3	..
Total ..	1,477	213	932	47	6,746	714	922	43

Prisoners in confinement, 1871 to 1926—decrease.

A statement is given below of the average number of prisoners in detention in the gaols of the State in the last year of each of the decennial periods 1871 to 1921 inclusive, and in each of the last five years. From this it will be seen that there has been a considerable decrease in late years as compared

with earlier periods. The rate per 10,000 of population, aged fifteen years and over, was, in 1926, 7 per cent. less than in 1911, 43 per cent. less than in 1901, 68 per cent. less than in 1891, 73 per cent. less than in 1881, and 78 per cent. less than in 1871.

PRISONERS IN CONFINEMENT, 1871 TO 1926.

Year.	Average Number of Prisoners in Confinement.			Number per 10,000 of Population, aged 15 years and over.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1871 ...	1,345	274	1,619	54·77	15·46	38·30
1881 ...	1,294	304	1,598	45·25	12·35	30·03
1891 ...	1,550	350	1,900	38·78	10·07	25·43
1901 ...	951	200	1,151	23·92	5·06	14·53
1911 ...	713	100	813	15·73	2·16	8·87
1921 ...	741	54	795	14·56	·98	7·40
1922 ...	752	54	806	14·36	·98	7·31
1923 ...	735	69	795	13·38	1·04	7·05
1924 ...	734	48	782	13·00	·82	6·79
1925 ...	850	45	895	14·74	·75	7·63
1926 ...	932	47	979	15·93	·78	8·22

Birthplaces,
religions,
and ages of
prisoners.

The birthplaces, religions, and ages of prisoners constantly detained, as deduced from the numbers passing through the gaols, are shown below for the five decennial periods ended with 1921 and for 1926 :—

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS CONSTANTLY DETAINED, 1881 TO 1926.

—	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1926.
Total	1,598	1,900	1,151	813	795	979
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	584	845	689	595	660	758
England and Wales ..	401	420	149	87	64	98
Scotland	105	129	56	26	18	39
Ireland	378	336	160	62	23	39
China	27	14	18	4	1	3
Others	103	156	79	39	29	42
Religion—						
Protestants	888	1,098	651	476	479	562
Roman Catholics ..	671	729	465	317	293	379
Jews	7	14	8	4	4	4
Buddhists, Confucians, &c..	27	14	12	1	..	..
Others	5	45	15	15	19	34
Age—						
Under 20 years	229	129	75	54	85	87
20 to 30 years	473	669	316	205	287	283
30 to 40 years	312	457	337	211	190	260
40 to 50 years	294	279	234	193	126	177
50 to 60 years	166	193	102	96	68	114
60 years and over ..	124	173	87	54	39	58

BIRTHPLACES, RELIGIONS, AND AGES OF PRISONERS
CONSTANTLY DETAINED, PER 10,000 OF POPULATION,
1881 TO 1926.*

	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1926.
Birthplace—						
Australia and New Zealand	10·84	10·65	7·25	5·32	4·92	5·10
England and Wales ..	27·20	25·78	12·72	9·73	} 6·53	9·87
Scotland	21·81	25·46	15·66	9·78		
Ireland	43·58	39·39	26·01	14·95		
China	22·88	16·53	28·89	7·14	3·54	9·84
Others	35·34	39·24	25·80	11·64	11·13	14·56
Religion—						
Protestants	14·36	13·12	7·19	4·90	4·12	4·40
Roman Catholics ..	32·98	29·33	17·63	11·07	9·08	10·60
Jews	16·17	21·68	13·54	6·38	5·21	4·72
Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	24·20	20·75	21·95	6·18	..	..
Others	2·00	10·78	7·03	3·05	4·97	6·50
Age—						
Under 20 years	35·30	2·53	1·42	1·01	1·45	1·34
20 to 30 years	34·18	27·36	15·30	8·67	10·93	9·73
30 to 40 years	34·82	31·30	18·23	11·66	8·35	10·31
40 to 50 years	20·95	32·00	20·07	11·64	7·20	9·13
50 to 60 years	34·84	23·95	15·35	9·60	4·50	6·79
60 years and over ..	30·88	23·90	8·73	5·58	3·07	4·12

* The ratios refer to 10,000 persons in the community whose birthplaces, religions, or ages were as stated above.

POLICE PROTECTION.

Strength of
police force in
Victoria.

The following table shows the numbers in the various grades of the police force in Victoria on the 31st December, 1926 :—

POLICE IN VICTORIA, 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

Designation.	Number.		
	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
<i>Foot.</i>			
Chief Commissioner	1	...	1
Superintendents'	2	9	11
Inspectors	7	4	11
Sub-Inspectors	19	5	24
Sergeants, First class	35	11	46
„ Second class	36	10	46
Senior Constables	153	78	231
Constables	1,018	269	1,287
Detectives	42	2	44
Others ... ..	...	...	...
Total	1,313	388	1,701
<i>Mounted.</i>			
Sergeants, First class	1	...	1
Senior Constables	1	...	1
Constables	41	219	260
Total	43	219	262
Grand Total	1,356	607	1,963

Strength of
police force in
proportion to
population.

The number of police in Victoria per 100,000 of the population and the corresponding proportions for other States, at the end of 1926, were as follows:—Victoria, 114·7; New South Wales, 126·5; Queensland, 133·7; South Australia, 113·3; Western Australia, 141·5; Tasmania, 112·2; and Northern Territory, 949·2.

Expenditure
on police,
gaols, &c.

The next table contains a statement of the amount and the amount per head of population expended in connexion with the police, and the penal establishments and gaols of Victoria, in the year 1871-2 and every tenth year

thereafter until 1921-22 inclusive, also in each of the four years ended with 1925-26 :—

EXPENDITURE ON POLICE AND GAOLS, 1871-2 TO 1925-26.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount Expended (exclusive of Pensions) on—					Amount per Head of Population.
	Maintenance, &c.		Buildings.		Total.	
	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.	Police.	Gaols and Penal Es- tablishments.		
	£	£	£	£	£	s. d.
1872 ..	190,711	57,855	5,722	2,133	256,421	6 10
1882 ..	201,063	53,032	14,996	3,328	272,419	6 2
1892 ..	283,409	65,679	19,113	23,319	391,520	6 9
1902 ..	271,561	51,948	7,064	3,613	334,186	5 6
1912 ..	316,456	48,514	12,856	2,300	380,126	5 8
1922 ..	527,305	71,825	6,681	2,336	608,147	7 10
1923 ..	531,440	75,732	8,597	4,631	620,400	7 10
1924 ..	540,109*	85,963	20,997	15,159	662,228	8 2
1925 ..	602,222	92,635	20,109	7,097	722,063	8 9
1926 ..	622,509	101,794	24,566	14,747	763,616	9 1

* This does not include amounts paid to members of the Special Constabulary Force, which was employed temporarily after the Police strike of 1923.

The police perform a number of duties in addition to those connected with the maintenance of law and order. The actual cost to the community of the police protection afforded is, therefore, less than the expenditure shown in the above table for maintenance of the police force.

Executions. During the twenty-two years ended with 1926 there were only eight executions in Victoria, one of which took place in 1908, one in 1912, two in 1916, two in 1918, one in 1922, and one in 1924. Since the first settlement of Port Phillip in 1835, 176 criminals have been executed within the State, of whom only four were females.

The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains on page 490 a table showing the offences for which criminals were executed, also their birthplaces and religions, for the years 1842 to 1916.

Inquests. The number of inquiries into the causes of deaths of individuals during each of the last five years is given below:—

INQUESTS, 1922 TO 1926.

Cause of Death found to be due to—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
External Causes—					
Accident	461	524	601	619	718
Homicide	10	11	7	11	10
Suicide	123	125	128	170	144
Execution	1	..	1	..	..
Doubtful	17	18	19	21	26
Disease or Natural Causes	556	714	688	603	599
Intemperance .. .. .	..	6	..	..	1
Unspecified or Doubtful Causes	5	3	4	3	5
Being "Still Born"	1	..	1	1	1
Total	1,174	1,401	1,449	1,428	1,504
Number per 10,000 of Population	7.47	8.71	8.82	8.54	8.86

Of the deaths from external causes during the last five years, 78 per cent. were due to accidental causes, 1 per cent. to homicide, and 18 per cent. to suicide; in 3 per cent. of the cases the nature or motive of the violence which caused death was doubtful.

SOCIAL CONDITION.**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.**

The University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne was incorporated and endowed by an Act of the Governor and Legislative Council of Victoria, to which the Royal assent was given on 22nd January, 1853. The University buildings, together with those of the affiliated colleges, are situated on 106 acres of land in the southern part of Carlton. Under the provisions of Act No. 3285 assented to on 23rd October, 1923, the University is to consist of a Council and Convocation. It has power to grant degrees, diplomas, certificates, and licences in all faculties except divinity. There is no religious test for admission.

The Council is composed of 31 members, as follows :—

Eight to be appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom one shall be a member of the Legislative Council, two shall be members of the Legislative Assembly, one shall represent manufacturing and commercial interests, one shall represent agricultural interests, two shall represent industrial interests, and one shall be elected by the councils of the technical schools.

Ten to be elected by the Convocation, none of whom shall be a member of the teaching staff or other officer of the University or the head of an affiliated college.

Three (being professors or deans of faculties) to be elected by the professors.

One (a member of the teaching staff) to be elected by the teaching staff other than the professors.

Two to be elected by the undergraduates, but not to include any member of the teaching staff or any person under the full age of 21 years.

Two to be heads of affiliated colleges, and to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Two to be appointed by co-option of the Council.

Three—the Director of Education, the Chairman of the Council of Agricultural Education, and the President of the Professorial Board—to be *ex officio* members of the Council.

The tenure of office of members of the Council is four years, but one-half of the number elected at the first election by the Convocation must retire at the end of two years, the Council determining by lot which of the members are to retire.

The Convocation consists of all graduates. It elects a Warden annually, or whenever a vacancy occurs, from its own members.

Power is given to the Convocation to submit suggestions to the Council with respect to the affairs of the University. Provision is made for the constitution of a standing committee of Convocation, consisting of the Warden of Convocation *ex officio* and not less than 40 other persons who are members of Convocation.

A University Students Loan Fund has been established to which a payment of £10,000 has been made from the Assurance Fund under the Transfer of Land Acts and a grant of £2,000 is to be made annually from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for ten years from 1st July, 1923. In addition, all moneys received in repayment with interest of loans to University students and all moneys standing to the credit of any trust fund in the Treasury in respect of loans to students made by the Treasurer of Victoria before the passing of Act No. 3285 are to be credited to the Fund. Out of this Fund loans may be made to students who are nominated by a committee of three members of the Council appointed for the purpose.

The Act of 1923 provided for an endowment of £45,000 annually from 1st July, 1923. An additional grant of £8,500 is to be made for each of the ten financial years commencing 1st July, 1923. The amount of this grant is to be expended on the maintenance within the University of a school (including a faculty) of commerce for the teaching of and conducting research in commerce and the granting of degrees or diplomas in commerce; also for teaching and conducting research in science, and the establishment and maintenance within the University of a University Extension Department.

By Royal letters patent of 14th March, 1859, it is declared that the degrees of the University of Melbourne shall be as fully recognised as those of any University in the United Kingdom. Scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes are provided in all the principal subjects, the cost being defrayed partly out of University funds and partly by private bequests. In the matter of endowment by private persons the Melbourne University does not compare favorably with other Universities. Still, the investments at present held as the result of private benefactions amount to about £358,000. In addition

gifts, which have been spent on buildings and equipment, amount to about £43,000. Since 1853 the amount received from the Government has been £1,715,782—£126,763 for building and apparatus, £884,500 endowment under "Special Appropriation Acts" 16 Vic. 34 and 13 George 3235, and £404,519 additional endowment by annual votes of the Legislature. In addition to grants from the Government the Council derives income from the fees paid by students for lectures, examinations, certificates, and diplomas.

Examinations. The system of junior and senior public and commercial examinations was superseded in December, 1917, by examinations for Intermediate and School Leaving Certificates. Under the regulations the rights of all candidates who have passed any subject of the junior or senior public examinations are reserved. The appended table gives the results of the public examinations conducted by the University during 1926 :—

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1926.

	Number who attempted to Pass fully.	Number who Passed fully.	
		Total.	Percentage.
Examination—			
Intermediate	4,421	1,909	43·18
Leaving	2,434	1,226	50·37

There is included in the above, a number of candidates, in whose cases Headmasters' Certificates were accepted as wholly or partially satisfying the requirements of the examination, qualified for Certificates as follows :—Intermediate 885; Leaving 376.

Degrees. The number of degrees taken in 1926 was 551, all of which were direct, as against a total of 2,730 for the preceding five years, or an average of 546 per annum for that period. During those five years all the degrees obtained were direct and none *ad eundem*. Of the total of 10,788 degrees granted since the establishment of the University, 1,595 have been conferred on women, 1,589 of which were direct and 6 *ad eundem*. These were apportioned as follows :—714 Bachelor of Arts, 273 Master of Arts, 179 Bachelor of Medicine, 13 Doctor of Medicine, 177 Bachelor of Surgery, 21 Bachelor of Laws, 3 Master of Laws, 5 Doctor of Science, 126 Bachelor of Science, 35 Master of Science, 35 Bachelor of Music, 13 Bachelor of Dental Science, and 1 Bachelor of Agricultural Science. The following

table shows the number of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1926—the particulars for the years 1925 and 1926 being given separately:—

DEGREES CONFERRED.

Degrees	Prior to 1925.			During 1925.			During 1926.			Total.		
	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.	Direct.	<i>Ad eundem.</i>	Total.
Bachelor of Arts ..	2016	118	2134	108	..	108	88	..	88	2212	118	2330
Master of Arts ..	877	184	1061	41	..	41	39	..	39	957	184	1141
Doctor of Letters ..	15	1	16	1	..	1	..	..	..	16	1	17
Bachelor of Medicine ..	1803	15	1818	145	..	145	124	..	124	2072	15	2087
Doctor of Medicine ..	276	107	383	8	..	8	11	..	11	295	107	402
Bachelor of Surgery ..	1734	4	1738	145	..	145	124	..	124	2003	4	2007
Master of Surgery ..	37	..	37	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	..	37
Bachelor of Laws ..	694	12	706	49	..	49	39	..	39	782	12	794
Master of Laws ..	131	3	134	4	..	4	10	..	10	145	3	148
Doctor of Laws ..	22	23	45	..	..	..	1	..	1	23	23	46
Bachelor of Civil Engineering ..	273	2	275	24	..	24	11	..	11	308	2	310
Bachelor of Mining Engineering ..	57	1	58	1	..	1	3	..	3	61	1	62
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering ..	15	..	15	1	..	1	1	..	1	17	..	17
Bachelor of Electrical Engineering ..	35	..	35	12	..	12	4	..	4	51	..	51
Bachelor of Metallurgical Engineering ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	2	..	2
Master of Engineering ..	102	..	102	6	..	6	10	..	10	118	..	118
Doctor of Engineering ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bachelor of Science ..	373	5	378	46	..	46	37	..	37	456	5	461
Master of Science ..	118	2	120	5	..	5	12	..	12	135	2	137
Doctor of Science ..	45	8	53	1	..	1	5	..	5	51	8	59
Bachelor of Music ..	38	2	40	7	..	7	1	..	1	46	2	48
Doctor of Music ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Bachelor of Dental Science ..	283	..	283	23	..	23	18	..	18	324	..	324
Doctor of Dental Science ..	21	..	21	..	..	..	1	..	1	22	..	22
Bachelor of Veterinary Science ..	89	..	89	3	..	3	2	..	2	94	..	94
Master of Veterinary Science ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Doctor of Veterinary Science ..	10	..	10	1	..	1	..	..	..	11	..	11
Bachelor of Agricultural Science ..	36	..	36	10	..	10	8	..	8	54	..	54
Master of Agricultural Science ..	1	..	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	4	..	4
Total ..	9104	489	9593	644	..	644	551	..	551	10299	489	10788

NOTE.—*Ad eundem* degrees have been abolished.

Students attending lectures, and undergraduates admitted.

The number of persons attending lectures has greatly increased during the past ten years, the total in 1926 having been 2,720 as compared with 1,297 in 1916, thus showing an advance of 110 per cent. A great improvement is also shown in the admission of undergraduates, the number having increased by 66 per cent. in the period mentioned. Details for the last five years are given in the following statement :—

PERSONS ADMITTED AS UNDERGRADUATES AND STUDENTS ATTENDING LECTURES, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	Number of Persons Matriculated and Admitted as Undergraduates.			Number of Students Attending Lectures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1922 ..	422	126	548	1,973	672	2,645
1923 ..	348	148	496	1,848	636	2,484
1924 ..	374	135	509	1,764	659	2,423
1925 ..	463	137	600	1,919	638	2,557
1926 ..	444	161	605	2,019	701	2,720

Of the number attending lectures in 1926—2,720—714 were students in Arts, Education and Journalism, 263 in Laws, 210 in Engineering, 460 in Medicine, 208 in Science, 230 in Music, 91 in Dental Science, 401 in Commerce, 28 in Agriculture, 10 in Veterinary Science, 5 in Public Health, and 85 in Architecture, and 15 were doing Science Research Work.

University Finance.

A statement of receipts and expenditure for the year 1926 is given below :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, 1926.

	General Account.	Other Accounts.	All Departments.
	£	£	£
Receipts—			
Government Grants ..	47,150	19,316	66,466
Lecture, Degree, Examination, and other Fees ..	56,411	10,209	66,620
Other sources	10,597	55,233	65,830
Total	114,158	84,758	198,916
Expenditure	110,908	36,229	147,137

Included in the amounts shown above, the University received £37,232 from private benefactors, to be held in trust for scholarships and other purposes.

AFFILIATED COLLEGES.

**The
affiliated
colleges.**

The permission accorded by the "University Act of Incorporation" for the establishment of affiliated colleges has been taken advantage of by the clergy and people of the Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches of Victoria. Large residential colleges have been built upon the sites reserved for this purpose in the northern portion of the University grounds fronting Sydney-road and College-crescent, Carlton. These colleges, which admit students without regard to their religious beliefs, maintain efficient staffs of tutors and lecturers for the teaching of the principal subjects in each of the University courses. They also provide training for the ministers of their respective denominations. In 1906 the Australian College of Dentistry was formally affiliated with the University, which obtained certain rights of supervision and control, and in return undertook to recognise the professional teaching of the College in connexion with the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

Information relating to the foundation and progress of Trinity, Ormond, and Queen's Colleges is given in the *Year-Book* for 1917-18 on pages 319 to 321.

**Trinity
College.**

This college, which was established by the Anglican Church, is open to students of all religious denominations, and the same remark applies to Janet Clarke Hall. The latter was established for the benefit of women students, and is an integral part of Trinity College. The college buildings consist of a chapel, dining hall, chemical and biological laboratories, lecture-rooms, libraries, billiard-room, and students' common-room, in addition to accommodation for the Warden, tutors, and students.

The Warden of the college is J. C. V. Behan, M.A., LL.D. (Melb.), M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)—first Rhodes Scholar for the State of Victoria, formerly Stowell Civil Law Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford—who is assisted by a staff of tutors and lecturers. The college holds annually, in the month of November, an examination for open scholarships and exhibitions. Prospectuses may be obtained on application to the Warden.

**Ormond
College.**

This college, which was established by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is a residential college for students of the University of Melbourne (without restriction as to religious denomination). It has a staff of lecturers and tutors from whom the students receive the assistance they require in their University work; non-resident students are also admitted to the college classes. The work of the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is carried on in the Victoria Wing; there is an

independent staff of professors and lecturers for this work. Theological students may reside in the college if they are matriculated students of the University.

The *Year-Book* for 1919-20 contained a statement of the nature of the college buildings, and reference was made to additions and alterations to the buildings. This information was amplified in subsequent issues.

During the year 1926-27, two valuable benefactions have been received, viz., £500 from Mrs. Buckland, of Mirboo North, to found the Jack Buckland Engineering Scholarship as a memorial to her son—a distinguished old student of the college—who was killed, in the air, at Villers-Bretonneux on 6th May, 1918; and £500 from Mr. H. H. Kemp, the architect of all the new buildings, towards completion of the internal fittings and furnishing of the MacFarland Memorial Library—on condition that a further £1,500 was raised during the year. The past and present students have again risen to the occasion magnificently, with the result that not only the work contemplated, but other improvements of importance, are to be carried out. The Library is to be completed in blackwood. When completed (early in 1928, it is hoped) it will be a substantial addition to the architectural features of Victoria. The internal completion of the Library will make possible certain other important alterations in the college. It is hoped to proceed at the same time with the completion of the College War Memorial.

Rev. J. Gillies, M.A. (Glasgow), minister at Surrey Hills, has been appointed successor to Rev. Dr. Rentoul, in the Chair of New Testament Studies in Ormond College Theological Hall.

Dr. H. R. Dew, a past student who is senior Medical Tutor, has shared the Syme Prize of the University of Melbourne, for his research work on Hydatids. Dr. F. M. Burnet, another past student, was awarded one of the Beit Research Scholarships for research in Pathology at the Lister Institute, London. He returns early in 1928 to a research post in the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Melbourne.

The Master of the College is D. K. Picken, M.A. (Cambridge, Glasgow, Melbourne), formerly Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics in Victoria University College, Wellington, N.Z. All inquiries as to admission, scholarships, &c., should be made to him.

This college was founded by the Methodist Church of Victoria, and its lectures are open to non-resident as well as resident students. It is capable of accommodating about 90 students in residence. The building comprises fully equipped lecture-rooms, laboratories, library, reading-rooms, and apartments for the Master, tutors, and students. It has been enlarged at a cost of some £50,000, and includes a central tower, a memorial chapel to soldiers who were connected with the Methodist Church, a new common room, a large library, and additional lecture rooms;

as well as some 40 additional students' rooms. The new portion of the building was opened in March, 1923. The Master is the Rev. E. H. Sugden, M.A., B.Sc., Litt.D., and the Vice-Master, Mr. K. H. Bailey, B.C.L. (Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford).

Newman College.

Newman College is built in the section of the University Reserve granted by the Government of Victoria to the Roman Catholic Church in the Act of Incorporation of 2nd October, 1882. The foundation-stone was laid by the late Archbishop of Melbourne (the Most Reverend Thomas Joseph Carr, D.D.), on 11th June, 1916. It was founded by the generosity of the Roman Catholic people of the State of Victoria, and cost nearly £70,000. The Archbishop Carr Memorial Chapel, to be erected at a cost of £20,000, will be a striking addition to the College. A separate study and a bedroom are provided for each student. There is also provision of hot and cold shower and plunge baths, a large covered-in swimming bath, a gymnasium, and billiard and recreation rooms. The library consists of more than 10,000 volumes. Lectures, demonstrations, and private tuition are given in the College with the special object of assisting students in their University work. Women students as well as men extern students are admitted to all college lectures. St. Mary's Hall, Royal Park, is the residential hall for women students of Newman College. Students of the college enjoy the advantage of residence, instruction in the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, and tuition supplementary to University lectures.

All applications for information, &c., should be made to the Rector. The present Rector is the Very Rev. J. M. Murphy, S.J., M.A. He is assisted by the Rev. Dominic Kelly, S.J., M.A., the Rev. Wilfrid Ryan, S.J., M.A., F.G.S., and a staff of competent lecturers and tutors.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

University extension.

Tutorial Classes organized by the Workers' Educational Association of Victoria are conducted by the University Extension Board. The personnel of the Board, numbering 18 appointed by the University, comprises representatives from the Workers' Educational Association, Trades Hall Council and the teaching staff of the University and other persons representing the public. The Government grants a sum annually (now £2,500) for the development of Tutorial Class work. In addition to these classes, which are in operation in the city, suburbs, and country, the University Extension Board has inaugurated a system of advice by correspondence for the benefit of country students. This advice is confined to social and cultural subjects, and is not intended for those seeking to qualify for degrees. Its purpose is rather to cultivate knowledge of such subjects as will elevate the mind and fit the student the better to discharge the

more social functions of his daily life and citizenship. In this connexion and also for the arranging of Extension Lectures and Vacation Schools, the Government grant is £1,500.

Professor J. A. Gunn, M.A., Ph.D., is Director of University Extension and Chairman of the University Extension Board. The Secretary to the Board is Mr. J. P. Bainbridge, Registrar, University, Carlton.

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The
educational
system of
Victoria.

The present system of "free, compulsory, and secular" education came into operation on 1st January, 1873, the Act which introduced it having been passed in the previous year. Subsequently, this Act and two amending Acts passed in 1876 and 1889 were consolidated in the *Education Act* 1890, which in turn was amended by Act No. 1777 passed in December, 1901, Act No. 2205 passed in December, 1905, Act No. 2301 passed in December, 1910, and Act No. 2330 passed in October, 1911, and is now, with its amendments, incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644.

Under the Act of 1872 education was made free to all willing to accept it; compulsory, in the sense that whether they attend or do not attend State schools, evidence must be produced that all children are educated up to a certain standard; and secular, no teacher being allowed to give other than secular instruction in any State school building. Facilities are, however, afforded to persons other than State school teachers to give religious instruction, on one or two days each week, to the children of the parents who desire that their children shall receive such instruction. In each school four hours at least are set apart during each school day for secular instruction, two of which must be before, and two after, noon.

In December, 1910, an Act of Parliament of a most comprehensive and far-reaching character was passed. It marked a most important epoch in the history of education in Victoria, and laid the foundation of a complete national system from the infants' school to the highest educational institutions in the State. Power is given in this Act for the establishment of higher elementary schools, and of secondary and technical schools of various types, the aim being to create a co-ordinated system of public education, leading through elementary schools and evening continuation classes to trade and technical schools on the one hand, or through elementary schools and high schools to the University or to higher technical schools on the other. Provision is also made for evening continuation classes, in which the education of children who have left the day school at fourteen years of age may be continued till they are seventeen years of age. Power is given to make attendance at evening continuation classes compulsory in any district proclaimed for that purpose. Education is made compulsory in the

case of deaf and dumb, blind, and physically or mentally defective children between seven and sixteen years of age.

In order to provide for the due co-ordination of all branches of public education a Council of Public Education has been created, representative of the various educational and industrial interests of the State. This body, which consists of 20 members presided over by the Director of Education, reports annually to Parliament on the development of public education in Victoria and elsewhere.

**Compulsory
Clauses.** Parents and custodians of children not less than six nor more than fourteen years of age are required to cause such children (unless there is a "reasonable excuse") to attend a State school on every school half-day in each week. Non-attendance may be excused for any of the five following reasons :— (1) If the child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner, and is complying with the prescribed conditions as to regularity of attendance; or (2) has been prevented from attending by sickness, reasonable fear of infection, temporary or permanent infirmity, or any unavoidable cause; or (3) has been excused by a general or particular order of the Minister; or (4) is at least thirteen years of age, and has obtained a certificate of merit as prescribed; or (5) that there is no State school within 1, 2, 2½, or 3 miles in the case of children under seven, between seven and nine, between nine and eleven, and over eleven years of age respectively. Parents and custodians who fail to make a child attend as provided may be summoned and fined not less than 2s., nor more than 10s., for each such offence, or in default may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three days. Attendance officers are appointed to see that the compulsory provisions are carried out.

**Conveyance
allowance.** In cases where schools are closed through low average attendance, or where, though there is no school, the number of children would warrant the Department in establishing a school, allowances are made by the Department for the conveyance of children to the nearest school. The amount of the allowance is 3d. per day for children over six and under eleven who reside between 2½ and 3 miles from the nearest school, and 4d. per day for children over six and under fourteen who reside 4 miles or over from such school or, where schools have been closed, 3 miles therefrom. Where arrangements are made for the conveyance of pupils in numbers to district high schools, higher elementary schools, central schools, central classes, domestic arts schools or technical schools, the Department may, if the circumstances warrant it, grant an allowance on the £1 for £1 basis, up to a limit to be fixed, towards the cost of such conveyance.

**School
Committees.** Under Act No. 2301 (now incorporated in the *Education Act* 1915, No. 2644) provision was made for the appointment of a School Committee for each school consisting of not more than seven persons. The members of School Com-

mittees are nominated by the parents of children attending the school for which the Committee is to be appointed. The main duties of such Committees are :—(a) to exercise a general oversight over the buildings and grounds, and to report to the Minister on their condition when necessary ; (b) to carry out any necessary work referred to the Committee in connexion with maintenance or repair of or additions to buildings ; (c) to promote the beautifying and improvement of school grounds, the establishment and maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots, the decoration of the schoolroom, and the formation of a school library and museum ; (d) to provide for the necessary cleansing and the sanitary services of the school ; (e) to visit the school from time to time ; (f) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school ; and (g) to arrange, where necessary, for suitable board and lodging at reasonable rates for teachers (especially women teachers) appointed to the school.

Free subjects. The following are the subjects in which instruction is absolutely free :—English (literature, reading, recitation, spelling, writing, composition, grammar), mathematics (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), nature knowledge (geography, science, nature-study), hygiene, history and civics, manual work (drawing, needlework, woodwork, and other occupations such as modelling in clay or plasticine, or brush drawing, or weaving with some material other than paper, for example, raffia), singing, physical training, and, where practicable, agriculture for boys, cookery and domestic economy for girls, gymnastics, and swimming. Pupils buy their own books and material.

New Features. The course of study (issued February, 1920) contains provisions to secure a more realistic treatment than formerly of the essential subjects of school education, and a larger share of attention to the training of the hand and eye through manual instruction in various forms. The requirements from teachers of infants are also such as to secure methods of teaching in accord with the principles enunciated by Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten system and by Dr. Maria Montessori. Great activity has been displayed in the training of teachers for their work. During the past few years a large number of teachers have taken the course at the Teachers' College and the Melbourne University, and, in addition, hundreds have been instructed (especially in those subjects the method of teaching which has undergone modification recently) in special classes held in the evenings and on Saturdays at centres of population, and, on a larger scale still, during the Christmas vacations at what are called "Summer Schools." The Education Department, in collaboration with the Extension Board of the Melbourne University, held a vacation school at the University in May, 1925. It was attended by teachers and by members of the

general public, and lasted for a fortnight. Probably further schools of a like nature will be held. The vacation school appears to have established itself as a successful educational experiment in Victoria. Much attention has been given to the beautifying and improvement of school grounds by the planting of trees and shrubs, and by the establishment of school gardens. One day in each year—termed Arbor Day—is specially set apart for tree-planting, and for the giving of lessons on the value of trees. The teaching of elementary agriculture is warmly encouraged by both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture, and the subject is being dealt with in a very practical way.

There were, on 30th June, 1926, 78 woodwork centres in operation, having an attendance of 9,504 boys; and 65 drill, swimming, school gardens, &c. cookery centres, apart from those at the Domestic Arts Schools, with an attendance of nearly 13,000 girls. Ten Schools of Domestic Arts, attended by 3,050 girls, have been established. In these schools girls over twelve years of age are given, during the last two years of their school life, a training in the subjects of a comprehensive domestic arts course. At the same time their general education is continued. In addition to the instruction given in the woodwork centres woodwork is being taught to 639 boys in 54 country schools by the head teachers as one of the ordinary subjects. Swimming is taught in schools that have the necessary facilities, the children being formed into swimming clubs, which hold annual competitions at various centres. Drill is taught in all schools. During 1912 the system of physical training approved of by the Commonwealth military authorities was introduced. Nearly every State school now has its garden and some of the school gardens are among the beauty spots of their districts. The Victorian State Schools Horticultural Society, founded in 1913, assists teachers in obtaining the best seeds, seedlings, ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs. It has a nursery of its own at Oakleigh, maintained partly by members' subscriptions (5s. yearly), and partly by a Government grant. Most of the State schools are affiliated with the Society, which sent out in 1926 to its members, at reduced rates, 20,050 packets of seeds, 180,000 seedlings, 2,000 rooted roses, 12,000 shrubs, 3,000 herbaceous plants, 750 climbers, 5,000 indoor pot-plants, and 2,000 dahlias.

In addition to Arbor Day (to which reference has been made), other special days—Anzac Day, Discovery Day, Special days. Pioneers' Day, Shakespeare Day, Empire Day, and Bird Day—call for mention. The landing of the Australians and New Zealanders on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25th April, 1915, has been commemorated in the schools each year since, on Anzac Day, by the holding of a special service, consisting of hymns and addresses together with the saluting of the flag. The schools of Victoria held a celebration of Empire Day in 1905, being among the first of the

oversea Dominions to recognise the day, and have since enthusiastically kept it in remembrance year by year. The first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook in April, 1770, is commemorated on Discovery Day, though this is merging into Pioneers' Day, when honour is paid not only to explorers and discoverers but also to the early settlers—the path-finders in general. The date chosen for Pioneers' Day was the 19th of November, the day on which Edward Henty landed on the shores of Portland Bay to establish a pastoral and agricultural settlement in 1834. On Shakespeare Day, the teachers and children commemorate the birth of Shakespeare by readings from his works, and the recital and acting of selected passages. Bird Day has for its object the protection of native birds and their eggs. On that day lessons are given on bird life, and, where possible, bird-observing excursions are made. Over 61,000 of the older school children have joined the "Gould League of Bird Lovers," which was established for the protection of bird life.

Patriotic Fund. During the Great War the teachers and children in the State schools, with the aid of departmental officers, school committees, and parents, were instrumental in raising a sum of £440,000 for the Department's War Relief Fund. Particulars are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 333 and 334. The fund was closed in 1920. At the end of 1922, the executive committee of the fund transferred the balance of £84,910 to a body of seven trustees, who were empowered by the deed of trust to expend the money, as occasion arose, for the benefit of seriously disabled soldiers and their dependants. The sum of £40,000 was invested to form an old-age fund; £25,000 was set aside as a housing fund, and the remaining £20,000 is being used from time to time for the cases that stand in need of immediate assistance. On 30th June, 1927, there was a sum of £48,142 invested, and £2,802 to the credit of the general account.

Memorial School at Villers-Bretonneux. In 1921, the citizens of Melbourne decided to "adopt" the town of Villers-Bretonneux and to provide money to rebuild the ruined buildings, one of which was the school-house. The Education Department's War Relief Fund contributed £12,500 to defray part of the cost, and, in 1924, a fine structure, containing five bright class rooms, an assembly hall, manual training rooms, and teachers' residences was erected. The buildings surround a spacious quadrangle, and the class rooms lead off from a long airy passage, which runs parallel to the front length of the main building. The Assembly Hall is panelled in Victorian blackwood, the design including sixteen pilasters, each of which is surmounted by a carved cap representing Australian flora and fauna. The timber is beech with a frame of blackwood. The building with its fittings is a worthy gift on the part of Victoria, and a permanent memorial to the valor and devotion of those who fought and fell in defence of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918.

The principal street, which, before the war, and following the custom of French townships, was called the Grande Rue, is now called Rue de Melbourne. A park, of which only the site exists, and which is waiting to be cleared and laid out, will be called Parc de Melbourne.

The gratitude of the people of Villers-Bretonneux is expressed in the form of a pillar of stone near the school gates. Inscriptions on three of its four faces record the different phases of the construction of the groups of school buildings. For generations to come the pillar will be an eloquent memorial of what has been done in Villers-Bretonneux by the State of Victoria.

Schools have taken up the Junior Red Cross movement **Social Service.** in order to continue the training afforded by the Young Workers' Patriotic Guild, in which pupils earned money during the war period and gave it to the War Relief Fund. Members of the Junior Red Cross branches are assisting their local charities or helping local cases of indigence in their neighbourhood.

A widespread movement is being fostered for the carrying out of "home projects," as has been done in the **League of Young Gardeners.** United States of America. The idea is to link school, home, and farm in one common interest. The growing of sugar-beet, the culture of the potato, the selection of wheat, and the rearing of poultry and stock have engaged the united attention of children, teachers, and parents in various Victorian school districts.

A scheme for the utilization of waste lands by the **School Forestry.** establishment of school plantations of hardwood and softwood trees was inaugurated in 1923. Areas up to 70 acres in extent in the vicinity of State schools have been reserved for the purpose. These are vested in local trustees, are fenced by voluntary local effort, and are planted by the children at the rate of about two acres per year. When the trees reach maturity, the revenue derived from the sale of the timber will be used by the trust for the benefit of the school concerned. Monetary gains will accrue, and further gains also—a training in practical forestry, and a training in unselfish social service. In 1927 there were established 152 of these school plantations, with an area of 1,750 acres, and applications are being considered for 40 more.

The need for the medical inspection of school children **Medical Inspection.** has received widespread recognition, and the Victorian Education Department has followed the lead of progressive countries by appointing medical inspectors. They consist of eight full-time school medical officers and four district health officers. The latter perform part-time school medical inspection duties as well as the duties they are entrusted with by the Health Department. There are also two full-time school nurses employed. The medical officers devote

their time to investigating the hygienic condition of school premises and the physical and mental condition of the pupils, and to giving instruction to teachers.

A dental clinic has been established and is under the charge of three full-time school dentists with four dental attendants. Great service is being rendered by this clinic. In addition, two dentists, with attendants, are travelling from school to school in country districts, while another dentist and dental attendant have been appointed to work four months each year at Bendigo, four months at Ballarat, and four months at Geelong.

One of the travelling dentists referred to has been provided with a well-equipped dental motor van, and is thereby enabled to reach the children of schools remote from railway lines.

Under the provisions of Act No. 3416, assented to on 24th December, 1925, teachers in elementary schools are divided into five classes. This Act also provided that at least half of the male teachers shall be in classes above the Fifth Class in the following ratio :—

Class	I.	..	..	2
„	II.	..	..	3
„	III.	..	..	6
„	IV.	..	..	11
„	V.	..	..	22

For female teachers the following ratio was fixed :—

Class	II.A	..	..	1
„	II.	..	..	3
„	III.	..	..	9
„	IV.	..	..	27
„	V.	..	..	81

The salaries of males, excluding junior teachers, range from £156 to £600, and those of females, excluding junior teachers and sewing mistresses, range from £120 to £480. In addition to the head and assistant teachers, there are three classes of junior teachers, with commencing salaries ranging for males from £82 to £94 and for females from £62 to £74. The higher salary is paid to junior teachers who have passed the Leaving Examinations of the University of Melbourne. Those who do not possess that qualification are paid the lower amount. Sewing mistresses receive £60 yearly. Junior teachers residing away from home are paid an allowance sufficient to bring total emolument to £84 per annum.

Teachers in schools other than elementary were included in a Classified Roll for the Secondary Schools Division. This roll contains five classes for men (I., II., III., IV., V.) and five classes for women (II.A, II., III., IV., and V.). Excluding rates for junior teachers, which

are the same as those for elementary schools, salaries for teachers on the Secondary Roll range from £192 to £650 per annum for men and £168 to £528 per annum for women.

No definite ratio was provided in the Act for the Secondary Division, but the numbers in each class are determined by the Public Service Commissioner after report from the Committee of Classifiers, Secondary Schools Division.

The following statement shows the progress as regards State schools, teachers, and scholars since 1872. The figures relating to the number of schools and teachers refer to 30th June for all years to 1921, and to 31st December from the year 1922. Those relating to the number of scholars refer to the financial year ended 30th June, for the eight years ended 1916-17; the reference is to 31st December and the years ended on that date respectively for returns for years prior to 1901-2 and for the years 1917 to 1925 :—

STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1925.

Year.	Number of Schools at end of Year.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			Enrolled during the Year.	In Average Attendance.	Distinct. Children (estimated).
1872	1,049	2,416	136,055	68,456	113,197
1880	1,810	4,215	229,723	119,520	195,736
1890	2,170	4,708	250,097	133,768	213,886
1900	1,948	4,977	243,667	147,020	218,240
1909-10 ..	2,036	4,957	235,042	145,968	206,263
1910-11 ..	2,059	5,087	234,766	146,464	204,086
1911-12 ..	2,093	5,533	238,111	151,247	205,695
1912-13 ..	2,127	5,683	241,042	152,600	209,172
1913-14 ..	2,175	5,710	246,447	158,213	214,986
1914-15 ..	2,227	6,085	250,264	160,885	218,427
1915-16 ..	2,225	6,194	257,726	161,632	221,777
1916-17 ..	2,202	6,275	254,033	161,034	221,202
1917 (31st Dec.)	2,236	6,455	†214,048	†161,574	†186,523
1918 „ ..	2,272	6,570	240,664	164,350	208,861
1919 „ ..	2,280	6,518	235,292	160,345	207,633
1920 „ ..	2,333	6,637	247,337	158,554	213,738
1921 „ ..	2,334	6,784	247,204	167,154	216,037
1922 „ ..	2,405	6,789	248,882	171,129	216,329
1923 „ ..	2,460	6,919	253,307	167,638	218,835
1924 „ ..	2,503	6,977	254,144	171,382	217,858
1925 „ ..	2,525	*7,020	255,101	175,131	220,295

* In addition to these teachers, 490 were temporarily employed on 31st December, 1925.

† These are the figures for the six months ended 31st December, 1917; hence the apparent falling off in "number enrolled" as compared with the number for the preceding year. Had the figures been compiled to June, 1918, probably the new number would have been greater, not less than that of the previous year. An increase in the same ratio as the increase in average attendance would fix the number at 255,280.

**Ages of State
school scholars.**

The following table shows the number and percentage of children attending State primary schools, below, at, and above the school age (6 and under 14), during the year ended 31st December, 1925* :—

AGES OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS, 1925.

Ages.	Net enrolment of Children attending Day Schools—	
	Number.	Percentage.
Under 6 years	14,671	6·7
6 to 14 „	193,061	87·6
14 years and upwards	12,563	5·7
Total	220,295	100·0

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

**Registration
of teachers
and schools.**

By Act No. 2013, passed in 1905, all private schools and teachers of private schools had to be registered by the Teachers and Schools Registration Board. This Board consisted of three representatives of the Education Department, four of non-State schools, two of the University, and one of State-aided technical schools. Its chief functions were to see (1) that only qualified persons were employed in private schools; and (2) that private schools met requirements in hygienic matters. Under the provisions of Act No. 2301, passed in December, 1910, the Teachers and Schools Registration Board was abolished, and its duties were taken over by the Council of Public Education.

**Registered
schools, 1872
to 1926.**

The appended statement shows the number of registered schools, of instructors in same, and of individual scholars in attendance in 1872, the year before the adoption

* The latest statistics published by the Education Department of Victoria (*vide* "Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the year 1925-26") are for the period ended 31st December, 1925.

of the present secular system, and in a number of subsequent years, including the latest year for which particulars are available :—

REGISTERED SCHOOLS AND ATTENDANCE, 1872 TO 1926.

Year.				Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Individual Scholars.
1872	...	...	...	888	1,841	24,781
1880	...	...	...	643	1,516	28,134
1890	...	...	...	791	2,037	40,181
1900	...	...	...	884	2,348	48,483
1909-10	...	...	...	641	2,067	49,964
1914-15	...	...	...	509	1,879	52,638
1915-16	...	...	...	495	1,909	57,400
1916-17	...	...	...	495	1,970	56,193
1917-18	...	...	...	499	2,002	58,366
1918 (31st December)	...	...	...	493	1,903	56,996
1919	"	...	...	486	1,991	56,684
1920	"	...	...	489	1,950	59,314
1921	"	...	...	486	2,063	59,922
1922	"	...	...	486	2,109	60,105
1923	"	...	...	489	2,154	64,195
1924	"	...	...	486	2,154	63,105
1925	"	...	...	490	2,163	64,265
1926	"	...	...	495	2,212	64,835

**Scholars
attending
State and
registered
schools.**

On comparing the number of scholars with the number attending schools, it is seen that 23 per cent. of the scholars during 1925 attended registered schools, and that the balance, 77 per cent., attended State primary and secondary schools.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

**Teachers'
College.**

During the year 1926, the training of teachers for the State Department was much modified and altered. In future, all intending teachers must complete a successful probationary period as Junior Teachers in the schools before entering one of the Teachers' Colleges. Junior teachers who do not complete their Leaving Certificate, or who are unable to obtain studentships at a Teachers' College will, at the end of five years, be asked to leave the Service. This will ensure a reasonable aptitude for the work of teaching.

There are three Teachers' Colleges in Victoria—Melbourne, Ballarat and Bendigo. The Melbourne College is the largest institution, training students for all types of teaching work; Ballarat and Bendigo are smaller colleges preparing teachers for work in the Rural Schools. From 1927 onwards, the only avenue of promotion in the Service will be through the Teachers' Colleges; that is, there will be no untrained teachers entering the Department's service. In order to make this

position possible, a new Teachers' College is to be built in Melbourne on a suitable site. This College will accommodate up to 600 students, while Ballarat and Bendigo will be able to take up to 100 each. Thus, in a few years' time, the three Colleges will have an output each year of 500 trained teachers for the Primary and Rural Schools, together with nearly 100 trained graduates for work in all kinds of Secondary Schools.

The courses of training in the Melbourne College at present are as follows :—

1. Primary Course for teachers going to take charge of Rural Schools. One year.
2. Infant Teachers' Course for students going out to Kindergarten work. Two years.
3. Manual Arts Course for students who will teach Arts and Crafts in the Secondary schools. Three years.
4. Domestic Arts Course for students who will teach Household subjects in the Secondary Schools. Three years.
5. Secondary Course for students who will teach general subjects in the High Schools. Four years.

The Secondary studentship is one of the most valuable in Australia. It involves a four years' course at the University without any expense to the student concerned. In addition, he receives an allowance for books and ordinary expenses. Thus, at the end of four years, he should have a University degree, the Diploma of Education and an assured position in a High School without any expense to himself.

In view of the extension and development of these facilities, and of the liberal allowances paid to students in training, it is expected that, before very long, the system of training teachers for the Victorian service will be able to compare favorably with most other modern systems of training in the world.

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

District High Schools. The Education Act of 1910 authorized the establishment of these schools in order to open a broad highway, at little or no cost to the parents of the pupils, leading from the elementary schools to the technical schools and the University. A further important function of these institutions is to give the necessary preliminary education to boys and girls intending to take up teaching. Under the scheme of training now in operation aspirants for the teaching profession are expected during the period spent at a district high school to complete their preliminary studies. Any pupil who has satisfactorily completed the work of Grade VI. in an elementary school is qualified for admission to a district high school. The course of study lasts for six years in the case of pupils who enter from the sixth grade of the elementary school after passing the qualifying examination, or for four or five years in the case of those who enter from the eighth grade after completing the course of the elementary school. Winners of Government scholarships are also trained at these schools, but parents are at

liberty to select an approved secondary school for the education of their boys and girls. Besides the day classes there are formed at a few of the district high schools evening classes for the instruction of teachers living in the vicinity, and correspondence classes for those residing at a distance. Eight of the District High Schools are specially equipped for the teaching of agriculture in addition to providing other courses of secondary education. There are district high schools at Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat,* Benalla, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Coburg, Colac,* Dandenong, Echuca, Essendon, Frankston, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kyneton, Leongatha,* Maryborough, Melbourne, Mildura,* Mordialloc-Carrum, Northcote, Sale,* Shepparton,* St. Arnaud, Stawell, University (Carlton), Wangaratta,* Warracknabeal, Warragul,* Warrnambool, and Williamstown. The schools the names of which are asterisked are equipped with farms.

During the term ended 31st December, 1925, there were in attendance at these schools 8,190 pupils, of whom 4,081 were boys and 4,109 were girls. Education is free up to the age of fourteen years, after which a fee of £6 per annum is charged. Travelling expenses (up to £5 per annum) are provided for children living beyond four miles from the school, if the parents' income does not exceed £150 per annum. In special cases the Department has power to make grants in aid of school requisites up to £2 per annum, and of the cost of maintenance up to £26 per annum, to enable pupils to continue their studies at district high schools and higher elementary schools.

For the practical part of the work of training secondary teachers the institution now known as the University High School was opened in a State building in 1910, and the school was specially staffed by lecturers in methods of teaching in addition to the teachers of the ordinary form subjects of secondary schools. The practical training in teaching received at this school is part of what is prescribed for the course for the Diploma of Education at the Melbourne University. In its management of the school the Department is aided by an advisory committee from the Faculty of Education of the University.

HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

On 31st December, 1925, there were forty-nine higher elementary schools—at Beaufort, Beechworth, Birchip, Boort, Bright, Camperdown, Casterton, Charlton, Chiltern, Clunes, Cohuna, Coleraine, Corryong, Daylesford, Dean, Dimboola, Donald, Euroa, Foster, Gisborne, Hampton, Heathcote, Inglewood, Korumburra, Kyabram, Lilydale, Maffra, Mansfield, Mirboo North, Murtoa, Nathalia, Nhill, Numurkah, Orbost, Portland, Port Fairy, Rainbow, Rochester, Rushworth, Rutherglen, Sea Lake, Seymour, Swan Hill, Terang, Traralgon, Werribee, Yarram, Yarrawonga, and Yea. During the term ended 31st December, 1925, there were in attendance at these schools 4,315 pupils, of whom

University
High School.

Higher
Elementary
Schools and
Classes.

2,235 were boys and 2,080 were girls. Education in the higher elementary schools is free throughout the course, which extends over two or four years.

There were also twenty-six schools, principally in the metropolitan area—known as “Central” schools—in which a preparatory course of secondary education was provided. These were attended by 3,853 pupils in 1925.

The purpose of the district high school and the higher elementary school is to provide the essentials of a good general education for pupils who have completed the work of the sixth grade in elementary schools, and are likely to profit by a further course of study, and to give them, in the third and fourth years, a specialized training which will help to prepare them for their several careers in life. These schools thus form a link between the elementary school and technical institutions, or the University, or vocations that may be followed by pupils upon the completion of the course of study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS.

The Minister of Public Instruction awarded scholarships at the beginning of 1927 as under :—

No. and Kind.	Age Requirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
100 Junior scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14½ years	4 years	Free tuition at a district high school and £4 for school requisites, or £12 towards tuition fees and school requisites at an approved registered secondary school; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or up to £5 for transit.
44 Senior scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	£40 towards expense of a course at the University.
60 Teaching scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	14-17 years	3 years	As for Junior scholarships.
50 Junior Technical scholarships open to candidates attending State and registered schools	Under 14 years	3 years	Free tuition at a junior technical school and £4 for school requisites; also, in certain cases, up to £26 for maintenance or £5 for transit.
55 Senior Technical scholarships open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	16-18 years	3-5 years	Free tuition for full length of approved courses at technical schools; also £30 for day students and £10 for evening students.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ALLOWANCES TO PUPILS—*continued*.

No. and Kind.	Age Re- quirement of Candidates	Period of Tenure.	Annual Value.
20 Free Places in agriculture, metallurgy, mining, or veterinary science at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	4-5 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University; also, in special cases, an allowance up to £50 for maintenance.
50 Free Places in any course (other than dental science) at the University open to candidates attending district high schools, technical schools, and registered secondary schools	About 18 years	3-6 years	
5 Free Places in an approved course at the University open to officers (other than teachers) in the employment of the Government of Victoria	Under 25 years.	3-4 years	Exemption from payment of fees for lectures and examinations at University, and the necessary leave of absence.
15 Free Places in the course for Arts, Commerce, Science or Education at the University open to certificated teachers of the Education Department	..	3-4 years	

In addition to these scholarships, there is a scheme whereby free tuition and allowances for school requisites up to £2 per annum and for maintenance up to £26 per annum or for transit up to £5 per annum may be granted to enable pupils who show special capacity and promise, and whose parents are in necessitous circumstances, to attend district high schools, higher elementary schools, schools of domestic arts, central schools, central classes and technical schools. Free tuition is allowed also to children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers attending district high schools or technical schools.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS.

Religious Instruction in State Schools. At the request of the Joint Council for Religious Instruction in Day Schools, Victoria, the Education Department sent out circulars to all the head teachers, and, as a result, the Council has been able to tabulate the following information from the answers received :—

Number of schools which returned answers to circular	2,460
Number of schools receiving religious instruction ..	949
Number of schools not receiving religious instruction	1,511
(These are chiefly outlying schools of low attendance. The large technical schools are also included.)	
Number of instructors engaged	2,181
Number of scholars enrolled for religious instruction	122,598
Net enrolment for the 2,460 schools	218,835

Information relating to Melbourne and suburbs and the rest of Victoria is given below. The area included in Melbourne and suburbs is a radius of ten miles from the Elizabeth-street Post Office, and includes a few schools outside that radius, as far as Croydon and Mordialloc.

MELBOURNE AND SUBURBS.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	185
Number of instructors engaged	827
Number of pupils receiving religious instruction ..	64,322

REST OF VICTORIA.

Number of schools in which religious instruction is given	764
Number of instructors engaged	1,354
Pupils receiving religious instruction	58,276

The objective of the Joint Council is to obtain more instructors for those schools in the metropolis where the staffs are weak, and for the country schools where religious instruction is not given.

STANDARD OF EDUCATION.

Signing with marks. The number of marriages celebrated in 1925 was 13,370, and there were only 16 men and 12 women who showed their want of elementary education by signing the marriage register with a mark instead of in writing. This indicates a very high elementary standard of education in this State, which, in this respect, occupies the highest position in Australasia.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical schools. The whole of the technical schools in the State, prior to 1910, were under the control of local councils. Act No. 2301, passed in that year, provided for the schools being brought under the control of the Minister of Public Instruction. The Education Department, in all cases, retains the general direction of technical education. Regulations are issued defining the powers of the councils, allotting the Government grants, and providing for the instruction and examination of the students. The number of technical schools receiving aid from the State on 30th June, 1926, was 28.

The former lack of organized method in preparing pupils for courses in technical schools largely neutralized the efforts of the instructors in these institutions. In order to overcome this difficulty, junior or preparatory technical schools have been established in connexion with all the higher technical schools. These schools offer a course of two or three years' instruction for boys between the ages of twelve and a half and fifteen years. Instruction in English subjects is carried on in conjunction with mathematics and the more technical subjects. The curriculum is designed to qualify for entrance to the senior schools. A large majority of the students doing full day diploma courses come from the junior technical schools, while nearly all the effective trade students attending evening classes are drawn from that source.

The aim of the Victorian technical schools is to provide vocational courses of training in industrial subjects, and, as far as possible, to provide for the training of the expert technologist. The various branches of engineering and its subdivisions, mining, metallurgy, technical and agricultural chemistry, subjects connected with the building trades (including architecture) and with other trades, applied art, commercial subjects and those connected with household economy are included in their syllabuses. Trade courses correspond to the period of apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The larger technical schools, such as the Working Men's College, the Swinburne Technical College, and the Ballarat and Bendigo Schools of Mines, have an extensive curriculum embracing the most important industrial subjects. Of the smaller schools, some in country districts have courses in mining,

metallurgy, and engineering subjects as well as courses in drawing and applied art work, while in a few schools the subjects taught are mainly drawing and art work. The only technical schools for women's industries are the College of Domestic Economy and the girls' junior technical departments in the Swinburne, Ballarat, Prahran, Box Hill, and Brighton Schools.

The fees per term range from 10s. per subject per annum to £35 per course of subjects per annum.

The following is a statement of the Government expenditure on each technical school during the five years ended 1925-26 :—

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOLS OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Name.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£	£	£	£	£
*Ararat	154	130	129	91	53
Bairnsdale	4,237	3,246	3,376	3,696	3,742
Ballarat	18,463	17,883	18,181	20,358	19,421
Beechworth	1,119	1,079	1,205	1,334	1,301
Bendigo	11,217	11,398	12,222	11,973	16,466
Box Hill .. .. .	..	..	6,706	4,428	4,230
Brighton	10,558	16,883	16,169	13,675	14,303
Brunswick	13,100	8,367	8,590	10,467	11,649
Castlemaine	4,823	5,060	5,755	5,865	10,339
Caulfield	13,232	11,911	8,832	12,322	12,006
College of Domestic Economy ..	2,581	2,461	2,943	3,261	21,188
Collingwood	8,378	9,578	30,179	18,904	14,700
Daylesford	2,041	2,083	2,466	1,990	2,219
Echuca	2,411	2,586	2,607	4,438	8,400
Footscray	10,698	12,037	13,343	23,540	17,877
Geelong (Gordon Tech. Col.) ..	11,133	8,725	10,019	12,458	24,370
Glenferrie (Swinburne Tech. Col.)	15,122	16,675	21,728	20,540	20,840
†Horsham	1,199	511	6	..	..
Maryborough	4,919	5,233	5,604	5,439	6,729
Melbourne (Working Men's Col.)	29,013	33,956	33,434	35,277	40,575
Prahran	6,778	8,073	8,052	9,166	8,389
Richmond .. .. .	..	..	..	9,159	13,788
Sale	2,712	2,909	2,648	2,997	5,274
South Melbourne	8,734	9,020	9,014	9,982	10,340
Stawell	2,835	2,895	3,129	5,195	6,210
Sunshine	2,189	2,726	3,969	6,330	5,156
Wangaratta .. .. .	..	..	..	1,650	1,650
Warrnambool	4,661	4,806	5,433	8,107	13,658
West Melbourne	11,463	12,055	14,006	13,117	17,396
Wonthaggi	10,262	5,027	4,409	7,038	6,561
Other votes for technical schools	12,604	3,695	3,741	4,768	4,758
Miscellaneous	2,625	2,970	3,070	5,326	7,889
Total	229,261	223,978	260,965	292,891	351,477

* Closed 31st August, 1923.

† Closed 31st December, 1923.

College of
Dentistry and
Pharmacy.

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

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Working
Men's
College,
Melbourne.

The Working Men's College is a technical institution and school of mines, founded in 1887. It is open to all classes and both sexes, and supplies the higher technical instruction.

Its revenue is obtained from students' fees, supplemented by a Government grant. There are both day and evening courses.

Fees. All fees are payable in advance, and no refund is allowed. Examinations are held in November, and entrance to these examinations is free to students of the college attending the classes in which they present themselves for examination, provided they have made the necessary attendances, and completed sufficient Laboratory Work. The year is divided into three terms.

Fees Payable.

Full Day Courses.					Fee.		
					£	s.	d.
Preparatory School for Diploma Courses—							
First year	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 per term
Second year	...	...	...	...	4	7	6 „
Diploma Courses—Mechanical, Electrical, Municipal, Marine, and Mining Engineering—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Diploma Course—Metallurgy—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Diploma Courses—Applied Chemistry—							
First year	...	...	...	...	5	10	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	6	15	0 „
Third year (Inorganic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Fourth year (Organic Diploma)	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 „
Carpentry Apprenticeship Course	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 „
Motor Mechanics Course—							
First year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 „
Second year	...	...	...	...	7	0	0 „
Woolsorting	...	...	...	...	8	0	0 „
Art Course, Full Time	...	...	...	...	3	15	0 „
„ „ Five Half-Days	...	...	...	...	3	0	0 „

Evening Classes.					Fee.
Arithmetic	} Various amounts ranging from 15s. upwards per term.
Algebra	...	...	...	...
Geometry	...	...	...	...
Trigonometry	...	...	...	...
Graphical Algebra and Analytical Geometry	...	...	...	...
Differential and Integral Calculus	...	...	...	...
Practical Geometry	...	...	...	...
Applied Mechanics	...	...	...	...
Applied Electricity	...	...	...	...
Heat Engines	...	...	...	...
Architecture	...	...	...	...
Building Construction	...	...	...	...
Surveying	...	...	...	...
Civil Engineering	...	...	...	...
Hydraulics	...	...	...	...
Chemistry	...	...	...	...
Assaying	...	...	...	...
Metallurgy	...	...	...	...
Engineering Drawing	...	...	...	...
Science, Trade, Commercial, Mining, and numerous other Subjects	...	...	...	...
Evening Art and Applied Art Courses (Drawing, Design, Modelling, &c.)	30s. per term.
Preliminary Year for Courses for Experts' Certificates	35s. per term.
Courses for Experts' Certificates	From 40s. per term.

Special prizes are awarded to students annually. There is a prize to the best student in each year of the day courses, and to the best student in each of the evening classes. The Magee prize, of the annual value of £3, is awarded to the student who obtains highest marks at examination in the work of the senior mechanical drawing class. The Royal Victorian Institute of Architects awards prizes in the architecture and building construction classes, the Green Field Tap and Die Corporation gives a set of stocks and dies to the best student in fitting and turning, and Messrs Brown and Sharp give a set of fitter's tools to the best student in the second grade fitting and turning class, and a micrometer to the best student in milling. Several employers donate prizes, notably in the Printing and Plumbing trades.

The Beazley Bequest Scholarships, of which there are thirty-six of the value of £10, £12, £15, and £25, are awarded annually for trade subjects. The following scholarships cover five years' free instruction in the day courses :—The Danks (2), The Arnot, and The Colin Thompson. Twenty entrance scholarships, value £24 each, are awarded annually to the preparatory school for Day Courses; five, value £11 each, are awarded to the carpentry apprenticeship course of one year, and twenty-five, value £4 to £8, to the commercial day

classes. There are three scholarships available to students in the Preparatory School and tenable at the Diploma Courses, value £60 each. There are also numerous Government Scholarships available to students and tenable at the College or the University.

The receipts from the Government in 1926 amounted to £33,925.

About 180 classes are held in the following departments:—Commercial, Elocution and Music, Mathematics, Engineering and Science, Architecture, Chemistry, Mining and Metallurgy, Art and Applied Art, Rural Industries, and Trade Courses. The work is divided into—(1) day courses, and (2) evening courses and classes. In the day school students are prepared for the higher positions of industrial life in the following complete courses:—(1) Mechanical Engineering, (2) Electrical Engineering, (3) Civil Engineering, (4) Marine Engineering, (5) Mining Engineering, (6) Metallurgy, and (7) Applied Chemistry. To students who complete any of the above courses, pass the necessary examinations, and produce evidence of having obtained twelve months' approved practical experience, the Diploma of "Associateship" of the College is issued. The entrance standard for these courses is the Intermediate Certificate or the completion of a two years' course in the College Preparatory Technical School. The preparatory school bridges the gap between the Merit Certificate and the entrance to the Diploma Courses. It also gives a two years' preparation for industrial life in town or country.

In the Applied Art School classes are held in the following subjects:—Drawing, Design, Modelling, Architecture, Building Construction, Geometrical Drawing, Practical Plane and Solid Geometry, Perspective, Blackboard Drawing, Still Life Painting, Anatomy, Figure Drawing, Figure Composition, Book Illustration, Lettering, Illuminating, Stencilling, Leather Embossing, Decorative Metalwork, Silver-smithing, Jewellery, Engraving, Die Sinking, Lead Glazing, Stained Glass, Plaster Casting, Signwriting, Ticket Writing, Lithography, Process Engraving, Textile Design and Weaving, Dress-making, Millinery, and Plain and Decorative Needlework.

In the evening school the following courses for certificates are in operation:—Assayers, geologists, electrical engineers, civil engineers (municipal and hydraulic), mechanical and marine engineers, land surveyors, mechanical draughtsmen, public analysts, architects, carpenters, printers, signwriters and house decorators, plumbers, coach builders, and motor car body makers. The following figures

give an indication of the comparative amount of work done at the College during the years 1922 to 1926 :—

STUDENTS AT WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE, 1922 TO 1926.

—	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Students enrolled—					
Average per term	2,465*	2,370	2,511	2,629	2,608
Males over 21	533	577	571	568	530
„ under 21—Apprentices ..	634	592	605	647	652
„ „ Others	1,025	946	1,059	1,099	1,102
Females	273	255	276	315	324
Fees received during the year ..	£11,354†	£11,504†	£11,891†	£13,063†	£13,504†
Average fee per student	99s. 7d.	99s. 2d.	93s. 10d.	99s.	103s. 6d.
Number of classes	176	175	177	179	178
„ instructors	117	116	128	131	131
Salaries paid instructors	£25,629	£25,764	£27,241	£29,234	£31,035

* In addition, 200 students were receiving vocational training for the Repatriation Department in 1922.

† This does not include fees for correspondence courses, which amounted to £797 in 1922, £539 in 1923, £1,034 in 1924, £1,057 in 1925, and £981 in 1926. The subjects taught by correspondence are those included in the college curriculum.

LIBRARIES.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

Public
Library of
Victoria.

The buildings of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria cost £326,946. The funds were provided by the Government, as also were further moneys expended on maintenance (including salaries) and amounting, with the sum just named, to a total of £1,794,634 at the end of 1926. The Library consists of three distinct sections, viz. :—the Reference Library, the Lending Library, and the Country Lending Library. In regard to the Reference Library, the librarian reports that 8,015 volumes were purchased, 3,201 volumes presented, 542 volumes obtained under the "Copyright Act," and 49,646 newspapers added to the Library during the year 1926. At the end of that year the Reference Library contained 339,425 volumes. It is open to the public without payment on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Lending Branch, which is also free to the public, issued 125,655 volumes during 1926, the number of persons to whom the books were lent being 8,428. The number of volumes in the Lending Library at the end of the year mentioned was 46,061, of which 2,496 were added during the year.

National
Gallery.

The National Gallery at the end of 1926 contained 21,992 works of art, viz., 725 oil paintings, 5,497 objects of art, statuary, &c., and 15,770 water colour drawings, engravings, photographs, &c. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on week days (Christmas Day and Good Friday excepted), and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The school of painting in connexion

with the institution was attended during the year by 35 students, and the school of drawing by 140 students. The income from the Felton bequest amounted to £27,000, which was available for expenditure on paintings, statuary, and other works of art.

Industrial Museum. The Industrial and Technological Museum occupies the whole of the first floor of the building facing Swanston-street. At the end of 1926 it contained more than 10,000 exhibits.

National Museum. The collection in the National Museum, formerly kept in a building situated on the grounds of the Melbourne University, is now located in the Public Library Buildings. It comprises natural history, geology, and ethnology. The National Museum is open to the public free of charge on all week days throughout the year, except Christmas Day and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

Patent Office Library. There is a free public library attached to the Department of Patents, which contains over 45,000 volumes, including specifications of inventions for which patents have been granted by the principal countries of the world, as well as Patents, Trade Marks, and Designs Acts and Regulations, and illustrated abridgments of inventions and official gazettes and indices.

The library also contains a comprehensive selection of scientific and technical works.

The library is open to the public on each week-day except Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon.

A librarian is in attendance to facilitate searching through any section of the records.

Supreme Court Library. The Supreme Court Library at Melbourne has nineteen branches in the assize towns. It is free to members of the legal profession between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it closes at noon. It is supported by fees paid under Acts of Parliament and Rules of Court for the admission of barristers and solicitors.

OTHER LIBRARIES.

Free Libraries. Most of the suburban and country libraries receive Government aid—the amount granted in 1925-1926 to free libraries and country museums having been £4,000. Of these libraries 501 furnished returns in 1926, which show that they possessed 927,335 volumes, and received £97,936 in revenue, that the total expenditure was £83,318—£12,042 on books, &c., and £71,276 on maintenance—and that 2,307,170 visits were paid to the 421 institutions which kept records of the attendances of visitors.

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

Exhibition
Buildings,
Aquarium,
and Museum.

The Exhibition Buildings, which are situated in the Carlton Gardens, Melbourne, when first opened for the purpose of an exhibition in October, 1880, occupied a total space of 907,400 square feet. The original cost of the permanent structure, temporary annexes, &c., was £246,365. After the close of the exhibition, on 30th April, 1881, the annexes were removed, and the permanent building was vested in trustees. Another exhibition was opened in the building on 1st August, 1888, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the first Australian Colony. On that occasion a further sum of £262,954 was expended. At the close of the exhibition there was realized from the sale of various materials, including temporary annexes, a sum of £56,904.

The receipts for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1926, amounted to £7,976, consisting of rents £5,657, aquarium receipts £1,737, and other receipts £582. The expenditure totalled £8,468, viz.:—£3,082, expenses of the aquarium; and £5,386 for general maintenance, improvements to buildings, insurance and sundry expenses. The deposits and balances in banks to the credit of the trust at 30th June, 1926, amounted to £1,176.

THE MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Botanic
Garden.

The Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was established in 1846, is situated on the south side of the Yarra, at a distance of about one mile from the city. The area of the garden proper is 102 acres, and includes lakes, lawns, groups, plantations, conservatories, &c. Associated with the Botanic Garden are the grounds of Government House, the Domain, the Alexandra Park and Gardens, and the Queen Victoria Gardens. The Botanic Garden and the Domain are administered by the Lands Department, the Government House Grounds temporarily by the Federal Government, and Alexandra Park and Queen Victoria Gardens solely by the Melbourne City Council. The whole reservation, probably the most valuable asset of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, embraces an area of approximately 320 acres, and, in addition to the divisions mentioned above, includes the grounds and buildings of the Observatory and the National Herbarium.

Records of the commencement of the Gardens and their progress are to be found in the *Descriptive Guide to the Botanic Gardens*, published by the Government Printer and obtainable at a price of 6d. A reference to some of the principal features appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 525 to 527.

The Gardens are open to the public daily from 7 a.m. in summer and 7.30 a.m. in winter, and are closed at sunset.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL AND ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

**Royal
Zoological
and Accli-
matisation
Gardens.**

The gardens of the Royal Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria are situated in the centre of Royal Park, on the northern side of the city, nearly 2 miles distant from the Elizabeth Street Post Office, and can be reached by tramcars starting every few minutes from the lower end of Elizabeth-street, or by electric train to Royal Park Station. The West Brunswick electric trams from corner Collins and William streets run every few minutes, and it provides another facility for reaching the Gardens.

The ground enclosed contains 50 acres, rather more than half of which is laid out as a Zoological garden and the rest in deer paddocks. Most of the large animals of the world, such as the hippopotamus, giraffe, Indian elephant, &c., are exhibited there, as well as many native animals. The Patron of the Society is His Excellency the State Governor, and the Director is Mr. A. Wilkie.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

A brief statement of the history of this society and of the work carried on by it appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 528 and 529. The membership subscription is 10s. per annum. Two shows are held each year, one in the autumn and one in spring. The members' monthly meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month.

The business of the society is vested in a committee, consisting of the president, four vice-presidents (two amateur and two professional), an honorary treasurer, and sixteen members (eight amateurs and eight professionals), the administrative work being conducted by the honorary secretary, Mr. A. J. Whiteher, "Hiawatha," 6 Pine-street, Hawthorn.

**Other
societies.**

There are about 40 other horticultural societies in the State, situated at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton, Mildura, Terang, Traralgon, and other centres.

PUBLIC RESERVES.

**Public
reserves.**

The total area devoted to public reserves in Greater Melbourne in 1926 was 6,245 acres. A list of the public reserves in 1917, together with a statement of their respective areas, appeared in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, pages 529 to 533.

A further statement showing the number and area of reserves in 17 of the largest towns outside Melbourne was given on page 533 of the same volume.

At the end of 1926 there were in the State, according to Ministers and Churches, returns received, 3,289 regular churches and chapels, and 1,595 other buildings where religious services were held—a total of 4,884 places of public worship—and these were attended by 2,332 regular clergymen. The following statement contains particulars in regard to the different denominations :—

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS, 1926.

Denominations.	Number of Clergy, Ministers, &c.	Buildings used for Public Worship.		
		Churches and Chapels.	Other Buildings.	Total.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England ..	457	734	479	1,213
Presbyterian Church of Victoria ..	306	619	302	921
Free Presbyterian ..	3	10	3	13
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	1	1	..	1
Methodist ..	296	839	431	1,270
Independent or Congrega- tional.. ..	68	80	43	123
Baptist	96	116	61	177
Lutheran	18	32	18	50
Salvation Army ..	531	146	38	184
Church of Christ ..	104	109	7	116
Church for Deaf Mutes ..	2	1	..	1
Other Protestant.. ..	25	31	25	56
Roman Catholic Church ..	384	561	181	742
New Church (or Swedenborgian)	1	2	..	2
Catholic Apostolic Church ..	11	1	..	1
Jews	4	3	3	6
Re-organized Church of Latter- Day Saints	20	3	3	6
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints	5	1	1	2
Total	2,332	3,289	1,595	4,884

The Sunday Schools of the various religious bodies numbered 3,015, and the teachers 23,240; the number of scholars on the rolls was 229,159—101,707 males and 127,452 females.

Religions of
the people.

The following table shows the principal religions of the people as ascertained at the census of 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA AT THE CENSUS OF 1921.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Per cent. of Population.
Protestant Churches—				
Church of England	300,159	301,650	601,809	39·88
Protestant so stated	10,127	8,509	18,636	1·23
Presbyterian	125,741	131,331	257,072	17·04
Methodist	86,854	96,975	183,829	12·18
Independent or Congregational	7,175	8,718	15,893	1·05
Baptist	14,531	17,774	32,305	2·14
Lutheran	4,905	3,779	8,684	·58
Salvation Army	4,071	5,112	9,183	·61
Unitarian	253	173	426	·03
Church of Christ	9,862	12,388	22,250	1·47
Seventh Day Adventists	920	1,515	2,435	·16
Roman Catholic Church (including Catholic undefined, 6,847)	156,329	166,236	322,565	21·38
Other Christians	5,801	6,120	11,921	·79
Other Denominations—				
Jews	3,949	3,728	7,677	·51
Buddhist, Confucian, &c.	1,021	42	1,063	·07
Mohammedan	280	24	304	·02
Others (Non-Christian)	457	164	621	·04
Sceptics, &c.	8,334	3,991	12,325	·82
Total specified	740,769	768,229	1,508,998	100·00
„ unspecified	13,955	8,327	22,282	..
Grand Total	754,724	776,556	1,531,280	..

Religions per
cent. of
population,
1871 to 1921.

The next table shows the principal religions of the people per 100 of the population in the six census years 1871 to 1921:—

RELIGIONS OF THE PEOPLE PER 100 OF THE POPULATION, 1871 TO 1921.

Religion.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.
Protestant Churches—						
Church of England (including Protestant so stated)	36·01	36·74	37·33	36·52	37·02	41·11
Presbyterian	15·78	15·65	14·94	16·16	18·27	17·04
Methodist	13·16	13·58	14·14	15·21	13·76	12·18
Independent or Congregational	2·54	2·35	1·98	1·45	1·28	1·05
Baptist	2·28	2·40	2·50	2·75	2·43	2·14
Lutheran	1·47	1·32	1·39	1·18	·91	·58
Salvation Army .. ..	..	..	1·21	·74	·61	·61
Church of Christ	·50	·57	·74	·90	1·29	1·47
Other Protestant Churches	·51	·37	·66	1·45	·78	·78
Total Protestant Churches	72·25	72·98	74·89	76·36	76·35	76·96
Roman Catholic Church	23·83	24·02	22·24	22·26	22·31	21·38
Jews	·50	·51	·58	·50	·49	·51
Others	3·42	2·49	2·29	·88	·85	1·15
Total specified	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies seem to have been established in Victoria very soon after the first settlement of the territory, but it was not until after the passing of the 1855 Act that any steps were taken for their registration as institutions recognized by law. That statute consolidated and amended the laws then in force relating to friendly societies, and was the first Act passed in this connexion by the Victorian Legislature after the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851. It was assented to on 12th June, 1855, and provided for the appointment of a registrar, and also a certifying barrister, to whom the rules of a society had to be submitted for examination, and whose certificate, that these rules were in accordance with the law, was necessary before registration could be effected. It also provided that the tables of contributions should be certified by an actuary of an assurance company, or "some person" appointed by the registrar before the rules of the society could be registered.

Registration was not, however, made compulsory, and the actuarial certificate, given by the actuary appointed by the registrar under the provisions of the Act for this purpose, was only of a provisional nature, issued subject to the condition that the tables were to be submitted to him for approval after a certain period had elapsed. This temporary certificate was given because there were no data then available in Australia on which to calculate the amount necessary to provide the sickness benefits. As there was no power under the Act to compel a society to apply to the actuary for a renewal of the provisional certificate when the time covered by that certificate had expired, the registration of these institutions was unfortunately permanently effected with rates of contribution which afterwards proved to be, in almost every instance, inadequate. The control exercised over friendly societies as a result of this legislation was very slight.

No further serious attention was given by the Government to friendly societies until 1875, when a Commission was appointed to inquire into "the working of the Friendly Societies Statute, the position and operations of the societies registered under it, and what amendment, if any, is desirable in the existing law." The outcome of this Commission was the 1877 Act, which provided (*inter alia*) for the appointment of a barrister of not less than seven years' standing as registrar, and also that each society should furnish returns annually to the Government Statist, and once at least in every five years should either have its assets and liabilities valued by a valuer appointed by the society or send such particulars to the Government Statist as would enable him to have the valuation made. The fees for valuation were purposely fixed at a low rate, and average less than two-pence per member, the result being that, although it is competent for the societies to employ outside valuers, should they so desire, as a matter of fact they have rarely done so, and nearly all the valuations have been made by the Government Actuary. The passing of this Act had the effect of considerably increasing the control exercised by the Government over the operations of friendly societies.

In accordance with its provisions, an actuary was appointed under the Government Statist in 1881, whose chief duty was to make periodical valuations of the assets and liabilities of societies, and the result of these valuations disclosed the fact that, in almost every instance, the rates then being paid by the members were insufficient to provide the benefits which the societies had by their rules agreed to pay. The Act gave no power to enforce payment of adequate rates of contribution, and the actuary could not therefore compel a society to take such steps as would enable it to meet its liabilities, but could only give advice as to the best means to be adopted to secure that end. It is only just to the managing bodies of these institutions, however, to state that most of the principal societies made a serious effort to carry out the suggestions of the actuary. Several of them passed rules requiring future members to pay adequate rates of contribution, and in nearly every case some effort was made to improve the financial position.

It was not until 1907 that registration of societies was made compulsory, and that they were required to adopt adequate rates of contribution in respect of all members, existing as well as new members. An Act which was passed in that year embodied these provisions, the penalty for failure to adopt adequate rates of contribution being cancellation of registration. The operation of the Act, in so far as it related to the scale of contributions payable, was, however, limited to a period of eighteen months. This was a serious defect, as contributions which are sufficient at one time may at a future date become inadequate, owing to fluctuations in interest, sickness, or mortality rates or faulty management. To remedy this defect an amending Act was passed in the year 1911. This Act provides that, if a society receives two successive notifications from the Government Statist that its rates are inadequate, it must adopt adequate rates within twelve months of the second notification, otherwise its registration will be cancelled. There must be an interval of at least three years between the two notifications. It is expected that a society on receiving the first notification will take such steps to improve its position as will obviate the necessity for the second being issued.

The legislation which has been referred to has had a very beneficial effect on societies. Of fifteen societies having a membership of over 500 each, thirteen have assets whose ratio to liabilities exceeds, or closely approximates to, 20s. in the £1, and of all the Victorian societies only one has a lower ratio than 18s. in the £1. In Victoria the societies have received no subvention from the State.

If, on an actuarial valuation being made, a surplus is found to exist in any one fund of a society, the Government Statist may authorize the utilization of the whole or a portion of such surplus for the purposes of the same or any other fund.

Central bodies of societies are empowered by statute to appoint auditors to audit and inspect the accounts and securities of branches at such time as the central body may direct. Every trustee, treasurer, secretary, chairman or member of the committee

of management who takes any money or valuable thing in consideration of any benefit received or to be received by any member of an unregistered society is liable to a penalty of £50. Trade unions are exempted from registration. The investment of funds on leasehold property is now illegal, but the power to invest is extended to any securities on which a trustee is under any Act authorized to invest any trust funds in his hands. All loans on freehold property must be on first mortgage only, and are not to exceed three-fifths of the value as certified by a practical surveyor or valuer. The trustees are prohibited from investing on mortgage if the fee-simple of the property has been in the possession of a trustee or his wife during the previous five years. An Act passed in 1910 created a new stock for the special benefit of friendly societies, investment in which is optional and on which interest is payable at 4 per cent. The amount invested in the stock at the end of June, 1926, was £313,771. Prior to the year 1907 it was not lawful for a friendly societies' dispensary to sell patent or other medicines to members of friendly societies or their relatives, but this restriction has been amended, so that all benefit members, who have paid the full subscription to the dispensary and the full amount payable to their society for medicines and medical appliances, may now be supplied with medicines for which payment is required.

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 consolidates all Acts passed up to 1914 inclusive. An Act passed in 1915—the *Friendly Societies Act* 1915 (No. 2)—gave power to societies to reinsure with the Government or with an approved life assurance company their liabilities to members who were engaged on naval or military service in connexion with the war. The number of societies which took advantage of the scheme was twelve, and the number of their enlisted members was about 15,120. The sum paid by them in sickness and mortality benefits on account of those members under the contracts which were reinsured was about £232,000, and of this sum £46,500 was reimbursed to the societies by the Government in accordance with the arrangement made with it.

The amounts of the sickness and mortality benefits paid by all societies on account of members who took part in the war was about £286,000. In addition, the societies paid the contributions of enlisted members during their absence from Australia. The amount of these contributions was about £152,000.

An Act was passed in 1922 in relation to Dividing Societies, i.e., friendly societies which divide the whole or a portion of their funds each year. Its principal provisions are (1) that no dividing society shall be established in future unless it limits its membership to the employees of a particular Government department, municipality, company, or other body, firm or person; and (2) that every existing dividing society, the operations of which are not limited in the manner indicated, shall re-register every year, and, as a precedent to such re-registration, shall forward to the Registrar an actuarial certificate that its rates of contribution are adequate to provide the benefits specified in its rules.

Under the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, which was assented to on 2nd October, 1923, societies may provide for the payment of sums of money on the deaths of members, their husbands, wives, widows, children, or kindred up to an aggregate of £100 instead of sums for defraying the expenses of burial of members and the other persons mentioned. Societies are also permitted to contract with a person for the payment of a maximum amount of sick pay of £3 per week. Previously the periodical payment was limited to £2 per week. Another important provision of the Act is that the Government Statist may make or cause to be made such inspection and examination of the books of a society or branch as he deems necessary.

The societies perform a function which cannot be carried out with the same success by other means—that of providing for the loss which would otherwise be sustained by the wage-earners of the community and those dependent on them, through illness or death. Their organization enables them to keep in touch with their members, to guard against malingering, and to perform satisfactorily a work which, on account of its peculiar nature, could not be attended to satisfactorily by institutions organized on the lines of the ordinary insurance company. Their main objects are to afford relief in sickness, and to provide a moderate payment on the death of a member or his wife. The usual sickness benefits are 20s. per week during the first six months of sickness, 10s. per week during the second six months, and 5s. per week thereafter so long as the sickness continues. The member has also the benefit of medical attendance and medicine for himself and his near relatives. A sum of £20 is usually payable on the death of the member, and £10 on the death of his wife should she predecease him. In pursuance of the provisions of the *Friendly Societies Act* 1923, referred to in a previous paragraph, members of some of the societies are now being given the opportunity to contribute for larger sickness and death benefits than those which have hitherto been provided. The benefits coming under the heading of medical attendance and medicine extend usually to the whole family, embracing in the general case member, wife, and children up to the age of 16 years in the case of males and 18 years in the case of females, widowed mother of unmarried member, and also widow and family after death of member on payment of medical fees.

The funds of the societies are divided into two or more portions. Of these the most important are the sick and funeral fund, out of which are payable the sickness and death benefits, and the medical and management fund, from which are taken the payments for medical attendance, medicines, and management expenses. The weekly contribution to the sick and funeral fund for the benefits above mentioned usually ranges from 6d. for entry ages 16 to 19 to 1s. for ages at entry 37 to 39. The contribution to the other fund is fixed irrespective of age at entry, the usual charge being from 8d. to 10d. per week, the rate varying according to the cost of medical benefits. The total sums payable by members thus ranges from about

1s. 2d. to 1s. 10d. per week. There are in addition small initiation fees, and, in some instances, registration fees for second wives.

Progress of friendly societies. The total membership of Victorian friendly societies increased from 157,750 at the end of 1915 to 157,820 in the middle of 1926—an increase during the ten and a half years of 70 members.

There was a slight decline in the membership between the ends of the years 1914 and 1917 due to deaths of members while on active service and to the absence from Victoria of many young men who might otherwise have joined the societies. A marked decrease in the membership of nearly all societies occurred in 1918 and 1919—the decrease in the earlier year was 7,004 in male and 1,619 in female members, and in the later year 3,918 in male and 1,360 in female members. In 1920 there was a further decline of 757 male and 502 female members, making a total loss for the three years of 11,679 males and 3,481 females. This numerical decrease was principally due to a dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies which led to the resignation of nearly all the medical officers as from 1st February, 1918. A settlement of the dispute was arrived at in 1920. In 1921 numerical recovery set in, there was an increase during that year of 618 male and 181 female members, and in 1922 of 2,448 male and 420 female members. During the eighteen months ended in June, 1924, there was a further increase of 5,660 and 492 male and female members respectively. In each of the periods of twelve months ended in June, 1925, and in June, 1926, the membership continued to advance, the increase being 1,229 males and 309 females in the period 1924–25, and 2,428 males and 14 females in the period 1925–26, making a total gain of 13,383 male members and 1,416 female members since the settlement of the medical dispute in 1920.

The funds increased during the ten and a half-year period 1916 to June, 1926, from £2,775,787 to £4,280,400, there being an addition of £1,504,613. They are well invested; the average rate of interest earned on the capital of the sick and funeral fund for the year 1925–26 was 5.44 per cent. There is a number of female societies, the particulars for which are included above. At the end of June, 1926, these had a membership of 11,110, and funds amounting to £99,216.

A table is appended showing the membership, revenue, expenditure, and total funds of friendly societies in Victoria during the five and a half years 1921 to June, 1926:—

Year.			Membership (end of year).	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Funds.
				£	£	£
1921	..	..	143,820	763,031	561,659	3,375,050
1922	..	..	146,688	790,788	616,040	3,549,798
1923–24*	..	..	153,840	1,193,550	905,296	3,838,052
1924–25	..	..	155,378	800,028	572,272	4,065,808
1925–26	..	..	157,820	820,550	605,958	4,280,400

* A period of eighteen months.

The statement which follows contains further information in regard to the societies for the five and a half years, 1921 to 1925-26 :—

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, 1921 TO 1925-26.

(Including Female Societies.)

—	1921.	1922.	1923-24.*	1924-25.	1925-26.
Number of societies ..	56	57	60	58	62
Number of branches ..	1,464	1,467	1,469	1,470	1,467
Average number of members ..	143,421	145,254	150,264	154,609	156,599
Number of members sick ..	27,342	26,275	41,688	28,850	31,093
Weeks for which sick pay was allowed ..	258,540	258,851	405,245	268,209	281,377
Deaths of members ..	1,302	1,299	2,153	1,394	1,428
Deaths of registered wives ..	526	476	771	480	543
	£	£	£	£	£
Income of sick and funeral fund.. ..	408,193	370,568	584,487	412,979	426,893
Income of incidental fund ..	319,957	385,821	544,879	346,582	353,632
Other Income ..	34,881	34,399	64,184	40,467	40,025
Total Income ..	763,031	790,788	1,193,550	800,028	820,550
Expenditure of sick and funeral fund ..	235,593	286,631	383,454	218,829	240,732
Expenditure of incidental fund.. ..	295,447	296,980	465,739	317,737	323,716
Other Expenditure ..	30,619	32,429	56,103	35,706	41,510
Total Expenditure ..	561,659	616,040	905,296	572,272	605,958
Amount to credit of sick and funeral fund ..	3,157,600	3,241,528	3,442,561	3,636,711	3,822,872
Amount to credit of incidental fund ..	134,413	223,223	302,363	331,208	361,124
Amount invested—sick and funeral fund ..	3,046,251	3,155,993	3,371,784	3,566,778	3,753,701
Amount invested—incidental fund ..	134,413	221,174	299,777	324,652	353,577
Amount invested—other funds ..	80,144	81,898	89,033	92,277	92,436
Total invested ..	3,260,808	3,459,065	3,760,594	3,983,707	4,199,714
„ funds ..	3,375,050	3,549,798	3,838,052	4,065,808	4,280,400

* A period of eighteen months.

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

During the twelve months ended in June, 1926, the societies lost by secession 10,516 members, which was equal to a rate of 6.7 per cent.; this was slightly less than the rate of 6.9 per cent. in 1924-25. The annual rate of secession during the period of eighteen months ended in the middle of 1924 was 6.5 per cent. It was also 6.5 per cent. in 1922, 7.8 per cent. in 1921, 8.2 per cent. in 1920, 8.5 per cent. in 1919, 7.5 per cent. in 1918, and 6.0 per cent. in 1917. The higher secession rates in the four years 1918-1921 were due mainly to the dispute between the British Medical Association and the societies, which is referred to in a previous paragraph. They were due, in part, to a

Secessions and expenses.

number of members, who had been on active service and whose contributions had been paid for them while absent from Australia, having failed to resume payment of contributions on their return. As a rule, most of the secessions are those of new members who allow their membership to lapse before they have time to appreciate its value. Expenses of management absorbed 19.4 per cent. of the contributions to all funds during the period 1925-26. This ratio is considerably below the usual rate in industrial assurance business. When it is remembered that the benefits and contributions are generally payable fortnightly and that this entails a great deal of administrative work, it will be seen that the rate of expense is very moderate.

Sickness and mortality experience, 1903-07.

An investigation was made into the sickness and mortality experience of three of the largest Victorian friendly societies for the period 1903-07. This relates to male lives only. Tables containing rates of sickness and mortality obtained by the investigation are given in the *Year-Book* for 1913-14.

Sickness and mortality, 1914-1925-26.

The following statement shows the number of weeks' sickness experienced by male members of ordinary friendly societies in respect of which claims for sick pay were received in 1914 (the last year unaffected by the war), 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924-25, and 1925-26; also the number of weeks' sickness per effective member and the number of deaths of male members of such societies in those years and the number per 1,000 effective members:—

Year.	Average Number of Effective Members.	Weeks of Sickness.			Deaths.	
		Number.	Number per Effective Member.		Number.	Number per 1,000 Effective Members.
		Weeks.	Weeks.	Days.		
1914 ..	125,952	216,520	1	4	1,263	10.03
1917 ..	128,989	257,847	2	0	2,409	18.68
1918 ..	125,667	288,088	2	2	2,457	19.55
1919 ..	119,308	382,247	3	1	2,080	17.43
1920 ..	114,797	278,401	2	3	1,313	11.44
1921 ..	113,666	240,207	2	1	1,224	10.77
1922 ..	115,426	241,021	2	1	1,221	10.58
1923 ..	118,502	249,113*	2	1	1,328*	11.21
1924-25	123,505	247,524	2	0	1,296	10.49
1925-26	124,925	259,208	2	0	1,325	10.61

* These represent two-thirds of the number for the period of eighteen months 1923-24.

The large increase in the sickness rate of 1919 was due chiefly to members who had been on active service having deferred until their return to the Commonwealth their claims for sick pay for incapacity arising out of sickness experienced and wounds received during previous years. It was also due in part to the influenza epidemic of that year.

In the following table the mortality rates of three of the largest Victorian Friendly Societies in recent years are compared with the Australian population mortality rates according to the mortality table known as the "Australian Life Table (males) 1920-1922." This table is based upon the mortality experience of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years mentioned. The rates given are averages for five-yearly age groups which have as their centres the ages shown in the table. Those relating to friendly societies apply only to members who did not take part in the war.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY MORTALITY RATES COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION.

Age next Birthday. (1).	Mortality Rates per 100 Lives of—		Ratio of Col. (2) to Col. (3). (4).
	Three large Friendly Societies, 1914-21. (2).	Australian Population, 1921. (3).	
18	·21	·23	Per cent. 91
23	·34	·32	106
28	·32	·37	86
33	·40	·43	93
38	·53	·54	98
43	·70	·72	97
48	·88	1·00	88
53	1·11	1·33	83
58	1·77	1·95	91
63	2·51	2·94	85
68	4·15	4·32	96
73	7·13	6·58	108
78	8·94	10·47	85
83	16·23	15·86	102
88	24·52	22·86	107
93	28·57	31·59	90
98	66·67	41·86	159

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

**Labour
legislation.**

The earliest attempt at regulating the conditions of labour in Victoria was made by the passing of an Act dated 11th November, 1873, forbidding the employment of any female for more than eight hours in any day in a factory. The same Act defined "factory" to be a place where not fewer than ten persons were working.

This small provision was administered by the Board of Public Health, and was followed, in 1885, by a much larger statute, providing for the registration of factories, their sanitation, fire escape, and guarding of machinery, and regulating the conditions of work generally to a much greater extent than formerly, besides providing for the closing of shops at fixed hours. These latter provisions were designed to give some relief to the employees, who could previously be kept at work in shops as long as their employers chose.

From that time onwards further legislative provisions were introduced at frequent intervals, and gradually the community has come to recognise the necessity of securing the health, comfort, and reasonable ease of the workers. The opposition, which was at first very strong, has gradually disappeared, until now it is safe to say that all sections of the community realize the humanitarian aspects of the movement, and have accepted the principle that the rights of work-people shall be conserved by law.

The interests of the factory worker as regards wages, personal safety, and health now receive a large amount of attention. Government inspectors prosecute employers wherever underpayment is found. They take proceedings also to carry out all the provisions of the factory laws. No one can occupy a factory unless the place is properly lighted and ventilated, has ample means of escape in case of fire, has all its machinery fenced and guarded, and has proper sanitary arrangements provided for both sexes. The Minister may now require the occupier of any factory, shop, or place to provide for the use of the employees a dining-room and a bath-room, and, for the use of the female employees, suitable sitting accommodation and a rest-room. The closing time of shops is carefully regulated. The hours of shop employees are restricted, and they must be given a half-holiday every week.

**Wages
Boards.**

The Wages Board method of fixing wages and settling the conditions of employment had its origin in Victoria.

It was introduced into an Act of Parliament in 1896 by Sir Alexander Peacock. The principle embodied in the British jury system that a man can only be tried by his peers is the essence of the

Victorian Wages Board system. The Boards are composed of equal numbers of employers and employees. The representatives are carefully chosen, so that every shade of interest in the trade shall be represented as fully as possible on the Board. The Board thus becomes a jury of trade experts, all of whom are versed in the requirements and intricacies of the trade they are dealing with.

An application for a Board in any trade which has not been brought under the Wages Board system can be made either by a Union or by a meeting of employees. Upon receipt of such an application the Minister usually orders the collection of figures to show the rates of wages, the average number of hours worked, the number of persons employed in the trade, and so on. If he finds that there is good reason therefor, the Governor in Council may appoint a Wages Board and define the scope of its operations. The Board consists of from six to ten members (half elected by employers and half by employees), who nominate some outside person as chairman; or, if no agreement can be arrived at as to such nomination, then the Minister appoints the chairman. The Board may fix the rates of payment either by piece-work or wages, or both; the maximum number of hours per week or per day for which such rates shall be paid; a higher rate for work done in excess of such maximum number of hours; the times of beginning and ending work, including the hours of each shift; a higher rate for work done outside such times; special rates for casual work in the case of any trade not usually carried on in a factory or shop, or for work done on Sundays and public holidays, and for time occupied in travelling to and from work; the day and latest hour when payment of wages is to be made, also what notice of termination of employment shall be given by either employer or worker; and the number of and the rates of pay to apprentices and improvers who may be employed. Casual work is now defined in the Act as work or labour during any week for not more than one-half of the maximum number of hours fixed by the Wages Board appointed to fix rates for the work in question.

By an amendment of the law made in 1922 the Boards are given power to provide that in trades carried on in factories or shops a person working fewer hours than those fixed for an ordinary week's work shall be paid from 33 to 50 per cent. above ordinary wages' rate for the first half of such week's work. For each hour worked beyond the aforesaid first half ordinary rates are payable up to but *not exceeding* the wage fixed by the Board for the full week's work.

By this provision the wages of an employee are stabilized as far as possible. Previously he could be employed on a systematic short time principle each week, and be paid only *pro rata* for the hours worked. As a safeguard against imposition on the part of the worker, he is not entitled to any wages if he refuses to complete the full number of hours fixed as a week's work.

NEW BOARDS AND ALTERATION OF POWERS.

The powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1920 to appoint Wages Boards without reference to Parliament were, during the year 1926, exercised in the following six cases :—

Two new Boards appointed as follows :—

Bottle Covers Board.
Frozen Goods Board.

Powers were extended in the case of one Board, viz. :—

Breadcarters Board.

Powers were adjusted in the case of three Boards, viz. :—

The Ice Board was deprived of the power to determine prices or rates to be paid to any persons employed in the trade of freezing, refrigerating, packing, or grading goods of any kind (other than ice cream) for the purpose of trade or sale in a frozen or refrigerated condition, but not including persons subject to the Determination of the Ice Board, and such power was conferred exclusively on the Frozen Goods Board.

The Storemen, Packers, and Sorters Board was deprived of the power to determine the prices or rates to be paid to any person employed in the trade of making flock or mungo (a) as a storeman, packer, or sorter, (b) in assisting a packer or sorter, (c) as an assembler, collector, or checker of goods in course of receipt or despatch, and such power was exclusively conferred on the Flock Board.

Powers were revoked in one case :—

The power given to the Builders' Labourers Board to determine prices or rates to be paid to any persons employed in the occupation of a builders' labourer engaged in the erection, repair, or demolition of bridges.

On 31st December, 1926, there were 183 Wages Boards existent or authorized, affecting about 205,000 employees.

A Wages Board, having been constituted, meets (until the first Determination is made) as often as it chooses, usually once a week, at the Factories Office. An officer of the Department of Labour acts as secretary. The chairmen and members of Boards are paid as follows :—

Three hours' attendance or less—Chairman, 15s. ; member, 7s. 6d.

Over three hours' attendance—Chairman, 30s. ; member, 15s.

Any member residing 10 miles or more from Melbourne is paid, in addition, train fares and 15s. per day expenses.

Provided that members are not to be paid fees, fares, or expenses for more than—

(a) Ten meetings in the first twelve months after the constitution of the Board.

(b) Six meetings in any subsequent year.

When computing the time occupied in attendance, intervals for meals are not to be counted.

After a Determination has been arrived at it is sent to the Minister of Labour and gazetted, and it thereupon becomes law. It is then the duty of the officers of the Department of Labour to enforce it. Where the Minister considers that any breach of the law is trivial, or has occurred through a mistake, he administers a warning; in more serious cases he orders a prosecution. The prosecutions are carried out by the officers of the Department of Labour, without expense to the worker, and on a conviction being obtained the Court may make an order for arrears of wages, that may be due for any period not exceeding twelve months, to be paid. It is, however, open to any worker, if he has made demand in writing on the employer within two months from the date same became due, to sue in a civil court for the amount of wages owing to him.

Appeals. Provision has been made in the law for the constitution of a Court of Industrial Appeals for deciding all appeals against a Determination of a Wages Board, and for dealing with any Determination of a Wages Board referred to the Court by the Minister. Seventy-five applications have been made for alteration of Determinations by the Court. Since 1st January, 1915, it has consisted of a President and two other persons. The President, who must be a Judge of the Supreme Court, holds such office for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit, and must sit in every Court of Industrial Appeals. Mr. Justice J. R. Macfarlan has been appointed President. The other members can only act in the Court for which they are appointed, and one must be a representative of employers and the other a representative of employees. Each must be nominated in writing by the side which he represents, and must have been *bonâ fide* and actually engaged in the trade concerned for at least six months during the three years immediately preceding his nomination. Subject to the Act a majority decision decides every reference to the Court. Since its re-constitution in 1915 it has dealt with thirty-eight cases. The determination of the Court may now be altered by the Wages Boards without the leave of the Court if twelve months has elapsed since the date of the last Determination of the Court.

Rise in earnings. During the year 1926 Determinations made by 172 Boards appointed under the Act were in force. The following statement shows the average weekly wage paid to employees in certain trades (1) before the first Determination was

made, (2) in 1914, and (3) in 1926, the figures for the two last mentioned years being the amounts paid to the employees under the Determinations of Wages Boards:—

Trade.	Average Weekly Wage Paid to all Employees.		
	Before First Deter- mination was made.	In 1914.	In 1926.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aerated Water	1 6 7	1 17 8	3 19 4
Agricultural Implements	1 19 5	2 10 1	4 9 4
Asphalters	2 2 10	2 13 8	4 16 8
Bedsteadmakers	1 12 2	2 9 6	4 12 0
Boot	1 3 2	2 1 7	3 10 9
Bread	1 12 6	3 2 7	5 7 5
Brewers	1 14 4	2 10 2	5 8 7
Brushmakers	1 3 1	2 4 9	3 18 6
Candlemakers	1 4 8	2 4 2	4 11 1
Carpenters	2 7 6	3 3 10	5 14 6
Clothing	1 0 0	1 6 9	2 17 6
„ Waterproof	1 2 3	1 17 4	3 1 10
Commercial Clerks	1 10 7	2 9 6	3 13 9
Coopers	1 15 7	3 6 3	6 12 0
Engravers	1 16 11	2 5 11	3 18 7
Farriers	1 15 2	2 4 5	4 17 10
Furniture Trade—			
(a) European (Cabinet making &c.)	1 9 1	2 5 10	4 2 11
(b) European (Mantelpieces) ..	1 13 6	2 9 7	4 8 5
Glassworkers	1 14 11	2 7 3	4 14 7
Hairdressers	1 2 9	2 2 7	3 16 5
Ice	2 10 3	3 4 7	5 10 4
Jewellers	1 13 10	2 9 8	4 3 3
Lift Attendants	1 5 2	2 7 8	4 6 11
Malt	2 1 1	2 17 1	5 3 4
Marine Store	1 5 7	2 5 0	4 10 2
Millet Broom	1 7 11	2 2 9	3 17 1
Painters	2 0 9	2 14 11	5 6 7
Picture Frame	1 3 11	1 19 9	3 18 10
Plate Glass	1 7 6	2 5 11	4 14 6
Plumbers	1 12 8	2 14 4	5 7 10
Pottery	1 8 1	2 0 8	3 19 10
Saddlery	1 7 1	2 2 11	} 4 10 8*
„ Country	1 10 7	1 16 11	
Shops Board No. 1—(Boot Dealers)	1 6 11	2 0 11	3 2 0
Shops Board No. 3—(Butchers) ..	1 17 8	3 1 2	4 10 10
Shops Board No. 15—(Grocers) ..	1 7 4	2 6 8	3 17 0
Slaters and Tilers	2 0 8	3 7 3	4 16 3
Starch	1 0 9	2 0 6	4 10 4
Stonecutters	1 15 11	3 2 0	5 5 11
Tanners	1 11 9	2 10 6	4 9 10
Watchmakers	1 14 2	2 19 2	4 6 6
Wicker	1 2 11	2 2 4	3 17 3
Woodworkers	1 13 2	2 11 9	4 16 0
„ Country	2 9 0	2 14 11	4 18 5

* Now one Board (Saddlery and Harness).

Apprentices. The wages of apprentices in Victoria are fixed by the Wages Boards in each trade. These Boards also prescribe the form of indenture and the term of apprenticeship. Once a boy is indentured, it becomes the duty of the Department of Labour on the one hand to see that he is taught his trade properly, and on the other to enforce his proper attendance at his work, and generally to protect both parties and see that they carry out the agreement.

Factories. A factory is defined to mean any place in which four or more persons, other than a Chinese, or in which one or more Chinese are employed in any handicraft, or in preparing articles for trade or sale; or any place in which one or more are employed, if motive power be used in the preparation of such articles, or where furniture is made, or where bread or pastry is made or baked for sale, or in which electricity is generated for the supply of heat or light, or power, or in which coal gas is made; and also any clay pit or quarry worked in connexion with and occupied by the occupier of any pottery or brickyard. The expression "handicraft" includes any work done in a laundry or in dyeworks. Provision is made for the registration of factories, and inspectors are appointed to inspect and examine them in order to insure that the health requirements and other provisions of the Acts are complied with. The employment of males under 14 and females under 15 years of age is debarred, but provision is made by which a girl of 14 can receive permission to work in a factory if it be shown that the parents are poor, and that the best interests of the girl will be served. A strict limitation is placed on the hours of employment of all females and of males under sixteen. There are special provisions to guard against accidents, and persons in charge of engines and boilers must hold certificates of competency of service. The working hours of Chinese are specially restricted, with the object of preventing or lessening unfair competition. Every employee in a factory must be paid at least 2s. 6d. per week, this provision being, of course, intended as a protection for juvenile workers. All earnings must be paid at least once in every fortnight. There were registered in 1886 only 1,949 factories, with 39,506 employees, whereas in 1926 the figures were 10,624 factories, with 135,510 employees.

The Factories and Shops Acts were consolidated during the year 1915 by the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, No. 2650. No changes were effected in the law by this measure. The existing Acts were merely consolidated.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1919 (No. 3048), passed at the close of the year 1919, made some important changes in the law, but it consists mainly of machinery clauses designed in the interests of the smooth working of the law.

Two short Amending Acts passed at the close of the year 1920 made important alterations in the law.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3093, altered the procedure regarding the appointment of Wages Boards. Prior to that

Act coming into operation these Boards could only be created whilst Parliament was in session. The Governor in Council now has the power to appoint a Wages Board whenever it is deemed expedient to do so, and to alter the scope of any existing Wages Board.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1920, No. 3112, introduced a new principle into the legislation. For many years the closing hour of shops has been fixed by law. This Act for the first time fixed a legal opening hour which affects butchers' shops in the Metropolitan District.

The *Factories and Shops Act* 1922, No. 3252, made some important alterations, the principal of which are as follows :—

A new scale of fees was fixed for registration of factories and shops, which resulted in an increase in revenue nearly sufficient to cover the whole cost of the administration of the Department of Labour.

The powers of Wages Boards were simplified and consolidated.

Rates for casual workers in factories and shops were put upon a different basis with a view to the stabilizing of the weekly wage.

The appointment of members of Wages Boards was simplified. Members had previously been appointed for three years, and much trouble was caused in getting new nominations at the date of expiry of each Board. Now Boards are appointed for one year, and every Board expires on the 30th September of each year, but will be automatically re-appointed unless objection is lodged. The result has been a saving of much time and expense as very few objections have been received.

The Minister now makes all appointments to fill vacancies instead of the Governor in Council.

The Governor in Council has now power to exempt new industries from the provisions of Wages Boards for six months, to enable operatives to learn their work.

Bread may now be sold at any hour of the day or night.

The provisions of the Act relating to the guarding of dangerous machinery have been extended so that chaffcutting machines on farms or elsewhere may be guarded for the protection of the workers.

Boards are empowered to fix what notice shall be given by either side of the termination of employment, also to fix the day and latest hour on which wages shall be paid.

Shortly stated, in the Metropolitan District, as defined in the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915, the hours for closing shops are as follows :—Hairdressers' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., on Friday at

Shops,
Metropolitan
District.

9 p.m., and on Saturday at 1 p.m. Tobacconists' shops must be closed on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.; if the shop be closed on Saturday at 1 p.m., it must be closed on Wednesday at 8 p.m., and may be kept open until 9 p.m. on Friday; if it be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, it may be kept open until 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. on Saturday. Until a choice is made the shop must be closed on Wednesday at 1 p.m. Butchers' shops are required to close at 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday. They are required to be closed till 6 a.m. on Saturday and 7.30 a.m. on other week days. All other shops (except Fourth Schedule shops) must be closed at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday the closing hour is 9 p.m., and on Saturday 1 p.m.

The Fourth Schedule shops are :—

- Bread shops.
- Booksellers' and news agents' shops.
- Confectionery and pastry shops.
- Cooked meat (other than tinned meat) shops.
- Eating-houses.
- Fish and oyster shops.
- Flower shops.
- Fruit and vegetable shops.

The hours for closing such shops are not fixed by the Act, but the Governor in Council is given power to make Regulations for their closing. Section 2 of Act No. 3181, which came into force on 29th August, 1922, provides that such Regulations shall not apply to fruit shops in the area enclosed by Flinders, Spencer, Latrobe, Victoria, and Spring streets, Melbourne.

The following are the only cases where these Regulations have been made. The hour of closing on each day of the week is given :—

—	Regulation Gazetted.	Sun.	Mon.	Tu.	Wed.	Th.	F.	Saturday.
Booksellers and News Agents	18th May, 1927	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Cooked Meat (other than tinned meat)..	27th October, 1920	..	6	6	6	6	9	1 and may re-open from 4 to 10 p.m.
Fruit and Vegetable (May to September inclusive only. See previous paragraph re exempted area)..	16th October. 1918	..	7	7	7	7	..	..

Under the provisions of the *Factories and Shops Act* 1915 the Minister can grant permission to keepers of certain shops known as "small shops," who would ordinarily be required to close their shops at 6 p.m., to keep open till 8 p.m. Such permission can only be granted to widows and old people, or in cases of great hardship, and applies only to the Metropolitan District.

Provision is also made under the Acts for overtime and tea money for shop employees.

Shops outside the Metropolitan District. The shops provisions of the Acts now apply to the whole State. Previous to 1st January, 1915, they did not apply to shires or portions of shires unless the shopkeepers therein had petitioned for them to be extended, and there was little uniformity throughout the Country Districts either as to the hours of closing shops or the observance of a weekly half-holiday. A universal Saturday half-holiday was legalized by Act No. 2558, passed in November, 1914, the shops being allowed to remain open till 10 p.m. (now altered to 9 p.m.) on Fridays, and the Country Districts were thus brought into line with the Metropolitan District, in which the Saturday half-holiday had been observed for years. In certain cases an exemption may be petitioned for and the half-holiday fixed for a day other than Saturday.

The hours of closing *on other days* outside the Metropolitan District are fixed at 7 p.m., but, if a petition be received from a majority of any class of shopkeepers, they may be fixed earlier or later. The hours have been altered in accordance with this provision in a few municipalities. Hairdressers and tobacconists outside the Metropolitan Districts may choose either Wednesday or Saturday as the day on which they will observe the half-holiday, but, if they choose Wednesday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Friday and 10 p.m. on Saturday. If they choose Saturday, or do not make a choice of half-holiday, they are required to close at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Fourth Schedule shops are not affected by these provisions. Petrol may be sold at any hour to travellers to enable them to continue their journey.

Registration of Shops. Registration of shops became compulsory as from 1st March, 1915. The registration fee formerly ranged from 2s. 6d. to 63s., according to the number of persons employed, but from 1st March, 1923, it has varied from 2s. 6d. to £10 (Act 3252, Sec. 4). During the year 1915, 26,401 shops, employing 25,632 persons, were registered, whereas in 1926 the figures were 35,572 shops, with 39,269 employees.

Registered shops are divided into 27 classes. There was an increase for the year 1926 as compared with 1925 of 880 shops and 2,357 employees. Particulars of the increases and decreases in shops registered are given below:—

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SHOPS REGISTERED, 1926.

	Metropolitan and Provincial Cities.		Country.		Whole State.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bread	160	..	1	..	161	..
Confectionery and Pastry	..	3	23	..	20	..
Booksellers, News Agents						
Fancy Goods Dealers						
Boot Dealers .. ..	..	30	7	..	..	23
Boot Repairers	3	..	..	21	..	18
Butchers	65	..	33	..	98	..
Chemists	7	..	7	..	14	..
Crockery	3	..	2	..	5	..
Cycle and Motor	56	..	71	..	127	..
Dairy Produce and Cooked						
Meat	24	..	16	..	40	..
Drapery	18	..	..	3	15	..
Fish	38	..	..	6	32	..
Florists	22	..	12	..	34	..
Fruit and Vegetable	231	..	8	..	239	..
Fuel and Fodder	15	..	..	12	3	..
Furniture .. .. .	..	11	..	3	..	14
Grocers	161	..	..	20	141	..
Hairdressers	83	..	36	..	119	..
Hardware .. .. .	..	52	..	67	..	119
Jewellery .. .. .	..	13	..	8	..	21
Leather Goods .. .. .	..	2	..	19	..	21
Men's Clothing .. ..	..	24	..	29	..	53
Musical Instruments ..	31	..	..	3	28	..
Tobacconists	100	..	2	..	102	..
Mixed .. .. .	..	56	16	..	..	40
Shops not classified ..	21	..	..	10	11	..
Totals	1,038	191	234	201	1,189	309

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Prior to 1st October, 1900, two labour bureaux were administered by the Railway Department. One registered men in search of work, and distributed all Government work, each Department paying the cost. The other was a Railway Staff Office, regulating and distributing all temporary and casual railway employment. Both these are now administered by an exchange under the control of the Labour Department, where applicants are

registered for temporary or casual employment, principally as artisans and labourers on Government works, including railways. Men are supplied, when work is available, according to their order of registration, subject to fitness. The Exchange also undertakes to supply workmen for private employment, and advances railway tickets to deserving applicants who may themselves have obtained employment in country districts, which they would otherwise be unable to reach, these advances being subject to orders for repayment out of earnings.

The following is a summary of the operations of the Exchange for the year 1926 in respect to registrations and applicants sent to employment :—

GOVERNMENT LABOUR EXCHANGE.

Year and Month.			Number of Applicants for Work as Registered at the end of each Month in the Metropolis.	Number of Men for whom Employment was Obtained.
1926—January .. ..	..	..	2,335	175
February .. ..	..	..	1,887	209
March .. ..	..	..	2,367	467
April .. ..	..	..	2,011	404
May .. ..	..	..	2,735	588
June .. ..	..	..	2,411	281
July .. ..	..	..	2,817	286
August .. ..	..	..	4,218	391
September .. ..	..	..	3,250	604
October .. ..	..	..	2,299	649
November .. ..	..	..	2,277	456
December .. ..	..	..	1,888	439
Total .. ..	..	..	30,495	4,949

In the next table particulars are given of the operations of the Exchange during the five years ended 1926 :—

Year.			Registrations Effected.		Engagements Effected.
			In the City.	In the Country.	
1922 .. ..	..	..	12,361	1,065	1,913
1923 .. ..	..	..	11,233	718	1,703
1924 .. ..	..	..	14,030	526	2,550
1925 .. ..	..	..	26,105	1,311	3,068
1926 .. ..	..	..	30,495	2,250	4,949

Regarding the number of distinct individuals included in the registrations and engagements effected, the officer in charge of the Exchange states that the number of men who are regular applicants at the Exchange is very considerable, especially amongst unskilled labourers, and consequently a large allowance must be made for duplication of registrations. It would probably be safe to say that the number of distinct individuals applying in any one year would be represented by about half the registrations effected. Also in connexion with the engagements effected in the course of a year allowance must be made for the fact that the same applicants may be employed more than once during the year, and this further employment, it is considered, would represent about one-sixth to one-eighth of the engagements made.

During the year 1926 the number of railway tickets advanced was 4,458, valued at £4,297, of which £3,669 has been refunded. During the past twenty-six years 71,844 railway tickets have been advanced, of the value of £60,092, of which £42,492 has been refunded.

REPATRIATION.

On 8th April, 1918, Repatriation became an Australian national undertaking for the provision of benefits for Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses who served in the great war. On that date the Commonwealth Government established the Department of Repatriation, with (the late) Senator the Hon. E. D. Millen as first Minister. Its objects are to find employment for the fit, to re-establish the disabled, to provide for the dependants of those who have died and of those who are no longer able, in consequence of war disabilities, to support themselves, and to supply medical and surgical treatment for disabilities due to or aggravated by war service.

Organization of Department. A description of this is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, page 369.

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

Administration of Department. The administration of the Department has rested with the Repatriation Commission since 1st July, 1920, and its Head-quarters Office is at 54 Market-street, Melbourne. The Victorian branch office is in St. Kilda-road. The personnel of the Commission is Colonel J. M. Semmens, O.B.E., V.D., J.P. (Chairman), Lieut.-Colonel L. E. Tilney, D.S.O., and Major M. B. Ryan. The Deputy-Commissioner for Victoria is Mr. J. C. McPhee.

A Repatriation General Hospital (Caulfield), Repatriation Sanatorium (Macleod), Anzac Hostel (Brighton), Out-patient Clinic (St. Kilda-road), and Commonwealth Artificial Limb Factory (South Melbourne) are conducted.

Activities of Department. The activities of the Department include the administration of a wide variety of benefits, such as employment, vocational training, medical treatment, children's education, land settlement and assistance. Under "assistance" establishment in small businesses, furniture loans and grants, educational grants, equipment with tools of trade, and funeral expenses are provided. With the progress of time, the great majority of the ex-soldiers have become re-established in the community, and the benefits of assistance to establish small businesses, to secure furniture and tools of trade are now required only in very few cases. Also, vocational training is nearly completed, and with few exceptions, trainees have been absorbed in their respective callings. In co-operation with the State Governments a land settlement scheme has been devised, whereby the Federal Government loans the States money to provide the required holdings and to construct railways or other works necessary to their successful operation. Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government will also make available an average grant of £625 per settler. This will afford every ex-soldier possessing the natural aptitude and fitness an opportunity of ultimately owning his own farm. With the exception of South Australia, all the States have agreed to extend the benefits of the Land Settlement scheme to persons who were munition or war workers, and the Commonwealth Government's advance of £625 will be available for such persons.

In 1927 the main activities of the Repatriation Commission were confined to all matters pertaining to granting, reviewing, and assessing war pensions; medical treatment, which includes medical benefits to widows and orphans of deceased soldiers and widowed mothers of deceased unmarried soldiers, and the provision and renewal of artificial limbs and surgical aids; the granting and reviewing of Living Allowances; and the administration of the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme.

Despite the progress of time and the fact that an ex-soldier may not have previously applied for medical benefits, the Repatriation Commission at all times is ready to investigate the causation of any physical incapacity and its attributability to war service. Treatment and artificial limbs and surgical aids are provided without cost to the ex-soldier.

Adequate arrangements still exist for the treatment of ex-soldiers of the Commonwealth suffering from disabilities who are resident in the British Isles, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and the United States of America. The Commission provides treatment

in its Institutions for ex-soldiers from these countries resident in the Commonwealth, and also carries out any medical re-examinations for pension review purposes.

The Repatriation Commission acts as the agent for the Imperial Government, the Dominions of New Zealand and Newfoundland, and the Union of South Africa, for the payment of War pensions to ex-members of the Forces of these countries residing in the Commonwealth.

**Summary of
Work of
Department.**

The following is a summary of the work of the Department in Victoria from its inauguration, 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927 :—

Employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	85,848
Number of positions filled	..	..	47,941

Assistance other than vocational training and employment—

Number of applications received	..	..	236,708
Number of applications approved	..	..	216,084

Assistance granted—

Gifts	..	..	..	..	£3,140,965
Loans	..	..	..	..	523,147
General	..	..	..	..	1,458,345
Total	..	..	..	..	£5,122,457

Vocational training statistics from 8th April, 1918, to 30th June, 1927 :—

Number of applications received	..	..	16,548
Number of applications approved	..	..	11,733
Completed training	..	..	5,669
In training at 30th June, 1927	..	..	74

N.B.—The above figures relate to day training only.

**War
Pensions.**

Since 1st July, 1920, war pensions have been administered by the Repatriation Commission. The number of such pensions in force in Victoria on 30th June, 1927, was 86,480 and the annual liability of the Commonwealth Government in connexion therewith was £2,139,592. Of the total number of pensioners, 23,514 were incapacitated members of the Forces, and 62,966 were dependants of deceased and incapacitated members.

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable and reformatory institutions, &c. The total number of organizations throughout the State which administered relief to persons in necessitous circumstances or were of a reformatory character, and which forwarded returns to the Government Statist for the year 1926, was 245. The total receipts of all the organizations were £4,587,062, of which £3,558,638 was contributed by the Government and £1,028,424 was received from all other sources. The total expenditure was £4,529,140. The daily average number under care indoors throughout the year in charitable and reformatory institutions was 16,805 and there were no less than 229,631 distinct cases of out-door relief. With regard to the out-door relief, it has been ascertained that in some institutions the "distinct cases treated" represent the actual number of persons treated; in others, they represent the actual cases of illness, accident, or disease; in these latter cases, unfortunately, the books of the institutions do not furnish the necessary particulars as to the number of distinct persons. Again, it is considered probable that some obtained relief at more than one establishment, and that some, in the course of the year, became inmates of one or other of the institutions. There is no available information upon which an estimate of the number of these duplications can be based.

The following table gives in summarized form full particulars in relation to all these charitable and reformatory institutions, and shows the number in each class, the daily average number of persons under care in the institutions, and the total number of distinct cases receiving out-door relief, together with the receipts and expenditure:—

CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.— INMATES, RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1925-26.

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average in-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Government.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
				£	£	£	£
HOSPITALS.							
General Hospitals ..	53	2,476	80,070	106,824	473,913	580,737	524,051
Women's Hospital ..	1	188	5,891	5,686	34,938	40,624	49,112
Children's Hospital ..	1	226	20,102	6,950	75,298	82,248	78,151
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	65	9,806	4,395	15,822	20,217	27,721
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	65	..	5,137	605	5,742	5,742
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	115	..	6,537	7,611	14,148	16,664
Convalescent Homes ..	2	50	..	300	3,032	3,332	3,095
Deaf and Dumb, Blind, and Eye and Ear Institutions ..	4	450	13,026	6,900	43,416	50,316	57,039
Hospitals for Insane, Idiot Asylum, and Receiving Houses ..	11	6,351	..	491,336	50,597	541,933	541,933
Foundling Hospitals ..	2	314	..	6,250	6,972	13,222	13,210
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	244	..	28,370	32,527	60,897	59,640
Total ..	78	10,544	128,895	668,685	744,731	1,413,416	1,376,358

**CHARITABLE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, ETC.—INMATES,
RECEIPTS, AND EXPENDITURE, 1925-26—continued.**

Name of Institution, &c.	Number of Institutions.	Daily Average In-door Patients.	Out-door Relief Distinct Cases.	Receipts.			Expenditure (including Building Expenses for Year).
				From Govern-ment.	From Other Sources.	Total.	
BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS AND SOCIETIES.				£	£	£	£
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	1,921	281	33,495	50,803	84,298	74,522
Old Colonists' Association ..	1	88	..	..	11,451	11,451	4,795
Benevolent Societies ..	103	..	25,095	20,000	56,999	76,999	77,848
Orphan Asylums ..	10	1,688	..	7,614	76,563	84,177	78,248
Total ..	122	3,697	25,376	61,109	195,816	256,925	235,413
REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS.							
Children's Welfare Depart-ment ..	12	568	14,587	355,020	17,968	372,988	372,988
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	40	..	3,054	1,281	4,335	4,335
Brightside Inebriates' Insti-tution ..	1	22	..	431	1,291	1,722	1,747
Female Refuges ..	10	675	..	3,257	43,755	47,012	47,780
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	3	142	..	320	8,122	8,442	8,540
Prisoners' Aid Society of Victoria	1	..	802	500	720	1,220	1,211
Gaols and Penal Establishments	13	979	..	116,541	..	116,541	116,541
Total ..	41	2,426	15,389	479,123	73,137	552,260	553,142
MISCELLANEOUS.							
Old-age and Invalid Pensioners ..	..	..	50,862	2,348,571	..	2,348,571	2,348,571
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	1	138	..	750	8,706	9,456	8,924
Charity Organization Society	1	..	124	..	4,995	4,995	5,296
Free Dispensaries ..	2	..	8,985	400	1,039	1,439	1,436
Total ..	4	138	59,971	2,349,721	14,740	2,364,461	2,364,227
Grand Total..	245	16,805	229,631	3,558,638	1,028,424	4,587,062	4,529,140

Charitable Institutions—receipts and expenditure. The receipts of all charitable institutions for the year 1925-26 amounted to £2,121,950, of which £1,093,526, or about 52 per cent., was contributed by Government, and the expenditure amounted to £2,064,028. Of the Government contribution, £861,084 was expended on the Receiving House for the Insane, Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, the Children's Welfare Department, the Greenvale and Heatherton Sanatoria for Consumptives, and the Lara Inebriates' Institution, which are Government institutions.

Charitable Institutions—receipts and expenditure, 1917-1926. The expenditure of charitable institutions has considerably increased during the past ten years. In 1917 it was £993,577, and it had increased to £2,064,028 in 1926.

This is equivalent to an advance of about 108 per cent. The aid from Government increased by 101 per cent., and that from other sources by 105 per cent. in the period mentioned. Information in regard to the receipts and expenditure in each year of the period is given in the accompanying table :—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, 1917 TO 1926.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.			Expenditure.			
	Government aid.	Other.	Total.	Building and extraordinary Repairs.	Main-tenance.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1917 ..	543,225	502,598	1,045,823	132,601	850,357	10,619	993,577
1918 ..	541,817	465,809	1,007,626	67,254	895,919	8,968	972,141
1919 ..	578,055	497,945	1,076,000	62,144	963,647	16,504	1,042,295
1920 ..	681,626	638,356	1,319,982	66,191	1,155,558	8,817	1,230,566
1921 ..	818,766	709,011	1,527,777	95,153	1,351,856	12,154	1,459,163
1922 ..	815,316	753,757	1,569,073	166,145	1,339,982	15,151	1,521,278
1923 ..	794,706	775,243	1,569,949	119,520	1,351,949	16,589	1,488,058
1924 ..	870,984	859,720	1,730,704	182,094	1,438,791	33,089	1,653,974
1925 ..	1,047,998	881,235	1,929,233	375,988	1,532,695	35,623	1,944,306
1926 ..	1,093,526	1,028,424	2,121,950	359,061	1,628,989	75,978	2,064,028

Charitable
Institutions
—average
cost per
inmate.

The following statement shows the average number of inmates of the respective institutions, the total cost of their maintenance, and the average cost for the year of each inmate :—

COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Daily Average Number of Inmates.	Total Cost of Maintenance.	Average Cost of each Inmate.
		£	£ s. d.
General Hospitals	2,476	396,865	160 5 8
Women's Hospital	188	31,340	166 14 1
Children's Hospital	226	33,229	147 0 7
Eye and Ear Hospital	83	13,397	161 8 2
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	65	17,265	255 12 4
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	244	54,315	222 12 1
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ...	130	3,929	30 4 6
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	184	7,767	42 4 3
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	65	5,742	88 6 9
Heatherton Sanatorium	115	12,083	105 1 5
Receiving Houses for the Insane	6,351	432,202	68 1 1
Hospitals for the Insane			
Idiot Asylum	1,921	64,330	33 9 9
Benevolent Asylums			
Convalescent Homes	50	2,755	55 2 0
Blind Asylums	233	5,737	24 12 5
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	135	6,480	48 0 0
Orphan Asylums	1,688	38,090	22 11 4
Children's Welfare Department	15,155*	366,837	24 4 1
Female Refuges	675	27,213	40 6 4
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	142	6,951	48 19 0
Old Colonists' Association	88	4,739	53 17 1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	40	4,335	108 7 6
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	22	1,747	79 8 2
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	138	5,850	42 7 10
Total	30,414	1,543,198	50 14 10

* Including children boarded out with their own mothers.

In calculating the average cost of each inmate the cost of treating out-patients is necessarily included, as there is no available information showing the cost of in-patients and out-patients separately.

The institutions showing the lowest average cost per inmate are the Orphan Asylums, the Children's Welfare Department, Blind Asylums, the Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows), and the Benevolent Asylums. As many of the wards of the Children's Welfare Department

cost the State nothing—maintaining themselves at service or being supported by relatives—the cost of maintenance per head shown above is not a correct indication of the burden on the public. The true cost per head of those supported by the State is somewhat higher. The average cost per inmate of the Foundling Hospitals, Female Refuges, and Salvation Army Homes would be reduced if allowance were made for mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospitals, and for infants in the other institutions mentioned.

Of the total income of charitable institutions in 1925-26 more than half was contributed by the Government, and a little more than 10 per cent. was collected from patients. The receipts of hospitals and other charitable institutions in the State under various headings are shown hereunder :—

SOURCES OF INCOME OF CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS IN VICTORIA, 1925-26.

Receipts.	General Hospitals.	Women's Hospital.	Children's Hospital.	Eye and Ear Hospital.	Queen's Memorial Hospital.	Other Hospitals.	Other Institutions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Aid	106,824	5,686	6,950	4,000	28,370	10,645	931,051	1,093,526
Municipal Grants	16,731	572	641	297	31,428	547	13,355	63,571
Private Contributions ..	63,100	2,315	8,046	2,126	..	2,584	92,363	170,534
Proceeds of Entertainments ..	21,695	933	1,693	26	..	202	2,974	27,523
Legacies, Bequests, Special Donations and Proceeds of Intestate Estates	224,969	13,880	54,136	1,589	57	8,144	66,524	369,299
Hospital Sunday and Church Donations	18,898	1,911	2,166	1,116	..	1,119	4,119	29,329
Contributions of Indoor Patients ..	61,443	9,948	3,565	2,301	707	3,617	107,216	188,797
Out-patients' Fees	20,017	1,009	2,685	3,098	..	2,617	47	29,473
Proceeds of Inmates' Labour ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,641	41,641
Interest or Rent	27,189	1,803	2,167	992	230	3,013	25,646	61,040
Other Sources	19,871	2,567	199	836	105	951	22,688	47,217
Total	580,737	40,624	82,248	16,381	60,897	33,439	1,307,624	2,121,950

Particulars relating to the accommodation in the most important of the various classes of charitable institutions in the State are given below. The information relates to the year ended 30th June, 1926, except in the case of the

Charitable Institutions—accommodation.

Hospitals for the Insane, the Idiot Asylum, and the Children's Welfare Department, where it relates to the calendar year 1926. Of the general hospitals, six, are in Melbourne, and the remainder in country towns. The accommodation available for indoor patients was as follows :—

AMOUNT OF ACCOMMODATION, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Number of Institutions.	Dormitories.		Number of Beds for Inmates.	Number of Cubic Feet to each Bed.
		Number.	Capacity in Cubic Feet.		
General Hospitals ..	53	458	5,200,175	3,902	1,333
Women's Hospital ..	1	19	232,216	209	1,111
Children's Hospital ..	1	22	178,900	192	932
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children ..	1	14	59,021	65	908
Eye and Ear Hospital ..	1	16	89,298	92	971
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital ..	1	50	499,098	514	971
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows) ..	1	7	77,876	188	414
The Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home ..	1	3	129,250	113	1,144
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives ..	1	13	32,671	90	363
Heatherton Sanatorium ..	1	14	133,660	124	1,078
Receiving Houses for the Insane ..	2	22	63,782	94	678
Hospitals for the Insane ..	8	1,299	3,815,540	5,249	727
Idiot Asylum ..	1	20	114,288	312	366
Benevolent Asylums ..	8	181	2,565,339	2,268	1,131
Convalescent Homes ..	2	25	69,780	67	1,041
Blind Asylums ..	2	18	99,850	91	1,097
Deaf and Dumb Asylum ..	1	4	98,037	115	852
Orphan Asylums ..	10	89	886,825	1,705	520
Children's Welfare Department ..	12	71	661,472	980	675
Female Refugees ..	10	174	654,253	807	811
Salvation Army Rescue Homes ..	3	16	84,416	173	488
Lara Inebriates' Institution ..	1	11	46,796	50	936
Brightside Inebriates' Institution ..	1	15	25,407	33	770
Talbot Colony for Epileptics ..	1	24	116,885	132	885
Total ..	124	2,585	15,934,835	17,565	907

Charitable
Institutions
—inmates
and deaths.

The next statement shows the number of inmates and of deaths in these institutions :—

INMATES AND DEATHS, 1925-26.

Description of Institution.	Number of Inmates.		Number of Deaths.	Proportion of Deaths to Total Number of Inmates.
	Total during the Year.	Daily Average.		
				per cent.
General Hospitals	39,829	2,476	3,241	8.1
Women's Hospital	5,537	188	83	1.5
Children's Hospital	3,972	226	443	11.2
Eye and Ear Hospital	2,096	83	14	.7
Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children	1,642	65	44	2.7
Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital	3,216	244	81	2.5
Foundling Hospital (Broadmeadows)	239	130	20	8.4
Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home	242	184	4	1.7
Greenvale Sanatorium for Consumptives	181	65	4	2.2
Heatherton Sanatorium	269	115	66	24.5
Receiving Houses for the Insane	954	85	38	4.0
Hospitals for the Insane	6,864	5,848	384	5.6
Idiot Asylum	452	418	19	4.2
Benevolent Asylums	3,609	1,921	471	13.1
Convalescent Homes	1,027	50	..	..
Blind Asylums	300	233	3	1.0
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	140	135	..	..
Orphan Asylums	2,273	1,688	3	.1
Children's Welfare Department	16,072	15,155	33	.2
Female Refuges	1,194	675	21	1.8
Salvation Army Rescue Homes	467	142	1	.2
Old Colonists' Association	99	88	5	5.1
Lara Inebriates' Institution	235	40	1	.4
Brightside Inebriates' Institution	72	22	1	1.4
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	169	138	4	2.4
Total	91,150	30,414	4,984	5.5

In addition to the inmates shown in the above table, there were 44 mothers of infants in the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, 71 mothers of infants in St. Joseph's Foundling Hospital, Broadmeadows, 346 infants in the Female Refuges, and 193 infants in Salvation Army Homes during the year.

The following statement contains particulars as to the number of beds, the number of patients treated, and the deaths which occurred in general hospitals during the year 1925-26. The receipts, distinguishing moneys received from the Government and from other sources, and the expenditure per head for

Patients
treated, etc.,
in hospitals.

maintenance (based on the average number of indoor patients) are also shown :—

**NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN GENERAL HOSPITALS;
ALSO DEATHS, TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
PER HEAD FOR MAINTENANCE, 1925-26.**

Hospital.	Number of Beds.	Total Indoor Patients treated during Year.	Average Daily Number of Indoor Patients treated.	Number of Deaths.	Receipts,			Expenditure per Head for Maintenance.		
					From Government.	Other.	Total.			
					£	£	£	£	s.	d.
Amherst ..	122	361	81.6	17	5,073	951	6,024	74	3	7
Ararat ..	60	506	25.5	29	1,050	2,413	3,463	132	3	2
Bairnsdale ..	39	399	24.8	48	1,300	2,974	4,274	136	1	9
Ballarat ..	202	1,787	93.2	119	3,000	13,507	16,507	109	11	8
Beechworth ..	100	302	23.3	26	800	2,829	3,629	132	12	4
Bendigo ..	262	1,478	90.0	145	5,211	21,427	26,638	165	2	3
Castlemaine ..	54	402	26.3	33	1,350	2,851	4,201	141	19	7
Colac ..	66	633	37.0	48	900	3,829	4,729	121	13	6
Daylesford ..	52	237	14.1	11	850	1,969	2,819	183	10	11
Dehuca ..	46	705	40.5	41	750	6,590	7,340	58	8	11
Geelong ..	162	1,662	85.0	117	3,425	12,377	15,802	178	19	4
Hamilton ..	91	723	40.3	24	1,000	4,341	5,341	123	3	6
Horsham ..	40	392	20.6	24	700	7,417	8,117	153	11	10
Kyneton ..	62	274	26.8	34	950	3,180	4,130	106	18	10
Maryborough ..	95	529	30.6	33	1,000	4,243	5,243	128	3	5
Melbourne ..	358	7,492	377.8	854	25,861	83,765	109,626	245	4	9
Alfred ..	340	6,553	313.5	511	16,353	74,066	90,419	192	12	4
Austin ..	294	589	286.2	218	6,800	24,575	31,375	125	2	1
Homoeopathic ..	114	1,611	90.2	107	2,250	11,817	14,067	173	16	6
St. Vincent's ..	120	2,717	128.0	178	7,500	99,731	107,231	214	8	3
Mildura ..	60	889	41.7	53	2,250	5,412	7,662	145	9	4
Mooroopna ..	106	1,376	85.4	81	3,500	12,908	16,408	96	16	1
Sale ..	66	851	58.4	54	1,500	4,549	6,049	129	13	10
Stawell ..	66	396	20.2	24	500	5,684	6,184	120	12	10
St. Arnaud ..	50	579	34.4	31	800	3,247	4,047	115	12	9
Swan Hill ..	68	448	30.3	27	1,000	4,005	5,005	107	10	6
Wangaratta ..	65	745	43.9	33	1,250	4,869	6,119	105	18	0
Warragul ..	50	474	26.2	33	739	2,923	3,662	107	8	10
Warrnambool ..	98	553	37.7	46	2,700	8,982	11,682	110	11	2
Williamstown ..	30	373	22.5	22	150	3,518	3,668	89	6	8
Wonthaggi ..	24	518	25.0	34	..	3,914	3,914	143	3	2
Other Hospitals*	540	3,275	195.3	186	6,312	29,050	35,362	162	18	6
Total ..	3,902	39,829	2,476.3	3,241	106,824	473,913	580,737	160	5	4

* 22 in number.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES ACT 1922.

An Act (No. 3260) to amend the law relating to the management of hospitals and charities in the State of Victoria was passed by the State Parliament in the year 1922. Its principal provisions are as follows :—

Part I. provides for the appointment by the Governor in Council of a Board to be called the Charities Board of Victoria and to consist of 14 members, which is to be constituted as under :—

- (a) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Metropolitan Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;

- (b) Four persons to be nominated by the body known as the Country Hospitals Association, one at least of whom is to be a legally qualified medical practitioner ;
- (c) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies within the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (d) Two persons to be appointed from persons nominated by the committees of subsidized institutions and benevolent societies outside of the metropolis (other than hospitals), one at least of whom is to be a woman ;
- (e) Two other persons, one of whom is to be appointed as a member of the Metropolitan Standing Committee and the other as a member of the Country Standing Committee to be provided for under the Act.

The duties of the Board are from time to time to make such inquiries as it thinks fit and to report to the Minister as to :—

- (a) What charitable relief is required to meet the needs of the diseased, infirm, incurable, poor, or destitute persons resident in Victoria (including children and convalescent patients) ;
- (b) What institutions or benevolent societies should in the opinion of the Board be subsidized ;
- (c) What sum of money should in the opinion of the Board be paid from the Fund, and for what purposes, to each subsidized institution or benevolent society in any financial year ; and
- (d) Any amendments of existing legislation and proposals for future legislation which are in its opinion desirable for carrying into effect any of the objects or purposes referred to in the Act, and in particular for improvement in and the prevention of overlapping in the administration of institutions and benevolent societies.

Special powers of the Board include the closing of any subsidized institution including a benevolent society (not being a separate institution) and the amalgamation of any two or more subsidized institutions (not being separate institutions). Before the Board can exercise the power of closing an institution it must be satisfied that the institution or benevolent society is seriously mismanaged or that the funds thereof are substantially applied otherwise than for affording the relief for which the institution or benevolent society exists, or that the accommodation provided is defective, insanitary, or unsuitable, or that relief can be provided more effectively and economically by some other institution or benevolent society. All institutions existing before the commencement of the Act must be registered within six months of a date to be fixed by the Board, and every institution established subsequently must register in order to participate in any grant or aid of any kind from the Consolidated Revenue or from any municipality. A

non-registered charity will not be allowed to appeal or apply to any person or body of persons for any contributions towards its funds.

A fund called "The Hospitals and Charities Fund" is kept in the Treasury. To this fund the Government contributed a sum of £193,356 for the financial year 1925-26, and £194,348 for 1926-27. The salary of an Inspector of Charities, who has been appointed under the Act, together with the remuneration of other necessary officers and expenses, are paid out of the fund. Subject to these payments the fund may be applied to the establishment or maintenance of subsidized institutions or benevolent societies, the cost of the erection of new buildings or of repairs, additions, alterations, or equipment of existing buildings used for the purposes of any subsidized institution or for any other prescribed purposes. Matters to be considered in making payments out of the fund are the financial position of each institution or benevolent society, and the amount likely to be contributed to it during the next financial year otherwise than from the fund, the probable net receipts and expenditure of that financial year, also the actual number of persons relieved by it, the average number of beds (if any) occupied, the average length of stay of patients, and the average cost per bed during the preceding financial year.

Other sections relate to restrictions on certain means of raising money for institutions, the incorporation and government of hospitals and philanthropic institutions generally, the liability of patients to contribute for the relief afforded them according to their means, and the power to resume land required for institutions in the manner provided by the *Lands Compensation Act 1915*.

Since the appointment of the Board some important reforms have been given effect to. The Caulfield Military Hospital has been taken over from the Defence Department and will be managed by the Melbourne Hospital. The whole of the Metropolitan General Hospitals are co-operating in the scheme, and have agreed, after the subsidies provided have been exhausted, to recompense the Melbourne Hospital for net expenditure on a proportionate basis of available beds in the respective institutions for the types of patients likely to be sent to Caulfield, viz., adult medical and surgical. To put the institution in working order substantial financial assistance was received from the Government. The official opening took place on 13th May, 1925, and 50 beds were at once made available. The number was subsequently increased to 150 beds and further accommodation to the extent of 25 beds is being arranged.

During the year 1926-27 accommodation has been arranged through the offices of the Board for 162 persons, principally by transferring patients from the metropolitan area to vacant accommodation in country institutions. This was done in order to make available more beds in the metropolitan area. In all cases the transfers were acquiesced in by the patients.

A standard has been set as the minimum requirements for a base hospital in the country. The number of occupied beds is to be not fewer than 50, giving in addition to general medical and surgical accommodation, beds for midwifery and children, each at least 5 per cent. of total accommodation. Fully established and equipped Out-Patients' Department to be established, available to patients at any time in case of emergency, and with at least tri-weekly attendance of honorary medical officer. Equipped sub-departments of radiology, pathology and bacteriology, massage, and other sub-departments to be maintained as the needs arise. Honorary attending medical officers to be elected to the various positions for a fixed term; applications to be called publicly. A training school for nurses to be in operation. The hospitals proposed to be raised to base grade, are:—Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Mooroopna, Sale and Warrnambool. The committees of the larger provincial hospitals have adopted the Board's proposals, and plans have been approved of or are under consideration for the structural alterations or additions required. In Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Mooroopna and Warrnambool the works are in hand; at Horsham plans are completed whilst at Hamilton and Sale schemes are under consideration. It is anticipated that within a short time the nine hospitals concerned will be completed and equipped up to full base standard. When this is accomplished country patients will be able to take advantage of local facilities and thus relieve to a considerable extent the demand on metropolitan institutions. Each base hospital and the district hospitals at Daylesford, Stawell and Echuca have agreed to the Board's proposals to establish midwifery wards.

Combined hospitals and benevolent asylums have ceased to exist, and asylum patients have been transferred to appropriate institutions. The authorities of the hospitals affected are unanimous in the opinion that the decision of the Board has been attended with advantage to the patients and the institutions concerned.

Efforts are being made to improve public dispensaries and to install proper ambulance services in country districts, but so far without success.

During the three years ended June, 1927, continuous representations have been made by the Board to secure the reservation of the Parkville site for the provision of a hospital adequate for the demands of the districts north of the Yarra. The Faculty of Medicine of the Melbourne University has advocated the urgent need for a teaching hospital in connexion with the medical school and it is considered that if a hospital were built on this site this purpose would be satisfactorily served.

With regard to intermediate hospitals the Board is of opinion that these institutions should be established as adjuncts to existing hospitals and that the details of management be subject to conditions prescribed by regulations.

It is considered that institutions which exist for the welfare of orphans and neglected or destitute children should wherever practicable be under the care of religious organizations.

The suggestion is made that the organization of local relief should be vested in the municipal authorities operating in conjunction with the ladies' benevolent societies.

The origin of this institution belongs to the very earliest days of Melbourne. The *Year-Books* for 1915-16 and 1916-17 contain a statement of the circumstances associated with the foundation of the hospital in 1846, and a reference to its rebuilding in recent years.

It has always been the principal general hospital of Victoria, and the chief medical training school for University students. The wards now contain normally 358 beds. The number of in-patients treated in 1925-26 was 7,492, the daily average number being 378. In the out-patients' and casualty departments 48,300 persons were treated in that year. The aggregate number of attendances of out-patients was 265,348.

The usefulness of the Melbourne Hospital since its inauguration may be judged from the work carried out. The in-patients treated to 30th June, 1926, numbered 320,185, and the out-patients, 1,442,160.

In 1925-26 the Government grant for maintenance amounted to £25,861; the revenue derived from municipal grants was £1,647; private contributions amounted to £13,984; revenue from entertainments in aid to £126; bequests to £25,939; Hospital Sunday collections to £5,456; payments and contributions by indoor patients to £8,949; and out-patients' fees to £7,907; interest yielded a revenue of £12,173; and £7,584 was received from all other sources. The receipts for the twelve months reached a total of £109,626 and the expenditure was £95,217.

The Melbourne Hospital is also a training school for nurses, and has a nursing staff of 215. Attached to the hospital is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine, which is endowed by the Trustees of the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust. The Institute is proving of valuable assistance in the many lines of research which are being conducted by an efficient and highly-trained staff.

To relieve the pressure on the City Hospitals the Convalescent Hospital at Caulfield was established in 1925. In five wards there are 125 beds open, 123 of which are occupied daily. The management is undertaken by the committee of the Melbourne Hospital. The total expenditure for the year 1925-26 was £20,427.

In the year 1868 a large committee of Melbourne citizens decided that the establishment of a second general hospital for Melbourne had become imperatively necessary. A site comprising 13 acres within the municipality of Prahran was secured, and the foundation stone of "The Prince Alfred Hospital" (so named in commemoration of the escape from assassination of Prince

Melbourne
Hospital.

Alfred
Hospital.

Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh), was laid in March, 1869. In May, 1871, the hospital was opened, the buildings being added to in 1885. In 1921 an extensive scheme of building expansion was approved, subject to funds becoming available. Since then remarkable progress has taken place. The whole of the original buildings have been remodelled and enlarged, while many buildings, including new wards, operating theatres, research and investigation departments, a fine new nurses' home, and important additions to existing buildings have been erected. The cost of works carried out in this scheme of expansion up to the end of June, 1927, was £171,545. The hospital is recognized by the Melbourne University as a clinical school for medical students, and is also a training school for nurses. On 30th June, 1927, there were 340 beds and cots in the Institution. The total number of in-patients who received treatment during the year 1925-26 was 6,553, and during 1926-27 the number was 6,485. In the out-patients and casualty departments, 37,643 persons were treated in 1925-26, while in 1926-27 the total was 37,647. The attendances of these patients rose in number from 172,149 in 1925-26 to 200,956 in 1926-27. The total of the receipts for the year 1926-27 in all the accounts was £68,690. The principal items of receipt were Government grants, £16,350; municipal grants, £1,385; private contributions, £5,375; revenue from entertainments in aid, £778; Hospital Sunday collections, £1,753; Lord Mayor's Fund, £2,780; in-door patients' fees, £8,495; out-door patients' fees, £6,804; interest, £629; visitors' contributions, £4,108; special donations and bequests, £14,933; donations from auxiliary, £2,275; and miscellaneous, £3,025 (including £1,422 Government on account V.D. Clinic). The total expenditure on maintenance was £73,967, and in addition £11,045 was spent on buildings, furniture, fittings, &c. The Alfred Hospital was equipped early in 1924 with a powerful wireless receiving plant, with installation throughout the different wards, enabling most of the patients to receive the benefit of wireless broad-casting by means of individual head telephone sets. The Hospital is recognized by the University of Melbourne as a clinical school for gynaecology and the diseases of children. During 1925 extensive additions were made to the X-ray pavilion and a fine new building for the bio-chemistry department was erected and equipped. This is now known as the Thos. Baker, Alice Baker and Eleanor Shaw Medical Research Institute, and its maintenance is guaranteed until 1931 by the sponsors of the Institute. Important additions to the out-patients' building are in preparation.

The Alfred Hospital has a very fine clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases, the institution being the first in this State to establish such a department.

During 1926 the Pathological Laboratory was enlarged by the addition of a museum, made possible by a generous donation from the estate of the late Mr. H. J. Stead. In the museum specimens are displayed in natural colors by an original scheme of reflected electric light.

Arrangements have been made for the teaching of students, and a screen has been provided for demonstrating lectures by lantern slides and moving pictures. The Hospital's activities in this direction are well to the fore amongst similar institutions of its kind.

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

HEALTH ACT 1919.

The main features of this Act are given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 383 to 385.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

Greenvale Sanatorium. The Greenvale Sanatorium at Broadmeadows for incipient and early stage cases was opened for the reception of patients on 10th May, 1905. It was established by the Government, and is under the control of the Public Health Department. Females only are now admitted to the institution, and provision is made for 90 patients. During the year ended 31st December, 1926, 185 patients were treated at the sanatorium, 60 of these being cases admitted during the previous year. Of this number, 60 did very well and were discharged apparently cured or greatly benefited, and 20 were discharged not benefited or incurable. Coupled with the last-mentioned cases were other patients who were discharged either at their own request after a brief stay, or for disciplinary reasons, and some who were sent in for a short period for educational purposes, making a total of 47. Three deaths occurred during the year. At the end of the period under review there were 55 patients remaining under care. The benefits of treatment and education that the institution affords to cases of consumption in the early stages have now been received by 5,587 patients. Of these, 3,434 had the disease arrested or their condition much improved; 1,085 were not benefited or were incurable; 115 died; and 898 left of their own accord. A most important function of the institution is the teaching of patients how to avoid communicating the disease to others. Immediately after the admission of a patient to the sanatorium the house or room vacated is disinfected under the supervision of the municipal council of the district, a centre of infection being thus removed.

Amherst and Heatherton Sanatoria. The Amherst Sanatorium, for early-stage cases, is maintained by the Government and administered by the local hospital authorities under the direction of the Public Health Department. It is now reserved for the treatment of males only, and there is, ordinarily, accommodation at the institution for 80 patients. During the year 1926, 210 patients were treated, of whom 109 were discharged with the disease arrested or their condition much

improved ; 11 left, not benefited ; 10 left of their own accord ; 6 died ; and 74 remained under treatment at the end of the year. Sanatorium treatment has now been received by 2,594 patients. Of these, 2,141 were discharged cured or relieved ; 94 left of their own accord ; 213 were incurable ; 72 died ; and 74 remained on 31st December, 1926.

There is a sanatorium for intermediate and advanced cases of both sexes at Heatherton, near Cheltenham, adjacent to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. The sanatorium now contains 124 beds. There were on 1st January, 1926, 109 persons in the institution, and the number admitted during the succeeding twelve months was 182, making a total of 291 who received treatment during the year 1926. Of these, 106 were discharged, 67 died, and 118 were under care at the end of the year.

With regard to other cases of advanced consumption, 89 beds are provided at the Austin Hospital, and 36 beds at Janefield, which is controlled by the Austin Hospital authorities.

**St. John
Ambulance
Association.**

The work carried on by this Association is referred to in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 582. Its objects are to instruct all classes of people in the preliminary treatment of the sick and the injured. Full information in regard to the formation of classes may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. J. Harold Lord, 217 Lonsdale-street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 1370.)

**Victorian Civil
Ambulance
Service.**

This service attended to 12,250 calls, of which 2,002 were connected with accidents, during the year ended 30th June, 1927 ; the mileage travelled was 125,056. In 2,991 cases no fee was paid. Country trips, to the number of 728 (one of over 350 miles), were undertaken during the year. The decentralisation of the service has commenced by the inauguration of Ambulance Stations at Preston, Prahran and Hawthorn, with the intention of extending same to all suburban areas.

In addition, 19 Country Ambulance Stations have been successfully opened and operated since March, 1923, under the Country Division of the Service, with a view to providing ambulance facilities throughout all districts in Victoria. These Country Stations conveyed 1,688 patients, the distance covered being 27,633 miles.

The registered office and head depot is situated at 217 Lonsdale street, Melbourne. (Telephone, Central 121.)

**Charity
Organization
Society.**

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

The income and outgo for the year ended 30th June, 1926, were—Administration Account (for payment of all general expenses of management as well as all charges connected with the administration of the trust and relief funds)—Receipts, £2,212 ; expenditure, £2,591 ;

Trust Account (being donations for special applicants and objects)—Receipts, £2,687; expenditure, £2,899; Emergency Relief Account—Donations and refunds, £330; expenditure, £312. The number of separate cases dealt with during the year was 3,896, of which 1,938 had not previously come under the notice of the society. The total number of cases actually investigated was 2,321. During the year under review 147 men and women obtained temporary or permanent employment through the Society's assistance. The records of the Society now contain more than 38,000 social histories of distressed families and individuals.

**Royal
Humane
Society.**

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia was established in 1874 under the name of "The Victoria Humane Society." Its objects are as follows:—(1) To bestow awards on all who promptly risk their lives to save those of their fellow-creatures; (2) To provide assistance, as far as it is in the power of the society, in all cases of apparent death occurring in any part of Australasia; (3) To restore the apparently drowned or dead, and to distinguish by awards all who, through skill and perseverance, are successful; (4) To collect and circulate information regarding the most approved methods and the best apparatus to be used for such purposes.

During the year ended 30th June, 1927, 73 applications for awards were investigated, with the result that 14 certificates, 15 bronze medals, 4 silver and 1 gold medal were granted. The receipts during 1926-27 amounted to £554, and the expenditure to £504. The institution has placed and maintains 343 life-buoys at various places on the coast, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs throughout all the Australian States and Fiji. The society has an honorary correspondent in the capital city of each State.

Swimming competitions have been inaugurated in the schools of the Commonwealth, and awards of medals and certificates are made to those pupils who attain proficiency in exercises which have special reference to saving life from drowning. The society makes a special feature of the development of swimming and life saving proficiency.

**Royal Life
Saving
Society.**

With a desire to minimize the great loss of life from drowning a society was established in Melbourne in 1904 entitled the "Royal Life Saving Society." Its objects are:—(1) To promote technical education in life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned; (2) To stimulate public opinion in favour of the general adoption of swimming and life saving as a branch of instruction in schools, colleges, &c.; (3) To encourage floating, diving, plunging, and such other swimming arts as would be of assistance to a person endeavouring to save life; (4) To arrange and promote public lectures, demonstrations and competitions, and to form classes of instruction, so as to bring about a widespread and thorough knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of natation.

The work done by the society has increased greatly since its inauguration, and in 1926-27 the awards granted totalled 1,897. The total income for 1926-27 was £1,294 and the expenditure £1,219. The whole of the State schools in Victoria have become affiliated to the society, and it is expected that the awards will be considerably increased as the result of this connexion.

The objects of this society are given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 589. During the year ended 30th June, 1926, 3,218 cases were dealt with by it, of which 2,172 were connected with cruelty to horses. There were 168 prosecutions in cases of deliberate cruelty, in nearly all of which the law was vindicated by the punishment of the offenders. The receipts for the year amounted to £8,078, and the expenditure to £3,424.

The initiation of the movement to assist in the maintenance of the Metropolitan Hospitals and Charities, which resulted in the inauguration of the Lord Mayor's Fund, is credited to the late Sir J. W. Swanson, K.B., a former Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The first definite step to make the fund a permanent one was taken in April, 1923, when a chief executive officer and organizing secretary was appointed. An important feature of the first year's work was the merging of the Hospital Saturday Fund in the Lord Mayor's Fund. No change was made in regard to the constitution or administrative functions of the Hospital Sunday committee. The receipts and disbursements of the Lord Mayor's Fund from 1st July, 1926, to 30th June, 1927, are given hereunder:—

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE LORD MAYOR'S FUND, 1ST JULY, 1926, TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	£		£
Hospital Saturday (1926) ..	14,724	Distributions made to	
General donations, etc. ..	6,699	Institutions from General	
Police Carnival	3,341	Fund	23,075
Flower Day	2,525	Distributions to specified	
Donations for specified in-		donees	24,464
stitutions	24,464	Salaries of secretary and staff	1,750
		Miscellaneous	1,186
	51,753	Surplus	487
Less expenses, covered by		Purchase of Inscribed Gov-	
relative donations	291	ernment Stock (Endow-	
		ment A/c)	500
Total	51,462		51,462

The amounts allocated to the various charitable institutions in 1926-27 from the Lord Mayor's Fund, including Hospital Saturday receipts, and from the Hospital Sunday Fund were as follows :—

Institution.	From Lord Mayor's Fund.	From Hospital Sunday Fund.	Total.
	£	£	£
Melbourne Hospital	8,444	2,709	11,153
Alfred Hospital	3,642	2,048	5,690
Children's Hospital	2,897	1,086	3,983
Women's Hospital	1,907	862	2,769
Austin Hospital	1,810	1,008	2,818
St. Vincent's Hospital	2,213	846	3,059
Melbourne Benevolent Asylum	957	658	1,615
Queen Victoria Hospital	1,020	314	1,334
Homœopathic Hospital	1,187	410	1,597
Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society	1,170	..	1,170
Eye and Ear Hospital	858	395	1,253
Williamstown Hospital	315	164	479
Melbourne District Nursing Society	710	319	1,029
Salvation Army	453	..	453
Talbot Colony for Epileptics	550	281	831
St. John Ambulance Association	233	..	233
Other institutions	19,173	642	19,815
Total distributed	47,539	11,742	59,281

In Melbourne and suburbs the last Saturday and Sunday of October in each year are set apart for making collections for the Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds. The following amounts were collected in each of the last ten years :—1917, £19,020; 1918, £22,447; 1919, £18,586; 1920, £19,750; 1921, £29,723; 1922, £20,368 (including a bequest of £2,461 from the estate of a deceased person); 1923, £24,013; 1924, £30,100; 1925, £31,100; and 1926, £32,000. The amount distributed in 1926 was £30,692.

The total amount which has been collected since the movement was inaugurated in 1873 is £612,532.

Wattle Day.

On a day fixed, about the middle of August in each year, ladies attired in white costumes sell sprigs of wattle blossom in the streets and elsewhere, and the amounts obtained are allotted to charities for children. The sums which have been raised each year during the last ten years are as follows :—1917, £7,000; 1918, £7,238; 1919, £5,393; 1920, £4,304; 1921, £5,951; 1922, £5,293; 1923,

£6,674; 1924, £7,645; 1925, £5,872; and 1926, £6,566. From 1915 to 1920 the Wattle Day collection was organized and controlled by the Commonwealth Button Fund, and emblematic "buttons" and badges were sold in addition to wattle blossom. The Commonwealth Button Fund was wound up in January, 1921, and the organization of the annual Wattle Day appeal is now undertaken by the Children's Welfare Association. This association consists of all the societies participating in the appeal, and its work is carried out by a body of voluntary assistants. From 1923 to 1925 Mrs. J. S. Winter was the hon. organizer for the movement. In 1926 Mrs. L. L. Haymanson organized the campaign in an honorary capacity.

INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

Federal Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act. These pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government under an act passed in 1908 and amending acts. The *Year-Book* for 1916-17 contains, on pages 591 to 597, information relating to the amounts of pensions payable and the persons entitled to receive them. The amounts have since been increased.

The maximum pension, whether old-age or invalid, is £1 per week. This rate was paid from 8th October, 1925. The commencing age for old-age pensions is 65 years in the case of men (60 years where a man is permanently incapacitated for work) and 60 years in the case of women.

The number of old-age and invalid pensioners in Victoria on 30th June, 1927, was as follows:—Old-age pensioners—men, 14,653; women, 24,049; total, 38,702. Invalid pensioners—men, 6,945; women, 8,382; total, 15,327.

Of the persons living in Victoria at or above the ages at which old-age pensions commence, 34½ per cent. were receiving pensions on 30th June, 1927.

Pensioners, 1901 to 1926-27. The State system of old-age pensions came into force on 18th January, 1901, and the highest number of pensioners was reached in November, 1901, when 16,300 were on the register. Alterations in the Act in the direction of compelling relatives, when in a position to do so, to support applicants for pensions had the effect of reducing the number to 10,732 in 1907. On 1st July, 1909, when the Federal Act came into operation, there were 12,368 old-age pensioners in Victoria. Thereafter the number rapidly increased, and on 30th June, 1927, it had reached a total of 38,702

(exclusive of invalid pensioners). The number of old-age and invalid pensioners at the end of each financial year from the inception of the system and the amount expended each year are shown in the following statement:—

**OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONERS IN VICTORIA.
1901 TO 1927.**

Financial Year.	Number of Pensioners at end of Period.			Actual Amount Paid in Pensions.
	Old-Age.	Invalid.	Total.	
13th January to 30th June, 1901 (under State Act)	16,275	...	16,275	£ 129,338
1901-2	14,570	...	14,570	292,432
1902-3	12,417	...	12,417	215,973
1903-4	11,609	...	11,609	205,150
1904-5	11,209	...	11,209	200,464
1905-6	10,990	...	10,990	189,127
1906-7	10,732	...	10,732	187,793
1907-8	11,288	...	11,288	233,573
1908-9	12,368	...	12,368	270,827
1909-10 (under Federal Act)...	20,218	...	20,218	470,656
1910-11 " " ...	23,722	2,272	25,994	573,699
1911-12 " " ...	24,449	3,162	27,611	672,593
1912-13 " " ...	25,434	3,918	29,352	715,924
1913-14 " " ...	27,150	4,844	31,994	795,449
1914-15 " " ...	28,365	6,054	34,419	839,718
1915-16 " " ...	28,446	6,869	35,315	908,159
1916-17 " " ...	29,064	7,921	36,985	1,070,386
1917-18 " " ...	29,159	8,901	38,060	1,168,498
1918-19 " " ...	29,179	9,337	38,516	1,199,787
1919-20 " " ...	29,565	10,277	39,842	1,348,100*
1920-21 " " ...	30,385	11,174	41,559	1,533,430*
1921-22 " " ...	30,958	11,444	42,402	1,581,898*
1922-23 " " ...	31,248	11,707	42,955	1,589,362*
1923-24 " " ...	32,603	12,220	44,823	1,947,069*
1924-25 " " ...	33,845	12,950	46,795	2,027,202*
1925-26 " " ...	36,800	14,062	50,862	2,348,571*
1926-27 " " ...	38,702	15,327	54,029	2,666,470*

* This includes payments of pensions of 2s. per week (increased to 3s. per week from 13th September, 1923, and to 4s. per week from 8th October, 1925) to inmates of Benevolent Asylums. There were 1,197 such pensions in force on 30th June, 1927.

An act was passed by the Federal Parliament in October, 1912, providing for the payment, on application, of £5 to the mother of every child born in the Commonwealth on and after 10th October, 1912. The number of claims granted in Victoria to 30th June, 1927, was 514,346 and the total of the allowances paid in the State to that date was £2,571,730.

For the year ended 30th June, 1927, the number of claims granted was 35,202, and the amount paid in allowances, £176,010.

Maternity Allowance.

LUNACY DEPARTMENT.

**Lunacy
Department.**

The subjoined table sets forth the numbers under the care of the Department for the years 1925 and 1926 :—

INSANE PERSONS ON THE REGISTERS OF THE LUNACY DEPARTMENT, 31st DECEMBER, 1925 AND 1926.

	On 31st December—		Increase (+). Decrease (—).
	1925.	1926.	
In State Hospitals	5,406	5,493	+ 87
On Trial Leave from State Hospitals	659	703	+ 49
Boarded Out	127	128	+ 1
In Licensed Houses	75	86	+ 11
On Trial Leave from Licensed Houses	15	10	— 5
Total Number of Registered Insane	6,282	6,425	+ 143
In Receiving Institutions	93	87	— 6
Total	6,375	6,512	+ 137
Voluntary Boarders	72	64	— 8
Cases of Mental Disorder in Returned Soldiers (not included in other statistics)	150	158	+ 8

The number of admissions to Hospitals for Insane for each of the years 1922 to 1926 is given below :—

Year.	First Admissions.			Re-admissions.			Total Admissions.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1922	388	330	718	46	74	120	838
1923	379	284	663	91	73	164	827
1924	349	314	663	53	93	146	809
1925	370	283	653	29	64	93	746
1926	384	345	729	50	62	112	841

The number of discharges from, and the deaths in, the Hospitals for the Insane for each of the years 1922 to 1926 are given below :—

Year.	Discharges.			Deaths.			Total of Discharges and Deaths.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1922 ..	156	143	299	231	145	376	675
1923 ..	160	153	313	276	198	474	787
1924 ..	142	151	293	254	176	430	723
1925 ..	147	145	292	198	158	356	648
1926 ..	141	151	292	208	195	403	695

With the exception of 1920, the admission rate for 1926 is the highest the Department of the Hospitals for the Insane has to record. The number admitted to the Receiving Houses also is the highest for five years. The result is that, whilst there has been an increase in the number of those allowed out on trial leave, and a slightly increased death rate, there is an increase in the numbers resident in the State Hospitals of 87, and in the total number of the registered insane of 143. The ratio of insane to population has risen, therefore, to 1 to 266 from 1 to 268. The important figure, however, is that there is an increase of 87 persons for which accommodation has to be provided for in the State Hospitals, increases in the private and military Institutions being comparatively unimportant in this respect.

There were 194 patients received on voluntary requests into the various Institutions known to the Department, of whom 153 were discharged subsequently.

The discharges from the State Hospitals totalled 292, and from the Receiving Houses, 298.

Deaths totalled 403, i.e., 47 more than in 1925, but the rate is still appreciably below the death rate of the last 25 years, and calls for no special comment.

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Neglected and reformatory children. There were at the end of 1926 two industrial and four reformatory schools in the State. Two of these (one industrial and one reformatory school) are wholly maintained and managed by the Government, and are used merely as receiving and distributing dépôts, the children being sent as soon as possible after admission thereto to foster homes or situations, or to other institutions for dealing with State wards. The other schools are under private management and receive a capitation allowance from the Government for those inmates who are wards of

the Children's Welfare Department. Many of the inmates of the reformatories are either placed with friends or licensed out. The wards of the State on 31st December, 1926, numbered 6,913—6,772 neglected and 141 reformatory children—and there were 28 others, free from legal control, who, being incapacitated, were maintained by the State. The following table shows the number of neglected and reformatory children under control at the end of each of the last five years :—

NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY CHILDREN, 1922 TO 1926.

Year.	NUMBER OF NEGLECTED CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Neglected Children.
	Boarded Out.	Placed with friends on Probation.	Maintaining themselves at Service or Apprenticed.	In Institutions (including Hospitals)	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1922 ...	4,189	904	434	515	5	*6,047
1923 ...	4,133	1,172	431	510	1	*6,247
1924 ...	4,123	1,263	480	495	2	*6,363
1925 ...	4,212	1,355	501	508	1	*6,577
1926 ...	4,263	1,497	470	533	9	*6,772

Year.	NUMBER OF REFORMATORY CHILDREN AT THE END OF THE YEAR.					Total Reformatory Children.
	In Reformatory Schools.	Placed with Relatives.	Maintaining themselves at Service.	In Institutions (including Hospitals).	Visiting Relatives, &c.	
1922 ...	65	23	29	3	1	121
1923 ...	64	22	26	1	...	113
1924 ...	75	30	19	...	1	125
1925 ...	86	29	19	1	...	135
1926 ...	83	45	13	...	...	141

* Under the provisions of section 9 of the *Children's Maintenance Act* 1919, 5,392 children, who had previously been committed as "neglected" children and boarded out to their mothers, were discharged as wards of the State, but payments for their maintenance were continued to the mothers. At the end of 1926 there were 8,532 such children.

Children boarded out, &c.

The welfare of the children boarded out is cared for by honorary committees, who send to the Department reports as to their general condition. The rate paid by the Government to persons accepting charge of these children is 12s. 6d. per week for children under 18 months, and 8s. per week for those over that age. These rates have been payable since 1st December, 1921. For the previous twelve months the rates were 11s. 6d. per week for children under 12 months, and 8s. per week for those of an older age. Children from either industrial or reformatory schools may be placed with friends on probation, without wages, or at service.

Children committed to the care of the State, 1926. The circumstances leading to the commitment of children to the care of the Department in 1926 were as follows :—

Cases in which Parents were held to be—						Number.
Blameable—One Parent—						
Father	deserted	and mother	dead	..	..	22
"	"	"	in asylum	..	..	4
"	"	"	poor	..	..	269
"	drunkard	"	dead	..	..	1
"	"	"	poor	..	..	9
"	in gaol	"	dead	..	..	5
"	"	"	invalid	..	..	4
"	"	"	poor	..	..	7
"	of doubtful character	and mother	poor	..	..	1
"	unknown	and mother	dead	..	..	9
"	"	"	invalid	..	..	3
"	"	"	mental	..	..	5
"	"	"	poor	..	..	29
Mother	deserted	and father	dead	..	..	8
"	"	"	invalid	..	..	8
"	"	"	poor	..	..	12
"	drunkard	"	dead	..	..	3
"	of doubtful character	and father	dead	..	..	19
"	"	"	invalid	..	..	2
"	"	"	poor	..	..	2
Both Parents—						
Father	deserted	and mother	of doubtful character	..	..	16
"	drunkard	"	"	..	..	5
"	in gaol	and mother	deserted	..	..	2
"	of doubtful character	and mother	deserted	..	..	4
"	unknown	and mother	deserted	..	..	15
"	"	"	of doubtful character	..	..	5
Parents	deserted	..	..	..	..	36
"	of doubtful character	..	..	..	..	2
"	unknown	..	..	..	..	8
Total						515
Blameless—Both Parents—						
Father	an invalid	and mother	dead	..	..	16
"	"	"	poor	..	..	14
"	dead	and mother	an invalid	..	..	3
"	"	"	insane	..	..	3
"	"	"	poor	..	..	65
"	in asylum	and mother	dead	..	..	4
"	"	"	poor	..	..	1
"	in Sanatorium	and mother	dead	..	..	5
"	poor	and mother	an invalid	..	..	6
"	"	"	dead	..	..	21
"	"	"	in asylum	..	..	4
Parents	dead	..	..	..	..	77
"	invalids	..	..	..	..	2
"	poor	..	..	..	..	107
Total						328
Total number of children placed under control during the year ..						843

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE ACT 1919, No. 3001.

A statement of the principal provisions of this Act is given in the *Year-Book* for 1919-20, pages 395 and 396. For the twelve months ended 31st December, 1926, assistance was granted under the Children's Maintenance Act in respect of 2,731 children, and 8,532 children were boarded out to their mothers at the end of the year, an increase of 378 as compared with the number at the end of the previous year, viz., 8,154.

The following statement shows the number of wards of the State and of children boarded out with their mothers for the years 1911 to 1926 inclusive :—

WARDS OF STATE AND CHILDREN BOARDED OUT WITH MOTHERS, 1911 TO 1926.

Year.	Number boarded out to Foster Mothers at end of Year.	Number boarded out with Mothers at end of Year.	Total number boarded out at end of Year.	Total Cost of maintenance of boarded out Children.	Other Wards of State.	Total Wards of State and Children† boarded out with Mothers.
				£		
1911 ..	2,958	2,358	5,316	74,719	1,865	7,181
1912 ..	2,991	2,978	5,969	83,327	1,815	7,784
1913 ..	3,090	3,696	6,786	93,509	1,767	8,553
1914 ..	3,342	4,144	7,486	102,051	1,853	9,339
1915 ..	3,359	4,681	8,040	127,898*	2,136	10,176
1916 ..	3,817	4,984	8,801	140,752	1,979	10,780
1917 ..	3,979	5,151	9,130	147,794	2,013	11,143
1918 ..	3,981	5,324	9,305	153,350	2,042	11,347
1919 ..	3,989	6,206†	10,195	161,944*	2,142	12,337
1920 ..	4,128	6,928†	11,056	210,457*	2,098	13,154
1921 ..	4,281	7,534†	11,815	249,555*	1,945	13,760
1922 ..	4,189	7,651†	11,840	264,257	1,979	13,819
1923 ..	4,133	7,641†	11,774	268,255	2,227	14,001
1924 ..	4,123	7,660†	11,783	274,628	2,365	14,148
1925 ..	4,212	8,154†	12,366	284,384	2,500	14,866
1926 ..	4,263	8,532†	12,795	308,250	2,650	15,445

* Payment for children over the age of two years was increased from 5s. to 6s. per week from 1st April, 1915, and from 6s. to 7s. per week from 1st December, 1919. On 1st November, 1920, payment was increased from 10s. to 11s. 6d. per week for children under the age of 12 months, and from 7s. to 8s. per week for all over that age. From 1st December, 1921, the rate of pay for children under the age of 12 months was increased from 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per week, and for those between 12 and 18 months from 8s. to 12s. 6d. per week.

† Not wards of State.

‡ These children were wards of State prior to 1919.

Cost of
maintenance
of neglected
and reforma-
tory children.

The governmental expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children amounted in 1926 to £346,579, and that for reformatory school children to £4,476; the expenses of administration amounted to £15,781, making a total gross expenditure of £366,836. A sum of £17,857 was received from parents for maintenance, and of £111 from other sources, making the net expenditure £348,868. The number of neglected children under supervision on 31st December, 1926, was 6,772; of this total, 4,263 were maintained in foster homes, 208 were in Government receiving dépôts, 294 were in other institutions, 470 were at service earning their own living, 31 were in hospitals, 9 were on a visit, and 1,497 were with relatives and others at no cost to the State. The number of reformatory wards under supervision on 31st December, 1926, was 141. Of this number 83 were maintained in private schools, 13 were in service earning their own living, and 45 were with relatives at no cost to the State. The expenditure for the maintenance of neglected children has increased greatly during the past ten years, as is shown by the statement which follows :—

NET COST TO THE STATE OF NEGLECTED AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN, 1917 TO 1926.

Year.			Net Expenditure.	Year.			Net Expenditure.
			£				£
1917	..	..	167,214	1922	..	..	295,440
1918	..	..	171,474	1923	..	..	299,456
1919	..	..	181,385	1924	..	..	312,943
1920	..	..	238,448	1925	..	..	322,710
1921	..	..	282,380	1926	..	..	348,868

Neglected
children
maintained
by societies
or private
persons.

Part VIII. of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1915 deals with the committal of neglected children to the care of private persons or institutions approved by the Governor in Council, and also provides for the wardship of the children, and for their transference, if there be sufficient cause, to the control of the Children's Welfare Department. The following return shows the societies and persons registered under the provisions of this part of the Act, and gives particulars respecting the children under their care during 1926 :—

WORK OF SOCIETIES AND PERSONS REGISTERED UNDER PART VIII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Name of Society or Person.	Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.25.	Admissions during 1926.			Number of Children under Supervision on 31.12.26.
		Court Committals.	Transfer of Guardianship.	Voluntary Admissions.	
Melbourne Orphanage Asylum, Brighton	304	..	..	96	309
Presbyterian and Scots' Church Society	289	1	7	29	286
Victorian Children's Aid Society	132	..	9	43	134
Church of England Mission..	132	5	7	30	130
Methodist Homes, Cheltenham	300	3	7	49	206
Gordon Institute ..	64	3	1	9	63
Burwood Boys' Home	48	2	..	43	30
Methodist Boys' Home (Central Mission Training Farm) ..	75	10	..	32	82
Presbyterian Girls' Home, Elsternwick ..	36	1	3	..	33
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	167	3	155	131	120
Sutherland Homes ..	156	..	4	67	164
Minton Boys' Home, (Ragged Boys' Home) ..	43	..	31	..	56
Church of England Boys' Home, Auburn and Canterbury ..	57	..	8	..	57
Kilmany Park Boys' Home, Sale	36	3	3	9	45
Seaside Garden Home for Boys, Newhaven ..	83	9	..	84	105
Mrs. Emily Dare, 56 Francis-street, Yarraville ..	..	5	33	..	33
Church of England Home, Clarendon-street, East Melbourne ..	29	2	13	34	49
St. Agnes' Home for Girls, Glenroy ..	29	..	13	20	35
St. Nicholas' Home for Boys, Glenroy ..	..	..	19	54	49
Central Mission, 47 Lang-street, South Yarra ..	4	7	..	8	3
Total	1,984	54	313	747	1,994

Total number of neglected and orphan children. The number of children who were under the guardianship of the State or maintained in public institutions or by societies on 31st December, 1926, reached the large total of 19,233, viz., 6,941 (6,913 State wards and 28 incapacitated) under the control of the Children's Welfare Department, 8,532 boarded out with mothers, 1,994 under the supervision of societies registered under Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, 352 in Foundling Hospitals, and 1,414 in Orphan Asylums.

Infant Life Protection Act. With the view generally of exercising more efficient supervision over unprotected child life, and of lessening the excessive mortality amongst boarded-out children, the State Legislature passed an act, No. 2102 (which came into force on 31st December, 1907), to amend the Infant Life Protection Act of 1890. These acts are now incorporated in the *Infant Life Protection Act 1915* (No. 2670).

On 31st December, 1926, there were 364 children under supervision in registered homes under the provisions of this Act. The deaths during the year numbered 19. In addition, 127 children became wards of the Children's Welfare Department by the operation of section 15 of the Act. Forty-four cases of adoption of children were notified during the year. Five female inspectors are engaged in the work of inspection.

RELIEF FUNDS.

VICTORIAN MINING ACCIDENT RELIEF FUND

Victorian
Mining
Accident
Relief Fund.

In December, 1882, an inrush of water in the New Australasian Company's mine at Creswick caused the deaths of 22 miners. Consequent on this disaster 79 persons, comprising 18 widows and 61 children, were left in destitute circumstances. Public subscriptions to the amount of £21,602 were raised throughout Victoria for the relief of the widows and orphan children of those who lost their lives, and a fund was established, out of which the widows and children to a certain age were paid weekly allowances. On 31st December, 1926, there remained on the fund five widows, who were receiving 15s. per week each. In addition to the amounts paid to these recipients, grants of surplus moneys are made annually to deserving cases. In 1926, the sum so allotted was £927. The amount at credit of the fund on that date was £24,616, of which £9,500 was a mortgage on freehold premises in Queen-street, Melbourne, £9,500 was invested in Commonwealth bonds, £5,607 was in Victorian Government inscribed stock and debentures, and £9 was cash in hand.

VICTORIAN COAL MINERS' ACCIDENTS RELIEF FUND.

Victorian
Coal Miners'
Accidents
Relief Fund.

A provision of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1909 (No. 2240)—now the *Coal Mines Regulation Act* 1915 (No. 2630)—relates to the constitution of a Fund called the Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Fund, to which every person employed in a coal mine is compelled to contribute 4½d. per week, the mine-owners paying an amount equal to one-half of that deducted from the miners' wages, and the Government of Victoria a sum equal to the payment by the owners. The Board held its first meeting on 4th April, 1910, and decided that the employers' contributions should commence from 2nd April, 1910. Committees were formed at the collieries (numbering 7 in 1926), their principal functions being to collect contributions and, subject to the approval of the Board, to allot the allowances.

During 1926 the contributions from employees amounted to £1,569, and the allowances paid at the mines totalled £1,041. For the year ended 31st December, 1926, the total revenue was £3,435—remittances from committees at the mines amounting to £706, miscellaneous to £1, and interest to £1,074, and the balance being contributed

by the mine-owners (£823) and the Government (£831). The expenditure included £1,568 paid in allowances in addition to the amounts paid at the mines, and £411 cost of administration. The accumulated funds amounted to £24,040—£8,700 invested in Victorian Government $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. inscribed stock, £1,300 in Victorian Government 6 per cent. inscribed stock, £1,100 in Victorian Government $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. inscribed stock, £12,500 in Commonwealth inscribed stock, and £440 bank balance. Relief was given in 373 non-fatal cases. In respect to non-fatal accidents, there are 23 persons on the permanently disabled list, the number of children dependent upon such persons being 15. Two fatal accidents occurred during the year. There are 15 widows, 2 mothers, and 21 children receiving aid from the fund as the result of fatalities during 1926 and previous years.

WATSON SUSTENTATION FUND.

**The Watson
Sustentation
Fund.**

This fund was inaugurated as the result of an offer made by the late Mr. J. B. Watson to the Bendigo Miners' Association about the year 1889. Information in relation to its establishment is given in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17, page 612. Payments to beneficiaries were first made in 1891 at the rate of 5s. per week, and this rate was maintained for about two years, when the sick pay was increased to 7s. 6d. per week. Further changes were afterwards made as necessity arose.

The following are the particulars of members of the Fund relieved, &c., and of receipts and expenditure:—From the inception of the Fund in 1891 to the end of 1926 the total expenditure was £39,662, of which £35,530 represented sick pay and £3,314 donations to members and wives and families of deceased members. During 1926, 42 members were relieved and 13 died, and 29 were on the funds at the end of the year. The receipts for the year were £647. Sick pay for 1926 amounted to £444, donations to members and wives and families of deceased members to £86, and expenses of administration to £30; the total expenditure being £560. The balance in hand at the end of the year 1925 was £764, and at the end of 1926, £851.

QUEEN'S FUND.

Queen's Fund.

This fund was instituted in 1887 by Lady Loch to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria. It is for the relief of women in distress, and it is arranged that only the interest on the capital shall be expended yearly. The number of women relieved during 1926-27 was 50, to whom £542 was allotted either by way of grant or loan, and the cost of management was £230. The accumulated fund on 30th June, 1927, was £17,076. In addition to the ordinary receipts of the Fund for the year 1926-27 (£762) an amount of £260 was received from the trustees of the Walter and Elizabeth Hall Trust for distribution to governesses, nurses, and ladies

in similar positions who from age, misfortune, or infirmity were unable to earn their living. A sum of £260 was distributed in this manner, £1 was expended on management, and £17 remained in the bank at the date of balancing.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

Patriotic Funds.

The *Year-Book* for 1918-19 contains, on pages 391 and 392, a statement of the collections in money and the value of the goods contributed in the State of Victoria to the various Patriotic Funds from the outbreak of hostilities to the 31st December, 1918. The total amount for the State, including contributions received after the last-mentioned date, is estimated to have been well over £4,000,000.

IMMIGRATION BUREAU.

Immigration Bureau.

The Immigration Bureau, which is a branch of the Lands Department, deals with the subject of assisted immigration to Victoria.

On 1st March, 1921, a joint Commonwealth and State Scheme of Immigration came into operation, and from that date the Government of the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the booking of passages for nominated and other settlers proceeding to Australia, and took over all administrative work in London, including advertising and the medical inspection of prospective settlers.

Approval of nominations is dealt with by the State authorities, who also indicate the classes and numbers of persons who it is considered may be absorbed in the population without detriment to local artisans and other residents, and for whom it is desired that passages be arranged. To the States is also intrusted the matter of settling on the land or providing employment for new arrivals.

The Government, through this Bureau and in other ways, affords all advice and assistance possible to prospective settlers arriving from overseas, whether desiring to take up land or to obtain employment. In the cases of private purchases of land by new arrivals, valuations on their behalf will, if desired, be made by expert officers free of charge. Nominated passages may be arranged from Great Britain, also under special conditions from Canada and other British Dominions and the United States of America. The Government contributes from £16 10s. upwards towards the fares of approved nominees from Great Britain, special concessions being available in the cases of married couples, widows and widowers with young families.

Nomination forms and all particulars as to rates, &c., may be obtained on application to the Officer-in-Charge, Immigration Bureau, 17 Russell-street, Melbourne, with whom nominations should be lodged. Inquiries in Great Britain should be addressed to the Director, Commonwealth Migration and Settlement Office, Australia House, Strand, London.

INTERCHANGE.

COMMERCE.

Customs and Excise. By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (section 51) the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries and among the States was conferred on the Federal Parliament, and by the same Act (section 86) the collection and control of duties of Customs and Excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1st January, 1901. The first Commonwealth Customs Tariff was introduced by Resolution on 8th October, 1901, from which date the duties came into effect. The Tariff Act was assented to on 16th September, 1902. Extensive alterations of duties were made by Tariffs brought down on 8th August, 1907, and 3rd December, 1914. The present Tariff which also very materially altered previous duties came into operation on 25th March, 1920, and was assented to on 16th December, 1921. Amendments affecting a number of the duties of that Tariff have since been made. There are three scales of duties—British Preferential, Intermediate, and General. The first relates to goods which are the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, but its provisions may be applied wholly or in part to any of the British Dominions. The Intermediate Tariff may be applied to any part of the British Dominions, or to any foreign country.

Recorded Value of Imports and Exports.

The recorded value of goods imported represents the amount on which duty is payable or would be payable if the duty were charged *ad valorem*. Such amount is:—

- (a) the current domestic value in the country whence the goods were exported, or the actual price paid or to be paid, if higher; plus
- (b) all charges paid, to be paid, or ordinarily payable for placing the goods free on board at port of export; plus
- (c) ten per cent. of the total of (a) and (b) as representing cost of insurance, freight and other charges.

When the value of imported goods is shown on invoices in any currency other than British, the equivalent value in British currency is ascertained according to the commercial rates of exchange. The value of goods exported is taken to represent the value in the principal markets of the State in the ordinary commercial acceptance of the term.

Overseas
Imports and
Exports.

The total values and the values per head of population of imports from and exports to overseas countries for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27 are set forth hereunder :—

VALUE OF OVERSEA IMPORTS AND EXPORTS,
1917-18 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.*	Total.	Per Head of Population.
IMPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1917-18	20,669,696	443,892	21,113,588	14 18 0
1918-19	35,026,311	..	35,026,311	24 7 4
1919-20	33,785,847	2,440	33,788,287	22 9 6
1920-21	57,607,798	979	57,608,777	37 14 0
1921-22	36,343,061	8,995	36,352,056	23 8 10
1922-23	46,724,379	4,721	46,729,100	29 7 8
1923-24	49,566,219	26,424	49,592,643	30 10 3
1924-25	49,747,319	4,542,371	54,289,690	32 15 3
1925-26	50,279,350	47,705	50,327,055	29 17 8
1926-27†	55,420,697	140,202	55,560,899	32 9 2
EXPORTS (OVERSEA).				
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1917-18	18,715,252	2,001,436	20,716,688	14 12 4
1918-19	27,823,980	271,179	28,095,159	19 10 11
1919-20	42,117,153	1,007,787	43,124,940	28 13 9
1920-21	34,868,871	3,090	34,871,961	22 16 5
1921-22	34,633,478	10,704	34,644,182	22 6 10
1922-23	33,766,820	1,881	33,768,701	21 4 8
1923-24	29,611,749	799	29,612,548	18 4 5
1924-25	41,471,464	170,515	41,641,979	25 2 7
1925-26	33,041,312	66,264	33,107,576	19 13 2
1926-27†	34,736,478	5,211	34,741,689	20 5 11

* Includes gold, silver, and bronze specie, and gold and silver bullion.

† The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The aggregate trade of the year 1927 (£90,302,588) represents an increase in imports of £5,233,844, and also in exports of £1,634,113, as compared with the totals of the preceding year.

Percentage
of Common-
wealth Trade.

Victoria's portion of the value of Commonwealth trade for each of the last ten years is shown in the table which follows:—

Year.	Commonwealth Trade—			Victoria's Portion of Commonwealth Trade—		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
1917-18 ..	62,334,449	81,429,221	143,763,670	33·9	25·4	29·1
1918-19 ..	102,335,159	113,963,976	216,299,135	34·2	24·7	29·2
1919-20 ..	98,974,292	149,823,509	248,797,801	34·1	28·8	30·9
1920-21 ..	163,801,826	132,158,912	295,960,738	35·2	26·4	31·2
1921-22 ..	103,066,436	127,846,535	230,912,971	35·3	27·1	30·7
1922-23 ..	131,757,835	117,870,147	249,627,982	35·5	28·6	32·2
1923-24 ..	140,618,293	119,487,164	260,105,457	35·3	24·8	30·4
1924-25 ..	157,143,296	162,030,159	319,173,455	34·5	25·7	30·1
1925-26 ..	151,638,178	148,562,209	300,200,387	33·2	22·3	27·8
1926-27* ..	164,716,600	144,895,183	309,611,783	33·7	24·0	29·2

* The figures for this year are subject to slight revision.

The principal articles imported from overseas countries into Victoria during each of the last four years are shown below in the order in which they appear in the statistical classification of 21 classes.

Principal
Imports.

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES INTO VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1923-24 TO 1926-27.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.				
Butter	63,171	45	166,382	204,269
Cheese	18,729	13,080	35,375	52,079
Fish—				
Preserved in Tins ..	317,182	332,298	335,419	414,628
All other	91,068	105,143	106,332	105,922
Meats	114,001	134,823	173,739	189,749
All other Animal Foodstuffs	13,538	10,877	11,405	15,077
Total, Class I. ..	617,689	596,266	828,652	981,724

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Caramel, Caramel Paste, Cocoa Butter, &c.	77,106	60,894	82,821	79,327
Cocoa and Chocolate	134,886	126,158	139,706	83,731
Coffee and Chicory	52,716	64,115	80,507	60,569
Confectionery	19,150	27,230	31,272	42,350
Fruits, Dried	46,676	39,465	41,262	47,709
Fruits, Fresh	7,054	1,725	533	8,469
Fruits &c., Preserved	20,942	29,079	43,192	60,604
Grain and Pulse—				
Rice	110,909	67,938	145,026	96,554
All other	73,473	17,998	152,223	105,983
Hops	6,942	3,533	5,788	2,839
Mustard	45,379	27,308	28,434	23,266
Nuts, Edible	133,008	143,250	182,808	154,315
Pickles and Sauces	12,699	14,281	16,389	18,269
Sago and Tapioca	40,484	29,824	17,866	20,957
Spices	52,632	90,319	75,061	94,077
Tea	1,197,546	1,298,213	1,128,547	1,166,783
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs	102,728	97,171	121,714	139,735
Total, Class II. ..	2,134,330	2,138,501	2,293,149	2,205,537
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.				
Ale, Beer, and Porter, &c. ..	70,931	61,397	61,813	64,840
Spirits (Beverages)—				
Brandy	47,332	40,834	33,593	33,059
Gin	36,095	40,163	47,095	40,941
Whisky	246,370	253,434	325,066	197,184
Other	14,070	11,816	10,995	12,867
Wine (Fermented)—				
Sparkling	23,353	29,932	25,197	23,666
Other	11,839	10,940	12,710	9,783
Total, Class III. ..	449,990	448,516	516,469	382,340
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.				
Tobacco—				
Manufactured	20,309	19,217	24,197	25,894
Unmanufactured	909,543	564,650	447,619	568,368
Cigars	34,008	35,208	40,879	35,735
Cigarettes	59,920	81,405	123,919	144,726
Snuff	775	274	375	708
Total, Class IV. ..	1,024,565	700,754	636,989	775,431

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	98,256	35,947	72,523	57,322
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED), NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Gelatine and Glue of all kinds	18,254	19,655	17,255	22,841
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, and Horse)	347,471	363,093	336,118	309,105
Other	87,975	80,531	107,678	143,071
Wool	288,476	143,481	118,547	405,954
All other Animal Substances ..	48,236	51,760	52,899	153,050
Total, Class VI. ..	790,412	658,520	632,497	1,034,021
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUB- STANCES AND FIBRES.				
Fibres—				
Flax and Hemp	184,432	209,760	225,787	203,191
Kapok	91,544	100,290	106,971	117,451
All other	111,472	126,739	109,509	115,310
Grass or Straw, for hatmaking, furniture, mats, &c. ..	72,760	62,037	42,214	32,472
Gums and Resins	75,827	87,032	116,514	107,162
Pulp for Papermaking ..	24,790	55,493	70,412	54,751
Seeds	130,410	233,913	201,753	135,412
Tanning Substances	38,752	43,052	48,858	57,737
All other Vegetable Substances	41,379	44,774	45,084	44,230
Total, Class VII. ..	771,366	963,090	967,102	873,716
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
(a) Apparel.				
Apparel—				
Blouses, Skirts, Costumes, &c.	129,227	204,603	174,990	188,275
Boots and Shoes	154,278	215,225	175,927	175,220
Corsets	80,921	61,085	51,122	37,037
Furs and other Skins—Dressed	205,422	230,309	215,733	386,557
Gloves	274,831	298,978	259,445	257,560
Hats and Caps	180,839	206,039	278,183	361,097
Hosiery and Knitted Apparel (including Socks and Stock- ings)	700,730	769,953	727,421	727,571
Men's and Boys' Outer Garments	58,415	78,864	69,852	37
Shirts, Collars, Ties, &c. ..	38,973	43,650	22,821	14,358
Trimmings	479,487	502,730	468,312	577,748
Other	403,550	467,869	324,272	420,900

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES— <i>continued.</i>				
(b) <i>Textiles.</i>				
Piece Goods—				
Canvas and Duck	367,628	340,823	389,821	345,517
Cotton and Linen	3,845,601	4,048,732	3,731,006	3,855,789
Hessians and other Jute Piece Goods	167,321	251,087	282,018	223,608
Silk	2,053,096	2,145,793	2,083,050	2,746,452
Velvets, Velveteens, Plushes, &c.	243,443	290,063	156,589	259,820
Woollen	1,554,839	1,380,020	962,761	1,114,725
Other	590,701	570,555	533,890	659,100
Floor Coverings—Carpets, Lino- leums, Mats, &c.	1,142,906	1,044,122	877,882	991,024
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	480,031	478,066	337,181	362,700
All other Textiles	493,894	527,934	516,574	706,917
(c) <i>Manufactured Fibres.</i>				
Bags and Sacks—				
Bran, Chaff, and Compressed Fodder	261,581	100,664	128,703	123,937
Corn and Flour	569,403	1,043,274	970,043	1,089,429
All other	93,969	227,294	156,211	307,694
Cordage and Twines (excluding Metal Cordage)	83,202	54,546	52,815	62,125
Yarns—				
Cotton	273,347	316,882	285,850	548,394
Wool	458,946	573,861	221,712	361,820
Other	111,106	233,863	234,892	167,411
Total, Class VIII. ..	15,497,687	16,706,884	14,689,076	17,072,822
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Oils (in bulk)—				
Kerosene	233,881	225,079	229,859	312,823
Lubricating (Mineral)	238,375	273,384	307,306	349,803
Petroleum Spirit	1,461,014	1,708,898	2,076,763	1,861,476
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes	524,734	458,595	564,708	680,470
Total, Class IX. ..	2,458,004	2,665,956	3,178,636	3,204,572
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	239,872	230,283	241,218	275,339
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MIN- ERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	197,689	145,770	197,594	263,059

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
(a) <i>Machines and Machinery.</i>				
Electrical Machinery and Appliances—				
Cable and Wire, Covered..	364,683	391,088	396,787	336,358
N.E.I.	1,242,884	1,425,943	1,474,308	1,956,299
Implements and Machinery (Agricultural, Horticultural, and Viticultural)	235,994	278,405	237,658	219,094
All other Machines and Machinery	2,305,107	1,970,700	2,174,751	2,480,525
(b) <i>Metals and Metal Manufactures, other than Machinery.</i>				
Alloys	118,132	110,128	135,476	146,300
Gas Appliances	24,659	24,927	26,148	44,830
Iron and Steel—				
Bar, Rod, Hoop, Ingots, Blooms, &c.	393,543	440,065	350,283	561,426
Girders, Beams, Channels, Joists, &c.	111,585	140,989	114,181	87,529
Pig and Scrap	70,389	89,318	62,513	44,594
Pipes and Tubes	401,886	338,372	375,795	474,652
Plate and Sheet	1,665,443	1,646,431	1,525,400	1,773,398
Railway and Tramway Material	87,787	15,479	22,019	19,170
Wire	298,057	325,305	269,992	278,107
Tools of Trade (not being Machines)	391,235	341,000	306,411	375,646
Vehicles—				
Motor Cycles, Tricycles, &c.	243,875	249,411	200,423	242,393
Bodies for Motor Cars, &c.	366,996	423,225	381,998	432,842
Chassis for Motor Cars, &c.	3,172,567	3,185,302	3,098,031	3,580,237
Other, and Parts.. ..	684,870	597,382	735,031	737,595
All other Metals and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery	2,188,562	1,861,433	2,022,278	1,909,124
Total, Class XII.	14,368,254	13,854,903	13,909,483	15,700,119

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued*.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIII. — RUBBER AND LEATHER AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
(a) <i>Rubber and Rubber Manufactures.</i>				
Rubber, Crude, Powdered or Reclaimed	275,307	437,033	1,474,312	1,525,646
Rubber Manufactures ..	700,607	610,131	770,770	650,033
(b) <i>Leather and Manufactures of Leather and Substitutes therefor.</i>				
Patent and Enamelled	87,605	79,397	47,472	41,844
All other	117,424	106,375	105,045	193,110
Total, Class XIII. ..	1,180,943	1,232,936	2,397,599	2,410,653
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED.				
Timber—				
Dressed	917,646	707,636	763,072	745,668
Undressed	1,511,625	1,013,969	1,314,271	976,054
Wood and Wicker Manufactures, including Furniture ..	229,252	220,174	192,789	225,052
Total, Class XIV. ..	2,658,523	1,941,779	2,270,132	1,946,774
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONEWARE.				
Cement (Portland)	11,533	24,075	13,020	11,417
Earthenware, China, &c. ..	275,206	276,156	246,801	261,387
Glass and Glassware	384,640	388,302	392,358	379,530
All other Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass, and Stoneware.	97,422	83,981	85,477	123,256
Total, Class XV. ..	768,801	772,514	737,656	775,590

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.	£	£	£	£
(a) <i>Paper—</i>				
Cardboard and other Paper				
Boards	72,068	77,261	74,964	92,065
Printing	916,165	1,021,762	1,064,736	1,175,117
Wrapping of all Colours ..	137,804	112,125	111,631	137,085
Writing and Typewriting ..	176,875	215,632	197,673	233,823
All other	215,513	197,954	188,617	224,733
(b) <i>Stationery and Paper Manufactures—</i>				
Books (Printed), Directories, &c.	342,391	358,476	420,468	408,457
All other	435,334	373,368	391,489	436,009
Total, Class XVI. ..	2,296,150	2,356,578	2,449,578	2,707,289
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.				
Fancy Goods	407,027	441,115	429,194	434,153
Jewellery, including Cameos, &c. ..	274,354	263,389	227,531	252,739
Watches, Clocks, Chronometers, &c.	225,507	201,101	199,504	225,777
Total, Class XVII.	906,888	905,605	856,229	912,669
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS.				
Surgical and Dental Instruments, &c.	99,998	105,487	106,797	134,545
Talking Machines—Phonographs, &c.	95,239	153,715	188,574	125,806
All other Optical and Scientific Instruments	141,501	157,961	143,658	140,256
Total, Class XVIII. ..	336,738	417,163	439,029	400,607
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Cream of Tartar	55,809	68,460	68,287	65,728
Dyes	110,493	102,053	85,103	125,746
Fertilizers	339,852	349,538	344,550	528,605
Oils, Essential (Non-spirituous) ..	28,604	39,345	42,028	56,923

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM OVERSEA COUNTRIES
INTO VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS—<i>continued.</i>				
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	78,785	87,410	96,164	128,125
Proprietary Medicines	59,613	60,828	57,787	69,924
Sodium Salts	130,224	151,438	135,678	159,930
Spirits and Spirituous Preparations	90,814	97,688	112,582	110,281
Sulphur (Brimstone)	116,806	106,983	148,090	184,735
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	378,197	406,676	411,199	468,606
Total, Class XIX.	1,389,197	1,470,419	1,501,468	1,898,603
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	239,443	254,918	376,589	327,246
Bags, Baskets, Trunks, &c. ..	123,573	109,552	115,004	130,825
Brushware	113,296	109,394	110,397	177,939
Matches and Vestas	82,138	74,781	65,789	45,198
Musical Instruments, &c.—				
Pianos and Parts	389,324	397,888	307,678	382,936
Other and Parts	76,230	60,713	62,834	75,953
Soap	20,617	25,607	28,195	33,160
All other Articles	336,244	472,082	397,785	369,253
Total, Class XX.	1,380,865	1,504,935	1,464,271	1,542,510
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	4,999	4,532,991	29,944	134,549
Silver	21,397	9,329	17,734	5,583
Bronze—Specie	28	51	27	70
Total, Class XXI.	26,424	4,542,371	47,705	140,202
Grand Total	49,592,643	54,289,690	50,327,055	55,560,899

The articles imported were mainly manufactured goods. Apparel, textiles, manufactured fibres, machinery, and manufactures of metal amounted to 59 per cent. of the total value of imports in the last five years. Excluding gold and bullion, &c., the imports for 1927 showed an increase of £5,141,347, as compared with the previous year. The items showing the largest increases were as follows:—Piece Goods, £1,065,876; machines and machinery, £708,772; manufactured fibres, £610,584; chassis for motor cars, &c., £482,206; wool, £287,407; paper, £225,202; and furs and skins (dressed), £170,824. The chief decreases were in the following:—Timber, £355,621; petroleum spirit, £215,287; and spirituous and alcoholic liquors, £134,129.

Principal
Exports.

The principal articles exported to oversea countries from Victoria during each of the last four years are shown hereunder in 21 divisions, in accordance with the statistical classification :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES FROM VICTORIA DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1923-24 TO 1926-27.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£
CLASS I.—FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, BUT EXCLUDING LIVING ANIMALS.				
Butter	2,751,312	4,051,632	2,542,626	2,611,855
Cheese	31,071	65,130	14,406	6,358
Meats—				
Bacon and Hams	22,352	17,055	18,206	11,090
Preserved by Cold Process—				
Beef	22,944	61,829	59,465	60,949
Lamb	656,438	905,743	1,263,511	1,053,502
Mutton	13,757	95,022	145,261	141,998
Rabbits and Hares ..	8,477	5,196	53,423	44,999
Preserved in Tins	9,409	33,011	65,639	27,601
Sausage Casings	20,591	49,952	186,213	189,127
Other	7,676	8,629	13,107	21,347
Milk and Cream	1,040,183	1,620,068	1,433,925	1,066,655
All other Animal Foodstuffs ..	3,323	6,193	28,038	49,448
Total, Class I.	4,587,533	6,919,460	5,823,820	5,284,929
CLASS II.—FOODSTUFFS OF VEGETABLE ORIGIN; NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SUBSTANCES USED IN MAKING.				
Biscuits	59,413	61,807	100,761	66,377
Fruits, Dried	826,028	1,327,734	961,587	1,205,534
Fruits, Fresh	131,323	256,478	304,630	27,529
Fruits and Vegetables—Preserved	254,469	267,498	220,161	194,673
Grain and Pulse—				
Unprepared—				
Wheat	3,922,823	10,413,976	3,132,983	6,976,711
Other	84,127	93,014	23,031	50,592
Prepared—				
Flour (Wheaten)	2,175,854	2,408,542	2,177,935	2,123,361
Other	43,245	75,373	32,326	39,116
Jams and Fruit Jellies ..	24,467	16,840	18,310	13,105
Tea	47,328	53,931	40,232	28,063
All other Vegetable Foodstuffs ..	198,863	175,965	128,730	131,244
Total, Class II.	7,767,940	15,151,158	7,140,686	10,856,305

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
CLASS III.—SPIRITUOUS AND ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.. ..	£ 48,862	£ 55,119	£ 100,377	£ 134,139
CLASS IV.—TOBACCO AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF.. ..	286,581	286,122	153,838	11,093
CLASS V.—LIVE ANIMALS ..	22,244	61,421	24,961	35,283
CLASS VI.—ANIMAL SUBSTANCES (MAINLY UNMANUFACTURED). NOT FOODSTUFFS.				
Skins—				
Hides (Calf, Cattle, Horse) ..	78,915	164,890	121,322	161,222
Opossum	60,129	54,032	163,028	161,190
Rabbit and Hare	282,266	349,956	579,000	381,334
Sheep	1,214,069	1,523,606	1,340,173	1,317,783
Other	69,478	65,757	70,440	84,594
Wool—				
Greasy	11,578,094	12,858,063	13,552,856	12,779,536
Scoured and Washed ..	1,255,769	1,459,918	1,533,187	1,266,412
Tops	233,838	128,397	316,757	259,998
All other Animal Substances ..	20,786	20,864	21,878	24,770
Total, Class VI. ..	14,793,344	16,625,483	17,698,641	16,436,839
CLASS VII.—VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES AND FIBRES ..	45,079	48,652	50,068	41,237
CLASS VIII.—(a) APPAREL; (b) TEXTILES; AND (c) MANUFACTURED FIBRES.				
Boots and Shoes	3,662	2,455	2,363	5,111
All other Apparel	36,053	38,505	31,347	41,564
All other Textiles, including Bags, Cordage, Yarns, &c. ..	91,042	109,052	76,330	86,478
Total, Class VIII. ..	130,757	150,012	110,040	133,153
CLASS IX.—OILS, FATS, AND WAXES.				
Tallow—Unrefined	188,767	441,986	399,783	355,498
All other Oils, Fats, and Waxes ..	78,237	152,711	110,590	43,484
Total, Class IX. ..	267,004	594,697	510,373	398,982

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—continued.

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
CLASS X.—PAINTS AND VARNISHES	£ 4,999	£ 6,784	£ 3,869	£ 6,360
CLASS XI.—STONES AND MINERALS, INCLUDING ORES AND CONCENTRATES	24,374	50,293	21,365	10,366
CLASS XII.—METALS, METAL MANUFACTURES, AND MACHINERY.				
(a) <i>Machines and Machinery—</i> Machines and Machinery ..	239,580	237,846	136,484	161,664
(b) <i>Metal and Metal Manufactures other than Machinery—</i>				
Iron and Steel	15,893	7,377	15,802	14,701
Lead—Pig and in Matte ..	450	2,292	1,827	418
Tin Ingots	68,944	19,722	55,532	66,206
Zinc—Bars, Blocks, &c. ..	51,965	296	194	16,549
All other Metals and Manufactures thereof	116,375	156,707	225,776	153,952
Total, Class XII. ..	493,207	424,240	435,615	413,490
CLASS XIII.—RUBBER AND LEATHER, AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF, AND SUBSTITUTES THEREFOR.				
Indiarubber and Manufactures ..	123,476	93,132	85,559	29,781
Leather and Manufactures ..	295,350	253,232	180,397	149,227
Total, Class XIII. ..	418,826	346,364	265,956	179,008
CLASS XIV.—WOOD AND WICKER, RAW AND MANUFACTURED ..	19,236	30,180	25,950	27,236
CLASS XV. — EARTHENWARE, CEMENTS, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONEWARE	14,705	15,536	13,823	9,457
CLASS XVI.—PAPER AND STATIONERY.				
Paper	20,224	27,690	23,871	20,443
Stationery	113,450	58,649	39,335	45,345
Total, Class XVI. ..	133,674	86,339	63,206	65,788

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES
FROM VICTORIA, 1923-24 TO 1926-27—*continued.*

Article.	Year ended 30th June—			
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
CLASS XVII.—JEWELLERY, TIME-PIECES, AND FANCY GOODS.	£	£	£	£
Precious Stones, Unset; Pearls, Cameos, &c. ..	4,401	11,312	6,713	7,610
All other Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods ..	15,298	17,396	17,761	17,926
Total, Class XVII. ..	19,699	28,708	24,474	25,536
CLASS XVIII.—OPTICAL, SURGICAL, AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS..	49,987	56,031	63,598	60,754
CLASS XIX.—DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND FERTILIZERS.				
Fertilizers—				
Ammonium Sulphate ..	4,971	10,088	10,230	10,941
Other	6,160	6,105	7,208	3,093
Medicines	13,425	7,308	38,141	146,020
Oil—Eucalyptus	53,836	62,252	61,742	54,245
All other Drugs and Chemicals ..	94,803	122,940	71,971	66,719
Total, Class XIX. ..	173,195	208,693	189,292	281,018
CLASS XX.—MISCELLANEOUS.				
Soap	189,866	221,165	204,163	206,865
All other Articles	120,637	105,007	117,197	118,640
Total, Class XX. ..	310,503	326,172	321,360	325,505
CLASS XXI.—GOLD AND SILVER; AND BRONZE SPECIE.				
Gold	299	170,515	60,466	4,521
Silver	500	..	5,798	690
Total, Class XXI. ..	799	170,515	66,264	5,211
Australian produce	29,088,613	41,066,355	32,645,589	34,323,556
Other produce	523,935	575,624	461,987	418,133
Grand Total	29,612,548	41,641,979	33,107,576	34,741,689

The export trade consists largely of agricultural and pastoral products. The value of wool, wheat, flour, and butter exported during the last five years amounted to about 73 per cent. of the total exports for that period—wool alone represented 42 per cent. There was an increase of £1,634,113 in the exports of 1927, as compared with the previous year. The items showing the chief increases were:—Wheat, £3,843,728; and medicines, £107,879. The largest decreases occurred in the following articles:—Wool, £1,096,854; milk and cream, £367,270; meats, £254,212; rabbit and hare skins, £197,666; and tobacco, &c., £142,745.

Imports from
and exports to
principal
countries.

The value of Victorian trade with various overseas countries and the surplus of imports or exports in each case, during the year ended 30th June, 1927, are given below. In the tables which follow the imports have been assigned to the country of origin owing to the Customs Department having discontinued recording the country of shipment.

IMPORTS FROM AND EXPORTS TO OVERSEA COUNTRIES 1926-27.

Country.	Value of Imports into Victoria of the Produce of the Country mentioned.	Value of Exports from Victoria to the Country mentioned.	Excess of Imports (-) Exports (+).
	£	£	£
BRITISH.			
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	23,883,858	13,849,048	- 10,034,810
Canada	1,211,049	104,520	- 1,106,529
Ceylon	726,720	209,616	- 517,104
Hong Kong	8,695	86,595	+ 77,900
India	2,208,736	284,583	- 1,924,153
Irish Free State	429	83,730	+ 83,301
Malaya (British)	1,304,047	1,027,141	- 276,906
New Zealand	1,092,634	1,227,571	+ 134,937
Pacific Islands	460,627	88,234	- 372,393
South African Union	195,641	399,555	+ 203,914
Other British Possessions	123,197	143,270	+ 20,073
Total British Possessions	31,215,633	17,503,863	- 13,711,770
FOREIGN.			
Belgium	331,428	968,640	+ 637,212
China	228,401	115,661	- 112,740
Czecho-Slovakia	195,020	1,477	- 193,543
Egypt	3,594	1,145,162	+ 1,141,568
Finland	38,030	67,012	+ 28,982
France	2,125,582	3,550,526	+ 1,424,944
Germany	1,794,304	1,881,262	+ 86,958
Italy	695,015	1,942,370	+ 1,247,355
Japan	1,520,179	2,909,937	+ 1,389,758
Netherlands	434,226	186,862	- 247,364
Netherlands East Indies	1,693,960	1,098,058	- 595,902
Norway	514,493	2,501	- 511,992
Persia	314,847	..	- 314,847
Peru	188	99,302	+ 99,114
Philippine Islands	72,594	34,059	- 38,535
Sweden	668,071	26,060	- 642,011
Switzerland	1,107,672	8,008	- 1,099,664
United States of America	12,073,878	2,908,771	- 9,165,107
Other Foreign Countries	533,784	292,158	- 241,626
Total Foreign Countries	24,345,266	17,237,826	- 7,107,440
Grand Total	55,560,899	34,741,689	- 20,819,210

The value of the trade with the leading countries of the world in each of the last five years was as specified hereunder :—

IMPORTS (CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN)
FROM PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, AND EXPORTS DIRECT
THERE TO, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Country.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Imports of Products or Manufactures of—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom*	24,657,303	22,923,002	23,367,972	22,100,081	23,383,858
Canada	1,741,814	1,543,897	1,022,490	1,198,663	1,211,049
India and Ceylon	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,580,414	2,637,029	2,935,456
Malaya (British)	124,171	240,870	379,777	1,260,622	1,304,047
New Zealand	1,005,708	1,202,647	1,057,004	1,118,750	1,092,634
South African Union	213,987	193,010	4,584,675	238,080	195,641
Other British Possessions	411,771	481,717	454,981	472,681	592,948
Belgium	324,480	331,223	343,799	307,225	331,423
China	313,178	293,412	265,830	231,662	228,401
Egypt	10,231	9,746	6,191	3,694	3,594
France	1,396,191	1,860,115	1,886,480	1,600,236	2,126,582
Germany	295,126	582,664	939,372	1,107,158	1,794,304
Italy	516,158	543,580	688,668	639,878	696,015
Japan	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104	1,360,650	1,520,179
Netherlands	220,133	209,478	257,474	324,224	434,226
Netherlands East Indies	1,427,087	1,577,364	1,769,793	1,749,567	1,693,960
Norway	850,698	682,207	696,126	543,192	514,493
Philippine Islands	66,796	75,631	77,760	127,199	72,594
Sweden	625,236	799,805	520,071	636,220	668,071
Switzerland	946,232	1,029,798	1,008,153	817,705	1,107,672
United States of America	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,692	10,868,473	12,073,878
Other Foreign Countries	557,481	637,574	763,564	978,766	1,081,869
Total	46,729,100	49,592,643	54,289,690	50,327,055	55,560,869
Exports to—					
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom*	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,781,126	14,082,439	13,849,048
Canada	94,266	74,558	63,395	84,663	104,520
India and Ceylon	253,172	312,334	635,364	556,233	494,199
Malaya (British)	627,207	817,368	819,192	1,180,622	1,027,141
New Zealand	1,497,238	1,406,618	1,589,996	1,578,105	1,227,571
South African Union	647,742	621,908	1,004,077	365,522	399,555
Other British Possessions	343,261	429,673	428,703	378,651	401,829
Belgium	358,102	692,233	970,792	494,392	968,640
China	48,643	362,187	145,171	141,592	115,661
Egypt	514,029	760,376	944,210	661,974	1,145,162
France	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757	3,855,842	3,550,526
Germany	295,279	652,787	1,043,907	725,505	1,881,262
Italy	1,221,882	1,357,588	2,575,374	1,042,467	1,942,370
Japan	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,592	2,343,115	2,609,937
Netherlands	14,863	248,018	340,228	37,280	186,862
Netherlands East Indies	1,127,099	914,308	1,348,037	1,115,521	1,098,058
Norway	42,773	31,321	17,015	83,198	2,501
Philippine Islands	80,239	53,146	35,649	25,923	34,059
Sweden	49,836	72,936	67,885	27,505	26,060
Switzerland	1,691	3,348	517	2,371	8,008
United States of America	2,678,354	2,086,626	3,208,812	3,984,687	2,908,771
Other Foreign Countries	181,586	240,183	591,180	409,969	459,949
Total	33,768,701	29,612,548	41,641,979	33,107,576	34,741,689

*Great Britain and Northern Ireland since 1923-24.

Nearly 40 per cent. of the total value of the exports in 1927 were sent to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, whilst 43 per cent. of the imports were their products or manufactures. The chief articles of United Kingdom origin imported in the last five years, and the principal articles exported direct thereto in the same period were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.*	1926.*	1927.*
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United Kingdom origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Whisky	251,372	245,891	253,091	324,532	196,270
Apparel and Attire	1,179,643	895,478	1,100,614	864,723	752,040
Trimmings and Ornaments	151,093	144,185	136,359	143,810	134,821
Piece Goods—					
Cotton and Linen	4,261,605	3,451,274	3,627,899	3,295,167	3,319,207
Woolen	1,983,388	1,423,628	1,251,429	850,302	911,848
Silk	213,897	237,915	205,073	338,884	452,376
Canvas and Duck	425,078	328,021	323,881	342,110	321,758
Velvets, and Lace for Attire	209,025	250,168	256,746	136,547	122,566
Other	383,200	335,273	355,205	357,441	464,225
Floor Coverings	1,042,462	1,078,911	1,000,075	838,998	933,756
Sewing and Embroidery Silks, &c.	479,620	407,719	408,052	293,138	312,949
Yarns	1,300,772	788,226	1,049,626	635,240	954,411
Machines and Machinery	2,436,253	2,164,259	2,192,286	2,083,474	2,346,755
Metals and Metal Manufactures—					
Iron and Steel	2,703,326	2,723,455	2,748,131	2,401,098	2,727,763
Vehicles and Parts	538,581	839,172	1,065,681	1,284,278	1,548,185
Other	1,683,200	1,773,682	1,534,781	1,540,597	1,459,511
Rubber and Rubber Goods	187,205	160,164	206,834	280,703	288,423
Paper	690,860	1,001,360	1,195,431	1,122,409	1,200,936
Books	301,330	308,337	321,068	381,442	360,833
Dyes	109,490	99,404	92,909	73,915	94,873
All other Articles	4,125,903	4,266,480	4,442,801	4,511,273	4,980,382
Total	24,657,303	22,923,002	23,867,972	22,100,081	23,883,858
<i>Exported from Victoria to United Kingdom.</i>					
Butter	2,586,722	2,055,754	3,442,588	1,934,801	2,012,500
Meats—					
Beef, Mutton and Lamb	2,403,593	679,607	1,075,596	1,417,784	1,206,875
Rabbits and Hares	9,689	8,049	4,526	52,177	44,350
Preserved in tins	26,934	2,979	17,767	52,636	4,041
Milk and Cream	50,025	8,870	111,667	31,922	28,535
Fruits—all kinds	882,536	1,038,037	1,588,458	1,242,905	1,157,952
Wheat and Flour	1,172,682	1,725,689	4,536,944	1,301,400	2,483,284
Hides and Skins	738,385	1,031,611	1,124,305	1,159,554	1,019,060
Wool	10,087,573	5,297,501	5,973,351	6,061,382	4,888,821
Tallow, unrefined	227,968	35,300	131,926	128,918	139,190
Tin Ingots	135,688	63,286	17,565	39,075	65,399
Leather, &c.	140,480	113,422	90,140	37,699	38,593
All other Articles	700,782	792,656	666,293	622,186	760,448
Total	19,163,057	12,852,761	18,781,116	14,082,439	13,849,048

* The figures since 1923-24 relate to Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The value of the trade with India and Ceylon was £3,429,655 in 1927, and was more than in the previous year by £236,393. There was an increase in imports of £298,427, and a decrease in exports of £62,034. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH INDIA AND CEYLON, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Indian and Cingalese origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Cocoa Beans	8,228	11,608	14,323	11,822	11,027
Coffee	22,466	15,953	21,672	19,618	19,677
Rice	34,714	97,872	55,451	131,802	86,116
Nuts	27,816	38,427	38,337	35,869	41,925
Tea	384,958	522,342	470,091	572,558	762,314
Hides and Skins	35,680	17,958	14,646	7,069	26,731
Fibres	32,475	33,590	45,246	39,442	44,217
Gums and Resins	43,163	21,123	36,701	29,788	13,503
Seeds	2,802	25,193	120,261	76,556	44,245
Hessians	146,736	139,461	223,469	247,893	186,969
Floor Coverings	23,382	14,102	10,548	9,814	11,530
Bags and Sacks	952,611	924,498	1,367,833	1,249,427	1,412,160
Oils in Bulk	6,386	6,978	8,352	10,329	8,542
Waxes	2,769	1,816	3,047	6,895	6,528
Rubber, &c.	2,524	12,354	40,560	65,452	152,576
All other Articles	88,202	120,260	106,277	122,195	107,396
Total	1,814,912	2,008,835	2,580,414	2,637,029	2,935,456
<i>Exported from Victoria to India and Ceylon.</i>					
Butter	15,215	17,562	10,842	12,463	12,497
Meats	20,492	5,239	14,762	9,026	19,990
Milk and Cream	45,727	25,488	159,010	215,103	30,019
Biscuits	4,914	4,475	5,872	6,888	7,518
Hay and Chaff	4,248	2,472	10,326	10,294	14,080
Fruits (preserved in liquid)	9,107	1,452	2,537	2,546	860
Wheat, Flour, and Oatmeal	52,800	81,952	121,759	130,207	262,712
Jams and Jellies	3,755	3,656	2,828	5,612	3,260
Horses	19,739	5,606	12,090	12,012	16,062
Wool	11,485	111,817	103,884	14,790	23,420
Tallow	25,966	14,272	33,377	29,611	31,966
Leather, &c.	2,758	2,469	3,228	3,168	2,428
Soap	5,234	5,477	4,949	6,830	6,490
Specie and Bullion	453	..	108,639	53,804	500
All other Articles	31,279	30,397	41,261	43,879	62,328
Total	253,172	312,334	635,364	556,233	494,199

The value of the trade with New Zealand for the year ended 30th June, 1927, was £2,320,205. The exports thereto amounted to £1,227,571, and represented 3·5 per cent. of the total oversea exports. The principal articles of trade during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF CHIEF IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN
AND OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED DIRECT TO
THAT COUNTRY, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of New Zealand origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Butter	153,184	61,807	9	166,371	204,260
Fish	33,809	33,894	39,360	32,372	37,870
Milk and Cream	1,782		2,551	3,021	5,458
Meats	7,081	24,727	16,437	17,435	29,275
Hops	10,316	4,927	1,510	5,002	2,883
Animals (horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs)	11,006	45,882	7,722	15,597	23,968
Hides and Skins	319,660	351,750	328,150	315,788	263,617
Wool	36,700	284,099	142,317	25,011	182,742
Flax and Hemp	47,459	70,380	78,595	67,183	86,005
Oakum and Tow	22,820	18,523	36,214	25,687	24,219
Seeds	31,558	35,161	63,246	55,193	38,736
Timber	251,715	180,865	262,561	273,792	145,067
All other Articles	78,618	90,632	78,332	115,798	48,584
Total	1,005,708	1,202,647	1,057,004	1,118,750	1,092,634
<i>Exported from Victoria to New Zealand.</i>					
Fruits, all kinds	130,071	119,499	189,486	166,101	170,033
Grain and Pulse—					
Wheat		142,611	108,379	435,943	199,772
Flour		495	30,117	86,861	276,890
Barley		4,091	4,854	2,634	893
Oats	1,995	32,592	26,429	6,141	7,992
Rice and Rice Meal	9,213	17,826	17,645	14,427	13,521
Tea	57,111	45,869	51,069	39,761	26,312
Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors	17,760	14,667	18,980	22,559	18,311
Tobacco manufactured	525,954	281,799	284,727	151,757	8,810
Apparel	47,008	19,611	13,734	14,223	19,693
Piece Goods	97,971	30,771	34,508	24,233	25,516
Oils	11,839	49,707	114,650	79,733	7,388
Machines and Machinery	41,912	42,643	76,008	46,068	71,895
Metal manufactures	57,723	62,179	62,873	57,652	50,564
Rubber manufactures	101,007	121,550	92,150	84,601	27,277
Leather, &c.	40,392	37,840	30,046	16,456	7,388
Books	22,755	28,213	21,070	15,159	15,992
Drugs and Chemicals	69,856	45,067	40,995	26,006	27,236
Photographic goods and materials	28,760	36,456	41,780	49,117	47,758
All other Articles	234,991	278,132	330,496	238,683	203,709
Australian produce	1,142,893	1,120,998	1,230,261	1,333,187	1,061,710
Other produce	354,345	285,620	359,735	244,918	165,861
Total	1,497,238	1,406,618	1,589,996	1,578,105	1,227,571

The trade with Belgium was suspended in 1918 and 1919, and has not yet recovered its pre-war proportion, which was 3 per cent. of the total overseas trade of Victoria.

The principal articles of trade with Belgium in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH BELGIUM, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June —				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Belgian origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Gloves	13,756	6,398	12,871	20,322	16,879
Piece Goods	24,275	25,552	30,991	30,601	39,566
Electrical Machinery, &c. ..	2,312	1,510	5,249	5,922	13,058
Copper	6,554	6,110	3,377	2,873	8,197
Iron and Steel	3,817	13,735	18,707	14,001	17,728
Vehicles	14,462	38,274	29,875	19,198	19,080
Glass and Glassware	115,840	125,575	126,015	123,844	80,595
Paper	33,153	33,969	34,627	25,886	25,787
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	41,133	17,044	15,036	6,425	3,663
All other Articles	69,178	63,056	72,051	58,153	101,875
Total	324,480	331,223	348,799	307,225	331,428
<i>Exported from Victoria to Belgium.</i>					
Wheat .. .. .	..	22,177	434,464	53,688	334,226
Hides and Skins	53,683	102,276	45,309	53,928	38,840
Wool	248,366	501,125	417,542	358,462	528,594
Ores	140	525	2,585	940	227
Tallow	18,536	4,990	19,755	17,838	22,624
Cameos and Precious Stones ..	463	957	2,198	1,189	3,167
All other Articles	36,914	60,183	48,939	8,347	40,962
Total	358,102	692,233	970,792	494,392	968,640

Trade with
Netherlands
East Indies.

The Netherlands East Indies accounted for 3·1 per cent. of Victoria's oversea trade in 1927. The chief articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Netherlands East Indies origin).</i>					
	£	£	£	£	£
Coffee and Chicory	16,500	21,083	23,615	32,757	26,450
Sago and Tapioca	3,878	18,057	6,751	4,555	1,131
Spices	5,692	8,665	9,292	9,559	4,771
Sugar	23,391	22	..	..	..
Tea	487,512	608,300	777,466	532,442	379,425
Tobacco—unmanufactured	50,395	50,330	13,851	27,780	30,342
Hides and Skins	3,959	1,037	2,191	2,852	16,242
Fibres	144,426	126,270	130,368	135,274	162,755
Seeds	16,569	8,038	19,900	16,567	15,619
Oils	614,414	678,669	718,147	846,966	884,528
Rubber, crude	21,403	18,178	33,920	99,053	135,188
All other Articles	38,918	38,715	34,292	42,062	37,509
Total	1,427,087	1,577,364	1,769,793	1,749,867	1,693,960
<i>Exported from Victoria to the Netherlands East Indies.</i>					
Butter	459,033	413,620	413,730	451,169	415,862
Meats	16,185	18,803	14,131	17,722	10,292
Milk and Cream	137,666	90,624	448,123	93,233	106,974
Biscuits	26,626	29,808	40,419	74,608	45,388
Fruits, and fruit juices	25,234	25,114	22,155	28,230	31,329
Grain and Pulse	343,103	248,496	308,051	360,590	401,264
Machines and Machinery	2,004	15,561	2,298	2,378	4,124
Leather, &c.	46,139	45,631	48,151	39,474	38,595
Ammonium Sulphate .. .. .	..	..	9,733	4,640	..
All other Articles	71,109	23,653	41,241	43,477	49,930
Total	1,127,099	914,308	1,348,037	1,115,521	1,093,058

Trade with France. In 1927 the value of the trade with France was £5,676,108, or 6·3 per cent. of the oversea total. Details of the exports to France and of the goods of French origin received in the past five years are given in the appended table:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH FRANCE, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of French origin.)</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Brandy	42,287	47,169	40,038	32,701	32,777
Wine	15,375	27,753	33,593	28,716	26,974
Gums and Resins	19,264	12,602	7,353	28,321	37,996
Apparel—					
Trimings and Ornaments	194,191	163,993	139,077	124,613	154,315
Gloves	28,152	27,525	28,571	31,249	36,245
Other	99,299	150,677	231,896	203,560	339,052
Piece Goods	466,907	781,405	722,235	611,104	865,495
Oils	9,739	14,181	11,529	14,594	16,041
Electrical Machinery and Appliances	2,679	4,187	15,354	16,087	24,900
Motor Cars and Parts	130,906	186,912	162,254	94,046	105,175
Rubber Manufactures	53,814	57,114	61,980	63,185	61,963
Stationery and Paper Manufactures	20,470	43,623	19,160	26,455	37,937
Pipes (smoking)	24,935	23,418	22,652	13,044	16,552
Cream of Tartar	39,816	24,029	22,385	23,797	15,488
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations ..	18,429	19,626	24,983	23,538	34,902
All other Articles	226,928	275,901	343,420	265,226	319,770
Total	1,396,191	1,860,115	1,886,480	1,600,236	2,125,582
<i>Exported from Victoria to France.</i>					
Butter	16,863	26,172	14,717	1,835	4,200
Wheat and Flour	125,747	179,041	2,175,197	6,274	474,062
Hides and Skins	372,094	408,672	532,139	536,182	493,749
Wool	1,809,489	2,148,671	2,453,911	3,279,225	2,563,910
Zinc Bars, &c.	36,600	21,300			
Tallow (unrefined)	3,188	999	11,393	3,032	2,697
All other Articles	10,440	16,224	18,400	29,294	11,908
Total	2,374,421	2,801,079	5,205,757	3,855,842	3,550,526

Trade with Germany. The trade with Germany in 1926-27 amounted to 4.1 per cent. of the total with oversea countries—in the year prior to the war (1913) the percentage was 8.4. Wool was the chief item exported to Germany, and during the past five years accounted for 63 per cent. of the total exports to that country—the percentage for 1926-27 being 70.

The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH GERMANY, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of German origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Apparel—					
Gloves	7,437	48,907	143,177	120,339	107,136
Other	14,545	45,787	75,264	109,893	269,891
Piece Goods	8,499	42,187	56,899	71,021	191,517
Machines and Machinery	89,948	88,680	98,254	133,545	202,513
Metals and Metal Manufac- tures—					
Vehicles	47,172	33,912	17,087	8,752	12,659
Platedware and Cutlery	3,427	6,095	19,298	24,305	33,293
Other	12,759	25,425	57,766	132,698	266,467
Paper	2,864	8,580	9,265	22,764	44,812
Fancy Goods	15,997	28,541	63,160	70,662	81,997
Timepieces	1,299	12,238	30,202	37,077	38,148
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	11,385	24,645	21,549	26,565	43,858
Drugs, Chemicals, and Fer- tilizers	13,497	19,641	31,961	46,096	90,079
Musical Instruments	39,850	116,390	178,824	112,659	106,163
All other Articles	26,447	81,636	136,666	190,782	305,771
Total	295,126	582,664	939,372	1,107,158	1,794,304
<i>Exported from Victoria to Germany.</i>					
Sausage Casings	496	2,339	1,789	15,315	5,858
Fruits (all kinds) .. .. .	..	3,692	20,351	35,483	321
Wheat and Flour	9	10,930	512,410	54,481	325,186
Wool	195,397	544,020	315,892	507,601	1,321,404
Hides and Skins	11,933	39,569	111,112	60,405	162,605
Silver Lead Concentrates	30,136	..	..	..	..
Tallow	12,436	5,739	26,279	..	16,559
Casein	18,685	12,575	16,773	8,501	5,659
Eucalyptus Oil	1,241	5,791	7,719	10,314	21,142
All other Articles	24,946	28,132	31,582	33,405	22,528
Total	295,279	652,787	1,043,907	725,505	1,881,262

The value of Japanese goods received in 1926-27 represented only 2·7 per cent. of the total oversea imports, as compared with 8·8 per cent. in 1918-19. The exports to Japan during 1926-27 were £566,822 greater than in the previous year, and was accounted for by the larger shipment of wool. The principal articles interchanged during the last five years were as follows :—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH JAPAN, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>Imported into Victoria (of Japanese origin).</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Grass or Straw, &c. ..	15,765	15,497	11,016	6,302	5,333
Hosiery and Knitted Articles ..	27,021	19,029	21,405	6,643	1,200
Shirts, Collars, Pyjamas, &c. ..	1,818	2,039	2,983	180	9
Socks and Stockings ..	5,194	4,038	5,439	9,477	8,820
Buttons, Buckles, &c. ..	21,048	12,761	15,388	21,485	18,317
Cosies, Cushions, &c. ..	1,231	1,557	893	679	319
Piece Goods—Silk ..	605,809	669,628	782,184	762,429	931,104
" Cotton and Linen ..	175,976	159,853	211,441	222,444	165,300
" Other ..	7,057	14,065	6,347	24,171	21,767
Oils ..	14,344	6,261	5,914	5,197	4,696
Electrical Machinery and Appliances ..	6,951	6,798	3,787	410	744
Timber ..	18,658	13,159	35,736	34,768	44,759
Chinaware ..	26,701	20,622	18,235	26,156	28,688
Glass and Glassware ..	26,949	21,895	15,822	19,590	20,347
Fancy Goods ..	46,328	29,668	22,153	25,809	20,800
All other Articles ..	202,396	148,603	151,361	194,910	246,976
Total ..	1,203,346	1,145,473	1,310,104	1,360,610	1,520,179
<i>Exported from Victoria to Japan.</i>					
Butter ..	2,197	3,644	939	564	95
Milk and Cream ..	481,161	328,343	162,462	105,630	61,095
Grain and Pulse ..	519,919	958,554	323,666	1,054,784	842,297
Wool ..	1,050,369	1,416,989	1,259,470	1,094,858	1,899,254
Tallow (unrefined) ..	40,525	55,933	30,318	45,895	42,765
Casein ..	13,408	20,800	16,543	23,070	24,474
Fertilizers ..	26,495	5,412	1,130	8,115	13,323
All other Articles ..	19,889	31,517	31,064	10,199	26,634
Total ..	2,153,961	2,821,192	1,825,592	2,343,115	2,009,987

Trade with
United States
of America.

The value of the trade with the United States in 1927 was £14,982,649, or 16·6 per cent. of the value of the Victorian oversea trade. As compared with the year 1926 the value of this trade was greater by £179,489 there having been an increase

in imports of £1,205,405, and a decrease in exports of £1,025,916. The principal articles included in the trade with the United States in the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES INTERCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Articles.	Value in Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Imported into Victoria (of United States origin).</i>					
Sausage Casings	76,851	49,150	65,169	107,003	82,285
Tobacco, &c.	555,589	834,916	541,201	423,658	526,777
Gums and Resins	12,296	13,662	22,619	34,170	27,382
Apparel—					
Socks and Stockings	171,004	131,411	83,279	114,922	144,964
Gloves	65,336	48,754	17,532	10,215	7,193
Other	267,147	240,032	204,042	156,048	177,712
Textiles—					
Piece Goods	307,954	244,158	176,594	274,545	396,768
Other	82,667	88,811	75,560	74,212	123,933
Manufactured Fibres and Yarns	28,324	61,869	59,471	84,244	165,266
Oils	1,025,939	1,435,465	1,603,232	1,855,778	1,760,771
Machines and Machinery	1,338,136	1,525,756	1,276,774	1,583,024	1,948,895
Metals and metal manufactures—					
Vehicles and parts	1,095,199	2,550,731	2,602,346	2,564,476	2,823,542
Iron and Steel	266,554	177,819	179,838	175,252	308,954
Tools of Trade	127,021	213,312	166,647	138,403	171,423
Other	354,493	520,553	378,403	422,218	453,507
Rubber, &c.	158,889	344,156	268,563	338,134	281,142
Leather, &c.	222,271	118,581	90,329	64,668	116,419
Timber	698,791	1,169,650	633,594	929,071	764,990
Paper	95,971	99,826	79,734	76,374	86,404
Stationery	111,315	126,360	121,694	122,540	132,813
Jewellery, Timepieces, and Fancy Goods	87,610	117,102	72,649	84,380	112,293
Optical, Surgical, and Scientific Instruments	133,469	142,570	155,350	143,475	156,217
Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	28,441	33,010	32,518	70,292	63,177
Instruments—Musical	116,850	256,625	198,859	192,191	289,770
All other Articles	578,844	676,316	700,695	823,180	1,001,281
Total	8,006,961	11,220,595	9,806,692	10,868,473	12,073,878
<i>Exported from Victoria to the United States.</i>					
Sausage Casings	78,672	16,537	45,049	159,187	168,441
Hides and Skins	351,732	90,259	281,777	427,036	362,618
Wool	2,151,892	1,906,917	2,803,723	3,193,089	2,304,047
Tallow	8,443	..	..	21,690	..
Platinum—Bars, Blocks, &c.	374	4,911	16,256	50,914	12,177
Eucalyptus Oil	11,773	15,889	16,489	13,713	14,054
All other Articles	72,468	52,113	40,518	69,058	47,434
Total	2,678,354	2,086,626	3,208,812	3,934,687	2,908,771

Wool, wheat and flour, butter, skins, meats, and fruits (all kinds) were the six principal articles exported from Victoria in 1927—their value being equal to slightly more

Destination of principal articles exported.

than 89 per cent. of the total exports. The countries which received these products are shown in the following statement :—

DESTINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED IN 1926-27.

Destination.	Wool.	Wheat and Flour.	Butter.	Skins.	Meats.	Fruits (all kinds).
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ..	4,888,821	2,483,284	2,012,500	1,019,060	1,289,281	1,157,952
Canada ..	28,160	..	461	615	6,491	63,293
Hong Kong ..	..	45,741	2,681	..	1,185	2,386
India and Ceylon ..	23,480	262,680	12,497	..	19,990	5,714
Irish Free State ..	..	83,713	..	..	..	..
Malaya (British) ..	..	187,616	85,744	..	9,306	2,163
Mauritius ..	..	87,868	7,835	..	..	93
New Zealand ..	591	476,662	318	982	162	170,083
South African Union ..	..	215,105	713	45	449	4,909
Other British Countries ..	..	29,862	1,507	..	9,314	2,065
Africa, Portuguese East ..	..	48,794	773	..	62	215
Algeria ..	..	154,052	..	..	..	..
Belgium ..	528,594	334,226	3,080	38,840	2,294	20
China ..	..	1,289	25,153	..	98	1,911
Egypt ..	..	1,093,000	28,650	..	15,744	591
Finland ..	66,996	..	..	..	..	85
France ..	2,563,910	474,062	4,200	493,749	..	..
Germany ..	1,321,404	325,186	4,362	162,605	5,858	321
Greece ..	..	..	21	..	..	..
Italy ..	623,780	1,262,980	..	7,974	..	..
Japan ..	1,899,254	842,120	95	5,459	10,824	130
Netherlands ..	14,079	140,913	..	9,003	20	..
Netherlands East Indies ..	..	399,521	415,862	..	10,292	14,852
Norway ..	2,384	..	..	..	..	..
Peru ..	..	99,295	..	..	..	..
Philippine Islands ..	..	12,452	833	..	620	36
Sweden ..	15,899	..	..	4,660	..	3
United States of America ..	2,304,047	..	..	362,618	168,441	857
Other Foreign Countries ..	18,547	34,651	4,570	2,508	682	57
Total ..	14,305,946	9,100,072	2,611,855	2,106,123	1,550,613	1,427,786

Customs and
Excise
Revenue.

The following statement shows the overseas trade and the net revenue collected, at Victorian ports and inland stations, during the year 1926-27 :—

OVERSEA TRADE AND NET REVENUE COLLECTED AT VICTORIAN PORTS AND INLAND STATIONS, 1926-27.

Ports.	Oversea Trade.			Net Revenue Collected.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Customs.	Excise.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Melbourne ..	54,311,430	28,700,253	83,011,683	9,725,601	2,962,367	12,687,968
Geelong ..	1,066,601	3,971,106	5,037,707	173,094	15,515	188,609
Portland ..	116,609	1,233,519	1,350,128	7,697	..	7,697
Warrnambool ..	66,259	836,811	903,070	10,947	409	11,356
Inland stations ..	..	..	..	..	47,939	47,939
Total ..	55,560,899	34,741,689	90,302,588	9,917,339	3,026,230	12,943,569*

* Gross revenue £13,321,402, less drawbacks, etc., £377,833.

SHIPPING.

Victorian shipping as dealt with in the succeeding tables refers to vessels trading with other States and overseas countries; the tonnage quoted is net. Vessels trading on the Victorian coast and on the River Murray have not been taken into consideration. In the particulars of the shipping at Victorian ports (page 443) and at the port of Melbourne (page 446) coastal shipping is included.

The number of vessels entered and cleared, and their total tonnage in each of the last five years were as follows:—

OVERSEA AND INTERSTATE SHIPPING, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Vessels Entered—					
Number	2,634	2,666	2,577	2,470	2,667
Tons	6,611,352	6,782,495	6,807,357	6,485,561	7,187,147
Average tonnage ..	2,510	2,544	2,642	2,626	2,694
Vessels Cleared—					
Number	2,634	2,676	2,605	2,447	2,666
Tons	6,618,968	6,749,873	6,876,355	6,494,779	7,180,748
Average tonnage ..	2,513	2,522	2,640	2,654	2,693

The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during 1926-27 was the highest on record, exceeding the previous record in 1924-25 by 379,790 and 304,393 tons respectively. For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1927, steamers numbered 2,654 of the vessels entered, and 2,653 of the vessels cleared, their tonnage aggregating 7,176,781 and 7,168,478 respectively.

The inward shipping of 1927 included 65 vessels in ballast, of an aggregate tonnage of 191,517, whilst the outward shipping included 396 vessels in ballast, having an aggregate tonnage of 695,412.

The more important of the countries having shipping communication with Victoria in 1926-27 are set out in the following statement:—

SHIPPING WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES, 1926-27.

Countries.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Net Tonnage.	Num-ber.	Tonnage.
Australian States	1,862	3,786,572	8	645	2,003	4,321,156	8	1,900
Great Britain	185	1,288,170	..	..	195	1,505,231	3	6,562
New Zealand	59	110,145	..	..	50	101,958	..	..
India	22	88,263	..	..	11	43,483	..	..
Straits Settlements	46	157,335	..	..	33	107,148	..	..
Other British	99	298,911	1	2,540	85	248,992	1	1,923
Total British Countries	2,273	5,724,389	9	3,185	2,377	6,127,968	12	10,385
Japan	55	184,655	..	..	57	189,419	..	..
Dutch East Indies	19	60,918	..	..	32	108,669	..	..
United States	162	635,654	2	3,210	52	204,785	..	..
Other Foreign	145	571,165	2	3,971	135	537,687	1	1,885
Total Foreign Countries	381	1,452,392	4	7,181	276	1,040,510	1	1,885
Total	2,654	7,176,781	13	10,366	2,653	7,163,478	13	12,270

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared at Victorian ports for the year 1926-27 was as shown hereunder :—

NATIONALITY OF SHIPPING, 1926-27.

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British—				
Australian	1,632	2,414,497	1,636	2,425,599
Great Britain	609	3,379,880	609	3,378,051
Canadian	32	118,536	29	102,865
Hong Kong	16	43,064	16	43,364
New Zealand	54	92,347	53	94,523
South African	6	16,512	6	15,493
Other British	2	3,844	3	7,052
Total British	2,351	6,068,680	2,352	6,066,952
Foreign—				
Danish	10	33,841	9	31,111
Finnish	2	4,588	3	6,562
French	10	47,182	9	43,988
German	46	166,921	47	170,118
Netherlands	28	101,814	28	103,181
Italian	29	114,120	29	114,118
Japanese	58	197,040	57	192,298
Norwegian	55	177,882	52	166,092
Swedish	26	78,539	26	78,561
United States	49	186,975	51	197,365
Other Foreign	3	9,565	3	10,402
Total Foreign	316	1,118,467	314	1,113,796
Total	2,667	7,187,147	2,666	7,180,748

Shipping
entered at
Victorian
Ports.

Particulars of shipping—oversea, interstate, and coast-wise—which entered at each port of Victoria are given in the following statement for the year ended 30th June, 1927 :—

VESSELS ENTERED AT EACH OF THE VICTORIAN PORTS, 1926-27.

Direction.	Melbourne.		Cunning- hame (Lakes Entrance).		Geelong.		Portland.		Warrnam- bool.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Oversea—										
Steam ..	748	3,242,940	..	..	31	105,056	11	40,614	2	1,599
Sailing ..	5	9,721	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inter-State—										
Steam ..	1,733	3,528,993	..	..	111	233,352	3	10,290	15	13,937
Sailing ..	8	645	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oversea <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	12	43,410	..	..	45	157,751	5	22,044	..	..
Inter-State <i>via</i> Ports—										
Steam ..	29	95,477	..	..	6	7,248	7	32,781	1	1,261
Local (within the State)—										
Steam ..	1,270	395,207	40	3,920	519	260,266	32	46,291	132	32,355
Sailing ..	196	8,137	..	..	39	7,213	..	..	..	..
Total—										
Steam ..	3,792	7,306,027	40	3,920	712	763,673	108	152,020	150	49,152
Sailing ..	209	18,503	..	..	39	7,213	..	..	..	..
Grand Total	4,001	7,324,530	40	3,920	751	770,886	108	152,020	150	49,152

NOTE.—“ Ports ” mean Victorian ports.

Vessels on
Victorian
register.

The number of vessels on the Victorian register on 31st December, 1926, their net tonnage, and the ports of registration are given in the statement which follows :—

VESSELS ON THE VICTORIAN REGISTER, 1926.

Port of Registration.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
	Number.	Net Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Net Tonnage.
Melbourne ..	251	189,231	135	32,485	386	221,716
Geelong ..	3	432	2	36	5	468
Port Fairy ..	3	621	..	..	3	621
Total ..	257	190,284	137	32,521	394	222,805

During 1926 there were added to the register 45 steamers with net tonnage of 61,436, and 1 sailing vessel with a tonnage of 1340; whilst 6 steamers having net tonnage of 9,547, and 1 sailing vessel having tonnage of 482, were taken off the register.

Ferry Service. The Williamstown City Council owns one steamer, which is engaged in the transport of passengers between Port Melbourne and Williamstown. It is licensed to carry 342 passengers. During the year 1926-27 the approximate number of passengers carried was 300,000, whilst the total revenue and expenditure amounted to £5,990 and £7,271 respectively. There were 8 persons employed, and the total mileage was 19,050.

Cargo discharged and shipped.

Statistics relating to the tonnage of cargo discharged and shipped in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1927, are shown hereunder. The first table gives the tonnage of interstate and overseas cargo handled at each port in the State, and the second tabulation shows only the tonnage of overseas cargo discharged and shipped in Victoria according to the nationality of the vessels carrying.

TONNAGE OF INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA CARGO DISCHARGED AND SHIPPED AT EACH PORT DURING THE YEAR 1926-27.

Port.	Discharged.		Shipped.	
	Interstate.	Oversea.	Interstate.	Oversea.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Melbourne	1,901,325	1,853,012	674,604	826,674
Geelong	203,127	76,355	33,763	287,301
Portland .. .. .	..	9,782	..	44,950
Warrnambool	22,791	908	4,210	..
Total	2,127,243	1,940,057	712,577	1,158,925

**TONNAGE OF OVERSEA CARGO DISCHARGED AND SHIPPED
IN VICTORIA DURING THE YEAR 1926-27, ACCORDING
TO THE NATIONALITY OF THE VESSELS
IN WHICH SUCH CARGO WAS CARRIED.**

Nationality of Vessels Carrying Cargo.	Tonnage.	
	Discharged.	Shipped.
Australian	108,478	51,323
Great Britain	1,167,643	565,529
Canadian	43,756	15,828
Hong Kong	10,369	10,795
New Zealand	40,341	75,876
South African	26,357	1,730
Other British	14,522	..
Total British	1,411,466	721,081
Chinese	296	..
Danish	61,289	34,994
Finnish	9,605	12,133
French	7,722	9,032
German	71,072	14,710
Holland	22,348	38,067
Italian	19,093	22,888
Japanese	29,656	126,805
Norwegian	134,447	116,790
Swedish	68,293	47,635
United States of America	99,666	14,790
Other Foreign	5,104	..
Total Foreign	528,591	437,844
Grand Total	1,940,057	1,158,925

PORT OF MELBOURNE.

Port of Melbourne. The Port of Melbourne is under the control of the Melbourne Harbour Trust, which has 11·13 miles of wharves, piers and jetties in the River Yarra, Victoria Dock and Hobson's Bay. The area of these wharves is 70 acres, of which 28·31 acres are under sheds. The constitution of the Trust and the revenue and expenditure are shown in part "Municipal Statistics."

Port improvement. The Station Pier, which is being constructed on the site of the old railway pier at Port Melbourne, is now well on towards completion. This pier is similar in design to the Prince's Pier and will have a length of 2,200 feet, and a width of 195 feet which will allow of the installation of electric travelling cranes on both sides of the pier. Two 3-ton electric portable jib cranes have been already installed on the west side of the pier. The pier will ultimately provide four berths for oversea ships with a depth of 37 feet below

low-water, at an estimated cost (including dredging) of £602,170. The construction of two inner berths, as a provision for bay excursion steamers, has been completed. The expenditure on this work up to 31st December, 1926, was £340,518. The channel leading to the piers at Port Melbourne and Williamstown is 600 feet wide, and dredging is in progress to provide a depth of 37 feet at low water. The widening of the swinging basin on the south side of the river, and the erection of a timber wharf around the basin, have been completed. This work makes the width of the river at the basin 700 feet for a length of 1,000 feet. The river below the swinging basin as far as the Coode Canal, viz., for 5,488 feet, is being widened by 100 feet. The construction of the Appleton Dock river berths is well under way, and it is estimated the cost of these (including dredging) will be £290,469. The expenditure to date on this contract is £187,017. To serve the three berths at the re-constructed wharf on the north-west side of Victoria Dock, a cargo shed 1,260 feet by 80 feet is rapidly nearing completion. The estimated cost of this work is £48,203.

The construction of a timber wharf at Yarraville 450 feet long by 21 feet wide, for the handling of bulk oil has been completed at a cost (including dredging) of £22,000. The construction of a stone and timber approach to the recently constructed jetty at Ferguson-street, Williamstown, has now been completed at a cost of £2,920.

Dredging. The material dredged and disposed of during 1926, amounted to 3,619,505 barge yards, viz., 1,525,636 barge yards from the bay within the Trust's boundary and 2,093,869 barge yards from the River Yarra, Victoria, and Appleton Docks. Since the establishment of the Trust the river dredgings have amounted to 46,698,091 barge yards and the Bay dredgings to 41,482,436 barge yards, making a total of 88,180,527 barge yards. Of the dredgings 67,888,335 barge yards were deposited in deep water and 20,203,171 barge yards were landed and deposited for reclamation work. The average cost of dredging, towing, and depositing in 1926 was 13·86 pence per barge yard.

Berthing Accommodation. There is a berthing space of 54,771 feet, the whole of which has a good depth of water—8,470 feet at Williamstown, 7,444 feet at Port Melbourne, 21,532 feet in River Yarra, 11,262 feet in Victoria Dock, 2,000 feet in Appleton Dock river berths, and 4,063 feet in Maribyrnong River.

Trade of the Port. In the year 1926, vessels to the number of 3,951 (3,629 steamers, 19 oversea sailing vessels, and 303 other sailing vessels), with registered gross tonnage aggregating 11,902,514, berthed within the port. The tonnage of imports in 1926 was 3,577,828 and that of exports 1,413,713. These figures include New Zealand and Interstate tonnage, which amounted to 1,794,344 in the case of imports, and 638,167 in the case of exports. Coal forms a great part of the Interstate imports. Exclusive of transhipments, 971,299 tons of coal were imported during 1926.

POSTS, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Rates of postage.

The following are the principal postal charges within the Commonwealth, as from 1st October, 1923 :—

Letters	1½d. per ounce
Letter-cards	Single, 1½d. each
Post-cards	Single, 1d. each
Printed papers (other than newspapers)	1d. per 4 ounces
Books printed in Australia	1d. per 8 ounces
Books printed outside Australia	1d. per 4 ounces
Magazines printed and published in Australia each	1d. per 8 ounces
Magazines printed and published outside Australia each	1d. per 4 ounces
Commercial papers, patterns, samples, and merchandise as prescribed	1d. per 2 ounces
Newspapers printed and published in Australia each	1d. per 10 ounces
Newspapers printed and published outside Australia each	1d. per 4 ounces

The rate of postage on letters to all places within the British Empire is the same as applies to places within the Commonwealth, viz., 1½d. per ounce. To the United States of America and all foreign countries the rate of postage is 3d. for the first ounce, and 1½d. for each additional ounce.

Cable rates. The ordinary rate for cabling to the United Kingdom is 2s. per word, and the deferred rate is 1s. per word. Deferred cablegrams are transmitted only after the despatch of non-urgent private cablegrams and press cablegrams. In January, 1913, the Pacific Cable Board instituted a tariff for week-end cable letters which is available between Australia and the United Kingdom. The rate is now 7½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 12s. 6d. Week-end messages may be lodged up to midnight on Saturday, and are deliverable on Tuesday morning, or if practicable on Monday. These messages are also available to Canada at a charge of 5½d. per word, with a minimum charge of 9s. 7d. per message. A new service *via* either "Pacific" or "Eastern" has been instituted, and is known as "Daily Letter Telegram." The rate to the United Kingdom is 9d. per word, with a minimum charge of 15s. per message. Messages by this service are accepted any day except Sunday, and are subject to a normal delay of 48 hours.

Wireless (Beam) rates. Wireless communication with the United Kingdom was established via "Beam" on 8th April, 1927. The ordinary rate is 1s. 8d. per word, and the deferred rate is 10d. per word. For daily letter telegrams the charge is 6d. per word with a minimum charge of 10s., and for week-end letter telegrams the charge is 5d. per word with a minimum charge of 8s. 4d.

Postal Returns. The following table shows the destination of letters, newspapers, packets, and parcels posted in Victoria, whether for delivery inside the Commonwealth or to oversea countries.

The recording of the numbers of letters, &c., received from other States

has been discontinued, only those received in Victoria from outside the Commonwealth being given:—

POSTAL RETURNS: 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Service.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Number of Post Offices open (exclusive of Receiving and Telephone Offices)	1,736	1,774	1,785	1,792	1,821

LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	157,552,117	169,736,677	177,065,374	182,858,200	197,549,400
Outside the Commonwealth	5,246,566	7,253,801	8,323,470	9,660,600	9,680,800
Total	162,798,683	176,990,478	185,388,844	192,518,800	207,230,200
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	14,102,942	16,263,751	18,485,872	19,311,500	19,755,000

REGISTERED LETTERS AND ARTICLES.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	1,566,130	1,689,094	1,706,602	1,714,752	2,362,500
Outside the Commonwealth	81,966	91,757	112,499	111,905	118,596
Total	1,648,096	1,780,851	1,819,101	1,826,657	2,481,096
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	132,574	131,560	125,321	162,796	176,073

NEWSPAPERS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	33,120,157	35,042,439	37,986,920	38,865,700	38,914,400
Outside the Commonwealth	1,368,343	1,413,324	2,085,108	2,826,000	3,044,000
Total	34,488,500	36,455,763	40,072,028	41,691,700	41,958,400
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	2,775,606	3,785,421	4,756,226	4,860,700	4,870,700

PACKETS.

Posted for Delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	11,947,310	12,831,486	15,382,190	17,437,100	17,678,400
Outside the Commonwealth	310,219	333,601	413,053	423,100	489,200
Total	12,257,529	13,165,087	15,795,243	17,860,200	18,167,600
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	588,805	796,493	1,068,803	1,206,400	1,141,500

PARCELS.

Posted for delivery—					
Within the Commonwealth..	2,072,153	2,007,259	2,324,398	2,320,200	2,416,000
Outside the Commonwealth	53,504	69,783	44,595	46,600	50,500
Total	2,125,657	2,077,042	2,368,993	2,366,800	2,466,500
Received from—					
Outside the Commonwealth	122,929	122,566	128,506	135,000	161,000

The number of letters and other postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria during the year ended 30th June, 1927, was as follows :—

1. Returned direct to the sender or delivered—

(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards addressed—

(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	365,245
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	10,692
Total	..	..	..	<u>375,937</u>

(b) Packets and circulars addressed—

(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	154,208
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	1,402
Total	..	..	..	<u>155,610</u>

2. Destroyed in accordance with the Act—

(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards addressed—

(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	71,568
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	5,530
Total	..	..	..	<u>77,098</u>

(b) Packets and circulars addressed—

(i) Within the Commonwealth	..	..	..	17,992
(ii) Beyond the Commonwealth	..	..	..	88,695
Total	..	..	..	<u>106,687</u>

3. Returned as unclaimed to other countries—

(a) Letters, lettercards and postcards	..	..	..	34,407
(b) Packets and circulars	..	..	..	26,378
Total	..	..	..	<u>60,848</u>

Money and valuables to the amount of £43,122 were found in postal articles sent to the Dead Letter Office as undeliverable. Postal articles (26,143) were posted without address, and of that number 170 contained money and valuables to the extent of £2,281.

The following table shows the total number and value of money orders and postal notes issued and paid in Victoria in each of the last five years :—

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL NOTES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Heading.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Number of Money Order Offices open	582	616	640	661	680
Money Orders issued—					
Inland .. { Number ..	422,505	426,716	441,152	459,172	478,621
{ Amount £	2,119,437	2,238,532	2,338,892	2,424,299	2,513,771
Inter-State .. { Number ..	74,021	78,676	82,854	84,568	87,362
{ Amount £	429,524	464,133	498,011	511,899	496,273
International .. { Number ..	65,560	73,537	73,966	76,101	82,729
{ Amount £	222,570	260,011	250,643	256,432	281,719
Total .. { Number ..	562,086	578,929	597,972	619,841	648,712
{ Amount £	2,771,531	2,962,676	3,087,546	3,192,630	3,291,763
Money Orders Paid—					
Inland .. { Number ..	400,109	417,165	444,721	463,582	475,011
{ Amount £	2,118,513	2,236,254	2,346,425	2,431,019	2,520,942
Inter-State .. { Number ..	125,990	132,281	138,514	139,044	145,105
{ Amount £	666,065	673,527	712,855	736,803	754,694
International .. { Number ..	32,322	35,660	37,100	36,556	35,233
{ Amount £	124,938	144,850	149,429	139,566	130,916
Total .. { Number ..	558,421	585,106	620,335	639,182	655,349
{ Amount £	2,909,516	3,054,631	3,208,709	3,307,388	3,406,552
Postal Notes—					
Sold .. { Number ..	4,013,977	4,448,002	4,346,270	4,619,497	4,589,488
{ Amount £	1,240,935	1,388,015	1,447,297	1,572,587	1,665,216
Inland, Issued and Paid .. { Number ..	2,456,462	2,618,976	2,796,744	2,935,129	2,904,339
{ Amount £	879,054	930,079	998,214	1,049,904	1,089,324
Victorian—Paid in other States .. { Number ..	1,531,648	1,804,695	1,582,740	1,684,368	1,667,734
{ Amount £	357,147	420,519	444,328	522,683	570,909
Of other States— { Number ..	353,203	363,350	381,525	397,546	393,681
Paid in Victoria { Amount £	134,432	135,889	142,718	151,953	156,366

Of the orders issued in 1926-27, 7,221 for £30,380 were payable in New Zealand, and 59,050 for £171,248 were payable in the United Kingdom. The orders paid included 18,657 for £58,332 issued in New Zealand, and 11,051 for £50,066 issued in the United Kingdom.

There are 2,333 telegraph offices in the State, 126 of which are attached to the railway service. The number of telegrams sent from Victorian offices, and the number received by them, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

Telegraphs
and
telegrams.

**TELEGRAMS DESPATCHED AND RECEIVED, 1922-23
TO 1926-27.**

Heading.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Telegrams despatched—					
Inland	2,687,030	2,813,300	2,910,978	4,244,806*	4,219,566*
Inter-State ..	1,227,522	1,297,652	1,336,764		
International—					
Cable	180,311	197,290	214,048	230,408	227,832
Wireless (Beam) ..	..	..	..	..	12,954‡
Total ..	4,094,863	4,308,242	4,461,790	4,475,214	4,460,352
Telegrams received—					
Inter-State ..	1,228,851	1,302,006	1,302,067	4,198,437†	4,066,662†
International—					
Cable	175,429	205,568	216,734	221,879	217,229
Wireless (Beam)..	..	..	..	..	9,154‡
Total ..	1,404,280	1,507,574	1,518,801	4,420,316	4,293,043

* Signifies "Within the Commonwealth."

† Includes "Inland" which was not previously shown.

‡ Commenced 8th April, 1927.

Telephones.

The connexion of one subscriber to a telephone office constitutes an exchange. There were 1,518 telephone exchanges on 30th June, 1927, as compared with 1,426 in the previous year. The actual number of subscribers' lines on the date mentioned was 101,891, with 138,609 instruments connected, which represented 8·03 to every 100 persons in the State. Telephone bureaux for the use of the public are placed in prominent positions in or near public buildings, post offices, railway stations, &c. The number of these on 30th June, 1927, was 2,112.

Details of wireless licences issued in Victoria for the year ended 30th June, 1927, are shown hereunder. The licences issued to broadcast listeners in Victoria represented 53 per cent. of the total for Australia.

**Wireless
Licences issued.**

WIRELESS LICENCES ISSUED IN VICTORIA, 1926-27.

Class of Licence.	Number.
Coast	1
Ship	59
Land	3
Broadcasting A	2
Broadcasting B	2
Broadcast Listeners—	
Ordinary	113,612
Special	94
Temporary	40
Experimental—	
Transmitting and Receiving	134
Receiving only	116
Dealers' Listening	943

Post Office
revenue and
expenditure.

Particulars concerning the revenue and expenditure of the Post and Telegraph Department in Victoria for the years 1921-22 to 1925-26 are contained in the following

table :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT IN VICTORIA, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

Particulars.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.
<i>Revenue.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Postage	1,362,344	1,417,267	1,256,509	1,230,737	1,306,183
Money Order Commission	40,839	42,837	46,454	49,175	51,381
Poundage on Postal Notes	8,519	8,908	9,778	10,598	11,511
Private Boxes and Bags	84,722	78,637	118,269	112,478	96,277
Miscellaneous					
Total Postal	1,496,424	1,547,649	1,431,610	1,402,988	1,465,352
Telegraph	293,688	303,992	*311,621	385,640	339,033
Telephones	768,860	846,610	943,595	1,033,242	1,143,906
Grand Total†	2,558,972	2,698,251	2,686,226	2,771,870	2,948,291
<i>Expenditure.</i>					
Salaries and Contingencies—					
Salaries	1,086,733	1,198,594	1,270,996	1,438,088	1,390,080
Conveyance of Mails	239,094	205,687	220,780	239,415	258,157
Contingencies	459,275	369,157	427,111	501,435	558,568
Miscellaneous	23,568	21,697	17,607	21,844	20,639
Pensions and Retiring Allowances	42,398	45,309	46,840	49,476	51,621
Rents, Repairs, Maintenance, Fittings, &c.	23,318	25,279	32,928	31,001	35,186
Supervision of Public Works	292	344	403	382	
Proportion of Audit Expenses	2,513	2,905	3,014	2,999	2,813
Unforeseen Expenditure	20	26	15	53	
New Works—					
Telegraph and Telephone	530,903	559,128	918,824	1,030,482	1,533,577
New Buildings, &c.	19,329	26,219	98,197	109,951	127,685
Interest on Transferred Properties	46,490	42,493	43,194	43,241	42,957
Total Expenditure‡	2,473,933	2,496,838	3,079,909	3,468,367	4,021,283

* Excluding Radio receipts.

† Actual collections.

‡ Actual payments. Including loan expenditure, as follows.—£260,807 in 1921-22, £416,901 in 1922-23, £787,323 in 1923-24, £1,140,433 in 1924-25, and £1,661,262 in 1925-26.

RAILWAYS.

Victorian
Railways,
length and
cost.

All railways in Victoria available for general traffic are, with the two exceptions referred to on page 463, the property of the State, and are under the management of three Commissioners appointed by the Government.

The succeeding tables relate to the State railways, the Road Motor Services, and the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Beamaris Electric Tramways—all of which are under the control of the Railways Commissioners. The operations of the tramways mentioned are also shown separately on page 460. The usual motive power is steam, but electric traction is used on the suburban lines (with the exception of a portion of the Outer Circle line), and on the 9·79 miles of tramways referred to above. The gauge of the lines is 5 ft. 3 in., with the exception of 121·77 miles (·21 double and 121·56 single), of which the gauge is 2 ft. 6 in., and 4·61 miles (2·22 miles double and 2·39 single) of electric street tramway, of which the gauge is 4 ft. 8½ in. The following table shows the length of double and single lines, the cost of construction, and the average cost per mile at the close of each of the last five years.—

RAILWAYS, LENGTH AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION,
1922-23 to 1926-27.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Length of Lines opened to 30th June—					
Double Lines (miles)	336·25	336·25	336·28	336·28	336·28
Single Lines (miles)	4,052·46	4,151·69	4,200·60	4,344·25	4,355·50
Total	4,388·71	4,487·94	4,536·88	4,680·53	4,691·78
Cost of Construction	£ 40,743,821	£ 41,409,905	£ 41,967,054	£ 43,102,954	£ 43,693,034
Average Cost per mile	9,284	9,227	9,250	9,209	9,313

In addition to the lines embraced in this table the following were in course of construction on 30th June, 1927:—

5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.	Miles.
*Gonn Crossing to Stony Crossing	38
Marnoo to Wallaloo	6½
Bowser to Peechelba	12¼
South Kensington to West Footscray	2½
Albion to Broadmeadows	8½
Total	67¾

* Under Border Railways Act No. 3194.

and the following lines had been authorized, but their construction had not been commenced :—

5 ft. 3 in. Gauge.					Miles.
*Euston to Lette	..	..	..	..	30
*Mildura to Gol Gol	..	..	..	..	22
*Yarrawonga to Oaklands	..	..	..	..	37
La La Siding to Big Pat's Creek..	..	..	..	..	21½
Darling to Glen Waverley	..	..	..	..	5¾
Orbost to Brodribb	..	..	..	..	6
Total	..	..	..	..	103¼

Electrification
of suburban
lines.

Parliament sanctioned the electrification of the Melbourne Suburban Railways in the year 1912, and the whole suburban system is now conducted under electric traction, with the exception of a small section of the Outer Circle line (between East Camberwell and Deepdene). Early in the year 1926-27 the line from Williamstown Race-course to Altona was completed. The electrified system now comprises 163 route miles or 404 single track miles.

The total expenditure debited to the Electrification Capital Account to 30th June, 1927, was £6,401,018.

Cost of
railways and
equipment.

The capital cost of lines opened, works, rolling-stock and equipment at 30th June in each of the last five years was as follows :—

CAPITAL COST OF RAILWAYS AND EQUIPMENT, 1923 TO 1927.

30th June—	£
1923	64,938,085
1924	66,212,984
1925	67,470,720
1926	69,181,724
1927	70,668,661

*Under Border Railways Act No. 3194.

The cost given is the actual cost of construction, exclusive of expenses of floating loans, &c. Of the capital expended to 30th June, 1927, £4,037,566 was derived from the general revenue, and the balance (£66,631,095) from loans. The latter liability is represented by debentures and stock outstanding to the nominal amount of £69,120,000, on which the annual interest payable is £3,255,000, or at the average rate of 4·709 per cent. The nominal amount of loans, however, was reduced by £2,489,905—the cost of flotation, together with the discount at time of flotation. It has been computed that, whilst the nominal rate of interest on loans outstanding on 30th June, 1927, was 4·709 per cent., the real interest on the net proceeds available for railway construction was 4·885 per cent.

The capital expenditure incurred to 30th June, 1927, in respect of lines now closed for traffic was approximately £353,407, and, for surveys of lines not constructed, £422,908. Both of these items are included in the totals shown above. The cost of lines in course of construction (£419,824) is, however, excluded.

**Railway
traffic.**

The mileage and the traffic of the railways since 30th June, 1922, are given in the following table :—

RAILWAYS—MILEAGE AND TRAFFIC, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Miles Constructed ..	4,388·71	4,487·94	4,536·88	4,680·53	4,691·78
„ Dismantled ..	36·14	36·14	36·14	36·14	36·14
„ Closed to Traffic	11·62	11·62	11·62	11·62	11·62
„ Open for Traffic	4,340·95	4,440·18	4,489·12	4,632·77	4,644·02
Train Mileage*	16,323,481	17,245,219	18,172,188	18,267,000	18,781,264
Passenger Journeys..	163,120,037	175,030,787	173,656,504	175,354,111†	177,102,686†
Goods and Live Stock Carried (Tons) ..	7,517,216	8,309,543	8,959,556	8,728,496	9,234,923

* Excluding Departmental, Assistant, and Light Mileage for the years shown.

† Including 17,504 in 1925-26, and 193,362 in 1926-27 by the Road Motor Services.

The mileage given in preceding tables relates to lines of railway, irrespective of the number of tracks, the actual length of which open for traffic on 30th June, 1927, was 5,008·94 miles of main tracks, and 1,005·93 miles of sidings.

The number of passengers carried in 1926-27 (177,102,686) was the highest on record. Compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 1,949,479 in metropolitan-suburban passenger journeys, whilst the country passengers showed a decrease of 381,762. The increase in the former was mainly due to the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, and the decline in the latter is attributed to the competition of privately-owned motor cars. Several Road Motor Coach services have been inaugurated, and these accounted for 198,362 passengers, which have been omitted from the above comparisons. The tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 506,427 greater than in 1925-26. The items of goods carried in 1926-27 showing greatest tonnage were stone, gravel, and sand, 1,989,918 tons; wheat, 1,198,163 tons; and firewood, 678,764 tons. Live stock carried in the same year had an aggregate weight of 586,435 tons, and comprised 36,265 horses, 501,885 cattle, 8,116,945 sheep; and 438,327 pigs.

**Flinders-street
Station
Traffic.**

A barrier tally of passengers leaving and entering the three metropolitan stations was taken under normal conditions early in February, 1927. The average daily number of passengers who travelled to and from Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge—which are connected and may be considered as one station—was 317,393, while the highest daily figure recorded for both stations combined was 332,254. In the following table is given an approximation to the average number of passengers who travelled daily to and from the three metropolitan stations in certain specified years from 1909 to 1927:—

Year.	* Average Number of Passengers per Week-day at Stations—				
	Flinders-street.	Prince's-bridge.	Total for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge.	Spencer-street (Suburban only).	Total for Three Stations.
1909 ..	129,449	20,099	149,548	14,546	164,094
1911 ..	145,257	20,740	165,997	20,670	186,667
1914 ..	182,870	27,403	210,273	21,636	231,909
1918 ..	161,363	26,033	187,396	21,836	209,232
1922 ..	209,181	31,958	241,139	44,469	285,608
1924 ..	238,303	44,548	282,851	42,564	325,415
1927 ..	269,372	48,021	317,393	40,634	358,027

The figures for Flinders-street and Prince's-bridge include both suburban and country travellers, but only suburban passengers are included in the numbers for Spencer-street.

The number of trains handled on an ordinary week-day at Flinders-street is approximately 2,800, and at Prince's-bridge 400.

**Railway
receipts and
expenditure.**

The receipts and working expenses of the Railway Department during the last five financial years were as follows :—

**RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE,
1922-23 TO 1926-27.**

Heading.	Year ended 30th June—				
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts—					
Passenger, &c., Business—					
PassengerFares*	5,160,256	5,396,088	5,450,444	5,497,109	5,748,514
Parcels, &c. . .	473,007	486,397	501,109	513,842	532,900
Other . . .	97,136	97,548	99,448	132,109	131,303
Goods, &c., Business—					
Goods . .	4,178,192	4,534,931	5,070,969	4,777,686	5,519,649
Live Stock . .	653,229	523,406	550,060	636,326	649,743
Minerals . .	121,771	146,189	154,493	151,439	174,704
Miscellaneous—					
Dining Car and Refreshment Services . .	308,116	345,161	407,848	439,543	476,631
Sale of Electrical Power . .	179,033	225,452	218,797	145,026	58,157
Rentals . .	117,673	119,300	124,883	156,546	141,503
Other . .	125,369	151,515	252,232	293,940	327,665
Total . .	11,413,782	12,025,987	12,830,283	12,743,566	13,760,769
Working Expenses—					
Way and Works . .	1,770,997	1,873,563	1,976,968	1,941,699	2,289,580
Rolling-stock . .	3,093,780	3,231,168	3,512,573	3,604,566	3,757,319
Transportation† . .	2,685,068	2,880,700	3,121,115	2,731,452	3,384,729
Electrical Engineering Branch . .	406,870	538,547	564,264	466,770	410,671
Pensions and Gratuities . .	203,470	206,366	215,087	219,396	215,105
Payment to the Superannuation Fund . .	..	..	..	18,712	78,575
Other . .	282,029	252,536	314,448	850,645	385,053
Total . .	8,442,214	8,982,880	9,704,455	9,833,240	10,521,032
Net Receipts . .	2,971,568	3,043,107	3,125,828	2,910,326	3,239,737
Percentage of Expenses to Receipts	73·97	74·70	75·64	77·2	76·5

* Including Road Motor Services, £3,911 in 1925-26, and £37,531 in 1926-27.

† Including Road Motor Services, £3,930 in 1925-26, and £49,069 in 1926-27.

The receipts for 1926-27 were £1,017,203 more than those received in 1925-26. Passenger business increased by £269,657, and goods, &c., business by £778,645.

Railway
interest
charges
compared with
net revenue.

The amount of interest on current loans allocated to railways, together with the expenditure incurred by the Treasury in connexion with the payment of such interest, is compared with the net revenue of the Department for the last five years in the following statement:—

RAILWAY INTEREST CHARGES AND EXPENSES AND NET REVENUE, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year.			Interest, &c.	Net Revenue.	Surplus(+) or Deficit(-)
			£	£	£
1922-23	..	..	2,951,385	2,971,568	+ 20,183
1923-24	..	..	3,015,455	3,043,107	+ 27,652*
1924-25	..	..	3,099,885	3,125,828	+ 25,943
1925-26	..	..	3,092,695	2,910,326	- 182,369
1926-27	..	..	3,287,277	3,239,737	- 47,540

* This is subject to a deduction of £136,417, which has been written off. After making this deduction there is a deficit of £108,765. The former amount (£136,417) represents the losses on non-paying lines for which credit was taken in revenue accounts of previous years, but which was not paid by the Government to the Railways Commissioners.

Railway
earnings and
expenses per
mile open.

The earnings, expenses, and net profits per average mile of railway worked for each of the last five years were as follows:—

RAILWAY RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE PER AVERAGE MILE OPEN, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Heading.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Average Number of Miles Open for Traffic	4,304	4,377	4,455	4,534	4,636
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross Earnings per Mile ..	2,652	2,747	2,880	2,811	2,968
Expenses per Mile ..	1,931	2,052	2,178	2,169	2,269
Net Profits per Mile ..	691	695	702	642	699

This table does not take account of the interest payable on railway loans and expenses of paying the same, which are given in the preceding table.

**Railway
Rolling-stock.**

Particulars of the rolling-stock at 30th June, 1927, are shown in the next statement :—

RAILWAY ROLLING-STOCK AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Vehicles.	Broad-Gauge.	Narrow-Gauge.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.
Locomotives—			
Steam	651	19	670
Electric	2	..	2
Steam Cranes	15	..	15
Rail Motors	63	..	63
Steam Coaching Stock	1,747	55	1,802
Electric Coaching Stock	866	..	866
Electric Tramway Stock	36	..	36
Goods Waggon	19,064	242	19,306
Service Stock	808	1	809
Road Motor Vehicles .. ..	..	..	16

The capital cost of the broad-gauge stock was £12,953,429, of the narrow-gauge stock £109,648, and of the electric street tramway stock £103,109.

Railway staff.

The number of officers and employees in the railway service and the amount of salaries and wages (excluding travelling and incidental expenses) paid in each of the last five financial years were as set forth below :—

RAILWAY STAFF—NUMBERS, SALARIES, ETC.

Year.	Number of Employees at end of Year.			Amount of Salaries and Wages Paid during Year.
	Permanent.	Supernumerary.	Total.	
1922-23 ..	19,450	7,295	26,745	£ 6,293,720
1923-24 ..	19,057	8,562	27,619	6,651,251
1924-25 ..	18,798	10,354	29,152	6,969,519
1925-26 ..	19,091	9,834	28,925	7,273,485
1926-27 ..	21,982	7,468	29,450	7,792,554

Note.—Particulars relating to the Construction Branch employees are not included above.

**St. Kilda-
Brighton and
Sandringham-
Beaumaris
Electric
Tramways.**

The results of operating the St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Beaumaris Electric Tramways for 1926-27 are detailed in the following statement. As these tramways are controlled by the Railways Commissioners, particulars relating to them have been included in all the preceding railway tables.

ELECTRIC STREET TRAMWAYS, 1926-27.
(Under the control of the Railways Commissioners.)

Heading.	St. Kilda-Brighton Electric Tramway.	Sandringham- Beaumaris Electric Tramway.
Average Mileage of Tramway Worked ..	5.18	4.61
Car Mileage	568,184	182,331
Number of Passengers Carried	5,856,796	1,809,880
	£	£
Gross Revenue	55,595	15,209
Working Expenses	48,079	15,198
Interest Charges	9,348	6,556
Net Result	Loss 1,832	Loss 6,545
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1927—	£	£
Construction of Line	124,153	102,163
Rolling-stock	71,249	31,860

Road Motor passenger services were inaugurated between Melbourne and Geelong on 30th November, 1925; Melbourne and Belgrave on 13th October, 1926; Melbourne and Portsea on 12th November, 1926; Geelong and Queenscliff on 21st February, 1927; and Melbourne and Warburton on 18th July, 1927. On all these routes highly competitive private road services had been operating to the detriment of train traffic. Particulars relating to the

**Road Motor
Services.**

Road Motor Services operating during 1926-27 are given in the following table :—

ROAD MOTOR SERVICES, 1926-27.
(Under the control of the Railways Commissioners.)

Heading.					Year ended 30th June, 1927.
Vehicles operating	..	..	..	No.	15
Passenger Journeys	..	..	..	No.	198,362
Gross Revenue	..	..	..	£	37,531
Working Expenses	..	..	..	£	49,069
Interest Charges	..	..	..	£	1,745
Net Result	..	..	..	£	Loss 13,283
Capital Expenditure at 30th June, 1927	..	..	..	£	37,931

Railway accidents.

The following table shows the number of persons killed or injured in railway accidents and the amount paid in compensation, damages, &c., for the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 :—

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, 1925-26 and 1926-27.

Nature of Accident.	1925-26.		1926-27.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Train Accidents—				
Passengers	3	153	..	12
Employees .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Accidents on Line (other than Train Accidents)—				
Passengers	8	186	4	171
Employees	11	89	2	32
Other Persons	1	2	1	3
Shunting Accidents—				
Employees	7	33	1	40
Other Persons .. .. .	..	1	2	5
Employees proceeding to and from Duty	2	1	4	1
Accidents to Persons at Crossings	28	25	11	25
Trespassers	18	8	28	3
Total	78	498	53	292
Compensation, Damages, &c., Paid	£24,975		£38,330	

Freight rates
on Victorian
railways.

A statement of freight rates, operative on 1st October, 1927, in respect of commodities affecting rural producers, has been supplied by the General Passenger and Freight Agent of the Victorian Railways, and is appended hereto. The rates shown are the lower rates provided for carriage at owners' risk.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

Commodities.	50 Miles.	100 Miles.	150 Miles.	200 Miles.	250 Miles.	300 Miles.	350 Miles.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Rate per Ton.							
Agricultural Produce, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.*	6 8	10 3	12 2	13 7	14 7	15 7	16 9
Dairy Produce, consisting of Butter, Milk, Cream, Cheese (boxed, minimum, 1 ton), and Eggs	12 9	23 10	31 10	40 0	45 8	51 2	56 11
Hams and Bacon (minimum, 1 ton) ..	14 2	26 4	35 3	44 5	50 8	56 10	63 2
Milk, in 4-ton lots	11 2	20 2	26 6	32 8	37 2	41 11	46 6
Fresh Fruit	8 6	15 2	19 10	24 7	27 11	31 6	35 0
Fresh Meat, in 5-ton lots; Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.; Woolpacks and Cornsacks, in truck loads of 8 or 12 tons	12 5	22 5	29 5	36 3	41 4	46 7	51 8
Poultry (living)	17 9	32 11	44 1	55 6	63 5	71 1	78 11
Wool (greasy or scoured)	25 9	50 3	64 9	73 9	83 6	92 9	102 3
Binder Twine, in truck loads of 8 tons	21 9	42 0	61 3	75 9	90 6	97 6	104 6
Agricultural Machinery and Implements, Binder Twine	27 0	52 3	78 3	97 3	116 6	129 0	142 3
Fencing Wire, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	12 5	22 5	29 5	36 3	41 4	46 7	51 8
Fencing Wire, in truck loads of 6 and 8 tons	17 5	33 7	49 0	60 7	72 5	78 0	83 7
Wire Netting, in truck loads of 9½ tons, 11 tons 8 cwt., and 14½ tons	6 6	11 5	15 9	18 5	21 6	23 10	26 1
Manures, in trucks loaded to full carrying capacity, less 5 per cent.	3 8	5 7	7 0	8 3	9 8	11 0	11 7
Rate per Truck.							
Live Stock (other than pigs)	60	6 116	6 136	6 179	6 224	0 267	0 311
Pigs	54	8 105	1 123	1 161	9 201	10 240	6 280

* Agricultural Produce includes Wheat, Oats, Barley, Maize, Beet, Onions, Hay, Straw, Chaff, Compressed Fodder, Flour, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Potatoes, Sharps, Pig Feed, and Malt; also Wine and Fruit, if produced in the Commonwealth and consigned direct for export. The minimum loadings for Chaff, Hay and Straw, and Pig Feed are as follows:—

Commodities.	Per 10, 11, or 12-ton Truck.	Per 16 or 20-ton Truck.
	Tons.	Tons.
Hay and Straw	6	8
Chaff	7	10
Pig Feed	8	12

Fares on
Victorian
railways.

A summary of passenger fares, operative on 1st October, 1927, has been obtained from the Railway Department, and is given below.

VICTORIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES.

Distance.	Single.		Return.		Return.*	
	1st Class.	2nd Class.	1st Class Ordinary.	2nd Class Ordinary.	1st Class Holiday Excursion.	2nd Class Holiday Excursion.
Miles.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
50	10 3	6 10	20 6	13 8	17 1	11 5
100	19 10	13 3	39 8	26 6	33 2	22 2
150	29 5	19 7	58 10	39 2	49 3	32 10
200	39 8	26 5	79 4	52 10	66 4	44 2
250	49 6	33 1	99 0	66 2	82 8	55 2
300	55 5	36 11	110 10	73 10	92 8	61 8
350	61 4	40 10	122 8	81 8	102 2	68 2

*Tickets issued only at week-ends and on dates specially advertised.

Cheap excursion tickets, at the rate of 2½d. per mile for first class return and 1½d. per mile for second class return, are issued to and from Melbourne and the various country stations as may be advertised from time to time.

From the 1st October to the 30th April each year return tourist tickets are issued to various holiday resorts from all stations throughout Victoria at holiday excursion fares, and are available for two months from date of issue.

Municipal railway. A railway between Kerang and Koondrook, owned and worked by the municipality of the Shire of Kerang, is open for general traffic. This railway, which has a 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, is 13 miles 75 chains in length, and, up to the end of 1926, cost £37,734 for construction and equipment. For the year 1926 the gross receipts were £8,919 and the working expenses including interest £7,354. The train mileage for the same year was 9,724, the number of passenger-journeys was 13,164, and the tonnage of goods and live stock carried was 28,134.

Private railway. Another railway in Victoria, not belonging to the State system, is one of 3-ft. gauge and 12 miles in length between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. It was constructed principally for private use, but, in addition to serving its immediate purpose, it is engaged in the general business of transportation of passengers and goods. Up to 30th June, 1927, the cost of construction was £79,479, and for the year ended on the same date the receipts and working expenses (exclusive of depreciation and interest on capital) were £9,941 and £11,778 respectively. The above construction and maintenance cost includes the cost of about 8 miles of

steel tramway continuation beyond Powelltown. This tramway is used for haulage of the logs of the company to which the line belongs and of sawn timber of other sawmillers, but not for passenger traffic. The freights on the extension line are included in the above receipts. The train mileage for the year between Powelltown and Yarra Junction was 22,642, and the passenger-journeys numbered 18,444.

TRAMWAYS.

The various tramway systems in the State comprise
Victorian tramways (excl. Railways). 33·675 miles of cable lines, double track, and 131·912 miles of electric lines, of which 92·836 miles are double, and 39·076 miles single track.

The electric street tramways, St. Kilda to Brighton and Sandringham to Beaumaris, under the management of the Victorian Railways Commissioners, are not referred to in this connexion, being included under the heading "Railways," page 460, and "All Victorian Tramways," page 469.

The subjoined table contains particulars relating to all tramways in Victoria (with the above exceptions) for each of the last five years:—

VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

(Exclusive of St. Kilda-Brighton and Sandringham-Beaumaris Electric Street Tramways.)

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling-stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
1922-23	105·791	41·340	22,775,563	234,588,628	£ 1,999,633	£ 1,492,031	1,465	5,070
1923-24	105·360	41·499	23,242,072	229,771,075	1,956,904	1,641,339	1,502	5,887
1924-25	111·686	40·562	25,052,876	236,899,796	2,019,391	1,737,317	1,571	5,986
1925-26	120·716	39·619	24,424,938	235,350,941	2,128,689	1,745,528	1,444	5,989
1926-27	126·511	39·076	24,564,284	227,419,311	2,507,676	1,751,797	1,284	5,965

On 7th January, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act, which is administered by a Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council. The Board assumed control of the Melbourne Cable Tramways on 1st November, 1919.

On 2nd February, 1920, the Electric Tramway systems of the following Trusts were vested in the Board:—Prahran and Malvern Tramways; Hawthorn Tramways; Melbourne, Brunswick and Coburg Tramways; Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways; and Footscray Tramways; also the Cable Tramway of the Northcote

Council. The Essendon Electric Tramways were taken over on 1st August, 1922.

The Board is empowered to borrow up to £4,750,000 by the issue of stock or debentures secured upon its revenues and undertakings, this being in addition to the transferred liabilities attaching to the tramways vested in it. Power is given to have an overdraft not exceeding £400,000. The Board has exercised its power to borrow to the extent of £4,250,000.

The Board has prepared a general scheme for the future development of tramways in the metropolis, which has been approved by the Railways Standing Committee. The scheme includes provision for the construction of about 100 single track miles of electric tramway, but, before the Board can actually construct any of such tramways, a "Special construction scheme" dealing with the proposed route must be approved by the Railways Standing Committee and authorized by Parliament. Authority has, however, been given to the Board to construct certain tramways already approved by the Governor in Council or Parliament, without further formality.

The Act provides that the Board shall pay to the Consolidated Revenue each year a sum equivalent to the Government's contributions to the Queen's Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, and certain specified municipalities pursuant to the *Licensing Act* 1916. (The payments under this obligation for the year ended 30th June, 1927, amounted to £108,453.) The surplus on the operations of any year, after transferring not less than 4 per cent. nor more than 6 per cent. of the capital cost of the undertaking to Reserve Funds and carrying to the credit of the succeeding year such sum, not exceeding £10,000, as the Board thinks fit, is to be distributed amongst 29 constituent Metropolitan Councils in accordance with a scheme of distribution to be adopted by the Board. Any sum received by a municipality in pursuance of this arrangement is to be applied only to such purposes as the Governor in Council shall approve. No distribution to the Municipalities has been made since 30th June, 1920.

Pursuant to the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act* 1923, municipal councils may require the Board to submit a special construction scheme to the Railways Standing Committee dealing with any route included in the general scheme. In the event of such route being approved by the Committee, and its construction being authorized by Parliament, the Board shall construct the line under a guarantee against loss on operation from the council or councils concerned for a period of five years. The council or councils shall pay each year from the Municipal fund any losses in respect of which a guarantee has been given, and a council may, if not forbidden by the ratepayers, recoup itself by the levy of a "tramway betterment rate" over the whole or a portion of the district served.

Melbourne and
Metropolitan
Tramways.

The following table contains detailed particulars of the
operations of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways
Board for the year 1926-27:—

MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1926-27.

Tramway.	Miles of Track Open—		Vehicle Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.*	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling Stock.	Number of Persons Employed.
	Double.	Single.						
Cable—					£	£		
Melbourne	31·425	..	9,303,175	94,012,617	958,979	665,990	756	1,926
Northcote	2·250	..	514,293	5,965,799	45,815	36,759	34	88
Total Cable	33·675	..	9,817,468	99,978,416	1,004,794	702,749	790	2,014
Electric—								
Prahran and Malvern	53·949	3·192	7,842,110	70,890,857	832,181	564,371	270	2,102
Hawthorn	8·988	2·065	1,542,778	13,783,047	173,127	111,029	44	419
Coburg	10·615	1·657	1,363,261	13,148,052	150,656	93,647	38	340
Preston	3·943	2·883	976,227	7,386,456	93,472	70,326	21	282
Footscray	2·518	1·942	319,541	3,701,080	33,431	27,458	12	99
Essendon	7·343	3·047	1,343,952	9,949,475	136,509	96,727	43	487
Total Electric	87·356	14·786	13,387,869	118,858,967	1,419,376	963,558	428	3,729
Grand Total (Tramways)	121·031	14·786	23,205,337	218,837,383	2,424,170	1,666,307	1,218	5,743
	Route Mileage.							
Motor Omnibuses	17·420		1,029,796	5,374,484	63,403	110,800	56	212

* Gross revenue for tramways amounted to £2,441,961, and for motor omnibuses to £63,894.

In addition to traffic receipts (£2,487,573), there was revenue from advertising, rents, &c., of £8,152 from cable tramways, £9,639 from electric tramways, and £491 from motor buses, making a gross revenue for the year of £2,505,855.

The gross surplus on the year's operations, including motor omnibuses, was £728,748. Out of this had to be paid interest on loans, rates, &c., leaving available for appropriation an amount of £429,389. From the latter sum, the following appropriations were made :— Consolidated Revenue, £108,453 ; General Reserve Account, £100,000 ; Fire Insurance Reserve Account, £7,000 ; Renewals Reserve Account, £158,000 ; and Loans Redemption and Sinking Fund Accounts, £54,008 ; leaving a balance of £1,928 carried forward.

Up to 30th June, 1927, the capital cost of the tramways vested in the Tramways Board, including stores on hand, amounted to £7,014,073, of which £1,865,462 was expended on cable, £5,029,139 on electric tramways, and £119,472 on motor omnibuses.

In the next statement interesting comparisons are made between the cable, electric, and bus systems, the receipts per mile, the cost of working, &c., being shown for the year 1926-27 :—

System.	Average Traffic Receipts.			Percentage of Working Expenses to Total Revenue.	Average Working Expenses per Vehicle Mile, including Power Cost.	Average Distance per Penny.
	Per Vehicle Mile.	Per Mile of Single Track.	Per Passenger.			
	d.	£	d.		d.	Miles.
Cable ..	24·563	14,919	2·412	69·37	17·181	·940
Electric ..	25·445	7,490	2·865	67·43	17·272	·900
Bus	14·776	1,820	2·832	173·41	25·822	·757

**Metropolitan
Tramways
Traffic.**

Particulars in relation to the traffic of the metropolitan tramways for each of the last five years are given in the following statement :—

**MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS, 1922-23
TO 1926-27.**

Financial Year.	Miles of Track Open.		Tram Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1922-23	100·396	17·642	21,584,652	226,631,546	1,911,278	1,427,955	1,397	4,875
1923-24	99·965	17·801	21,984,885	221,892,070	1,870,288	1,566,996	1,433	5,673
1924-25	106·306	16·172	23,712,432	228,752,078	1,935,098	1,661,274	1,493	5,764
1925-26	115·336	15·229	23,051,639	226,900,063	2,045,014	1,663,280	1,365	5,762
1926-27	121·031	14·786	23,205,337	218,837,383	2,424,170	1,666,307	1,218	5,743

**Country
Tramways.**

The towns, other than the metropolis, having tramway systems are :—Ballarat, with 13·85 miles of electric lines (1·42 double and 12·43 single track); Bendigo, with 8·79 miles of electric lines (1·79 double and 7·00 single track); and Geelong, with 7·13 miles of electric lines (2·17 double and 4·96 single track).

The traffic particulars of these lines for each of the last five years are summarized below :—

COUNTRY TRAMWAYS, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Financial Year.	Miles of Track.		Tram Mileage.	Passenger Journeys.	Traffic Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Number of Rolling- stock.	Number of Persons employed.
	Double.	Single.						
					£	£		
1922-23	5·395	23·698	1,190,911	7,957,082	88,355	64,076	68	196
1923-24	5·395	23·698	1,257,187	7,879,005	86,616	74,343	69	214
1924-25	5·380	24·390	1,340,444	8,147,718	84,293	76,043	78	222
1925-26	5·380	24·390	1,373,299	8,450,888	83,675	82,248	79	227
1926-27	5·480	24·290	1,358,947	8,581,928	83,506	85,490	66	222

**Summary of
All Victorian
Tramways.**

A summary of the operations for the past two years relating to the foregoing tramway systems and the electric tramways under the control of the Railways Commissioners is appended :—

ALL VICTORIAN TRAMWAYS, 1925-26 AND 1926-27.

Heading.				1925-26.	1926-27.
Route Mileage Open—Double .. miles				128·106	133·911
	Single .. miles			39·819	41·466
	Total .. miles			167·925	175·377
Cost of Construction and Equipment	£			6,689,627	7,137,222
Interest Payable on Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	..	£		242,265	288,496
Gross Revenue—					
Traffic Receipts	..	£		2,196,083	2,577,632
Other	..	£		13,228	20,067
Total Revenue	£			2,209,311	2,597,699
Working Expenses	..	£		1,807,295	1,815,074
Net Earnings	..	£		402,016	782,625
Net Profit or Loss after Paying Working Expenses and Interest	..	£		Profit 159,751	Profit 494,129
Tram Miles Run	..	miles		25,116,391	25,314,799
Passenger Journeys	..	No.		242,633,240	235,085,987
Staff Employed—					
Salaried	..	No.		717	720
Wages	..	No.		5,409	5,378
Total Staff	..	No.		6,126	6,098
Rolling Stock	..	No.		1,480	1,320

LICENSED VEHICLES.

**Licensed
vehicles in
Melbourne.**

The licensing and regulating of vehicles used as hackney carriages plying for hire within the City of Melbourne and within the distance of eight miles from the corporate limits of the City of Melbourne is controlled by the Melbourne City Council.

The appended statement contains details of vehicles licensed annually during the last five years.

LICENSED VEHICLES IN MELBOURNE, 1923 TO 1927.

Heading.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
<i>For Passenger Traffic.</i>					
Waggonettes, Drags (4 wheel) ..	391	410	286	203	158
Hansom Cabs	114	95	61	31	20
Motor Cars (Taxicabs and Motor Cabs)	644	882	842	994	1,114
Motor Omnibuses	19	72	170	175	152
„ Chars-a-bancs	109	331	85	115	101
Total	1,277	1,790	1,444	1,518	1,545
<i>For Conveyance of Goods within the corporate limits of the City of Melbourne only.</i>					
Drivers licensed	3,257	3,182	3,226	2,922	2,960

Complete statistics regarding motor omnibus traffic are not yet available. This is due to the great number of bus proprietors who have ceased operations during the currency of the year in which they have been registered, as well as to the incompleteness of many of the returns received.

The use of motor cars, motor vehicles, and traction engines engaged in haulage on any highway in Victoria is regulated by the following Acts, viz.:—Motor Car Act No. 2702; Motor Omnibus Acts Nos. 3378 and 3439; and the Highways and Vehicles Acts Nos. 3379, 3448, and 3575.

All Motor Vehicles and Traction Engines must be registered with the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the registrations renewed annually, and all motor vehicles plying for hire in the City of Melbourne are also required to be licensed by the Melbourne City Council.

The annual registration fee for motor vehicles (excluding motor cycles and omnibuses) is calculated on the power-weight unit, i.e., the sum of the horse-power and the weight in hundredweights of the motor

car unladen and ready for use. Fees chargeable under the above-mentioned Acts are as follows :—

Vehicle, &c.	Rate Chargeable—
(a) Ordinary Motor Cars ..	3s. per power-weight unit, with a minimum fee of £3 each.
(b) Motor Cycles ..	Flat rate of £1 each.
(c) Trailers and Side Cars attached to Motor Cycles ..	Flat rate of 10s. each.
(d) Trailers attached to Motor Cars ..	From £1 to £4 each, according to unladen weight and type of tires.
(e) Motor Vehicles for Hire and Commercial Use ..	From 4s. per power-weight unit to 8s. 9d. per power-weight unit, according to the number of wheels, unladen weight, and type of tires and wheels. Special rates are levied on vehicles used by primary producers solely for carrying their produce, &c. Rates on commercial vehicles are less 10 per cent. where the vehicle is wholly of British or Australian manufacture or both.
(f) Motor Omnibuses ..	Flat rate of £5 each, plus additional fees ranging from £1 5s. to £4 10s. per passenger seat, if running on certain defined routes in the Melbourne District. For omnibuses running on routes prescribed as "developmental routes" the additional fee is 10s. per seat.
(g) Traction Engines ..	From £6 to £15 each, according to weight and if used for haulage purposes on any highway. Those owned by municipalities are exempted.
(h) Drivers' and Riders' Licences, Dealers' Licences, &c.	Drivers' and Riders' licences, 5s. each; Dealers' licences, £5 each; Transfers, 2s. 6d. each; and Duplicates, 1s. each.

The total registrations of motor vehicles, &c., and the revenue received therefrom by the Police Department during 1926-27, are shown in the appended table :—

REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ETC., 1926-27.

Heading.	Registrations.	Revenue.
	No.	£
Motor Cars	110,950	738,057
Motor Cycles	23,011	23,011
Omnibuses	174	8,480
Traction Engines	232	2,406
Side Cars	7,887	3,944
Trailers	364	694
Total Vehicle Registrations ..	142,618	776,592

REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ETC., 1926-27—*continued*.

Heading.	Registrations.	Revenue.
	No.	£
Drivers' and Riders' Licences	164,380	41,095
Dealers' Licences	310	1,550
Transfers	33,106	4,138
Duplicates	2,351	118
Total Other Registrations ..	200,147	46,901
Total All Registrations ..	342,765	823,493

Traffic Accidents. The Police Department has tabulated a return of the accidents known to the police which occurred in the public streets of Victoria for the calendar year 1926. Details are as follows :—

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN VICTORIA, 1926.

Cause of Accident.	Killed.	Injured.
	No.	No.
Vehicles—		
Tram	12	213
Train	52	21
Motor	224	2,919
Bicycle	7	101
Other Vehicles (including improper riding, &c.)	41	201
Horses	15	58
Totals	351	3,513
Ages of persons killed or injured—		
Under 10 years	40	237
10 to 14 years	16	120
Over 14 years	295	3,156

Principal Agricultural and Pastoral Features of the various Districts of the State of Victoria, Season 1926-27.

District.	Total Area of District.	Area occupied.	Number of Occupiers.	CULTIVATION.										PASTORAL.					PRODUCE.		
				Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Onions.	Maise for Grain.	Vines.	Orchards (bearing fruit for sale).	Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Butter.	Wool.	Honey.		
Central ..	4,065,280	2,788,300	17,495	Acres. 37,276	11,131	Acres. 28,138	37,258	2,674	1,266	Acres. 108	40,350	No. 130,211	97,605	85,894	43,788	1,113,303	10,934,753	8,360,727	65,105		
North Central ..	2,929,920	2,137,703	5,673	19,994	5,788	3,384	11,099	..	..	125	4,229	35,300	50,219	21,551	11,779	1,358,783	4,298,388	10,811,132	50,561
Western ..	8,775,040	6,675,688	12,437	55,008	27,974	11,632	6,190	4,536	..	31	2,189	181,191	167,045	58,355	67,724	4,806,755	23,705,817	35,426,090	678,380		
Wimmera ..	7,394,560	6,001,391	6,378	772,216	63,730	9,658	107	..	..	1,377	3,479	30,338	20,807	62,681	5,632	2,318,218	780,169	21,144,900	872,079
Mallee ..	10,784,000	5,663,231	5,670	1,307,430	115,471	10,323	8	3	16	30,762	4,070	19,054	68,375	99,489	9,566	441,759	2,409,098	8,193,692	35,144		
Northern ..	6,337,280	5,345,899	12,311	660,798	65,797	13,166	43	15	31	2,706	22,724	86,375	99,489	84,871	47,605	2,567,530	11,366,004	21,296,558	149,764		
North-Eastern ..	7,230,480	3,902,816	5,334	43,940	7,166	631	709	..	1,943	5,601	1,909	65,114	148,038	30,358	26,145	1,144,239	8,271,179	8,298,087	81,383		
Gippsland ..	8,739,200	4,238,063	9,083	18,654	3,767	11,064	8,861	1,243	16,790	2	1,461	135,706	172,389	36,480	82,022	968,766	20,221,425	6,768,426	437,894		
Total for State	56,245,790	36,663,981	77,180	2,915,315	363,424	68,896	66,185	8,671	20,046	40,612	61,301	673,989	762,672	447,988	284,271	14,919,653	87,905,416	121,299,621	3,370,319		

Minor Crops of Special Interest.—Aconage: Chicory, 640; Hops, 196; Tobacco, 1,154; Millet (Broom), 1,493; Sugar Beet, 2,024; Beans, 1,043; these are confined to the Central, North-Eastern, and Gippsland Districts.

TOTALS.

Year.	Average Rainfall.	WHEAT.		Wool Total Production.	LIVE STOCK.	
		Acres.	Average Yield.		Cattle.	Sheep.
1922	Inches	Acres.	Bush.	lb.		
1923	21-73	2,644,314	13-50	102,437,900	1,785,660	11,765,520
1924	20-12	2,454,117	15-40	82,513,361	1,891,397	11,069,776
1925	23-66	2,705,323	17-51	106,787,897	1,905,854	12,649,896
1926	20-22	2,512,484	11-64	111,200,814	1,513,787	13,740,600
1926	22-52	2,915,315	16-08	121,299,621	1,435,761	14,919,653

VICTORIA.

Showing

Statistics of Wheat, Wool, Live Stock, and Rainfall in each District for 5 years; and Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics in detail, for the Season 1926-27.

Scale of Miles
1:1,000,000
1:1,000,000

PRODUCTION.

LAND SETTLEMENT, ETC.

The total area of the State is 56,245,760 acres. This comprises—

	Acres.
Lands alienated in fee simple	25,589,484
Lands in process of alienation	8,856,710
Crown lands	21,799,566
Total	<u>56,245,760</u>

The Crown lands comprise—

Permanent forests (under Forests Act) ..	3,569,226
Timber reserves (under Forests Act) ..	736,355
State forests and Timber reserves (under Land Act)	329,385
Water reserves	314,397
Reserves for Agricultural Colleges, &c. ..	85,894
Reserves in the Mallee	406,840
Other reserves	328,095
Roads	1,794,218
Water frontages, beds of rivers, lakes, &c.; (unsold land in cities, towns, and boroughs)	2,288,740
Land in occupation under—	
Perpetual leases	100,873
Other leases and licences	69,044
Temporary grazing licences	6,025,518
Unoccupied	<u>5,750,981</u>
Total	<u>21,799,566</u>

Alienation
of land.

In the following table are shown the area of Crown lands sold absolutely and conditionally, and the area of lands alienated in fee simple in each year since 1916.

A portion of the area conditionally sold reverts to the Crown each year in consequence of the non-fulfilment of conditions by the selectors. The lands alienated each year include areas selected in previous years.

ALIENATION OF CROWN LANDS, 1917 to 1926.

Year.	Area of Crown Lands Sold.		Crown Lands alienated in Fee Simple.	
	Absolutely, at Auction, &c.	Conditionally to Selectors.*	Area.	Purchase Money.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£
1917	2,075	89,164	82,042	79,992
1918	1,760	74,514	76,064	78,235
1919 . . .	1,166	70,729	102,294	114,654
1920	3,125	102,534	187,228	192,861
1921	1,800	99,519	110,056	100,890
1922	2,658	186,686	106,485	118,698
1923	3,015	200,517	142,940	167,669
1924	3,093	151,875	126,147	167,322
1925	2,920	92,996	185,038	129,187
1926	2,832	93,469	125,765	87,740

* Exclusive of Mallee selectors.

Amount
realized by
sale of Crown
lands.

From the period of the first settlement of the State to the end of 1926 the amount realized by the sale of Crown lands was £34,723,462, which represents an average of £1 0s. 2d. per acre for all lands alienated or in process of alienation. Payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, upon very easy terms.

Lands
remaining for
disposal.

The next table shows the whole of the unalienated lands of the Crown remaining for disposal:—

CROWN LANDS REMAINING FOR DISPOSAL ON 31ST
DECEMBER, 1926.

Location.	Classification.						Total.
	Agricultural and Grazing.					Auri-ferous.	
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Un-classed.		
County.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Buln Buln ..	5,192	30,174	77,071	..	..	..	112,437
Croajingolong ..	2,510	1,756	565,859	..	837,400	13,850	1,421,375
Dargo ..	..	..	102,222	..	431,900	72,000	606,122
Tambo ..	..	..	219,797	..	398,850	900	619,547
Tanjil ..	..	..	109,548	..	364,300	67,000	540,848
Wonnangatta ..	..	39	159,878	..	942,100	..	1,101,817
Bogong ..	1,308	12,827	203,557	..	163,724	98,277	479,693
Benambra ..	..	403	294,160	..	320,474	90,811	705,848
Delatite ..	390	18,833	198,858	5,000	230,050	61,333	514,464
Moirs ..	546	149	10,833	..	..	..	11,528
Anglesey ..	..	3,823	59,704	..	..	3,160	66,687
Bourke ..	..	162	..	..	..	..	162
Dalhousie ..	..	581	1,235	..	..	5,055	6,871
Evelyn ..	19	7,103	391	..	..	993	8,506
Mornington ..	..	994	9,184	..	..	..	10,178
Bendigo ..	86	757	3,333	..	..	3,998	8,174
Rodney ..	..	254	..	..	..	2,234	2,488
Borong ..	..	25	66,604	..	423	5,101	72,153
Gladstone ..	362	1,575	2,143	..	..	12,915	16,995
Lowan ..	..	604	141,495	28,905	10,343	..	181,347
Kara Kara ..	86	123	3,436	..	..	3,710	7,358
Talbot ..	246	791	701	..	..	41,487	43,225
Tatchera ..	20	70	..	..	..	..	90
Heytesbury ..	..	863	164,891	..	..	..	165,754
Polwarth ..	16,596	16,913	28,518	..	..	..	62,027
Grant ..	..	155	24,552	..	..	12,149	36,856
Grenville ..	..	311	..	..	..	9,476	9,787
Ripon ..	..	380	23,687	..	..	2,489	26,556
Normanby ..	..	267	119,319	5,765	8,810	..	134,161
Dundas ..	..	..	43,056	8,571	15,754	..	67,381
Villiers ..	..	..	1,268	..	..	..	1,268
Follett ..	..	1,252	160,639	..	37,473	..	199,364
Total ..	27,361	101,187	2,795,739	48,241	3,761,601	506,938	7,241,067
Throughout the State	Swamp or reclaimed lands						1,688
" " "	Lands which may be sold by auction						7,269
The north-western por- tion of the State	Mallee lands (such as are suitable to be eventually classed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th class for selection)						4,526,475
Total area remaining for disposal							11,776,499

Much of the land included in the above statement is temporarily leased under grazing licences

Pastoral occupation of Crown lands. The particulars of Crown lands for which licences had been issued for pastoral occupation on 31st December, 1926, are as follows :—

Number of Licences	5,382
Area (acres)	6,025,518
Annual Rental	£24,160

Persons who may select land. Any person of the age of 18 years or upwards is eligible to apply to select under the Land Acts a prescribed area varying according to the classification of the land—less the area of previous selections.

Concessions to land seekers. The Lands Inquiry Branch gives information to intending applicants and issues concession warrants for half fares on Victorian Railways to persons travelling to make inspection or take possession of land.

Area that may be selected. An applicant may select in the Mallee, under Selection Purchase Lease, 640 acres of first class, 1,000 acres of second class, 1,280 acres of third class, or 1,600 acres of fourth class land, or 4,000 acres of land classed 4A; and, in addition, may acquire privately an area equivalent to that which he selects from the Crown.

Grazing licences Grazing licences are renewable annually, and are only granted for waste lands of the Crown until required under the principal sections of the Act.

Land Laws. A conspectus of the provisions of the Victorian Land Acts appears in the *Year-Book* for 1916-17 and previous issues.

Transfer of Land Act. The "Torrens System," whereby persons acquiring possession of land may receive a clear title, was introduced into Victoria in 1862. The system has been the means of simplifying procedure in connexion with the transferring of land. It gives a title to the transferee free of any latent defect and reduces the cost of dealing in real estate by reason of the simplicity of the procedure. All land parted with by the Crown since 1862 is under the operation of the Transfer of Land Act, and the Crown grant issues through the Titles Office; but, to bring under the Act land that was parted with prior to that year, application must be made accompanied by strict proofs of the applicant's interest in the property. During 1926 there were submitted 458 applications to have brought under the Act land amounting to 16,487 acres in extent, and to £881,637 in value; while the land actually brought under the Act during the year by application was 16,909 acres valued at £637,006. Up to the end of 1926 there had been brought under the Act 3,125,504 acres valued at £65,729,730.

Assurance Fund.

When application is made to have land brought under the Transfer of Land Act, a contribution to the assurance fund of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the £1 on the value of the land is levied on the applicant to assure and indemnify the Government in granting a clear title against all the world, as some other person may have a latent interest in the property, and it may be necessary for the Government to recompense such person out of the fund for the loss of his interest. Receipts during 1926-27 comprised contributions £3,107, interest on stock £4,992, and interest on £75,073—advanced under *The Protection of Public Buildings Act 1835*—£3,003. During the year £301 was paid out of the fund in settlement of claims, and £5,144 as interest on securities under the *Special Funds Act 1920*, No. 3067. The balance at the credit of the assurance fund on 30th June, 1927, was £168,708. The amount paid up to 30th June, 1927, as compensation and for judgments recovered, including costs, was £8,328.

CLOSER SETTLEMENT.**Closer Settlement.**

Under the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act the Closer Settlement Board is empowered to expend at the rate of £500,000 per annum in the purchase—either by voluntary or compulsory acquisition—of lands (whether privately owned or held under lease from the Crown) for subdivision into suitable allotments according to the class of the land, and for disposal by the Board to eligible applicants, as stated hereafter. Lands well adapted for settlement are thus made available in those portions of the State in which railways, water supply and markets are provided, and in which roads and other facilities are good. The areas purchased comprise ordinary farming lands in a more or less improved condition, and lands in irrigated districts with plentiful supplies of water for irrigation.

Every application for a Closer Settlement allotment must be accompanied by the registration fee of 5s., a lease fee of £1, and a deposit (equal to at least 3 per cent. of the capital value of the land) which is deducted from the purchase money. The applicant is required to give evidence of suitability and fitness, &c., to occupy the land. If successful, a permit giving immediate possession is issued (followed by a lease as soon as practicable), and no further payment is required for six months. If the application be refused, the amount forwarded as a deposit in respect of the purchase money and the lease fee are returned to the unsuccessful applicant, but the registration fee is retained. Only one allotment of the maximum value can be granted to any one person, and the principle of residence for eight months in each year is a condition of the lease.

In addition to the provisions for the purchase of large estates for subdivision, the Closer Settlement Act provides that any one or more persons, who are eligible to acquire a farm allotment under the Closer Settlement Act, may enter into a provisional agreement with the owner of a block of private land for the purchase thereof, and

acquire it through the Closer Settlement Board—vide section 20, Act 2629. The value of the land must not exceed the maximum allowed under the Act. An application on the proper form must be filled in, and the agreement with full details and the application must be lodged with the Board, together with a valuation fee of £4. Where the agreement is submitted on behalf of more than one applicant, an additional fee of £2 must be lodged in respect of each additional applicant. The fee may be returned if, after a preliminary inspection, the Board does not approve of the application. Should the Board decide to acquire the land, the purchaser is required to deposit an amount not exceeding four half-yearly instalments, and is otherwise subject to all the provisions of the Closer Settlement Act with regard to payments, residence, improvements, &c.

Repurchased lands are disposed of as farm allotments, agricultural labourers' allotments, and workmen's home allotments under conditional purchase lease. The principal terms of these leases, as regards farm allotments, are briefly stated herein. They are given in detail in each title as issued.

Conditional purchase leases are granted to successful applicants under the Closer Settlement Act, and are for such a term not exceeding $36\frac{1}{2}$ years as may be agreed upon between the lessee and the Board. The purchase money is payable by 73 or a less number of half-yearly instalments. In some cases the Board has granted applications for extension of payments under a lease to $46\frac{1}{2}$ years, the payments being by 93 half-yearly instalments. The deposit lodged with the application is credited as part of the principal, and the balance bears interest at 5 per cent. Each instalment includes interest upon the balance of purchase money remaining unpaid, and is 3 per cent. half-yearly (6 per cent. per annum) of the capital value of the allotment (less the amount of the deposit). Payments in advance may be made at any time, at the option of the lessee, and a proportionate reduction of interest secured thereby.

In special cases, when a lessee is unable to meet the instalments of purchase money as they fall due, the Board has power to suspend such payments up to an amount not exceeding 60 per cent. of the value of the improvements effected by him. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is charged on the amount in arrear or on any instalments which may have been suspended.

The lessee must reside on the allotment for eight months during each year. Personal residence by the lessee's wife, or child over 18 years of age, or parent dependent for support, may, with the approval of the Board, be considered personal residence by the lessee. A farm lessee cannot transfer, assign, mortgage, or sublet the whole or any part of his allotment within the first three years of the lease. The Crown grant may be issued to the lessee at the end of any half-year after the first twelve years have expired, on payment of the balance of purchase money. The residence condition is not carried into the Crown grant.

Farm allotments.

Lands for farm allotments are subdivided into suitable areas, of which none must exceed in value £2,500 except in the case of blocks mainly consisting of grazing land, when the value may be increased to £3,500; and no lease of any of these areas can be granted to a person who at the date of application is directly or indirectly the owner of any other land in Victoria (township land excepted) the value of which, together with that of the allotment applied for, exceeds the amount stated. The *Closer Settlement Act* 1925, No. 3422, empowers the Closer Settlement Board to increase the maximum value of a farm allotment to any amount not exceeding £3,000 in the case of any conditional purchase lease issued before the commencement of the said Act, where, in the opinion of the Minister after consulting the Board, the lessee has a reasonable chance of success if the area of his allotment is increased. Improvements of a permanent and substantial character must be effected by the lessee of a farm allotment to the value of at least two instalments of the purchase money before the end of the first year from the date of the lease, 10 per cent. of the purchase money before the end of the third year, and a further 10 per cent. before the end of the sixth year. Improvements must thus be made to the value of at least 20 per cent. of the total purchase money payable for the allotment. If an approved deputy is fulfilling the residential condition, the value of the improvements must be at least 30 per cent. of the total purchase money. If they are made in excess of requirements during the first three years, the excess is set off against the expenditure necessary by the end of the sixth year. Where special circumstances warrant action, the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Board, may modify the improvement conditions.

Advances to settlers.

The Closer Settlement Act provides for advances by the Closer Settlement Board to settlers who are—

- (a) Lessees under the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915.
- (b) Licensees of an agricultural or grazing allotment under the *Land Act* 1915.
- (c) Licensees under section 86 of the *Land Act* 1915 or corresponding sections of any repealed Act.
- (d) Conditional purchase lessees under the *Land Act* 1915; or
- (e) Conditional purchase lessees under the Murray Settlements Act, now Section 245, *Land Act* 1915.
- (f) Selection purchase lessees under Sections 46 and 50, *Land Act* 1915, during the first six years of the term of the leases.
- (g) Perpetual lessees under Section 54, *Land Act* 1915.

Advances of money to assist in effecting improvements may be granted by the Board up to 80 per cent. of the value of the permanent improvements effected, such advances to be repaid by half-yearly instalments extending over twenty years, bearing interest at 5 per cent. Advances to acquire stock and for the purchase of seed, manure, and implements can also be made. The total advances for all purposes must not exceed

£625, or in the case of a mountainous area lease, or of a Mallee allotment, or of any allotment of land which in the opinion of the Minister is mainly grazing land, £1,000; but where the whole or part of an advance is repaid the Board may make a further advance up to a total of £625 or (as the case may be) £1,000.

Advances not exceeding £250 may be made to persons holding approved share-farming or leasing agreements, for the purchase of stock and implements, and for such other purposes as the Board thinks fit, to enable them to carry out the share-farming or leasing agreement.

The period for repaying the advances on improvements is usually limited to twenty years, and for live stock, seed, manure, and implements, to five years, interest at 5 per cent. per annum being charged on the unpaid balance of the amount advanced.

Group Settlement in Mountainous Areas. Land may be acquired by the Board in mountainous areas for disposal to any group of settlers (not being less than five), and provision is made for freedom from payment of instalments for any period not exceeding ten years, subject to certain improvement conditions. Special provision is also made to enable the Board to provide road access to such areas. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the free period fixed by the Minister of Lands will be added to the capital value of the allotment, and will be repaid as part of the instalments of purchase money.

The Board may authorize an advance to be made for the purpose of clearing and improving the land, and may make progress payments to the lessee as the work for which the advance is intended progresses.

The Board will also assist in the erection of the dwelling-house and out-buildings required for the allotment. Advances made by the Board for this purpose are repayable on the same terms as those made to assist in effecting improvements which are referred to above.

Wire netting advances. Advances of wire netting may be made by the Board to Crown lessees and owners of land generally under the *Closer Settlement Act 1915*, the *Vermin Destruction Act 1915*, and the *Wire Netting Act 1924*.

The wire netting supplied is :—

- (a) Rabbit proof—No. 17 gauge, 1½-in. mesh, 42 inches wide, "A" grade.
- (b) Dog proof—No. 16 gauge, 4-in. mesh, 42 inches wide, "A" grade.

Netting is supplied for cash or on terms, advances being repayable over a period of thirteen years with interest at 4 per cent. per annum; payment of instalments is postponed during the first three years of an advance, and each advance is limited to a quantity sufficient for 6 miles of vermin-proof fencing. Where the netting is erected on a boundary immediately adjoining unoccupied Crown land, or separated only by a public road therefrom, a rebate of 50 per cent. of the cost thereof is allowed.

Estates purchased.

A complete statement of all estates acquired by the Closer Settlement Board at 30th June, 1927, including those purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (i.e., estates in irrigable areas), will be found in the report of the Closer Settlement Board for the period from 1st January, 1926, to 30th June, 1927.

A summary of the lands acquired, exclusive of estates purchased for discharged soldiers' settlement (vide page 484), is given in the following statement:—

CLOSER SETTLEMENT LANDS ACQUIRED AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

	Area.	Purchase Money, including Discount on Stock Debentures	Total Cost to Date.*	Number of Lessees.			Area Unallotted.
				Farm Allotments.†	Workmen's Homes.	Agricultural Labourers' Allotments.	
Dry Areas.	acres.	£	£	Number.	Number.	Number.	acres.
Lands purchased (Farms)...	795,553	5,307,377	5,485,041	2,931	..	146	19,049
Crown lands taken over (Farms) ..	21,352	19,560	23,422	22	..	17	11,460
Repurchased lands (Workmen's Homes)	642	64,133	95,544	..	967	..	3
Crown lands taken over (Workmen's Homes)...	355	6,372	8,470	..	79	..	13
Total Dry Areas ..	817,902	5,397,442	5,612,477	2,953	1,046	163	30,525
Irrigable Areas.							
Repurchased lands (Farms)...	168,064	2,148,244	2,282,449	1,860	..	152	19,735
Crown lands taken over (Farms) ..	601	4,302	4,380			..	..
Total Irrigable areas	168,665	2,152,546	2,286,829	1,860	..	152	19,735
Total acquired at 30th June, 1927	986,567	7,549,988	7,899,306	4,813	1,046	315	50,260
Less area disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts	66,949	658,309	658,309	..	..	..	..
Total (net) ..	919,618	6,891,679	7,240,997	4,813	1,046	315	50,260

* Includes (a) Purchase money, £7,549,988; expenses prior to disposal, £79,723; public works, £238,274; and interest capitalized, £31,321.

† Not including 632 lessees of farm allotments disposed of under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts.

Up to 30th June, 1927, the Board had acquired 302 properties, with a total area of 986,567 acres, of which 50,260 acres were then unallotted. The Land Settlement Agreement of 1922 resulted in 238 approved migrants from overseas being settled. Under the agreement of 1925 between the Imperial and Commonwealth Governments (by which loan moneys are advanced at a very low rate of interest), Victoria at 30th June, 1927, had received £790,000 for approved settlement

schemes at Childers, Katandra, and Maffra-Sale. Portions of estates amounting in the aggregate to 53,941 acres, have been sold by public competition and for public reserves without any restrictions, and are not under conditional purchase lease.

Up to 30th June, 1927, 632 allotments containing 6,949 acres, had been sold to discharged soldiers and transferred to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts.

Extent of
Closer
Settlement.

The extent of the settlement effected by the Board up to 30th June, 1927, is given in the next statement:—

SUMMARY OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Classification of Holdings.	Number.	Average Capital Value.	Average Area.	Total Area.
Dry Areas.	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms	2,949	1,584	238	701,353
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	163	160	17	2,792
Workmen's Homes Allotments ..	1,050	90	3	787
Allotments disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts	194	1,365	192	37,325
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	44,111
Total area of land settled .. .. .	..	..	..	786,368
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	..	..	..	26,870
Workmen's Homes .. .. .	..	..	..	11
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	716
Area of land acquired but not yet available ..	..	..	..	644
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..	..	..	..	3,293
Total dry areas acquired .. .. .	..	..	..	817,902
Irrigation Areas.	No.	£	Acres.	Acres.
Areas settled—				
Farms	1,860	793	56	103,660
Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	152	107	6	930
Allotments disposed of under Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts	438	898	68	29,624
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	9,830
Total area of land settled .. .. .	..	..	..	144,044
Area of land available for—				
Farm Lands and Agricultural Labourers' Allotments ..	..	..	..	13,666
Public Competition, Auction, &c. ..	..	..	..	406
Area of land acquired but not yet available ..	..	..	..	9,068
Loss of area on subdivision (roads, channels, reserves, &c.) ..	..	..	..	1,481
Total irrigation areas acquired .. .. .	..	..	..	168,665
TOTAL AREAS acquired to 30th June, 1927 ..	..	..	..	986,567

Financial
statement of
Closer
Settlement.

The liabilities and assets of Closer Settlement at 30th June, 1927, are shown hereunder :—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF CLOSER SETTLEMENT AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Liabilities—						£
For Loans, Advances, and Interest (accrued) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7,159,330
Crown Lands taken over .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	12,487
Discharged Soldiers Settlement for land taken over .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,164,864
Sundry Creditors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	27,132
Reserves, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	239,658
						<hr/>
						8,603,471
						<hr/>
Assets—						
Balance of purchase money not accrued due by lessees and others	..	..	..	..	..	4,959,293
Land on hand .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	458,714
Balance of advances on improvements not accrued due .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,274,888
Government Securities .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	130,000
Cash (including balance at credit of Closer Settlement Fund) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	294,854
Sundry assets (including Interest accrued but not yet payable) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	366,590
Arrears on land and advances (less £2,787 bad debts written off)—						
Principal—						£
Land .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	187,405
Advances .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	226,622
Interest—						
Land .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	582,799
Advances .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	122,306
						<hr/>
						1,119,132
						<hr/>
						8,603,471

At 30th June, 1927, payments by settlers on land and advances amounted to £5,458,733, of which amount £2,813,771 was paid on account of principal and £2,644,962 on account of interest.

Eighty per cent. of the value of the improvements can be accepted as security for arrears.

Arrears secured by improvements	£806,645
Arrears secured by principal repaid on land	58,912
Arrears secured by stock mortgage, lien on crop, or unsecured	253,575
<hr/>	
Total	£1,119,132
<hr/>	

The sum of £6,599,911 had been paid to the Closer Settlement Fund up to 30th June, 1927. Of that amount £3,145,371 had been transferred to revenue to meet interest due to stockholders. £103,373 had been invested to replace amounts written off estates re-valued, £100,000 had been placed in securities under the Discharged Soldiers

Settlement Acts, and £2,956,313 had been utilized for redemption and cancellation of stock and for capital and working expenditure, the balance to the credit of the fund on 30th June, 1927, being £294,854. The balance of unredeemed securities is now £6,863,536, on which the interest payable amounts to £278,471 per annum. Up to 30th June, 1927, 12,913 persons had received advances aggregating £2,606,870, to effect improvements, or upon improvements already effected, and 3,835 persons had received advances amounting to £124,468 for the purchase of wire netting.

**Discharged
Soldiers
Settlement.**

By Acts 2916 of 1917, 2988 of 1918, 3039 of 1919, 3061 of 1920, 3130 of 1921, 3253 of 1922, and 3370 of 1924, provision was made for the settlement of discharged soldiers on the land and for other matters. The operation of these acts is under the control of the Closer Settlement Board, with the limitation that the closer settlement areas under irrigation conditions, and situated within an Irrigation and Water Supply District within the meaning of the *Water Act* 1915, are managed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

Up to 30th June, 1927, the Closer Settlement Board and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had acquired for the settlement of discharged soldiers 2,398,485 acres at a cost of £14,475,171, including 66,949 acres of Closer Settlement land taken over and disposed of under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts. Of these lands 150,403 acres were granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts.

The following is a summary of the lands acquired :—

**LANDS ACQUIRED FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS
SETTLEMENT TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.**

	Area.	Cost.
	acres.	£
Land specially purchased (3,435 properties) ..	1,756,004	13,311,507
Crown Lands taken over	575,532	505,355
Closer Settlement Lands taken over	66,949	658,309
Total area and cost of purchase	2,398,485	14,475,171
Expenses prior to disposal .. ..	..	105,221
Public Works effected .. ..	..	704,871
Interest capitalized .. ..	..	143,853
Total cost to 30th June 1927 .. ..	..	15,429,116
Less land granted to civilians under Closer Settlement Acts	150,403	1,474,598
Total net area and cost	2,248,082	13,954,518

Extent of
Soldier
Settlement.

The extent of settlement at 30th June, 1927, is given in the table which follows:—

SUMMARY OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

	Dry Areas.	Irrigation Areas.
	acres.	acres.
Area of land settled—Soldiers	1,972,009	57,014
Area of land settled—Civilians (Closer Settlement Acts)	133,883	16,520
Area of land available	8,715	1,175
Area of land acquired but not yet available	1,626	19,940
Sales by Auction, &c.	157,606	15,611
Total land acquired to 30th June, 1927	2,273,839*	110,260*
Farms, Number of—		
Soldier Settlers	6,288	1,130
Civilians	523	463
Total	6,811	1,593
Average area—acres	309	46
Average capital value	£1,763	£750

* Loss of area on subdivision amounted to 14,386 acres (dry and irrigable).

The number of soldiers settled up to that date was as follows:—

On land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board	6,603
On land specially purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	1,472
On Closer Settlement old estates—Dry areas	36
On Closer Settlement old estates—Irrigable areas	570
On Crown Lands—Ordinary and Mallee Areas	1,440
On Crown Lands—Merbein and Nyah Irrigation Areas	186
Soldiers receiving assistance from the Closer Settlement Board, on share farming, leasing agreements and freehold land	845
Total	11,152

In addition to the above there were available or in process of being made available 7 allotments, of which 5 were on land specially purchased by the Closer Settlement Board, and 2 were on Crown land. There were also 727 blocks available under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions, for which returned soldiers could apply.

**Financial
statement
of Discharged
Soldiers
Settlement.**

The liabilities and assets of Discharged Soldiers Settlement are shown hereunder :—

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS
SETTLEMENT AT 30TH JUNE, 1927.**

Liabilities—					£
For Loans, Advances, and Interest	..	..	..	..	22,726,964
Crown Lands taken over	..	..	..	..	506,369
Closer Settlement for land taken over	..	..	..	..	152,478
Sundry Creditors	..	..	..	..	37,660
Reserves, &c.	..	..	..	..	271,636
					<hr/> 23,695,107
Assets—					
Balance of purchase money not accrued due by lessees and others					14,074,403
Land on hand	..	..	..	..	137,463
Balance of advances on improvements not accrued due	..	..	..	..	3,815,761
Cash (including balance at credit of Discharged Soldiers Settlement Fund)	..	..	..	..	56,253
Concession of Interest and Administration expenses (State and Commonwealth)	..	..	..	..	1,578,748
Sundry assets (including Interest accrued but not yet payable)					238,366
Arrears on land and advances (less £32,505 bad debts written off)—					
Principal—					£
Land	..	..	..	..	240,564
Advances	..	..	..	..	1,569,550
Interest—					
Land	..	..	..	..	1,415,483
Advances	..	..	..	..	474,283
					<hr/> 3,699,880
Suspense Account	..	..	..	..	94,233
					<hr/> 23,695,107

At 30th June, 1927, payments by soldier settlers on land and advances amounted to £5,211,057, of which amount £3,771,699 was paid on account of principal and £1,439,358 on account of interest.

Up to 30th June, 1927, the amount of assistance rendered by the Board by way of advances was £8,348,799 to 11,152 soldier settlers.

Concessions granted by the State Government (£1,439,718) and the Commonwealth Government (£3,461,718)—representing interest, administration charges, and losses—have relieved the settlers to the extent of £4,901,436.

WATERWORKS.

All Victorian waterworks are controlled by official bodies, either State or local. The following table, particulars of which were obtained chiefly from the Twenty-second Annual Report of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, summarizes those waterworks on which the Government has expended or advanced moneys, and includes practically all waterworks in the State other than minor works constructed by municipalities out of municipal funds:—

**WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES
BY STATE TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.**

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs.	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
		Acre feet.	£
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—			
Coliban System ..	Domestic and Mining	42,870	1,388,458
Broken River Works ..	Stock and Domestic	..	14,853
Goulburn-Waranga (including Goulburn main channels) ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	354,100	2,604,814
Sugarloaf Reservoir (under construction) ..	" " ..	306,000	1,379,696
Kow Swamp Works ..	" " ..	40,860	187,708
Loddon River Works ..	" " ..	14,000	167,636
North-west (Kerang) Lakes	" " ..	92,000	21,657
Long Lake Pumping Works ..	Stock and Domestic	3,820	27,346
Lake Lonsdale Reservoir	" " ..	45,480	49,054
Lower Wimmera Compensation Works ..	" " ..	2,870	8,558
Wimmera Storages ..	" " ..	159,380	371,007
Maffra-Sale Scheme (including Glenmaggie Reservoir and channels)	Irrigation, &c. ..	150,000	907,410
Bacchus Marsh and Werribee Scheme ..	" " ..	31,850	170,575
Red Cliffs Scheme ..	" " ..	..	737,905
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts (tributary works)	" " ..	..	3,140,044
Millewa Waterworks Scheme ..	Stock and Domestic	..	370,881
Waterworks Districts (tributary works) ..	" " ..	36,410†	2,705,383
Flood Protection Districts	.. ..	..	380,010
Surveys, &c. ..	.. ..	..	210,686
Other expenditure ..	.. ..	..	147,538
Carried forward ..	.. ..	1,279,640	14,991,219

WATERWORKS—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND ADVANCES BY STATE TO
30TH JUNE, 1927—*continued.*

Controlling Bodies.	Purposes of Supply.	Storage Capacity of Reservoirs. *	Capital Expenditure and Advances by State.
		Acre feet.	£
Brought forward ..	.. .. .	1,279,640	14,991,219
River Murray Agreement Works (Commission the constructing authority) ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	1,000,000	1,426,820
Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	.. .. .	2,279,640	16,418,039
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust and Mildura Urban Trust ..	Irrigation, &c. ..	..	119,782
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	" " ..	..	32,754
Waterworks Trusts ..	Stock and Domestic	5,730	1,759,564
Municipal Corporations ..	" "	11,420	783,677
Free Grants to Local Authorities ..	.. .. .	..	147,046
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ..	Domestic ..	23,730	7,798,912
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust ..	" ..	9,930	779,325
Total ..	.. .. .	2,330,450	27,839,099

* Total capacity of Storages, when works in hand are completed.

† Includes miscellaneous Storages, the expenditure on which has been debited to the districts concerned.

NOTE.—One acre foot of water equals 43,560 cubic feet, or 272,250 gallons.

Of the expenditure given in the case of the Melbourne waterworks, £3,189,934 represents money borrowed by the State, all of which had been redeemed at 30th June, 1924—£800,000 out of consolidated revenue, and £2,389,934 by payments from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, to which body the waterworks were transferred in 1891. Further particulars relating to this Board will be found on page 238, Part V., of this volume.

The Geelong Waterworks were sold by the Government to the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust in 1908 for £265,000. The expenditure shown in the above table includes, in addition to this amount, the outstanding State loan liability on account of the works, viz., £159,358, and the capital expenditure by the Trust since acquiring the works, viz., £354,967.

The next table summarizes the amounts disbursed on State works and those granted and lent to local bodies by the State on account of waterworks. In addition to their receiving free grants large sums have been written off the liabilities of the local bodies.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON WATERWORKS TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

	Expenditure by State.	Capital Written Off.	Payments towards Redemption.	Free Head-works and Advances.	Amount standing at Debit, 30th June, 1927.
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission—	£	£	£	£	£
Free Headworks	1,252,462	..	420	1,252,042	..
Other Main Supply Works (including Coliban)	7,155,096	..	1,591	..	7,153,505
Irrigation and Water Supply Districts	3,140,044	575,152	30,985	..	2,533,907
Waterworks Districts	2,705,383	175,055	49,628	..	2,480,700
Flood Protection Districts	380,010	..	..	..	380,010
Surveys, &c.	210,686	..	..	..	210,686
Other expenditure	147,538	..	..	..	147,538
	14,991,219	750,207	82,624	1,252,042	12,906,346
River Murray Agreement Works ..	1,426,820	..	..	..	1,426,820
Total State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	16,418,039	750,207	82,624	1,252,042	14,333,166
First Mildura Irrigation and Water Supply Trust and Mildura Urban Trust	119,782	..	8,445	..	111,337
Abolished Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts (8)	32,754	32,724	30	..	..
Waterworks Trusts	1,759,564*	316,537	250,171	..	1,192,856
Municipal Corporations	783,677†	163,760	125,363	..	494,554
Free Grants to Local Authorities ..	147,046	..	..	147,046	..
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	3,189,934	..	3,189,934	..	..
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust	459,593	..	300,235	..	159,358
Total	22,910,389	1,263,228	3,956,802	1,399,088	16,291,271

* Amount includes £6,871 representing Interest Capitalized.

† „ „ £43,979 „ „ „

In addition to the capital written off, as shown above, arrears of interest amounting to £579,786 have been written off certain liabilities to the State, viz., £342,773 from the liabilities of what were originally Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, £85,556 from the liabilities of Waterworks Trusts, and £151,457 from the liabilities of Municipal Corporations. Thus the amount which has actually been written off the liabilities of the Trusts (Irrigation and Waterworks) and Corporations is £1,843,014. Interest outstanding at 30th June, 1927, amounted to £29,854, viz., £13,483 against the First Mildura Trust, £14,230 against Waterworks Trusts, and £2,141 against Municipal Corporations.

IRRIGATION.

Progress of Irrigation. Prior to 1905 the management of irrigation in Victoria was in the hands of various Irrigation Trusts, which were financed by the State. These Trusts drifted into financial difficulties and the State was compelled to assume control. In the year mentioned, by the authority of Parliament, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was constituted and intrusted with the management of all irrigation works, except those controlled by the First Mildura Trust. This authority is embodied in the *Water Act* 1915—which consolidates the *Water Acts* of 1905 and 1909, of which epitomes have been given in previous issues of this work—and the *Water Acts* 1916 and 1918. The chief difficulties under which the Irrigation Trusts laboured were sparse settlement, and the absence of powers to make compulsory charges on the properties commanded by the irrigation channels. Since the assumption of control by the Commission a policy of closer settlement on the lands served by the irrigation channels has been inaugurated and vigorously pushed on, and a system of compulsory rating enforced, along with which there has been the allotment of water as a right to properties in channelled areas.

An illustration of the influence of closer settlement and the allotment of water rights in extending irrigation is contained in the following table, which shows, for the districts having water rights, most of which

are directly affected by the Commission's Closer Settlement policy, the areas irrigated in 1909-10—the year in which these two factors were first put into operation—and the average areas for the last five years :—

PROGRESS OF IRRIGATION IN CLOSER SETTLEMENT AREAS.

District (having allotted Water Rights).	Area Irrigated.	
	1909-10.	Average for last Five Years.
Supplied from the Goulburn—	Acres.	Acres.
Shepparton .. ..	..	14,849
South Shepparton (three years) ..	..	2,837
Rodney	32,356	50,663
Stanhope	2,000	10,554
Tongala	3,000	14,584
Rochester	500	30,394
Echuca North .. ..	..	2,915
Dingee .. ..	..	3,583
Tragowel Plains	20,000	37,457
Supplied from the Murray—		
Leitchville (two years) ..	..	4,321
Cohuna	12,000	18,409
Gannawarra	7,825	18,263
Koondrook	5,029	14,091
Swan Hill	5,410	15,501
Third Lake (one year) ..	..	2,509
Nyah	569	2,715
Merbein	202	7,629
Tresco .. ..	..	1,417
Mystic Park .. ..	..	2,515
Supplied from the Werribee—		
Bacchus Marsh	31	2,589
Werribee .. ..	..	6,197
Total	88,922	263,992

The area under irrigated culture in the whole State, in 1926-27, for all kinds of crop, was 406,532 acres, the largest yet recorded, being an increase of 62,847 acres compared with the area irrigated in the previous year, and 70,056 acres above the average of the previous five years.

Total area
irrigated.

The subjoined table shows the total extent of irrigated land in the State in 1909-10 and each of the last five years, and the purposes for which the land was utilized :—

IRRIGATED AREAS : HOW UTILIZED.

Crop.	1909-10.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals	23,715	60,304	32,240	45,215	57,987	40,655
Lucerne	24,124	92,679	94,479	103,200	116,753	119,721
Sorghum and other annual fodders ..	8,094	35,591	33,356	30,683	37,340	29,476
Pastures	50,541	88,787	91,912	119,563	51,345	131,725
Vineyards and orchards	17,524	61,061	64,647	66,780	69,108	69,042
Fallow	4,988	8,850	4,523	4,863	5,102	9,992
Miscellaneous ..	785	3,455	3,401	5,199	6,050	5,921
Total ..	129,771	350,727	324,558	375,503	343,685	406,532

NOTE.—In 1909-10, 8,000 acres, details of which are not available, were irrigated by private diversions, making a total area for that year of 137,771 acres.

Of the total area irrigated in 1926-27—406,532 acres—the percentages devoted to different purposes were as follows :—Pastures, 33 ; cereals, 10 ; lucerne, 29 ; vineyards, orchards, and gardens, 17 ; sorghum and other annual fodder crops, 7 ; fallow, 3 ; and miscellaneous, 1.

Closer
Settlement in
Irrigation
Districts.

The Commission during 1926-27 provided 239 holdings under ordinary Closer Settlement conditions for 24 discharged soldiers, 154 local civilians, and 61 approved oversea settlers. The main feature of the year in connexion with Closer Settlement in irrigation areas was the readiness with which land seekers took up blocks in the subdivided portions of the recently acquired areas at Katandra, Maffra and Sale, and Narre Warren and Hallam.

The principal development took place at Katandra and North Shepparton, where 13,400 acres had been purchased. Of this area, 6,700 acres at Katandra and 1,280 acres at North Shepparton have now been subdivided into 88 Closer Settlement holdings, of which 70 have already been selected.

In the Maffra-Sale District, an additional 2,500 acres were purchased, making a total area in that district of 10,570 acres, of which 7,000 acres have been subdivided, and 101 settlers placed on allotments.

The popularity of the Closer Settlement area at Narre Warren and Hallam is evidenced by the continued demand for allotments thereon. The properties acquired, totalling 3,370 acres of rich land eminently suited for intense culture, are being drained and subdivided into small holdings suitable for market gardening and poultry farming. The district is about 24 miles from Melbourne, and, as the areas adjacent to the metropolis hitherto used for market gardening purposes are being gradually absorbed by extensions of suburban residential areas, the settlement now plays an important part in the supply of market garden produce for the city. Of the area subdivided 50 blocks have been taken up, and other blocks are being made available. Water is delivered under pressure from a main supply pipe of the Mornington Peninsula System.

The Commission has practically completed the work of repatriating discharged soldiers; the chief responsibility now being to see to the welfare of the men already settled, and, by an adequate system of advances, help towards permanent improvements to their holdings. Since the commencement of the repatriation of Victoria's soldiers, the Commission has placed 2,217 discharged soldiers on irrigable blocks.

The Commission has in hand 28,800 acres of suitable land available for settlement awaiting the extension of the storage and irrigation schemes. Of this area, 3,620 acres are in the Katandra District, which will be served by the East Goulburn Channel (now enlarged and extended); and 3,900 acres are at Calivil, near the River Loddon; 15,000 acres of the irrigable portion of Red Cliffs Soldier Settlement; about 3,570 acres at Maffra-Sale; and 2,370 acres at Hallam and Narre Warren. These will be made available for settlement as the occasion demands and as soon as the progress of the works permit.

The following statement shows the lands purchased for civilians and discharged soldiers by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the extent of settlement on each estate after subdivision. The subdivided portions are already supporting nearly 18 times as many families as were living on them previously, and, in addition, there are some 2,300 town dwellers in urban portions of the subdivided estates. The statement contains also particulars of settlement effected under

section 20 of the *Closer Settlement Act* 1915 outside the large estates subdivided by the Commission :—

Closer Settlement Estates.	Area of Lands purchased by the State in Acres.	Properties Subdivided.						
		Area in Acres.	Number.	Number of Families thereon when Purchased.	Subdivided into—		Number of Closer Settlement Blocks now occupied.	Present Increase in Number of Families.
					Number of Closer Settlement Blocks.	Average Area in Acres.		
Shepparton	14,170	14,170	33	29	389	34	370	341
East Goulburn	13,400	9,780	20	19	111	79	93	74
Rodney	3,230	3,230	8	5	55	57	41	36
Stanhope	21,500	21,500	7	13	290	63	260	247
Kyabram	4,600	4,420	9	12	69	62	65	53
Tongala	19,090	18,930	41	36	317	58	305	269
Koyuga	4,200	4,200	..	..	54	73	51	51
Cornelia Creek	2,500	2,500	} Pt. 1		19	161	17	17
Nanneella	9,040	9,040	18	8	125	70	119	111
Echuca	3,600	3,600	8	4	30	105	30	26
Bamawm	13,400	13,400	28	21	192	65	190	169
Dingee	500	500	3	1	20	23	15	14
Calivil	3,900	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cohuna	12,000	12,000	29	10	142	80	117	107
Koondrook	9,060	9,060	14	10	132	63	104	94
Swan Hill	12,500	12,500	34	16	329	36	308	292
Nyah	3,800	3,800	8	1	237	15	231	230
Merbein (Crown)	3,300	8,300	..	..	423	20	423	423
Red Cliffs	33,000	18,000	1	3	706	17	699	696
Bacchus Marsh	70	70	1	..	2	36	2	2
Verribee	10,000	10,000	1	11	233	36	229	218
Hallam	3,370	1,000	5	3	59	17	50	47
Maffra	10,570	7,000	15	16	142	45	101	85
Properties acquired under Section 20, <i>Closer Settlement Act</i> 1915, outside above Estates, <i>vide</i> page 477	215,800	187,000	284	218	4,076	42	3,820	3,602
	19,540	..	..	..	..	..	200	..
	235,340							

The development of irrigation in all parts of the world is one of slow but generally sure growth, and it is therefore gratifying to note that progress in the various irrigation districts of this State has been very satisfactory, and compares most favorably with the records of like districts in other parts of the world. This progress is shown in many ways, but chiefly in the increase in the area irrigated in the State, in the increase in the value of stock, implements owned by settlers, and permanent improvements effected by them, in the increase in the population, and the general prosperity of the towns in the irrigated areas.

The increase in population in the irrigation districts as a result of the intensive methods of agriculture has been most significant, especially at a time when there has been a decrease in the rural population of the State as a whole. Thus, since the constitution of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, although there has been a

Progress of
Irrigated Closer
Settled
Areas.

decrease in the rural population of the State outside the irrigation districts, there has been an increase of 30,000 in the irrigation areas.

In the Shire of Shepparton, an increase of 29 per cent. in the population has taken place since the inception of irrigation. About fifteen years ago, 9,200 acres were purchased, since which time additional areas amounting to 4,970 acres have been acquired. All of these areas have been subdivided into 389 blocks, on which 370 families are settled as contrasted with 29 before irrigation. The early days of the settlement were devoted principally to dairying, but now fruit growing is the main industry. Between 1916 and 1926, the area under fruit increased from 2,026 acres to 5,000 acres, and the value of stock and improvements from £85,553 to £261,000.

Following the successful years of the established packing and canning factories in this State, a settlers' co-operative packing company has been formed at Murrabit for the packing and marketing of citrus fruits from this area. The co-operative companies at Red Cliffs and Woorinen, despite private competition, processed the greater portion of the dried fruits from their respective districts. The Shepparton and Ardmona canneries again had a successful season. At Shepparton, however, owing to the ravages of the thrip and the vagaries of the season, the amount processed (5,445 tons) was slightly less than that for the previous season, which was a record. Extensions are being made at the Ardmona Cannery to cope with the supply of fruit at peak periods.

The suitability of the irrigation districts for dairying has again been demonstrated by the results in competitions and agricultural shows. Of the 65 Herd Testing Associations in the State, 21 are in irrigation districts. Grazing and fattening of sheep also receive considerable attention.

The development of market gardening at Bacchus Marsh, Werribee, and Narre Warren and Hallam is most marked. Glasshouses, for the early production of tomatoes, cucumbers, &c., have been built. At Narre Warren, several of the settlers devote their whole attention to the growing of flowers for the Melbourne market.

The viticultural areas had one of the best seasons ever experienced. The high yield and good drying season enabled the large crop of 75,296 tons of lexias, 582,418 tons of sultanas, and 135,464 tons of currants to be processed satisfactorily.

The Irrigation Research Committee, the formation of which was mentioned in the 1923-24 issue of this publication, continued its experiments and demonstrations. The results may be seen in the marked increase in the use of manures and the planting of grasses. As a result of its research work at Tresco, it is hoped that definite advice as to the best system of draining salted land will be shortly made available.

Supply of water for domestic and stock purposes. In addition to waterworks for purposes of irrigation, extensive schemes for the supply of water for domestic and stock purposes are under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Altogether, the area within the State so supplied is approximately 23,188 square miles—slightly more than 27 per cent. of the total area of the State. The major portion so supplied is in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

The number of towns supplied with water, exclusive of the City of Melbourne and its suburbs, is as follows:—79 towns of a total population of 113,060 supplied by the Commission, 108 towns with a total population of 182,800 supplied by Waterworks Trusts, and 18 towns with a total population of 73,720 supplied by Local Governing Bodies.

STORAGE AND SUPPLY SCHEMES.

Total Storages in State. In 1902 the total capacity of storages in the State was 172,000 acre-feet. The present capacity under the control of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is about 1,162,000 acre-feet, and, when the Wimmera Storages and Maffra Storages have been completed, the total capacity will be about 1,280,000 acre-feet. The Hume Reservoir, which is in course of construction, and is not included in the storages referred to, will contain 2,000,000 acre-feet (vide page 500), half of which can, subject to the provisions of the River Murray Agreement, be credited to the State of Victoria. The construction of storage works by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was continued during the year. Details as to storage capacity will be found on pages 487 and 488 of this issue.

Goulburn Storages. The dam for the Sugarloaf Reservoir is situated on the Goulburn River, below the junction of the Delatite River, about 18 miles from Alexandra. The construction of the main retaining wall has been completed. It consists of a diaphragm of concrete, built from bedrock (which, in places, is 75 feet below ground surface) to crest level (139·75 feet above the river bed), a wall of clayey material on the upstream side of the diaphragm, and supporting masses of rock on both sides. The reservoir was first filled to full capacity (306,000 acre-feet) at the end of August, 1927.

The State Electricity Commission is now proceeding with its scheme of hydro-electric works at the Sugarloaf Reservoir (vide page 501), in connexion with which the Water Commission has already provided a separate outlet for emergency or power purposes.

At the Waranga Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of 333,400 acre-feet, the construction of the reinforced concrete core wall—4½ miles in length—which was commenced in 1923, has been completed.

**Wimmera
Storages.**

Progress was made with the works for supplementing the domestic and stock supplies to the districts served by the Wimmera-Mallee system. The building of the embankment for the first stage of Pine Lake Reservoir and the construction of the valve tower and outlet structures have been completed, and good progress has been made with the earthwork of the second stage. This has increased the available capacity, from 22,000 acre-feet to the volume now held, 34,000 acre-feet. The ultimate holding capacity of this storage will be 62,000 acre-feet.

The storage provision of the Wimmera-Mallee Supply Scheme now reaches 164,870 acre-feet as against 69,000 acre-feet a few years ago. Storage works now in course of construction will carry the capacity to no less than 212,870 acre-feet. The water is distributed throughout a total area of about 11,000 square miles by main and distributary channels aggregating 5,200 miles in length (exclusive of an approximately equal length of farmers' connecting branches). Full supplies are furnished to six urban Waterworks Trusts within the Wimmera-Mallee areas, in addition to the reticulated systems of 31 towns directly controlled by the Commission.

**Northern
Mallee
Water Supply.**

In the Walpeup portion of the Northern Mallee, comprising an area of about 1,250,000 acres, which adjoins the Wimmera-Mallee districts, but is generally too high for inclusion in the gravitation channel system, the Commission has met the water supply needs of settlers by sinking bores, and excavating large public tanks. There are now 99 successful public bores in this area with an average depth of 460 feet, and 260 tanks with a total storage capacity of 1,210,000 cubic yards.

The Commission has further assisted settlers in this area by clearing and grubbing 4,565 miles of roads, in addition to which 244 sandhills have been made passable for heavy wagons by rubbing with local limestone.

**Millewa
Water Supply.**

The extensive domestic and stock supply scheme for the supply of water by pumping to an area of about 1,000,000 acres in the extreme north-western portion of the State (opened up by the 55 miles of railway from Red Cliffs), comprises a lift of 19 feet from the River Murray to Lake Cullulleraine (a depression on the river flats), a second lift of 113 feet, and a third lift of 19 feet, to command the whole of the lower level channel system which supplies the area which has been constituted the Lower Millewa Waterworks District, and a fourth lift, of 145 feet, to command the higher level channel system which supplies the area of 205,000 acres, which will be constituted the Upper Millewa Waterworks District. The length of channels actually constructed is 563 miles. The total area served (at present wholly within the Lower Millewa Waterworks District) is 600,000 acres, all of which has been allotted to settlers. The

balance of the lands in the whole system can be served expeditiously, as soon as such lands are being made available for settlement.

Carwarp Waterworks Districts. The Carwarp Waterworks District, of 200,000 acres, lying to the south-east of Lower Millewa District, and served by a system of channels 141 miles in length, is supplied from the Red Cliffs pumping station. The high lands surrounding the Carwarp Railway Station are supplied by a pump, a rising main, and 13 miles of distributary channels; and these lands comprising 14,800 acres, have been formed into a separate district—called “Carwarp Central.”

Mornington Peninsula Scheme. The important scheme of reticulated supply to the Naval Base, the inland towns of Berwick, Beaconsfield, Pakenham, Noble Park, Spring Vale, Dandenong, Somerville, Cranbourne, and Bittern, and the bayside towns of Mornington, Frankston, South Frankston, Seaford, Carrum, Chelsea, Edithvale, Aspendale, and Hastings, is in full working order. Extensions of services in all directions are being applied for. The reservoirs at Beaconsfield, Dandenong (Heywood's Hill), Frankston, South Frankston, Mornington, and Bittern are kept fully supplied.

The main race has now been extended 33 miles from Toomuc Creek, to tap the Cannibal Creek and River Bunyip, as outlined in the original scheme. This will ensure adequate supplies to meet the increasing demands of reticulations already connected, and to provide when required, for the townships of Garfield, Bunyip, Kooweerup, and the bayside towns of Dromana, Rosebud, Rye, Sorrento, and Portsea. A full supply of water is now available for the irrigation, by pressure pipes, of small blocks suitable for market gardening and intensive culture. In this connexion the estates in the Hallam Valley, comprising 3,370 acres, purchased by the Commission for Closer Settlement purposes, are being subdivided and allotted to settlers for intensive culture under irrigation. Extensive works for the systematic drainage and reclamation of the portions of the above estates not yet subdivided have been carried out, and about 1,000 acres, between Berwick and Dandenong, have been settled.

Goulburn Irrigation Areas. Following the completion of the Sugarloaf Reservoir and the Waranga Reservoir enlargement and improvement works, considerable expansion of the whole Goulburn system is taking place. The main Eastern channel is being enlarged and extended for 17 miles, and, with distributary channels in course of construction, is supplying a continually increasing area, including 34,000 acres south of the Broken River, now included in South Shepparton Irrigation District, and 40,000 acres, north of Shepparton Irrigation District, and 10,000 acres of Closer Settlement lands at Katandra.

On the west of the Goulburn River, the Tandarra-Calivil main channel and distributaries are supplying a new area of 24,000 acres, lying north-west of Dingee Irrigation District; and many requests for further extensions are under consideration.

On the west of the Loddon River, the Waranga-Western main channel is being extended to supplement the supply to Boort Irrigation District, hitherto dependent entirely on the uncertain quantities of water obtainable from the River Loddon.

**Loddon-Murray
Irrigation
Areas.** In the districts administered from the Cohuna and Kerang centres, the abnormally dry conditions during the irrigation season of 1926-27 created an exceptionally heavy demand for water, which, however, was fully met entirely by gravitation from the Torrumbarry Weir. Many existing districts have been extended and new districts constituted.

In many places the old timber structures and iron flumes have been replaced by modern reinforced concrete head checks, syphons, and culverts, and channels cleaned and treated to prevent leakage.

Drainage works, comprising about 25 miles of main and branch drains, to serve the Murrabit Closer Settlement Estates and other lands of an area of about 5,000 acres, are in operation, and the Barr Creek was converted from an irrigation channel to act in its natural capacity as a drain.

In the Cohuna District, several new occupation bridges were built, and four old important road bridges replaced by new ones.

**Maffra-Sale
District
Irrigation
Scheme.** The construction of the Glenmaggie Weir on the Macalister River has been so far advanced that 80,000 acre feet of water can now be stored, and arrangements can be made to increase this to the full capacity of 150,000 acre feet during the coming season, if required. The Maffra Irrigation District has now been extended to include a total area of 20,000 acres, and a new district of 15,000 acres—known as "Sale"—has been constituted. The channel system is being further extended.

**Red Cliffs
Irrigation
District.** At Red Cliffs, the scheme, which ranks first in importance among the pumping systems of the State, supplies water to an area totalling 18,000 acres, including the township and 700 occupied soldier settlement blocks. The plant is capable of delivering 500 acre-feet of water per day, lifted 105 feet. The total length of channels constructed to date is 124 miles. Channels having a total length of 11½ miles have been lined with concrete, with the result that 99 per cent. of the total number of blocks in the settlement are protected from seepage from channels. The area now planted to vines and citrus is 8,750 acres, the whole of which is in bearing. The yield of dried fruit for 1927 was 11,000 tons. Following considerable

progress in the township, which has been proclaimed an Urban Waterworks District, a concrete standpipe, 70 feet high and 26 feet in diameter, has been erected, and reticulation extended to meet requirements.

Flood Protection Schemes. The Commission has under construction a comprehensive scheme of works for the reclamation of the extensive swamps in West Gippsland, known as Kooweerup and Cardinia, and for the protection from periodical flooding of the surrounding low-lying lands, aggregating in all 100,000 acres. These areas have been constituted Flood Protection Districts under the provisions of the Water Acts. The construction of the huge main drains, feeders and subsidiary works has reached the stage that provides the landholders affected with protection from all but abnormal floods, and flood protection charges have been levied accordingly.

Flood protection works at Loch Garry (below Shepparton) for the regulation of Goulburn flood waters have effectively served their purpose. The area benefited—about 40,000 acres—is known as the “Loch Garry” Flood Protection District. Further down the Goulburn (at Kanyapella) works constructed for the relief from flooding of an area of about 13,500 acres have similarly been effective. This area is called the “Kanyapella” Flood Protection District.

River Murray Waters. The scheme of works provided in the River Murray Waters Acts passed by the Governments of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia comprises storages on the Upper River Murray and at Lake Victoria, locks and weirs in the course of the River Murray from its mouth to Echuca, and also locks and weirs on the lower part of the River Darling or the River Murrumbidgee, as may be decided by the Government of New South Wales. The Acts provide that for purposes of construction the Minister for Public Works of New South Wales shall be the Constructing Authority for that State; that, for the State of South Australia, the Commissioner of Public Works shall be the Constructing Authority; and that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission shall be the Constructing Authority for Victoria.

Under the River Murray Agreement of 1914 the estimated total cost of the whole of the works is set down at £4,663,000. It is now clear, from the experience gained in connexion with the works which have been put in hand to date, that the total cost of the works will be more than double that amount. The four contracting Governments have agreed to share equally in the total cost of the works. The total expenditure incurred up to 30th June, 1927, on the portion of the scheme completed and in course of construction was £5,106,000.

The site of the Hume Reservoir is a little below the junction of the rivers Murray and Mitta Mitta. Originally it was designed to provide for a capacity of 1,100,000 acre-feet, but, at a conference of Ministers representing the four interested Governments, held on the 8th and 9th

days of August, 1924, the following proposals raised by the Government of Victoria were agreed to :—

- (a) That the work of construction of the Hume dam, of sufficient dimensions to provide for a reservoir of 2,000,000 acre-feet, proceed for a period not exceeding three years, and that the question of the ultimate capacity and completion of the reservoir be then the subject of a further conference. All waters to be used to meet the present allocation obligations and as a reserve for dry years.
- (b) That provision be made for outlet works at the Hume Reservoir suitable for hydro-electric generation purposes, provided, however, that the use of the reservoir for these purposes does not interfere with the volumes of water required for the purposes set out in the River Murray Agreement. The cost of such additional outlet works, estimated at £40,000, shall be borne in equal shares by the States of New South Wales and Victoria, which Governments should have the sole use of any power generated at the reservoir.

A conference of the members of the River Murray Commission and the engineers of the three Constructing Authorities, held at Hume Reservoir on 12th August, 1926, unanimously agreed to recommend that the above resolutions be given effect to. This recommendation was agreed to by the four Contracting Governments, and the Commission so advised on 31st December, 1926.

The work is being carried out by the Constructing Authorities for the States of New South Wales and Victoria. On the New South Wales section considerable progress has been made, and work is now being proceeded with on the concrete structure. On the Victorian side the construction of the main embankment is being steadily advanced, and the concrete bridge over the River Murray for Bethanga District is being constructed.

The Torrumbarry Weir and Lock (near Echuca) has been in successful operation since December, 1923, and water has been diverted for the various irrigation districts benefited.

Weir and Lock No. 11—situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream from Mildura—now practically completed, will form a lock pool for about 40 miles upstream, providing a local reserve storage of great value and reducing the suction lift at the Mildura and Red Cliffs Pumping Stations. The lock and lock canal have been completed and half of the navigation pass in the river has been constructed. The Constructing Authority for New South Wales is proceeding with the construction of No. 10 Weir and Lock at Wentworth, and has commenced work on Weir and Lock No. 15 at Euston; while, in the South Australian section, Weir and Lock No. 1 at Blanchetown and No. 3 near Lake Bonney have been completed and brought into operation. Nos. 5 and 9 have been completed, Nos. 2 and 4 are approaching completion, and No. 6 has been commenced. Lake Victoria Storage Works have been completed with the exception of the improvement of the inlet and outlet channels.

Artesian Bores.

The following particulars relating to artesian boring have been supplied by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission :—

ARTESIAN AND SUB-ARTESIAN BORING (MALLEE).

Number of Bores Sunk.*		Total Depth of Bores.*	
State.	Private.	State.	Private.
99	275	Feet. 46,100	Feet. 53,600

* At 31st December, 1926.

Mildura Irrigation Settlement.

The Mildura Irrigation Settlement, on the River Murray, was established in 1887 under the management of the Chaffey Brothers Limited, and in 1895 the control of the water supply was vested in the First Mildura Irrigation Trust. Water is obtained by pumping from the river. The following particulars are an indication of the prosperity of the settlement :—

POPULATION OF MILDURA SHIRE, 1891 TO 1927.*

1891	April (Census)	..	2,321	1923	December ..	..	13,950
1901	March (Census)	..	3,325	1924	..	..	14,250
1911	April (Census)	..	6,119	1925	..	..	14,450
1921	April (Census)	..	13,183	1926	..	..	15,000
1922	December ..	..	13,760	1927	..	..	15,100

* Including the population of the town of Mildura, which up to 1920 was part of the shire.

The capital value of property in the Shire of Mildura in 1913 was £1,294,160. In 1927 in the same area it had risen to £4,247,020. The receipts and payments of the Mildura Irrigation Trust during the year ended 30th June, 1927, were as follows :—

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF FIRST MILDURA IRRIGATION TRUST, 1926-27.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	<i>Payments.</i>		£
Horticultural Rates	..	41,306	Wages and Salaries	..	17,606
Special Waterings, &c.	..	5,416	Firewood	..	13,053
Miscellaneous	..	4,179	Interest, Sinking Fund and		
			Depreciation	..	4,404
			Miscellaneous	..	4,513
Total ..	..	50,901	Total ..	..	39,576

The extent of watering done represented 22,876 water acres in 1917-18, 39,895 acres in 1918-19, 41,808 acres in 1919-20, 35,632 acres in 1920-21, 44,150 acres in 1921-22, 42,807 acres in 1922-23, 42,854 acres in 1923-24, 39,212 acres in 1924-25, 42,230 acres in 1925-26, and 42,134 acres in 1926-27.

METEOROLOGY.

Particulars in regard to climate and weather conditions have been furnished by the Commonwealth Meteorologist, and are given in the following tables. In the first are shown the rainfall for each of the years 1924, 1925, and 1926, and the average yearly amount of rainfall deduced from all available records to December, 1926, in each of the 26 river basins or districts constituting the State of Victoria :—

RAINFALL.—YEARLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	Rainfall.			
	During the Year—			Yearly Average to December. 1926.
	1924.	1925.	1926.	
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	28.72	23.04	27.13	26.34
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers ..	26.73	22.64	27.76	28.10
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek..	31.94	20.14	24.04	24.88
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite ..	27.99	19.16	20.42	24.89
Cape Otway Forest ..	44.71	32.71	38.52	39.21
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	32.28	17.34	19.00	24.21
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	31.89	17.36	18.47	23.46
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek ..	49.40	26.34	30.68	33.94
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	47.57	29.29	29.09	35.93
South Gippsland ..	40.95	35.08	33.24	38.93
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	47.21	34.35	34.72	38.29
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	25.91	22.03	21.64	24.43
Mitchell River ..	25.85	26.59	22.48	26.05
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	28.61	26.86	22.93	27.47
Snowy River ..	33.66	36.62	31.08	34.38
Murray River ..	23.56	14.14	17.46	16.86
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	46.10	32.29	36.47	33.35
Ovens River ..	42.14	28.18	37.29	33.70
Goulburn River ..	32.38	21.11	24.66	26.44
Campaspe River ..	28.33	15.25	18.83	22.80
Loddon River ..	24.93	14.33	17.40	20.20
Avoca River ..	22.14	13.11	14.48	17.11
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	20.08	11.91	13.84	15.39
Eastern Wimmera ..	26.32	16.58	20.70	21.38
Western Wimmera ..	22.05	15.44	17.73	19.90
Mallee ..	14.24	8.97	11.79	12.66
Weighted Averages ..	28.65	20.22	22.52	24.24

The wettest portion of the State is the Cape Otway Forest, which is closely followed by the South Gippsland district and the Latrobe and Thomson Basin. The lowest rainfall occurs in the Mallee district, where it averages 12.66 inches per annum, as compared with 24.24 inches for the whole State.

An estimate of the areas of the State, in square miles, subject to different degrees of rainfall was first made in 1910. More comprehensive data has since become available, and in 1925 the Commonwealth Meteorologist issued the following revised figures:—

DISTRIBUTION OF AVERAGE RAINFALL.

Rainfall.						Area.
Inches.						Square Miles.
Under 15 ..	..	..	..	..	..	19,270
15 to 20 ..	..	..	..	..	..	13,492
20 to 25 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,170
25 to 30 ..	..	..	..	..	..	15,579
30 to 40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	14,450
40 to 50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	7,338
50 to 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,980
Over 60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	605

The rainfall recorded for each quarter of 1926 and the quarterly averages up to 1926 deduced from all available records are as follows:—

RAINFALL—QUARTERLY RECORDS AND AVERAGES.

Basin or District.	First Quarter.		Second Quarter.		Third Quarter.		Fourth Quarter.	
	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.	Amount.	Average.
	points	points	points	points	points	points	points	points
Glenelg and Wannon Rivers ..	135	353	1,004	792	963	903	611	586
Fitzroy, Eumeralla, and Merri Rivers	194	424	1,027	828	647	944	608	614
Hopkins River and Mt. Emu Creek	147	415	924	710	704	783	629	580
Mt. Elephant and Lake Corangamite	140	429	718	694	594	782	590	584
Cape Otway Forest ..	405	591	1,328	1,169	1,174	1,320	945	841
Moorabool and Barwon Rivers ..	227	469	645	653	541	702	487	597
Werribee and Saltwater Rivers ..	368	511	614	594	435	642	430	599
Yarra River and Dandenong Creek	475	701	1,123	862	727	926	743	905
Koo-wee-rup Swamp ..	441	688	977	982	752	1,009	739	914
South Gippsland ..	739	791	949	1,080	882	1,130	754	892
Latrobe and Thomson Rivers ..	597	732	978	978	878	1,108	1,019	1,011
Macallister and Avon Rivers ..	678	632	522	552	492	604	472	655
Mitchell River ..	680	666	620	590	523	685	425	664
Tambo and Nicholson Rivers ..	699	703	616	652	517	672	461	720
Snowy River ..	808	810	875	887	743	905	682	836
Murray River ..	417	315	678	498	438	489	213	384
Mitta Mitta and Kiewa Rivers ..	506	608	1,412	906	1,065	1,034	664	787
Ovens River ..	412	544	1,610	998	1,118	1,103	589	725
Goulburn River ..	448	463	939	760	659	805	420	611
Campaspe River ..	212	406	705	679	596	719	370	476
Loddon River ..	253	350	589	602	592	627	306	441
Avon and Richardson Rivers ..	41	278	672	526	528	543	207	384
Avoca River ..	27	249	719	467	478	499	190	327
Eastern Wimmera ..	90	294	900	654	762	722	318	468
Western Wimmera ..	55	247	707	619	682	702	329	422
Mallee District ..	121	223	563	367	337	390	153	286
The whole State ..	318	438	828	683	660	740	446	563

The averages of the climatic elements for the seasons in Melbourne deduced from all available official records are given below:—

AVERAGES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS IN MELBOURNE.

Meteorological Elements.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Winter.
Mean pressure of air in inches	29·969	29·923	30·080	30·077
Monthly range of pressure of air—Inches	0·895	0·768	0·817	0·979
Mean temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	57·7	66·6	59·3	50·0
Mean daily range of temperature of air in shade—°Fahr.	18·6	21·1	17·3	13·9
Mean relative humidity. Saturation=100	63	58	66	73
Mean rainfall in inches	7·32	5·90	6·51	5·79
Mean number of days of rain	38	24	34	42
Mean amount of spontaneous evaporation in inches	10·22	17·28	7·86	3·62
Mean daily amount of cloudiness—Scale 0 to 10	6·0	5·2	5·9	6·4
Mean number of days of fog	1	1	6	12

In the subjoined statement are shown the yearly averages of the climatic elements in Melbourne for 1926 and for the last 71 years, as well as the extremes between which the yearly average values of such elements have oscillated in the latter period.

YEARLY AVERAGES AND EXTREMES OF CLIMATIC ELEMENTS.

Meteorological Elements.	Yearly Averages and Extremes.			
	Year 1926.	Average for 71 Years.	Extremes between which the Yearly Average Values have oscillated in 71 years.	
			Highest.	Lowest.
Mean atmospheric pressure (inches) ..	29·984	30·012	30·106	29·945
Highest " " " ..	30·567	30·607	30·770	30·488
Lowest " " " ..	29·202	29·254	29·495	28·868
Range (inches)	1·365	1·353	1·719	1·104
Mean temperature of air in shade (°Fahr.)	59·6	58·4	59·9	57·3
Mean daily maximum .. (°Fahr.)	68·4	67·3	69·0	65·4
Mean daily minimum	50·8	49·5	51·2	47·2
Absolute maximum	104·0	105·1	111·2	96·6
Absolute minimum	32·0	30·8	34·2	27·0
Mean daily range	17·5	17·8	20·4	15·0
Absolute annual range	72·0	74·3	82·6	66·0
Solar Radiation (mean maxima) ..	117·8	117·8	127·6	106·0
Terrestrial Radiation (mean minima) .. (°Fahr.)	42·9	43·9	46·8	39·5
Rainfall (in inches)	20·51	25·58	38·04	15·61
Number of wet days	149	138	171	102
Year's amount of free evaporation (in inches)	43·00	38·92	45·66	31·59
Percentage of humidity (saturation =100)	64	65	76	62
Cloudiness (scale 10 = overcast, 0 = clear)	5·8	5·9	6·4	4·8
Number of days of fog	25	19	48	5

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Department of Agriculture. This Department is controlled by a Minister of the Crown, under whom there is a large staff of experts with the Director of Agriculture as permanent head. These officers are actively engaged in supervising all matters relating to the Agricultural, Pastoral, Fruit and Dairying Industries of the State, and in giving instructions to those engaged therein. The Department publishes a monthly journal.

Melbourne University School of Agriculture. Melbourne University has a well-equipped School of Agriculture, for the maintenance of which a special grant is provided by the State. This School affords opportunity for the training of students in science as applied to practical agriculture and kindred industries. The course occupies four years; the first is devoted to pure science; during the second the students are in residence at the State Research Farm, Werribee, engaging in practical farming with lectures on preparatory subjects. The remaining two years are devoted to a more specialized study of agriculture and allied subjects on a scientific basis.

The staff consists of a Professor of Agriculture and about fifteen lecturers, some of whom are whole-time University officers, while the others are senior officers of the State Agricultural Department.

By Act of Parliament the Minister for Agriculture is empowered to employ graduates of the School as Science Field Officers in the State Department.

A number of free places for this course for the degree in Agricultural Science (B.Ag.Sc.) are awarded annually by the State Government.

Government Experimental Farms. The great expansion in our rural industries during recent years has been largely brought about by the general adoption of better methods of farming and by the introduction of more prolific wheats, and it is claimed that these improvements have been adopted as the result of the experimental and demonstration work of the Department of Agriculture. In 1912 a Central Research Farm was established at Werribee, and it is there that the initiative with regard to practically all experimental and research work is now undertaken. The State farms at Rutherglen and Longerenong are used as district experimental stations for the North-

East and the Wimmera respectively. In addition, there are a number of subsidized experimental and demonstration areas located on private farms throughout the State.

Agricultural Colleges.

An Act for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges was passed in 1884, and 14,458 acres, comprising 5,955 acres at Dookie, 2,386 acres at Longerenong, 2,500 acres at Gunyah Gunyah, 2,800 acres at Olangolah, and 817 acres at Bullarto, were reserved as sites for colleges and experimental farms. The areas at Dookie and Longerenong are being used for the purpose for which they were reserved, but the other three are devoted to other uses.

In addition to the college and farm lands, provision was made by the Act of 1884 to permanently reserve from sale an area of not more than 150,000 acres of Crown lands, and to vest it in trustees to be appointed, who should hold it in trust for the benefit of and by way of an endowment for State agricultural colleges and experimental farms. The land so reserved now amounts to 71,412 acres, and is let for grazing and agricultural purposes.

The fee for students in residence at the agricultural colleges is £50 per annum for maintenance, including stationery and medical and other charges. No charge is made for instruction. Accommodation is provided at Dookie for 100 and at Longerenong for 50 students.

School of Primary Agriculture and Horticulture.

This institution is situated in the Burnley Gardens, close to the Hawthorn and Heyington railway stations. The classes are open to male and female students above fourteen years of age. The Course for the Certificate in Horticulture occupies two years, and is intended for those who propose to follow orchard or garden work as a profession. Part time classes are also held for those who are unable to devote full time to the subject. Another feature of the work at the school is the holding of regular classes of instruction in Agricultural Science for those desirous of taking the subject either in the Intermediate or the Leaving grade at the Annual Public Examinations conducted by the University. A practical training is obtained in the orchards, gardens, and nursery connected with the school; the course also includes lectures and demonstrations by various expert teachers. Excursions to up-to-date farms, orchards, and nurseries form part of the work of the school. In 1926 the students enrolled numbered 139.

**Experimental
Farms and
Agricultural
Colleges.**

Various particulars relating to the State Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges are embodied in the next statement.

GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, 1926.

Particulars.	Central Research Farm, Werribee.	Ruther- glen Farm, &c.	Dookie Agri- cultural College.	Long- enong Agri- cultural College.	Burnley School of Primary Agriculture, &c.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Professional Staff	1	2	13	8	3
Hands employed	50	26	37	18	9
Students	10	9	94	52	121
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of plant and machinery	3,015	2,749	7,850	6,912	150
Value of produce for year	7,641	2,607	11,360	10,004	1,200
Receipts—					
Government Grant	14,920	5,384	14,382*	5,141	2,416*
Fees .. .. .	..	..	4,163	2,066	73
Sale of produce, &c.	7,641	3,092	7,200	8,147	899
Other	182	12	..	..	18
Total receipts	22,693	8,488	25,745	15,354	3,406
Expenditure—					
Salaries—					
Professional Staff	372	807	4,850	2,840	1,296
General Staff	6,945	4,298	6,837	2,420	1,098
Buildings and maintenance	3,412	1,649	13,998	6,072	551
Other	3,107	1,520	..	..	461
Total expenditure	13,836	8,274	25,745	11,332	3,406
Area under—	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
Cereals for Grain	500	210	420	507	..
Hay	280	145	293	183	1
Fruit trees, &c. .. .. .	..	1½	12	20	10
Vines .. .. .	..	101	15	5	½
Green fodder	50	5	45	93	..
Other crops	100	80	22	200	..
Total area under crop	930	492½	807	1,008	11½
Area of land in fallow	700	231½	560	318	4
Area under artificially sown grasses	350	130	..	32	9
Area resting	100	208	933	511	..
New ground broken up .. .. .	..	..	..	70	..
Total area of arable land	2,080	1,062	2,300	1,939	24½
Balance of area	131	291	3,655	447	8½
Total area of farm	2,211	1,353	5,955	2,386	33
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Live Stock—					
Horses	108	45	98	51	1
Dairy cows	100	17	49	27	6
All other cattle	68	15	72	44	6
Sheep	1,000	490	3,899	1,327	..
Pigs .. .. .	..	22	185	18	..

* Including grant received from the Council of Agricultural Education.

**Inspection of
Orchards,
Nurseries, &c.**

The orchards, nurseries, and gardens of the State are systematically inspected by the officers of the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. Nurseries are inspected periodically, and action is taken in accordance with the condition of the plants in relation to disease or freedom therefrom. Old, worn-out, and infected orchards are destroyed.

The Department has purchased fumigating outfits for the purpose of fumigating citrus trees for the control of scale insects, and is performing the work for citrus growers at cost price. Much satisfaction has been expressed by growers at this being done.

Special attention is being paid to the grading and packing of fruit; packing classes have been established and are successfully conducted by departmental officers in a number of fruit districts throughout the State. In addition to this, individual growers receive personal instruction.

Lectures and demonstrations are given on the various other phases of horticulture; experiments are carried out in the treatment of diseases; and sites are selected on the farms of intending fruit-growers, to whom advice is given as to the most suitable varieties to be planted and their subsequent treatment.

The fear of introducing the fruit-flies *Tephritis tryoni* and *Halterophora capitata* and diseases arising from other causes has necessitated a thorough examination of fruit from Queensland, New South Wales, and elsewhere. The fruit-fly question is a very grave one, and, should either of the above-named insects obtain a footing in Victoria, a great portion of the large and important fruit industry of our State will be practically ruined.

Plants and cuttings coming from foreign parts are fumigated if a certificate that they have been treated at the port of shipment does not accompany the consignment. Even when they have been thus certified the Senior Fruit Inspector has the right of examination, and, if necessary, of ordering a second fumigation.

Forestry.

The State forests are controlled by a Commission of three, which was appointed in 1919. The State has a wooded area of about 8,000,000 acres, of which about 4,330,450 acres are set aside as permanent State forests and timber reserves. The wooded area consists of—

1. Three million acres of merchantable forest, mainly situated along the Dividing Range with its spurs and foothills and also including the red gum forests of the northern river basins and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district.

2. Three million acres of forest in the more rugged portions of the mountain region. These forests are not at present accessible for practical working, owing to difficulties of transport; their protection, however, is essential for the maintenance of streams and springs.

3. Two million acres in the north-west of the State, known as Mallee, bearing at intervals a thick growth of stunted eucalypts and interspersed with belts of cypress pine and belar.

The forests of Victoria may be divided into four main classes which are referred to hereunder:—

- (a) The coastal region, extending from the shore line some fifty miles northward, carries chiefly messmate and three species of stringybark. In Cape Otway district, however, bluegum, mountain ash, and spotted gum predominate; whilst, in the extreme south-east of the State, silvertop, small-fruited bluegum, bastard mahogany, bloodwood, and Gippsland grey box are found.
- (b) The mountain region. In the western half of the State the predominant species in the hill forests are messmate, bluegum, manna gum, brown and red stringybarks, and yellow box. In the eastern half of the State the prevailing species are mountain ash, spotted gum, messmate, peppermint, red ash or woollybutt, and bluegum, with stunted snow gums on the steep granitic slopes near the mountain summits.
- (c) The foothills, stretching from the Dividing Range northward down to the plains, bear three valuable species, red ironbark, white ironbark or yellow gum, and grey box.
- (d) The river basins of the Murray and the streams flowing over the northern plain, and of the River Glenelg in the south-western district, bear broad belts of river redgum.

The timbers of commercial value in Victoria number about twenty, all species of the eucalyptus family. In addition, there are a number of woods of fine grain, many of them, however, being small trees confined to limited areas.

With careful conservation and management Victoria's forests are capable of yielding considerable amounts of timber for all time, despite the ravages made upon them in the past by bush fires, settlement, and mining.

The State is notably deficient in softwoods or conifers, though over extensive areas the conditions are suitable for their growth once they are introduced. To encourage their growth, both in State and in private plantations, three large nurseries have been established, at Creswick, Macedon and Broadford, and a number of plantations have been formed, the principal ones being situated at Creswick, Mount Macedon, Frankston, Anglesea, Port Campbell, Bright, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Scarsdale, Mount Disappointment, and Mt. Difficult. In addition to providing trees for the plantations, the nurseries supply considerable numbers of plants at low rates to State schools, public bodies and private applicants. This has proved of great benefit to the community by fostering an interest in tree planting generally, and especially by encouraging farmers to plant in order to afford protection to their homesteads and to provide shade and shelter for their flocks and herds.

A Forest School for training cadets is maintained at Creswick. The Commission also controls a State sawmill in the Warburton district, and Timber Seasoning Works at Newport, from which seasoned weatherboards, cabinet stock, floorings and linings are supplied, largely for use in the building of State schools and for other public works.

The Forestry Fund was established in 1918 by Act No. 2976, and made applicable only to expenditure on the improvements and reforestation of State forests and the development of forestry. In each year the Treasurer makes a grant of £40,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue to the Fund, and also half of the amount in excess of £80,000 received from royalties, leases, licences, and permits.

During the financial year 1924-25, authority was given by Act No. 3386 to raise the sum of £500,000 over a period of six years from 1st January, 1925, for the development of State forests.

The revenue derived from forest sources during the financial year 1926-27 was £156,700, and the expenditure was £319,547—£101,405 of which was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue, £151,633 under the Forests Loan Act No. 3386, and the balance—£66,509—from the Forestry Fund. The balance at the credit of the Fund at 30th June, 1927, was £40,056.

It is estimated that the quantity of timber produced in the rough in 1926-27 was 110,392,800 super. feet. In addition, 376,028 tons measurement of fuel timber was produced.

Agriculture—
expenditure
and revenue
connected
with.

The State has rendered substantial assistance to the various branches of the agricultural and pastoral industries during past years. The appended table summarizes for the last five years the items of State expenditure from consolidated revenue in this direction, and shows the amount of revenue

received by the Department of Agriculture, which consists chiefly of payments by exporters for packing produce for export, and from State Forests and Nurseries, consisting chiefly of Royalties :—

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE CONNECTED WITH AGRICULTURE, ETC., 1922-23 to 1926-27.

	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Agricultural Branch ..	35,063	41,549	30,652	35,271	45,636
Horticultural Branch ..	..	..	27,938*	30,168*	32,984*
Grants to Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, &c. ..	675	775	875	675	675
Development of Export Trade ..	60,316	53,372	50,679	48,362	60,875
Viticultural Education and Inspection of Vineyards ..	6,334	4,454	2,092	881	315
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	75,291	74,497	105,680	85,825	55,891
Advances to Settlers for losses by bush fires, floods, &c. ..	7,300	659	1,190	18,587	32,987
Technical Agricultural Education &c. ..	26,123	31,824	28,478	30,580	29,103
Publishing Agricultural Reports ..	329	250	213	234	254
Rabbit and Vermin Extirpation ..	47,410	85,489	84,368	88,874	91,929
Stock and Dairy Branch ..	43,887	48,627	53,527	69,210	85,853
Labour Colonies ..	..	..	..	..	..
State Forests and Nurseries ..	157,347	168,880	179,278	95,555†	101,380†
Miscellaneous ..	3,104	6,006	6,239	5,369	12,355
Total ..	463,179	516,382	571,209	509,591	550,237
<i>Revenue.</i>					
Department of Agriculture ..	78,017	73,282	81,687	77,547	85,440
Maffra Beet Sugar Factory ..	74,678	92,231	129,732	137,997	79,435
State Forests and Nurseries ..	163,038	166,446	162,786	161,608	156,700
Total ..	315,733	331,959	374,205	377,152	321,575

* Previously included under Agricultural Branch.

† Vide expenditure out of Forestry Fund and State Forests Loan Act.

Included in the expenditure on State Forests and Nurseries are net payments into the Forestry Fund; these amounts are as follows :—£17,020 in 1921-22, £16,205 in 1922-23, £5,919 in 1923-24, and £6,333 in 1926-27. In 1924-25 and 1925-26, owing to increased expenditure, £21,968 and £91,619 respectively—not included in the above statement—were paid out of the Fund, and, in 1925-26 and 1926-27, amounts of £87,527 and £151,633 were expended out of the State Forests Loan Act 1924, No. 3386.

In addition to the expenditure shown, various sums have been advanced from loans and votes for the purpose of aiding closer settlement, for the resumption of mallee lands, for relief to farmers on account of bush fires and flood losses, and for purchase of seed wheat and fodder. These advances are gradually being repaid.

The expenditure from Loan Funds in 1926-27 was £1,931,166—£984,911 having been expended on discharged soldiers' land settlement, £881,450 on closer settlement, £32,338 on wire netting, £31,066 on the Maffra Beet Sugar Factory, and £1,401 on Agricultural Colleges.

AGRICULTURE.

Progress of cultivation.

All divisions of the State are suitable for cultivation, but the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern are the principal wheat-growing districts and furnish about 94 per cent. of the total area under this crop. In recent years the chief extensions of the wheat-growing areas have been in the Mallee. In this district, which has a rainfall at one time thought wholly inadequate, wheat growing was rendered practicable by the introduction of machinery specially suited to the conditions, the extension of railway lines, and storage of water for domestic and stock supplies; and, with more of these facilities being made available each year, further areas are gradually being brought under cultivation. An indication of the growing importance of the Mallee is afforded by recent figures, which show that, of the wheat produced in the State in the last five seasons, the proportion obtained from the Mallee was over 31 per cent., as against slightly less than 5 per cent. in 1891-92. The area under cultivation in the Mallee last season for all purposes was 2,674,979 acres.

The area cultivated in the State in 1926-27 was 7,303,194 acres, as against an annual average of 6,895,288 acres for the previous five seasons, 5,032,359 acres for the seasons 1905-15, and 3,547,111 acres for the seasons 1895-1905. Notwithstanding the great increase in the area cultivated, the dairying and pastoral industries show a considerable expansion. This is evidenced by a comparison of the exports of the principal products to oversea countries in the year 1900 with the annual average in the last five seasons. The values have risen as follows:—Butter and cheese from £1,252,277 to £3,057,630; milk and cream from £5,455 to £1,271,908; and meats from £502,285 to £1,583,296.

The increase in cultivation has been associated with new and improved farming methods. The chief of these are the practice of fallowing, the use of fertilizers, the selection of suitable seeds, and the increasing attention given to crop rotation. The more general adoption of improved methods in recent years has contributed greatly to

the production of the State. The following table shows the progress of cultivation from period to period during the last 72 years:—

ACREAGE CULTIVATED ANNUALLY, 1855 to 1927.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Crop.	Fallow.	Total Cultivation.
	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65	325,676	12,146	337,822
1865-75	624,377	57,274	681,651
1875-85	1,306,920	137,536	1,444,456
1885-95	2,109,326	364,282	2,473,608
1895-1905	3,022,914	524,197	3,547,111
1905-15	3,756,211	1,276,148	5,032,359
1915-20	4,523,308	1,567,258	6,090,565
1920-21	4,489,503	1,935,747	6,425,250
1921-22	4,530,312	2,052,964	6,583,276
1922-23	4,862,548	2,186,881	7,049,429
1923-24	4,682,144	2,294,297	6,976,441
1924-25	4,761,394	2,215,270	6,976,664
1925-26	4,433,492	2,457,136	6,890,628
1926-27	4,735,173	2,569,021	7,304,194

Areas under
Principal
Crops.

The principal crops grown in the State are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and hay. The average annual acreage of these for periods from 1855 to 1920 and the acreage for each of the last seven seasons are given in the next table:—

ANNUAL ACREAGE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 to 1927.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Area of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1855-65	119,001	83,296	4,843	24,123	80,117
1865-75	278,077	129,384	19,262	36,744	117,393
1875-85	776,031	147,343	41,188	39,089	226,775
1885-95	1,236,501	210,901	64,310	48,009	437,087
1895-1905	1,898,280	340,957	52,829	45,243	540,472
1905-15	2,190,336	390,642	60,378	56,272	848,587
1915-20	2,725,728	398,232	84,973	60,606	1,015,585
1920-21	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	62,687	1,333,397
1921-22	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	63,895	1,159,135
1922-23	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	61,741	1,261,408
1923-24	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	59,306	1,277,606
1924-25	2,705,323	517,229	63,764	61,295	1,120,312
1925-26	2,513,494	437,696	103,395	63,369	1,013,613
1926-27	2,915,315	363,424	88,896	66,185	1,080,993

Production of principal crops.

The average annual production of the five principal crops for periods, from 1855 to 1920, and the production for each of the last seven seasons were as follows :—

ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1855 to 1927.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Average Annual Production of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1855-65 ..	2,198,874	2,068,648	103,575	62,723	111,806
1865-75 ..	4,385,814	2,636,747	390,337	111,800	153,852
1875-85 ..	8,593,308	3,297,468	799,938	135,614	276,771
1885-95 ..	12,268,905	4,649,393	1,187,007	170,905	547,092
1895-1905 ..	14,032,145	6,649,453	947,580	134,357	672,982
1905-15 ..	22,906,743	7,342,468	1,243,442	158,445	1,084,726
1915-20 ..	37,503,989	7,127,504	1,812,447	165,486	1,376,142
1920-21 ..	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	171,628	1,984,854
1921-22 ..	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,246	173,660	1,548,453
1922-23 ..	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	148,354	1,665,089
1923-24 ..	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	238,520	1,541,287
1924-25 ..	47,364,495	9,572,003	1,444,823	139,043	1,492,588
1925-26 ..	29,255,534	4,998,165	1,774,963	160,729	929,068
1926-27 ..	46,886,020	4,884,006	1,920,722	162,909	1,387,971

Principal crops in Districts.

The percentage in each district of the total area under each principal crop during last season was as given below :—

PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL AREA UNDER EACH PRINCIPAL CROP, 1926-27.

Districts.	Percentage in each District of Area under—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	1·28	3·67	31·65	56·27	15·62	31·32
North-Central	0·69	2·90	3·81	16·77	5·82	2·50
Western	1·89	9·22	13·09	12·27	13·09	6·70
Wimmera	26·49	21·00	10·86	0·16	17·69	1·92
Mallee	44·84	38·06	11·61	0·01	23·75	13·97
Northern	22·66	21·68	14·81	0·06	14·28	15·96
North-Eastern	1·51	2·36	0·71	1·07	4·16	6·76
Gippsland	0·64	1·11	13·46	13·39	5·59	20·87

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 519.

The area under the principal crops in proportion to the total area under crop in each district during last season was as follows :—

RELATIVE AREAS DEVOTED TO DIFFERENT CROPS IN EACH DISTRICT, 1926-27.

Districts.	Percentage of Area under all Crops devoted to—					
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Other Crops.
Central	10·06	3·00	7·59	10·05	45·59	23·71
North-Central	17·67	7·76	3·00	9·81	55·56	6·20
Western	20·91	10·64	4·42	3·09	53·80	7·14
Wimmera	74·09	6·11	0·93	0·01	18·35	0·51
Mallee	75·61	6·68	0·60	0·00	14·85	2·26
Northern	70·38	7·01	1·40	0·00	16·44	4·77
North-Eastern	37·75	6·16	0·54	0·61	38·67	16·27
Gippsland	11·53	2·08	7·40	5·48	37·34	36·17
Total for Victoria ..	61·56	6·41	1·88	1·40	22·83	5·92

NOTE.—For counties contained in each District, see table on page 519.

The area and produce of the principal crops per head of population are given in the next table for each of the last five years :—

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS PER HEAD OF POPULATION, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended March—	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Area per Head of Population.				
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1923	1·67	·31	·07	·04	·80
1924	1·51	·32	·03	·04	·79
1925	1·63	·31	·04	·04	·68
1926	1·49	·26	·06	·04	·60
1927	1·70	·18	·05	·04	·63
	Produce per Head of Population.				
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
1923	22·61	5·13	1·55	·09	1·05
1924	23·25	5·76	·89	·15	·95
1925	28·58	5·77	·87	·08	·90
1926	17·37	2·97	1·05	·10	·55
1927	27·39	2·85	1·12	·10	0·81

Except in the three seasons 1895-96, 1902-03, and 1914-15, the wheat produced during each year since 1870 has been more than sufficient to supply home consumption.

The following table gives the annual value of each of the five principal crops, based upon prices realized upon farms, also the value of each crop per acre for each of the last five years :—

VALUES OF FIVE PRINCIPAL CROPS.

Year ended March.	Annual Value of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	£	£	£	£	£
1922-23	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,235	1,040,662	6,327,338
1923-24	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	701,229	5,229,162
1924-25	11,993,546	934,538	354,006	682,878	3,639,496
1925-26	6,665,150	684,320	290,166	1,309,470	3,497,253
1926-27	9,546,812	653,291	295,739	671,673	4,719,925
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Value per acre 1922-23	3 0 9	2 17 6	4 4 11	16 17 1	5 0 4
„ „ 1923-24	3 6 9	2 15 11	4 12 9	11 16 6	4 1 10
„ „ 1924-25	4 8 8	1 16 2	5 11 0	11 2 10	3 5 0
„ „ 1925-26	2 13 0	1 11 3	2 16 1	20 13 3	3 9 0
„ „ 1926-27	3 5 6	2 3 1	3 6 6	10 3 0	4 7 4

The value of the five principal crops was £15,887,440 in 1926-27, as against £12,446,359 in 1925-26, £17,604,464 in 1924-25, £15,837,001 in 1923-24, and £17,252,465 in 1922-23.

On the experience of the last five seasons the area under wheat for grain represented 56 per cent. of the total under all crops. The acreage, the total production, and the yield

Wheat
production.

per acre are given in the next table for decennial periods from 1860 to 1920, and for each of the last seven seasons :—

WHEAT PRODUCTION, 1860 TO 1927.

Period or Season (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Production.	Yield per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1860-70	194,714	3,480,765	17·87
1870-80	431,444	5,510,125	12·77
1880-90	1,077,575	10,793,936	10·02
1890-1900	1,563,403	12,610,595	8·07
1900-10	1,983,874	19,242,402	9·70
1910-20	2,570,540	30,632,514	11·92
1921	2,295,865	39,468,625	17·19
1922	2,611,198	43,867,596	16·80
1923	2,644,314	35,697,220	13·50
1924	2,454,117	37,795,704	15·40
1925	2,705,323	47,364,495	17·51
1926	2,513,494	29,255,534	11·64
1927	2,915,315	46,886,020	16·08

Although a large area in districts of limited rainfall has been brought under cultivation for wheat growing during late years, the yield per acre for the State on the average of the last ten seasons was 14·13 bushels, which is better than the corresponding averages for decennial periods of earlier date back to 1870. This satisfactory result is largely due to the use of more prolific varieties of seed and to the more general practice of fallowing and fertilizing. In addition to the area shown for grain, 101,243 acres of wheat were cut for hay last season, so that the total area under wheat in 1926-27 was 3,016,558 acres.

The production of wheat in the other Australian States in 1926-27 was as follows :—New South Wales, 47,288,600 bushels; South Australia, 35,558,711 bushels; Western Australia, 30,021,616 bushels; Queensland, 379,339 bushels; and Tasmania, 536,358 bushels. The total production for the Commonwealth was 160,670,644 bushels.

Wheat
growing in
counties.

The principal wheat growing areas are the Wimmera, Mallee, and Northern districts. Although other districts provide only small proportions of the total area they are not to be regarded as unsuitable for wheat growing, as their average yield per acre is usually greater than in the areas mentioned. The production of wheat for grain in different counties for each of the last three seasons is shown in the following table:—

WHEAT YIELDS IN COUNTIES FOR THE LAST THREE SEASONS.

Districts and Counties.	Year ended March.								
	Area.			Produce.			Average per Acre.		
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bush.	bush.	bush.
Central—									
Bourke ..	4,633	8,424	15,266	92,337	89,704	261,510	19·93	10·65	17·13
Grant ..	3,106	12,248	19,787	145,297	171,072	348,533	17·92	13·97	17·61
Mornington ..	319	1,082	1,889	5,302	22,041	47,312	16·62	20·37	23·79
Evelyn ..	99	305	233	1,699	3,293	5,432	17·16	10·80	23·31
North-Central—									
Anglesey ..	1,198	1,097	1,142	20,143	13,259	19,076	16·81	12·69	16·70
Dalhousie ..	2,622	2,168	2,239	45,135	32,026	39,292	17·21	14·77	17·55
Talbot ..	12,820	13,120	16,613	263,480	159,047	316,494	20·55	12·12	19·05
Western—									
Grenville ..	4,562	5,943	8,632	72,130	88,315	165,902	15·81	14·86	19·22
Polwarth ..	49	85	172	532	1,166	4,080	10·86	13·72	23·72
Heytesbury ..	4	1	19	49	37	350	12·25	37·00	18·42
Hampden ..	9,821	11,027	11,305	173,857	205,562	178,105	17·70	18·64	15·75
Ripon ..	31,852	27,227	29,473	616,983	467,825	621,057	19·37	17·18	20·72
Villiers ..	861	926	1,514	15,449	18,923	28,834	17·94	20·44	19·04
Normanby ..	752	961	1,315	11,965	17,714	23,628	15·91	18·43	18·20
Dundas ..	2,302	1,849	1,766	33,726	29,722	28,567	14·65	16·07	16·18
Follett ..	44	185	312	809	1,787	6,512	18·16	9·66	20·87
Wimmera—									
Lowan ..	173,652	163,996	185,638	3,972,195	2,904,283	3,805,448	22·87	17·71	20·50
Borong ..	408,387	403,638	440,649	10,713,127	8,347,436	10,384,649	26·23	20·68	23·60
Kara Kara ..	149,441	132,670	146,529	3,377,400	2,046,978	2,662,471	22·66	15·43	20·22
Mallee—									
Millewa ..	6,378	18,399	45,636	11,826	68,672	544,269	18·54	3·75	11·93
Weeah ..	175,260	168,166	181,342	1,968,002	1,311,433	2,277,975	11·23	7·80	12·56
Karkaroc ..	628,200	568,041	678,484	6,984,439	3,930,625	8,711,586	11·12	6·92	12·84
Tatchera ..	382,258	342,067	401,968	4,712,863	2,864,893	5,415,076	12·33	6·91	13·47
Northern—									
Gunbower ..	37,240	35,798	42,923	622,473	379,415	579,318	16·72	10·60	13·50
Gladstone ..	120,587	108,644	129,554	2,614,400	1,063,114	2,200,078	21·68	9·79	16·98
Bendigo ..	125,790	116,543	143,968	2,359,618	1,137,194	2,093,201	18·76	9·76	14·54
Rodney ..	85,052	76,810	95,944	1,725,647	867,143	1,377,811	20·29	11·29	14·36
Moir ..	276,738	238,040	248,409	5,854,344	2,838,678	3,608,748	21·15	11·92	14·53
North-Eastern—									
Delatite ..	8,005	8,138	8,686	119,831	105,772	113,895	14·97	13·00	13·10
Bogong ..	36,305	31,706	34,874	606,930	294,455	348,040	16·72	9·29	9·98
Benambra ..	293	233	380	5,022	3,703	4,828	17·14	15·89	12·71
Wonnangatta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gippsland—									
Croajingolong ..	..	21	3	..	257	58	..	12·24	19·33
Delatite ..	53	60	80	1,186	370	1,328	22·38	6·17	16·60
Dargo ..	332	280	588	5,794	8,565	11,251	17·45	22·54	20·91
Tanjil ..	10,523	12,463	16,379	196,734	244,617	314,749	18·70	19·63	19·22
Bula Bula ..	785	1,033	1,654	13,771	16,539	35,936	17·54	16·01	21·73
Total ..	2,705,323	2,513,494	2,915,315	47,364,495	29,255,534	46,886,020	17·51	11·64	16·08

The table which follows gives the average yield of wheat per acre in the principal wheat growing counties for each of the last ten years :—

**AVERAGE YIELD OF WHEAT PER ACRE IN WHEAT
GROWING COUNTIES, 1917-18 TO 1926-27.**

Districts and Counties.	Average Yield of Wheat per Acre (in Bushels) during Year ended March—									
	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Western District—										
Ripon	13·27	10·06	16·26	21·74	19·63	19·62	15·33	19·37	17·18	20·72
Wimmera District—										
Lowan	16·52	15·78	13·47	20·94	21·53	21·17	17·48	22·87	17·71	20·50
Borong	22·62	20·01	15·76	23·79	28·05	22·72	23·65	26·23	20·68	23·60
Kara Kara ..	17·68	14·39	14·10	21·25	22·05	19·12	18·10	22·60	15·43	20·22
Mallee District—										
Weeah	10·21	6·38	3·43	14·28	8·89	8·75	10·49	11·23	7·80	12·56
Karkaroc ..	10·94	7·15	3·29	13·42	10·88	8·14	12·36	11·12	6·92	12·84
Tatchera ..	12·30	9·44	4·60	13·65	13·13	7·41	13·01	12·33	6·91	13·47
Northern District—										
Gunbower ..	14·23	8·74	8·96	15·27	15·76	10·71	12·58	16·72	10·60	13·59
Gladstone ..	14·17	11·52	12·08	18·72	18·65	14·66	13·07	21·68	9·79	16·98
Bendigo	13·85	11·83	9·30	14·56	17·25	12·59	13·82	18·76	9·70	14·54
Rodney	12·67	10·80	6·85	15·79	15·77	13·65	14·68	20·29	11·29	14·36
Molra	11·38	10·70	4·79	17·46	16·83	12·34	16·13	21·15	11·92	14·52
Total State ..	14·03	11·40	7·75	17·19	16·80	13·50	15·40	17·51	11·64	16·08

**Analysis of
Grain Pro-
duction.**

For the season 1926-27 an analysis of the number of acres producing a given yield per acre was made for counties typical of the three important wheat growing districts of Victoria, and the resultant classification is shown hereunder :—

CLASSIFICATION OF VICTORIAN WHEAT AREAS, 1926-27.

WIMMERA DISTRICT.

COUNTY OF BORUNG.

(Average yield 23·60 bushels.)

Production per acre.	Farms in Group.	Area of Crop.			Production.	
		Total.	Proportion of whole.	Average Size.	Total.	Proportion of whole.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	bushels.	per cent.
Under 3 bushels	3	275	·1	92	420	..
3 and under 6	11	533	·1	48	2,490	..
6 " 9	31	2,591	·6	84	19,231	·2
9 " 12	41	5,168	1·2	126	54,510	·5
12 " 15	85	17,308	3·9	204	239,063	2·3
15 " 21	480	111,823	25·4	233	2,078,369	20·0
21 " 27	725	186,751	42·4	258	4,465,176	43·0
27 " 33	426	98,875	22·5	232	2,945,413	28·4
33 " 39	84	16,648	3·8	198	576,478	5·6
39 and over	2	77	·4	39	3,499	..
Total ..	1,888	440,049	100·0	233	10,384,649	100·0

MALLEE DISTRICT.

COUNTY OF KARKAROOC.

(Average yield 12·84 bushels.)

Production per acre.	Farms in Group.	Area of Crop.			Production.	
		Total.	Proportion of whole.	Average Size.	Total.	Proportion of whole.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	bushels.	per cent.
Under 3 bushels	80	17,218	2·5	215	27,105	·3
3 and under 6	304	71,726	10·6	236	321,538	3·7
6 " 9	419	108,742	16·0	260	810,297	9·3
9 " 12	441	118,905	17·5	270	1,234,550	14·2
12 " 15	373	100,143	14·8	268	1,334,694	15·3
15 " 21	613	202,174	29·8	330	3,574,225	41·0
21 " 27	166	55,736	8·2	336	1,296,052	14·9
27 " 33	14	3,440	·5	246	98,936	1·1
33 " 39	1	400	·1	400	14,592	·2
Total ..	2,411	678,484	100·0	281	8,711,989	100·0

CLASSIFICATION OF VICTORIAN WHEAT AREAS, 1926-27 — *continued.*

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

COUNTY OF MOIRA.

(Average yield 14·53 bushels.)

Production per acre.	Farms in Group.	Area of Crop.			Production.	
		Total.	Proportion of whole.	Average Size.	Total.	Proportion of whole.
	No.	acres.	per cent.	acres.	bushels.	per cent.
Under 3 bushels	62	5,143	2·1	83	8,251	·2
3 and under 6	151	12,176	4·9	81	57,380	1·6
6 „ 9	274	26,018	10·5	95	200,163	5·6
9 „ 12	323	36,298	14·6	112	382,091	10·6
12 „ 15	333	46,819	18·8	141	624,680	17·3
15 „ 21	574	94,198	37·9	164	1,680,424	46·6
21 „ 27	147	25,080	10·1	171	574,545	15·9
27 „ 33	22	2,467	1·0	112	73,614	2·0
33 „ 39	3	210	·1	70	7,600	·2
Total ..	1,889	248,409	100·0	132	3,608,748	100·0

In Borung, 42·4 per cent. of the area under wheat yielded from 21 to 27 bushels per acre, and, in Karkaroc and Moira, 29·8 per cent. and 37·9 per cent. respectively, yielded from 15 to 21 bushels.

Varieties of
Wheat, etc.,
and Manure
used.

Australian wheat is noted for its hard, white, and dry qualities, and, on account of the whiteness of the flour made therefrom, it is much sought after by oversea millers for the purpose of mixing with other wheats.

Enquiries in regard to the area sown under each variety of wheat, the quantity of seed sown, and the manure used, per acre, for the 1927-28 season were made with the view of enabling the Agricultural Department to advise growers as to the most suitable varieties and the quantities to use in a particular district.

Analyses of the replies of the growers who supplied the information are given in the appended tables :—

VARIETIES OF WHEAT SOWN IN THE STATE, 1927-28.

Varieties.	Percentage (according to acreage) of total area in the State.	Varieties.	Percentage (according to acreage) of total area in the State.
	per cent.		per cent.
Federation ..	38·42 (44·76)	Turvey ..	2·09 (1·70)
Currawa ..	9·51 (9·89)	Wannon ..	2·01 (1·18)
Rance ..	5·95 (1·39)	Huf's Imperial ..	1·96 (2·45)
Major ..	5·62 (6·49)	Nizam ..	1·41 (0·33)
Gallipoli (Free) ..	5·47 (1·33)	Dollar ..	0·56 (0·87)
Penny ..	4·44 (5·42)	Graham ..	0·45 (0·45)
Rajah ..	3·46 (3·06)	Yanward ..	0·44 (0·51)
Bald Early ..	3·14 (3·51)	Warden ..	0·35 (0·48)
Yandilla King ..	2·77 (2·76)	Other varieties ..	4·67 (5·32)
Joffre ..	2·66 (2·37)		
Gluyas ..	2·47 (3·16)		
Mac's White ..	2·15 (2·57)	Total ..	100·00 (100·00)

Note.—The figures in parentheses refer to the 1926-27 season.

In all, over 140 varieties of wheat were sown. The number of these which were tried in the Mallee greatly exceeded the number experimented with in any other district. A more extended list showing the area and percentage of each variety, and the ten principal varieties grown in each district, can be obtained on application to the Government Statist.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA, NUMBER OF GROWERS, AND SEED AND MANURE USED, 1927-28.

District.	Percentage (according to acreage) of total area in the State.	Number of Growers.	Weight per acre of—	
			Seed Sown.	Manure Used.
	per cent.		lbs.	lbs.
Central ..	1·83	1,149	63	104
North Central ..	0·97	821	101	95
Western ..	2·43	1,092	88	105
Wimmera ..	26·41	3,792	76	99
Mallee ..	43·97	4,591	61	73
Northern ..	22·24	5,570	70	86
North Eastern ..	1·51	927	75	87
Gippsland ..	0·64	487	91	94
Total State ..	100·00	18,429	72	89

The quantities of seed sown and manure used in the whole State were approximately 1,322,500 lbs. and 1,532,000 lbs, respectively. The rate of sowing ranged from 47½ lbs. of seed per acre in the County

of Millewa to 101 lbs. in Talbot. and Dalhousie. Manure used varied from 50 lbs. in Millewa to 118 lbs. in Hampden.

The weight of an imperial bushel of wheat is 60 lbs., but the actual weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat of the fair average quality standard annually fixed by the Chamber of Commerce was 61.30 lbs. on the average of the last ten years. The following statement shows the variation in the f.a.q. standard weight of a bushel of Victorian wheat for each season since 1916-17:—

F.A.Q. WHEAT STANDARD, 1918 TO 1927.

Season ended March—			Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).	Season ended March—			Weight of Bushel (f.a.q.).
			lbs.				lbs.
1918	..	..	60	1923	..	..	61 $\frac{1}{4}$
1919	..	..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	1924	..	..	61
1920	..	..	62	1925	..	..	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
1921	..	..	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	1926	..	..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
1922	..	..	60	1927	..	..	61 $\frac{1}{4}$

It is estimated that about 12,000,000 bushels of wheat are required locally for food and seed. The stocks of wheat and flour in the State on 31st October, 1925, 1926, and 1927, and on 30th June, 1922, and at the same date in each of the previous eight years, were as follows:—

WHEAT AND FLOUR ON HAND, 1914 TO 1927.

Year.				Quantity in Bushels.		
				Wheat.	Flour (equivalent in Wheat).	Total.
1914	..	..	..	8,002,311	940,138	8,942,449
1915	..	..	..	582,448	510,300	1,092,748
1916	..	..	..	42,578,379	519,162	43,097,541
1917	..	..	..	63,852,078	1,078,875	64,930,953
1918	..	..	..	70,031,000	1,658,000	71,689,000
1919	..	..	..	53,023,000	3,284,000	56,307,000
1920	..	..	..	11,780,159	4,861,000	16,641,159
1921	..	..	..	14,883,400	800,000	15,683,400
1922	..	..	..	5,065,600	883,150	5,948,750
1923	} Not collected	..	{	..	..	..
1924				..	..	..
1925	..	..	..	1,446,240	2,955,640	4,401,880
1926	..	..	..	1,629,124	472,750	2,101,874
1927	..	..	..	3,595,800	1,406,600	5,002,400

Oats. In 1926-27 the area harvested for oats in Victoria was 303,424 acres, from which a yield of 4,884,006 bushels was obtained, giving an average of 16·10 bushels to the acre. The appended statement shows the harvest results for this crop for each of the last seven seasons, and for periods prior thereto back to 1865 :—

OATS GROWN, 1865 TO 1927.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1865-75	129,384	2,636,747	20·38
1875-85	147,343	3,297,468	22·38
1885-95	210,901	4,649,393	22·05
1895-1905	340,957	6,649,453	19·50
1905-15	390,643	7,342,468	18·79
1915-20	398,232	7,127,504	17·90
1921	443,636	10,907,191	24·59
1922	318,681	6,082,258	19·09
1923	492,356	8,093,459	16·44
1924	520,654	9,366,205	17·99
1925	517,229	9,572,003	18·51
1926	437,696	4,998,165	11·42
1927	303,424	4,884,006	16·10

In addition to the area for grain shown for last season there were 959,019 acres of oats cut for hay, so that the total area sown with oats in 1926-27 was 1,262,443 acres. During 1926-27 there were exported from Victoria to oversea countries 95,017 bushels of oats and 6,695 lbs. of oatmeal, etc.

Varieties of Oats. Enquiries in regard to the different kinds of oats sown for the 1927-28 season showed that, of those growers who supplied the information, 91 per cent. planted principally Algerian, and 6 per cent. Mortgage Lifter oats.

The area under barley in 1926-27 was 88,896 acres, of which 59,935 were under malting, and 28,961 under other barley. The figures in the subjoined table show the acreage, production, and yield per acre, for each of the last five years :—

CULTIVATION OF BARLEY, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended March—	Area under Crop.		Produce.		Average per Acre.		
	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Malting.	Other.	Total.
	acres.	acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1923 ..	64,648	38,125	1,525,744	916,297	23·60	24·03	23·76
1924 ..	39,588	16,976	1,037,114	418,291	26·20	24·64	25·73
1925 ..	42,217	21,547	971,532	473,291	23·01	21·97	22·66
1926 ..	72,244	31,151	1,189,081	585,882	16·46	18·81	17·17
1927 ..	59,935	28,961	1,186,733	733,989	19·80	25·34	21·61

During 1926-27, 2,000,523 bushels of barley were used locally in the production of 1,943,575 bushels of malt.

The area planted with potatoes in 1926-27 was 66,185 acres, and the production was 162,909 tons, which represented a yield of 2·46 tons per acre, as compared with 2·54 tons in the previous season, 2·27 tons in 1924-25, and 4·02 tons in 1923-24. The following table shows the potato returns for the last thirty-seven years :—

POTATO PRODUCTION, 1890 To 1927.

Period or Year (ending in June).				Annual Average.		
				Area under Crop.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
			acres.		tons.	tons.
1890-1900			47,738	155,432	3·26	
1900-10			48,857	142,307	2·91	
1910-20			60,127	166,677	2·77	
1921			62,687	171,628	2·74	
1922			63,895	173,660	2·72	
1923			61,741	148,354	2·40	
1924			59,306	238,520	4·02	
1925			61,295	139,043	2·27	
1926			63,369	160,729	2·54	
1927			66,185	162,909	2·46	

The estimated value of the potatoes produced last season was £671,673 as against £1,309,470 in 1925-26, £682,878 in 1924-25, £701,229 in 1923-24, and £1,040,662 in 1922-23.

In 1927 the production of hay amounted to 1,387,971 tons, as against 929,068 tons in 1926, 1,492,588 tons in 1925, 1,541,287 tons in 1924, and 1,665,089 tons in 1923. The quantity of straw returned for the season 1926-27 was 23,985 tons as against 31,994 tons for the previous year. The hay returns for decennial

periods from 1890 to 1920, and each of the last seven seasons, are shown in the table which follows :—

HAY PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1927.

Period or Year (ending in March).	Annual Average.		
	Area cut for Hay.	Produce.	Average per Acre.
	acres.	tons.	tons.
1890-1900	467,668	576,618	1·23
1900-10	664,387	894,108	1·35
1910-20	984,797	1,269,767	1·29
1921	1,333,397	1,984,854	1·49
1922	1,159,135	1,548,453	1·34
1923	1,261,408	1,665,089	1·32
1924	1,277,606	1,541,287	1·21
1925	1,120,312	1,492,588	1·33
1926	1,013,613	929,068	0·92
1927	1,080,993	1,387,971	1·29

The estimated value of the hay crop was £4,719,925 for 1927, as compared with £3,497,253 for 1926, £3,639,496 for 1925, £5,229,162 for 1924, and £6,327,338 for 1923. Of the total hay produced in 1927, 1,225,539 tons were oats, 127,844 tons were wheat, and 34,588 tons were made from lucerne and other crops; the yields per acre of these varieties of hay were 1·28, 1·26, and 1·67 tons respectively.

Information is obtained direct from growers, in February or March of each year, in regard to the prices of the leading agricultural products other than the main crop of potatoes, the price of which is ascertained in June or July. The following table gives the average price of each product for each of the last ten years :—

PRICES OF PRODUCE, 1918 to 1927.

Year.	Average Price in February and March.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.		Hay.	Potatoes.	
			Malting.	Other.		Early Crop.	Main Crop (after March).
	per bushel. s. d.	per bushel. s. d.	per bushel. s. d.	per bushel. s. d.	per ton. s. d.	per ton. s. d.	per ton. s. d.
1918 ..	4 0	3 1½	4 2¾	3 4½	59 0	79 0	55 0
1919 ..	4 9	4 5½	5 0½	3 11¾	83 0	210 0	149 0
1920 ..	7 8½	5 7¼	6 7½	5 8	134 0	219 0	178 0
1921 ..	7 3	2 4½	4 0½	3 1	53 0	101 0	64 0
1922 ..	4 9½	3 0¾	4 0¼	2 11	57 0	94 0	60 0
1923 ..	4 6	3 6	3 11	3 0	76 0	170 0	136 0
1924 ..	4 3	3 1¼	3 9¼	3 2¼	72 0	111 0	53 0
1925 ..	5 0¾	1 11½	5 3¾	4 0½	48 9	121 0	94 0
1926 ..	4 6¼	2 9	3 4¾	3 0	75 3	194 0	158 0
1927 ..	3 9½	2 5½	3 0	2 6¾	64 9	170 0	69 0

NOTE.—Prior to 1925, only freight and handling charges were deducted; but, for 1925 to 1927, the cost for bags and seed, and, for 1927, manure also, was deducted from the F.O.B. charges.

Other Crops.

The area under other than principal crops and the production since March, 1924, are shown in the subjoined table:—

OTHER THAN PRINCIPAL CROPS, 1924-25 to 1926-27.

Crop.	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.	Area.	Production.
	1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.	
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
Maize	23,126	891,987	21,913	768,761	20,046	685,407
Rye	1,029	13,000	978	10,788	864	10,443
Peas	11,759	256,160	14,094	166,543	10,431	198,947
		tons.		tons.		tons.
Mangel-wurzel ..	736	10,022	1,046	10,333	690	6,715
Beet, Carrots, Parsnips and Turnips	238	1,847	624	2,758	286	1,994
Onions	4,504	26,555	5,379	21,728	8,471	43,928
Green Forage ..	99,531	..	107,873	..	87,241	..
Grass and Clover		bushels.		bushels.		bushels.
Seeds	1,424	8,597	1,290	7,330	854	5,876
		cwt.		cwt.		cwt.
Hops	269	4,240	312	3,934	196	1,169
Tobacco	1,228	3,199	1,179	7,871	1,154	†
Vines—Grapes	42,467	2,142,349	40,712	2,253,884	40,612	3,587,224
		800 seed.		1,200 seed		
Flax	130	17 fibre	154	660 fibre	388	‡
		3 tow		80 tow		
		2,600		..		
		straw				
Gardens and Orchards ..	85,358	..	82,665	..	83,215	..
Minor Crops ..	7,052*	..	7,097*	..	8,161*	..
Land in Fallow	2,215,270	..	2,457,136	..	2,569,021	..
Artificial Grasses	843,095	..	820,337	..	835,049	..

* For details see page 537.

† Not available.

‡ Not yet treated.

Maize. The area under maize for grain in 1926-27 was 20,046 acres, and the production was 685,407 bushels, which represented a yield of 34·19 bushels per acre, as compared with 35·08 bushels in 1925-26, 38·57 bushels in 1924-25, 50·33 bushels in 1923-24, and 34·04 bushels in 1922-23. Of the total production for last season 91 per cent. was obtained from the Gippsland district. The area, total production, and produce per acre are given in the next

table for each of the last seven seasons and for periods prior thereto back to 1890 :—

MAIZE PRODUCTION, 1890 to 1927.

Period or Year (ending in June).	Annual Average.		
	Area under Maize for Grain.	Production.	Produce per Acre.
	acres.	bushels.	bushels.
1890-1900	8,688	452,907	52·13
1900-10	12,082	716,158	59·27
1910-20	20,811	922,461	44·33
1921	24,149	1,065,880	44·14
1922	23,227	951,960	40·99
1923	25,846	879,915	34·04
1924	29,104	1,464,731	50·33
1925	23,126	891,987	38·57
1926	21,913	768,761	35·08
1927	20,046	685,407	34·19

On the average of the last five seasons the yield per acre was 39·1 bushels, as against 45·0 in 1910-15, and 65·4 in 1900-05. The relatively light yield per acre for the latest five-year period was probably due to the cultivation of new areas, which are less fertile than the rich river flats upon which this cereal was grown exclusively in earlier periods.

Rye. The area under rye in 1926-27 was 864 acres, from which 10,443 bushels of grain were obtained. The production was 10,788 bushels in 1925-26, 13,000 bushels in 1924-25, 11,151 bushels in 1923-24, and 15,718 bushels in 1922-23. Rye was grown principally in the counties of Bourke, Dalhousie, Delatite, and Talbot last season. The area under this crop in the four counties mentioned was about 67 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Peas. The area under peas in 1926-27 was 10,431 acres, and the return, 198,947 bushels, as compared with 14,094 acres and 166,543 bushels for the previous year. Last season peas were grown to some extent in all districts with the exception of the Mallee. The counties from which the largest returns were obtained and the yields of these counties were as follows:—Grant, 50,713 bushels; Buln Buln, 34,317 bushels; Bourke, 32,877 bushels; Mornington, 19,753 bushels; and Tanjil, 9,488 bushels. The production of peas in the five counties mentioned was equal to 74 per cent. of the total for the whole State.

Mangel-wurzel. In 1926-27 there were 690 acres under mangel-wurzel, as against 1,046 in 1925-26, 736 in 1924-25, 854 in 1923-24, and 684 in 1922-23. The production last year was 6,715 tons, as compared with an annual average of 9,762 tons for the preceding five-year period. Mangolds are grown principally in the Gippsland, Western, and Central districts.

Beet, carrots,
parsnips, and
turnips.

The cultivation of beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips, exclusive of those grown in market gardens, showed a considerable decrease in area as compared with the previous season. In 1926-27 the extent of land sown was 286 acres, as against 624 in 1925-26, 238 in 1924-25, 538 in 1923-24, and 433 in 1922-23. The produce for last year was 1,994 tons, as compared with 2,758 in 1925-26, 1,847 in 1924-25, 4,222 in 1923-24, and 1,878 in 1922-23.

Onions.

Onions are grown in nearly every county south of the Dividing Range. The returns for last season show that in Villiers the yield was 10,109 tons from 1,511 acres; in Grenville, 10,011 tons from 1,744 acres; in Polwarth, 7,024 tons from 1,122 acres; in Bourke, 4,947 tons from 850 acres; in Buln Buln, 4,876 tons from 1,213 acres; in Grant, 3,370 tons from 1,239 acres; and in Mornington, 2,520 tons from 531 acres. The following statement shows the area and yield for each of the last five years:—

ONION CULTIVATION, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended March—					Area.	Produce.
					acres.	tons.
1922-23	..	..	..	..	6,954	44,409
1923-24	..	..	..	..	4,714	31,683
1924-25	..	..	..	..	4,504	26,555
1925-26	..	..	..	..	5,379	21,728
1926-27	..	..	..	..	8,471	43,928

The value of onions grown was £110,839 in 1926-27, as compared with £267,793 in 1925-26, £209,803 in 1924-25, £215,444 in 1923-24, and £139,888 in 1922-23.

Green
forage.

The area devoted to green forage in 1923-27 was 87,241 acres, 107,873 in 1925-26, 99,531 in 1924-25, 107,371 in 1923-24, and 102,451 in 1922-23.

Ensilage.

The practice of preserving forage in a green state has existed in Victoria for many years, but only a small number of farmers have adopted it. The returns for the last five seasons are given in the next table:—

ENSILAGE RETURNS, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended March—					Number of Farms on which made.	Number of Silos (Pits and Stacks).	Materials used.
							tons.
1923	..	..	..	..	103	138	5,674
1924	..	..	..	..	61	88	3,649
1925	..	..	..	..	106	149	6,667
1926	..	..	..	..	113	150	6,092
1927	..	..	..	..	94	110	6,132

Grass and
clover
seed.

The area harvested for grass and clover seed last season was 854 acres, as compared with 1,290 in 1925-26, 1,424 in 1924-25, 1,306 in 1923-24, and 1,468 in 1922-23. The production in 1926-27 was 5,876 bushels, as against 7,330 in 1925-26, 8,597 in 1924-25, 6,466 in 1923-24, and 7,859 in 1922-23.

Hops. The hop-growing industry attained its maximum development in 1883-84, when 1,758 acres yielded 15,717 cwt. In 1926-27 the return from 196 acres was 1,169 cwt. Delatite, Bogong, Heytesbury, and Tanjil were the only counties in which hops were grown last season.

Flax. No flax was sown during the year 1923-24, but the Commonwealth Flax Committee, before winding up, supplied to Drysdale farmers seed for sowing in the 1924-25 season. An area of 130 acres was then sown, followed by 154 acres in 1925-26, and 388 acres in 1926-27. Owing to discontinuance of operations by the local co-operative company, the latter harvest has not yet been treated. Particulars of the crop for each of the last five years are given in the following statement:—

FLAX, 1922 TO 1926.

Year ended December—			Area under Crop.	Seed Produced.	Fibre Produced.	Tow Produced.	Straw awaiting Treatment.
			acres.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	tons.
1922	..	..	590	1,725	435	25	..
1923	..	..	Nil	..	..	..	..
1924	..	..	130	800	17	3	130
1925	..	..	154	1,200	660	80	..
1926	..	..	388	*	*	*	*

* Harvest not yet treated.

NOTE.—For particulars of New Zealand flax, not included in above statement, vide page 537.

In 1926-27 imports into Victoria from countries outside Australia included linseed to the value of £44,688, linseed oil worth £38,707, and fibre worth £209,191.

Tobacco. Tobacco production reached its maximum in 1880-81, when 17,333 cwt. of dry leaf was produced. Subsequent years were marked by great variations in area and produce, but since 1920-21 increasing areas have been devoted to the industry. The area devoted to this product last year was 1,154 acres, of which 602 were in Delatite, and 419 in Bogong. Particulars relating to the cultivation of tobacco for each of the last five years are as follows:—

CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended June—				Area.	Produce.
				acres.	cwt. (dry).
1922-23	..	..	..	890	4,151
1923-24	..	..	..	1,047	1,165
1924-25	..	..	..	1,228	3,199
1925-26	..	..	..	1,179	7,871
1926-27	..	..	..	1,154	*

* Not available.

Vine Production. During the period 1904-15 the area under vines decreased by 6,712 acres, or by nearly 24 per cent., and the number of growers decreased by 521, or by 23 per cent. Since 1915 there has been a fairly large increase in the area and the number of growers. Vineyards are distributed fairly well over the State, and there are certain districts where the principal industries are connected with vine-growing. The Shire of Mildura produced last season 2,924,862 cwt. of grapes; Swan Hill, 405,164 cwt.; Rutherglen, 121,273 cwt.; and Rodney, 24,380 cwt. At Mildura the crop is principally dried for raisins and currants. The results of five years' operations are given below :—

VINE PRODUCTION, 1923 to 1927.

Year ended June—	Number of Growers.	Area.	Produce.				
			Grapes gathered.	Wine made.	Raisins made.		Currants made.
					Lexias.	Sultanas.	
		acres.	cwt.	gallons.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1923 ..	2,775	38,892	1,879,964	1,717,490	67,850	217,670	98,081
1924 ..	3,047	42,599	2,707,729	2,177,127	71,993	366,834	150,867
1925 ..	2,999	42,467	2,142,349	1,368,765	70,695	296,304	104,948
1926 ..	2,876	40,712	2,253,884	1,637,274	54,021	297,485	123,733
1927 ..	2,832	40,612	3,587,224	2,346,314	75,296	582,418	135,464

Of the total quantity of grapes gathered in 1927, it is estimated that 417,502 cwt. were used for making wine and spirits, 3,077,038 cwt. for raisins and currants, and 92,684 cwt. for table consumption and export. Of the 582,418 cwt. of sultanas made, 494,971 cwt. were from Mildura, and 84,068 cwt. from Swan Hill.

Raisins are produced in Victoria upon a scale far in excess of the State's requirements. It is estimated that a year's consumption of raisins is about 88,000 cwt.; consequently, about 570,000 cwt. of the production in 1927 were available for interstate or oversea export. A year's consumption of currants is about 30,000 cwt., which would enable approximately 105,000 cwt. of last season's production to be exported to other States or oversea.

Orchards. The total number of persons in the State growing fruit for sale was 7,425 in 1926-27, as against 7,673 in 1925-26, 7,414 in 1924-25, 7,387 in 1923-24, and 7,758 in 1922-23. The area under orchards in each of those years was 81,301, 80,251, 83,369, 83,469, and 83,880 acres respectively. The orchards are distributed over the whole State. The counties having the largest areas last season were as follows :—Mornington, 14,859 acres; Bourke, 12,187 acres; Evelyn, 11,711 acres; Rodney, 10,119 acres; Moira, 7,838 acres; Talbot, 3,959 acres; and Bendigo, 3,323 acres.

The following is a statement of the number of bearing and not-bearing fruit trees and plants for the seasons 1922-23 and 1925-26 :—

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF FRUIT TREES, PLANTS, ETC., IN ORCHARDS AND GARDENS WHERE FRUIT WAS GROWN FOR SALE. 1922-23 AND 1925-26.

Fruit.	Number of Trees, Plants, &c.					
	1922-23.			1925-26.		
	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.	Bearing.	Not Bearing.	Total.
Apples ..	2,302,089	854,643	3,156,732	2,281,817	751,046	3,032,863
Pears ..	729,775	360,403	1,090,178	803,344	247,341	1,050,685
Quinces ..	72,316	33,041	105,357	77,950	15,733	93,683
Plums ..	368,355	153,020	521,375	305,348	64,826	370,174
Prunes ..	*	*	*	74,118	46,019	120,137
Cherries ..	182,093	33,802	215,895	112,324	29,228	141,552
Peaches ..	778,650	341,485	1,120,135	876,635	222,333	1,098,968
Apricots ..	349,242	130,114	479,356	397,402	67,532	464,934
Nectarines ..	15,295	1,645	16,940	13,539	3,570	17,109
Oranges ..	279,146	224,117	503,263	338,290	259,710	598,000
Lemons ..	100,544	96,207	196,751	130,634	64,881	195,515
Limes ..	..	..	†	360	58	418
Grapefruit ..	..	..	†	1,597	5,959	7,556
Pomelo - Shaddock ..	..	..	†	350	114	464
Loquats ..	3,337	1,138	4,475	3,346	1,092	4,438
Medlars ..	55	27	82	71	15	86
Figs ..	29,149	7,069	36,218	31,967	6,050	38,017
Guavas ..	182	92	274	68	67	135
Pomegranates ..	107	243	350	69	59	128
Persimmons ..	384	427	811	535	205	740
Total Large Fruits ..	5,210,719	2,237,473	7,448,192	5,449,764	1,785,838	7,235,602
Raspberries ..	308,647	..	308,647	..	351,201	351,201
Loganberries ..	139,084	..	139,084	..	147,901	147,901
Strawberries ..	2,432,038	..	2,432,038	..	3,662,153	3,662,153
Gooseberries ..	185,922	29,418	215,340	196,494	20,114	216,608
Mulberries ..	901	355	1,256	858	259	1,117
Olives ..	1,577	208	1,785	1,576	300	1,876
Currants (Red, White, and Black) ..	29,779	6,939	36,718	36,369	7,444	43,813
Passion-fruit ..	41,148	27,133	68,281	54,245	35,019	89,264
Almonds ..	21,987	9,792	31,779	23,272	16,287	39,559
Walnuts ..	5,223	7,019	12,242	7,382	4,481	11,863
Filberts ..	628	246	874	259	502	761
Chestnuts ..	692	262	954	462	254	716
Total Nuts ..	28,530	17,319	45,849	31,375	21,524	52,899

* Included in Plums.

† Not collected.

In 1926, a special census was taken to ascertain the number of trees of each variety of each kind of fruit planted in Victoria, in order to facilitate consideration of the problems of marketing. The Department of Agriculture, Victoria,

Census of Fruit Trees.

published a detailed statement of each variety in each county in the State, and copies may be had on application thereto.

The results are briefly summarized in the following table :—

CENSUS OF FRUIT TREES, 1926.

Kind and Variety.	Trees of Bearing Age.	Young Trees not Bearing.	Kind and Variety.	Trees of Bearing Age.	Young Trees not Bearing.
	No.	No.		No.	No.
Apples—			Apricots—		
Jonathan	910,146	247,572	Moorpark	195,679	29,486
Rome Beauty	253,012	98,555	Oullin's Early	46,412	4,979
London Pippin (Five Crown)	183,438	36,636	Mansfield	41,338	6,136
Yates	135,140	57,251	Others	113,973	26,931
Delicious	46,112	75,146	All Varieties	397,402	67,532
Dunn's (Munro's Favorite)	91,761	18,893			
Stewart's	56,303	35,452	Cherries—		
Gravenstein	58,011	18,569	Bedford Prolific	21,695	6,804
Cleopatra (N.Y. Pippin)	46,290	12,412	Early Purple Guigne	15,355	2,647
Granny Smith	21,936	29,672	Burgsdorf's Seedling	11,216	3,568
Reinette de Canada	42,801	6,935	Biggareau Twyford	13,623	1,089
Statesman	35,240	12,748	Others	50,435	15,120
Rokewood	38,668	6,348	All Varieties	112,324	29,228
King David	35,648	6,304			
Others	327,311	88,553	Nectarines—		
All Varieties	2,281,817	751,046	Goldmine	9,436	1,580
			Others	4,103	1,990
Pears—			All Varieties	13,539	3,570
Williams (Bartlett)	376,609	85,222			
Beurre Bosc	80,168	32,500	Peaches—		
Packham's Triumph	55,112	46,608	Pullar's Cling	237,914	31,081
Kieffer	51,324	9,104	Elberta	65,595	2,771
Josephine de Malines	38,891	17,740	Brigg's Red May	55,778	11,587
Others	201,240	56,167	Hales' Early	56,856	10,188
All Varieties	803,844	247,341	Nicholls' Orange Cling	61,246	2,402
			Goodman's Choice	44,955	12,590
Oranges—			Others	354,291	151,714
Washington Navel	198,363	130,728	All Varieties	876,635	222,333
Valencia Late	67,902	70,995			
Others	54,243	36,120	Plums and Prunes—		
All Varieties	320,508	237,843	Grand Duke	45,431	13,824
			Diamond	40,985	6,820
Mandarins—			Prune d'Agen	23,019	23,071
Emperor	12,029	13,534	Angelina Burdett	28,823	7,261
Others	5,753	8,333	Others	175,441	42,996
All Varieties	17,782	21,867	All Varieties	313,699	93,972
Lemons—			Plums (Japanese)—		
Lisbon	89,629	37,775	Burbank	22,886	4,153
Eureka	34,153	24,781	Santa Rosa	11,503	2,918
Others	6,852	2,325	Satsuma (Blood)	10,865	3,177
All Varieties	130,634	64,881	Others	20,513	6,925
			All Varieties	65,767	16,873
Grape Fruit—					
Marsh's Seedless	1,017	5,306	Figs—		
Triumph	239	415	White Genoa	15,750	1,453
Others	341	238	White Adriatic	5,610	585
All Varieties	1,597	5,959	Brown Turkey	3,641	1,657
			Others	6,966	2,350
			All Varieties	31,967	6,050

The area of orchards growing fruit for sale in 1926-27—81,301 acres—showed an increase of 1,050 acres as compared with the area for the previous year. Details of the produce from such orchards in the last five years are given in the subjoined statement :—

**ORCHARDS GROWING FRUIT FOR SALE, 1922-23
TO 1926-27.**

Year ended March—	Number of Fruit-growers.	Area of Gardens and Orchards.	LARGE FRUITS GATHERED.					
			Apples.	Pears.	Quinces.	Plums.	Prunes.	Cherries.
		acres.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1923	7,758	83,880	2,089,017	666,631	63,837	258,117	*	92,407
1924	7,387	83,469	1,663,308	858,611	76,167	241,818	*	63,662
1925	7,414	83,369	2,233,230	910,915	81,160	308,638	*	51,299
1926	7,673	80,251	2,063,214	840,113	81,365	203,334	50,408	69,639
1927	7,425	81,301	543,106	500,995	42,695	172,724	37,060	29,817

Large Fruits Gathered—continued.

	Peaches.	Apricots.	Oranges.	Lemons.	Figs.	Nectarines.	Passion.	Other.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
1923	966,952	290,876	259,330	109,347	15,313	14,749	16,066	1,431
1924	938,908	352,604	210,595	95,443	27,772	14,649	15,986	3,942
1925	990,683	350,778	310,890	128,889	25,658	16,545	30,866	1,211
1926	1,221,582	247,600	286,216	131,154	22,568	15,289	10,495	860
1927	925,353	440,423	†	†	16,474	9,274	22,289	6,311

	SMALL FRUITS GATHERED.					NUTS GATHERED.			
	Rasp-berries.	Straw-berries.	Goose-berries.	Currants, Black, Red, & White.	Other.	Almonds.	Walnuts.	Filberts.	Chest-nuts.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1923	2,682	3,321	5,243	401	5,236	74,588	43,064	1,031	10,713
1924	2,160	3,831	3,657	283	3,046	76,905	29,665	964	6,190
1925	3,665	5,856	4,281	355	6,980	70,217	23,199	615	14,469
1926	3,548	4,022	4,675	329	5,881	71,480	61,845	201	16,793
1927	1,283	1,877	1,322	161	1,549†	68,315	31,254	59	15,495

* Included in Plums. † As the season for citrus fruits ends later than that for other fruits details are not yet available. ‡ Including 1,364 cwt. of loganberries, and 108 cwt. of blackberries.

The effects of the dry season and the ravages of the "thrip" pest, during 1926-27, are shown in the above table, except in the yields of apricots and passion fruit.

In addition to the fruits shown, large quantities of melons, rhubarb, and tomatoes were produced in the orchards, the following being the quantities returned for 1926-27:—Melons, 7,917 cwt.; rhubarb, 5,331 dozen bundles; and tomatoes, 231,008 bushels. There were also 1,914 acres laid down in gardens growing fruit for private use; the value of the produce from these was estimated at about £9,600.

According to prices received by growers the value of fruit which reaches market was estimated to be £1,172,300 in 1922-23, £1,193,689 in 1923-24, £1,091,508 in 1924-25, £1,247,700 in 1925-26, and £970,831 in 1926-27. This, of course, does not represent the actual value of all the fruit grown, as large quantities are privately consumed in various ways. No very reliable estimate of the value of such fruit can be prepared, but it may be set down at about £40,000.

The area under market gardens in the year 1926-27 was 17,751 acres. As these gardens are generally situated near large centres of population, the producers are able to dispose of the bulk of their goods with a minimum loss from waste, &c. An average return of £50 per acre is regarded as a fair estimate of their value, and on this basis the total value of the produce may be given as £887,550. This does not include crops of one acre and over of potatoes, onions, mangel-wurzel, beet, carrots, parsnips, and turnips grown in market gardens, such crops being tabulated under their respective heads in the returns relating to agriculture.

The quantity of dried fruit (weight after drying) was first collected in 1895-96, when 179,460 lbs. were returned. During 1926-27 the quantity produced was 756,324 lbs., which was 14 per cent. less than the quantity for the previous year. The production of the various kinds of dried fruit, with the exception of raisins and currants, the particulars of which appear on page 532, is shown in the following statement for each of the last five seasons:—

DRIED FRUIT, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended June—	Apples.	Prunes.	Peaches.	Apricots.	Figs.	Pears.	Nectarines.	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1923 ..	5,354	376,491	454,899	518,196	29,632	36,915	14,041	1,435,528
1924 ..	3,104	395,090	168,948	217,624	6,226	132,217	2,953	926,162
1925 ..	8,037	638,302	153,235	328,643	16,945	102,792	10,354	1,258,358
1926 ..	4,569	307,377	232,170	213,764	29,301	89,025	8,163	884,369
1927 ..	2,540	313,390	107,933	278,796	9,966	43,333	66	756,324

A feature of the returns for the season 1926-27, as compared with those for the previous year, is the decrease in all fruits except prunes and apricots.

The following is a return of the minor crops for the last two seasons. The items do not in all cases represent the whole of the respective crops grown, but refer only to such as were taken cognisance of by the collectors. The return, therefore, indicates the nature of the crops rather than the full extent of their cultivation:—

MINOR CROPS, 1925-26 AND 1926-27.

Crop.	1925-26.		1926-27.	
	Area.	Produce.	Area.	Produce.
	acres.		acres.	
Beans	961	19,008 bushels	1,045	18,204 bushels
Chicory	528	430 tons (dry)	540	257 tons (dry)
Flowers	327	.. ..	388	.. ..
Garlic	30	35 tons	35	55 tons
Flax—New Zealand ..	90	†58 tons fibre	90	*
Millet—Broom	669	{ 1,797 cwt. fibre 1,151 cwt. seed }	1,493	{ 4,487 cwt. fibre 2,847 cwt. seed }
„ Japanese	95	550 „ „	25	40 „ „
Nurseries	721	.. ..	815	.. ..
Pumpkins	1,179	5,472 tons	1,590	5,816 tons
Seeds—Agricultural and Garden ..	14	.. ..	79	.. ..
Sugar Beet	1,880	{ 21,194 tons clean beet, pro- ducing 2,315 tons market- able sugar 400 cwt. }	2,024	{ 9,851 tons clean beet, pro- ducing 1,177 tons market- able sugar 390 cwt. }
Sunflowers	63	400 cwt.	37	.. ..
Total	7,097	..	8,161	..

* Only cut every third year. † Partial failure.

Land in fallow.

The practice of fallowing has become very popular in recent years. This is no doubt due to the more enlightened methods adopted, especially in wheat farming, where results have justified the introduction of extensive fallowing in conjunction with heavy manuring. The acreage in fallow in the years 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916, 1921, and each of the last five years was as follows:—

LAND IN FALLOW.

Year ended March—	Acres.	Year ended March—	Acres.
1901	602,870	1923	2,186,881
1906	1,049,915	1924	2,294,297
1911	1,434,177	1925	2,215,270
1916	1,358,343	1926	2,457,136
1921	1,935,747	1927	2,569,021

Nearly all of the fallowed area is devoted to wheat production. Of the 2,569,021 acres in fallow last season, 797,657 were in the Wimmera, 945,898 in the Mallee, and 599,629 in the Northern District. The total for these three districts represented, therefore, 91 per cent. of the land fallowed in the State.

The increase in the proportion of farmers using manure indicates the popularity and the value of this method of treating the soil. Last year the number of farmers who used manure was 41,795, as compared with 37,835 in 1921, 26,159 in 1911, 11,439 in 1901, and 7,318 in 1898. The following table shows the number of farmers using manure, and the quantity used, in 1901, 1906, 1911, and 1916, and each of the last six years:—

MANURE USED FOR FERTILIZATION, 1901 to 1926.

Year ended March—			Farmers using.	Area used on.	Manure used—	
					Natural.	Artificial.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1901	..	..	11,439	556,777	153,611	23,535
1906	..	..	23,072	1,985,148	205,906	60,871
1911	..	..	26,159	2,676,408	205,739	82,581
1916	..	..	33,165	3,870,742	181,268	117,812
1921	..	..	37,835	3,848,184	161,683	150,012
1922	..	..	40,037	4,148,780	173,343	172,897
1923	..	..	39,749	4,113,640	163,843	178,621
1924	..	..	39,393	4,301,558	151,611	184,140
1925	..	..	40,460	4,244,191	144,537	195,542
1926	..	..	41,795	4,601,239	142,334	214,234

NOTE.—The average weight of manure used per acre in each district will be found on page 523.

The area on which manure was used represented only 7 per cent. of that under crop in 1898, but since then the proportion manured has rapidly increased. In 1901, it was 19 per cent.; in 1903, 36 per cent.; in 1905, 56 per cent.; in 1909, 66 per cent.; in 1913, 77 per cent.; and in 1926, 97 per cent. During 1926-27 the quantity of fertilizers imported into Victoria from oversea countries was 221,243 tons valued at £528,605. This included 218,998 tons of rock phosphates valued at £496,785, most of which came from the Pacific Islands.

Characteristics
of Victorian
soils.

This subject is fully dealt with in the *Year-Book* for 1915-16, page 740

Persons
employed on
Farming, and
Dairying, and
Pastoral
Holdings.

Information is obtained by the collectors of agricultural statistics each year as to the number of persons ordinarily employed upon the land occupied. For the last five years the numbers were as follows :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED UPON FARMING,
DAIRYING, AND PASTORAL HOLDINGS, 1922 to 1926.

Year ended March—			Males.	Females.	Total.
1922	..	..	107,872	48,978	156,850
1923	..	..	105,933	46,218	152,151
1924	..	..	103,013	33,954	136,967
1925	..	..	98,059	19,124	117,183
1926	..	..	96,791	17,619	114,410

Persons absent from their farms for the greater portion of the year following other occupations, as well as temporary hands engaged in harvesting, &c., are not included in the above tabulation, neither are domestic servants nor cooks. Prior to 1925, females who were only partly engaged in work on the holdings were included in the figures given, whereas, in that year, only those wholly employed in outdoor duties are included. It is estimated that the temporary labour employed on farms and pastoral holdings is equivalent to about 30,000 men employed continuously throughout the year.

Wages—
agricultural
and
pastoral.

In the next return will be found particulars of the rates of wages paid (with rations) upon farms and pastoral holdings during 1926-27. The information has been furnished by the occupiers of holdings.

WAGES, AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL, 1926-27.

Occupations.			Range.	Prevailing Rate.
Ploughmen	..	..	30s. to 80s. per week ..	45s. per week
Farm labourers	..	..	27s. 6d. to 70s. per week	41s. per week
Threshing machine hands	..	..	12d. to 18d. per hour ..	15d. per hour
Harvest hands	..	..	10s. to 16s. per day ..	13s. per day
Milkers	..	..	25s. to 60s. per week ..	35s. per week
Maize pickers (without rations)	..	..	6d. to 10d. per bag ..	8d. per bag
Married couples	..	..	50s. to 90s. per week ..	60s. per week
Female servants	..	..	15s. to 40s. per week ..	25s. per week
Shearers, hand (without rations)	..	..	35s. to 50s. per 100 sheep	40s. per 100 sheep
„ machine (without rations)	..	..	38s. to 60s. per 100 sheep	40s. per 100 sheep
Gardeners, market	..	..	25s. to 70s. per week ..	40s. per week
„ orchard	..	..	40s. to 80s. per week ..	50s. per week
Vineyard hands	..	..	40s. to 80s. per week ..	50s. per week

PASTORAL AND DAIRYING INDUSTRIES.

Live Stock. The pastoral and dairying industries have always been important sources of wealth to the State, and their increasing value in recent years, despite the larger areas devoted to cultivation, indicates that both pastures and stock are, on the whole, steadily improving. The progress of stock breeding is shown in the next table, which gives the numbers of horses, dairy cows, other cattle, sheep and pigs, and their numbers per head of population and per square mile, in each of the last seven census years, also in the year 1927.

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1861 to 1927.

Year ended March—	Horses (including Foals).	Cattle—		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
	number.	number.	number.	number.	number.
1861	76,536	197,332	525,000	5,780,896	61,259
1871	209,025	212,193	564,534	10,477,976	180,109
1881	275,516	329,198	957,069	10,360,285	241,936
1891	436,469	395,192	1,387,689	12,692,843	282,457
1901	392,237	521,612	1,080,772	10,841,790	350,370
1911	472,080	668,777	878,792	12,882,665	333,281
1921	487,503	620,005	955,154	12,171,084	175,275
1927	447,988	673,089	762,672	14,919,653	284,271
<i>Per Head of Population.</i>					
1861	·14	·37	·97	10·70	·11
1871	·29	·29	·77	14·32	·25
1881	·32	·38	1·11	12·01	·28
1891	·38	·35	1·22	11·13	·25
1901	·33	·43	·90	9·03	·29
1911	·36	·51	·67	9·79	·25
1921	·32	·41	·63	7·99	·12
1927	·26	·39	·45	8·72	·17
<i>Per Square Mile.</i>					
1861	·87	2·25	5·97	65·78	·70
1871	2·38	2·41	6·42	119·22	2·05
1881	3·14	3·75	10·89	117·88	2·75
1891	4·97	4·50	15·79	144·43	3·21
1901	4·46	5·94	12·30	123·36	4·00
1911	5·37	7·61	10·00	146·59	3·79
1921	5·55	7·05	10·87	138·49	1·99
1927	5·10	7·66	8·68	169·77	3·23

By reducing horses and cattle to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep, interesting comparisons of the stock carried on the land at different periods may be instituted. Calculations made on this basis show that each square mile carried an equivalent of 319 sheep in 1927, as compared with 302 in 1921, 306 in 1911, and 237 in 1881.

Size of holdings in 1913, 1919, and 1925.

Particulars of the size of holdings and cultivation thereon, together with the particulars of the total holdings in which only Crown land was held, are given in the following table for the years 1913, 1919, and 1925 :—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND CULTIVATION THEREON,
1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Privately-owned Land.				Crown Land held in conjunction with that privately owned.	Total Area Occupied.	Area under—	
Size of Holdings. (In acres.)	Year.	Number of Holdings.	Area Occupied.			Cultivation.	Pasture, &c.
			acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1 and under 100	1913	26,113	915,493	374,511	1,290,004	245,498	1,044,506
	1919	28,902	942,775	347,377	1,290,152	241,794	1,048,358
	1925	31,289	1,063,933	370,024	1,433,957	291,220	1,142,737
100 " 321	1913	18,483	3,819,680	1,216,829	5,036,509	875,525	4,160,984
	1919	19,930	3,967,377	840,116	4,807,493	807,434	4,000,059
	1925	21,718	4,268,016	698,212	4,966,228	932,530	4,033,698
321 " 641	1913	11,212	5,475,942	1,191,890	6,667,832	1,424,020	5,243,812
	1919	11,831	5,790,225	1,480,407	7,270,632	1,490,476	5,780,156
	1925	12,397	6,013,942	872,005	6,885,947	1,842,798	5,043,149
641 " 1,000	1913	5,221	4,187,010	1,241,667	5,428,677	1,075,000	4,353,677
	1919	5,709	4,523,331	1,071,162	5,594,493	1,105,867	4,488,626
	1925	6,901	5,470,464	616,611	6,087,075	1,644,026	4,443,049
1,000 " 2,500	1913	4,544	6,748,985	1,852,529	8,601,514	1,546,611	7,054,903
	1919	5,010	7,291,675	2,300,465	9,592,140	1,379,247	8,212,893
	1925	5,521	7,958,566	1,345,581	9,304,147	1,836,928	7,467,219
2,500 " 5,000	1913	820	2,803,419	1,085,769	3,889,188	352,258	3,536,930
	1919	855	2,825,855	716,245	3,542,100	270,426	3,271,674
	1925	899	2,974,753	741,294	3,716,047	284,495	3,431,552
5,000 " 10,000	1913	267	1,825,862	342,848	2,168,710	111,910	2,056,800
	1919	290	1,996,606	378,877	2,375,483	83,014	2,292,469
	1925	273	1,868,708	198,969	2,067,677	90,274	1,977,403
10,000 and upwards	1913	151	2,652,966	404,710	3,057,676	39,606	3,018,070
	1919	152	2,638,307	124,045	2,762,352	35,979	2,726,373
	1925	104	1,576,942	34,869	1,611,811	17,643	1,594,168
Total of privately-owned land	1913	66,811	28,429,357	7,710,753	36,140,110	5,670,428	30,469,682
	1919	72,679	29,976,151	7,258,694	37,234,845	5,414,237	31,820,608
	1925	79,102	31,195,324	4,877,565	36,072,889	6,939,914	29,132,975
Crown Land not held in conjunction with that privately owned	1913	1,892	..	1,078,688	1,078,688	36,151	1,042,537
	1919	1,651	..	899,289	899,289	76,783	822,506
	1925	935	..	733,335	733,335	36,800	696,535
Grand Total	1913	68,703	28,429,357	8,789,441	37,218,798	5,706,579	31,512,219
	1919	74,330	29,976,151	8,157,983	38,134,134	5,491,020	32,643,114
	1925	80,037	31,195,324	5,610,900	36,806,224	6,976,714	29,829,510

The number of holdings of privately-owned land of over 10,000 acres was 104 in 1925, as compared with 152 in 1919, 151 in 1913, 175 in 1910, and 195 in 1906, and the aggregate areas comprised therein in the corresponding years were 1,576,942 acres, 2,638,307 acres, 2,652,966 acres, 3,298,227 acres and 4,134,067 acres. The reduction in the period of nineteen years between March, 1906, and March, 1925, was equivalent to 47 per cent. in the number and 62 per cent. in the acreage of such estates. Subdivision of estates of over 10,000 acres was practically at a stand-still during the period between March, 1913, and March, 1919, but, since the latter date, such estates have declined by 32 per cent. in the number and 40 per cent. in the acreage. In all

other holdings of the sizes mentioned in the above table, excepting those between 5,000 and 10,000 acres, which declined in both numbers and acreage, between March, 1919, and March, 1925, there were increases in both numbers and acreage in the nineteen years referred to.

To illustrate the uses to which the land was applied in 1913, 1919, and 1925, various percentages relating to holdings of different sizes, of privately-owned land and Crown land held in conjunction therewith, are given for those years in the succeeding table, which also shows the live stock carried by the holdings, reduced to their equivalent in sheep:—

SIZE OF HOLDINGS AND HOW UTILIZED, 1913, 1919, AND 1925.

Size of Holdings of Privately-owned Land. (In Acres.)	Year.	Percentage in each Division to Total of—					Live Stock Grazed reduced to equivalent in Sheep.	
		Holdings.	Area Occupied.	Area under Cultivation.	Area used for Pasture, &c.	Equivalent in Sheep Grazed.	Total.	Per 100 Acres used for Grazing, &c.
1 and under	1913	39·08	3·57	4·33	3·43	7·08	1,766,873	169
	1919	39·77	3·46	4·47	3·29	6·50	1,909,552	182
	1925	39·56	3·97	4·20	3·92	7·97	2,072,251	181
100 "	1913	27·66	13·94	15·44	13·66	17·67	4,410,283	106
	1919	27·42	12·91	14·91	12·57	17·40	5,107,256	128
	1925	27·46	13·77	13·44	13·83	19·20	4,994,010	124
321 "	1913	16·78	18·45	25·12	17·21	17·14	4,278,079	82
	1919	16·28	19·53	27·53	18·17	17·48	5,132,920	89
	1925	15·67	19·09	26·55	17·31	17·68	4,599,327	91
641 "	1913	7·82	15·02	18·95	14·29	12·15	3,031,015	70
	1919	7·85	15·03	20·43	14·11	12·37	3,630,165	81
	1925	8·72	16·88	23·69	15·25	12·63	3,285,208	74
1,000 "	1913	6·80	23·80	27·27	23·15	20·34	5,076,868	72
	1919	6·89	25·76	25·47	25·81	22·23	6,539,378	80
	1925	6·98	25·79	26·47	25·63	21·55	5,607,738	76
2,500 "	1913	1·23	10·76	6·22	11·61	9·22	2,300,276	65
	1919	1·18	9·51	5·00	10·28	8·84	2,594,808	79
	1925	1·14	10·30	4·10	11·78	9·32	2,425,033	71
5,000 "	1913	·40	6·00	1·98	6·75	6·95	1,735,240	84
	1919	·40	6·38	1·53	7·20	6·85	2,011,066	88
	1925	·34	5·73	1·30	6·79	6·26	1,628,559	82
10,000 and upwards	1913	·23	8·46	·69	9·90	9·45	2,358,478	78
	1919	·21	7·42	·66	8·57	8·23	2,431,720	89
	1925	·13	4·47	·25	5·47	5·39	1,401,304	88
Total	1913	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	24,957,112	82
	1919	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	29,356,865	92
	1925	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	26,013,430	89

In the above table horses and cattle have been reduced to an equivalent in sheep on the assumption that one head of the former will eat as much as ten, and one of the latter as much as six sheep. On this basis every 100 acres under pasture was carrying the equivalent of 89 sheep in 1925, as compared with 92 in 1919, 82 in 1913, and 78 in 1910. Dairying is carried on principally on the small holdings,

and pigs are most numerous where dairying prevails. In 1925, 62 per cent. of the dairy cows and 67 per cent. of the pigs were on holdings of not more than 320 acres.

Particulars of the number of holdings of different sizes and of the cultivation and live stock thereon in March, 1925, are given in greater detail than in the above tables in the *Year-Book* for 1924-25, pages 537 and 538.

The following tables show the area of, and the land in occupation, in March, 1927, in districts, and the uses to which the land was applied :—

AREA OF AND LAND IN OCCUPATION IN EACH DISTRICT OF VICTORIA, MARCH, 1927.

(Areas of 1 acre and upwards.)

(Areas of 1 acre and upwards.)							
Districts.	Area of Districts.	Number of Occupiers.	Acres Occupied.				Total.
			For Agricultural Purposes.	For Pasture.		Other Purposes and Unproductive.	
				Sown Grasses, Clover, or Lucerne.	Natural Grasses.		
	acres.						
Central ..	4,065,280	17,495	445,812	193,810	1,986,209	162,469	2,788,300
North-Central ..	2,929,920	5,672	136,883	25,669	1,872,410	102,741	2,137,703
Western ..	8,775,040	12,437	349,316	186,763	5,730,910	408,699	6,675,688
Wimmera ..	7,394,560	6,378	1,839,977	16,653	3,762,308	382,293	6,001,231
Mallee ..	10,784,000	8,470	2,674,979	6,061	2,257,745	724,446	5,663,231
Northern ..	6,337,280	12,311	1,538,547	112,293	3,552,008	43,011	5,245,859
North-Eastern ..	7,220,480	5,334	148,531	5,700	3,416,882	331,703	3,902,816
Gippsland ..	8,739,200	9,083	170,149	405,290	2,774,035	888,579	4,238,053
Total ..	56,245,760	77,180	7,304,194	952,239	25,352,507	3,043,941	36,652,881
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OCCUPIED IN EACH DISTRICT.							
Central ..	..	..	15.99	6.95	71.23	5.83	100.00
North-Central ..	..	..	6.40	1.20	87.59	4.81	100.00
Western ..	..	..	5.23	2.80	85.85	6.12	100.00
Wimmera ..	..	..	30.66	0.28	62.69	6.37	100.00
Mallee ..	..	..	47.23	0.11	39.87	12.79	100.00
Northern ..	..	..	29.33	2.14	67.71	0.82	100.00
North-Eastern ..	..	..	3.80	0.15	87.55	8.50	100.00
Gippsland ..	..	..	4.01	9.56	65.46	20.97	100.00
Total ..	..	..	19.93	2.60	69.17	8.30	100.00
PERCENTAGE IN EACH DISTRICT OF TOTAL IN STATE.							
Central ..	..	22.67	6.11	20.35	7.83	5.84	7.61
North-Central ..	..	7.35	1.87	2.70	7.39	3.37	5.83
Western ..	..	16.12	4.78	19.61	22.60	13.43	18.21
Wimmera ..	..	8.26	25.20	1.75	14.84	12.56	16.37
Mallee ..	..	10.97	36.62	0.64	8.91	23.80	15.45
Northern ..	..	15.95	21.06	11.79	14.01	1.41	14.31
North-Eastern ..	..	6.91	2.03	0.60	13.48	10.90	10.65
Gippsland ..	..	11.77	2.33	42.56	10.94	29.19	11.67
Total ..	..	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

It will be seen from these tables that the largest areas under cultivation and the largest proportions of cultivation to land occupied are found in the Mallee, Wimmera, and Northern districts. Of the occupied land, 47 per cent. in the Mallee, 31 per cent. in the Wimmera, and 29 per cent. in the Northern districts are devoted to agriculture, and these divisions supply nearly 83 per cent. of the cultivation in Victoria. In the North-Central, Western, and North-Eastern districts the land occupied is largely devoted to grazing; in Gippsland considerable attention is given to the cultivation of grasses, 43 per cent. of all the sown grasses in the State being found in that district.

Areas occupied
and stock
thereon, in
districts.

The next table contains particulars of the distribution of horses, cattle, and sheep on agricultural and pastoral lands in March, 1927:—

AREA OCCUPIED AND STOCK THEREON, 1927.

Districts.	Area Occupied for—		Number of—		
	Agriculture.	Pasture.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
	acres.	acres.			
Central	445,812	2,180,019	85,894	227,816	1,113,303
North-Central ..	136,883	1,898,079	21,551	85,419	1,358,783
Western	349,316	5,917,673	58,255	338,236	4,506,755
Wimmera	1,839,977	3,778,961	62,681	41,045	2,318,218
Mallee	2,674,979	2,263,806	64,998	36,134	941,759
Northern	1,538,547	3,664,301	84,871	185,864	2,567,830
North-Eastern ..	148,531	3,422,582	30,258	213,152	1,144,239
Gippsland	170,149	3,179,325	39,480	308,095	968,766
Total	7,304,194	26,304,746	447,988	1,435,761	14,919,653

The area occupied does not include 3,043,941 acres which are mostly in an unproductive state. Compared with 1926, sheep increased by 8·6 per cent., while horses decreased by 3·3 per cent., and cattle by 5·2 per cent.

The following return shows the live stock in Victoria in each of the last five years. Tables showing the stock classified in conjunction with holdings and sheep classified in different-sized flocks in March, 1925, are given on page 538 of the *Year-Book* for 1924-25, and page 532 of this volume:—

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA, 1923 TO 1927.

Live Stock.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Horses (including foals)	494,947	486,075	473,236	463,051	447,188
Cattle—					
Dairy Cows	794,898	738,149	760,207	727,940	673,089
Other (including calves) ..	990,762	853,218	845,347	785,847	762,672
Sheep	11,765,520	11,059,761	12,649,898	13,740,500	14,919,653
Pigs	294,962	259,795	288,509	339,601	284,271

Prices of
Live Stock.

In the subjoined table will be found a statement of the average and the range of prices ruling in Melbourne during the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 for live stock. The information has been extracted from the Melbourne Stock and Station Journal:—

PRICES IN MELBOURNE OF LIVE STOCK, 1925-26 AND
1926-27.

Stock.	Prices in 1925-26.			Prices in 1926-27.		
	Average.	Range.		Average.	Range.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Horses.</i>						
Extra heavy draught	39 2 6	38 0 0 to 40 10 0		38 15 0	36 0 0 to 40 0 0	
Medium draught ..	28 2 6	27 10 0 to 29 0 0		28 0 0	26 0 0 to 29 0 0	
Delivery cart ..	13 15 0	13 0 0 to 14 10 0		13 7 0	12 0 0 to 14 10 0	
Indian Remounts ..	22 8 0	22 0 0 to 23 0 0		21 15 0	21 0 0 to 22 0 0	
Saddle and harness	4 0 0	3 15 0 to 4 15 0		3 15 0	3 10 0 to 4 0 0	
Ponies ..	7 0 0	6 10 0 to 7 10 0		7 2 6	7 0 0 to 7 10 0	
Order cart ..	8 0 0	7 10 0 to 8 10 0		8 0 0	7 10 0 to 8 10 0	
<i>Fat Cattle.</i>						
<i>Bullocks—</i>						
Extra prime ..	21 5 0	17 10 0 to 25 2 0		16 16 0	13 15 0 to 21 19 0	
Prime ..	19 3 0	16 1 0 to 23 0 0		14 18 0	12 14 0 to 18 2 6	
Good ..	17 2 0	14 18 0 to 20 10 0		13 2 0	10 16 0 to 15 9 0	
Good light and handy weights	14 19 0	12 19 0 to 17 19 0		11 5 6	9 7 6 to 12 17 0	
<i>Cows—</i>						
Best ..	12 2 0	9 19 0 to 14 9 6		11 4 0	9 11 0 to 13 4 9	
Others ..	9 4 0	7 3 0 to 10 18 0		6 5 0	5 9 6 to 7 5 0	
<i>Dairy Cattle.</i>						
Best milkers ..	15 16 0	12 17 0 to 18 9 0		*	*	
Springers, best ..	9 14 0	7 4 0 to 11 15 0		*	*	
<i>Fat Sheep.</i>						
<i>Wethers (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 14 0	1 8 3 to 2 5 0		1 9 2	1 4 8 to 1 15 9	
Prime ..	1 11 4	1 5 5 to 2 1 11		1 6 3	1 2 0 to 1 13 0	
Good ..	1 8 0	1 2 5 to 1 18 1		1 2 11	0 19 2 to 1 9 8	
<i>Ewes (cross)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 8 8	1 0 3 to 2 1 5		1 2 3	0 17 2 to 1 9 0	
Prime ..	1 6 0	0 18 0 to 1 19 0		0 19 1	0 14 7 to 1 6 3	
Good ..	1 3 1	0 15 5 to 1 16 3		0 15 3	0 13 3 to 1 3 0	
<i>Wethers (merino)—</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 13 5	1 6 5 to 2 6 3		1 7 7	1 1 9 to 1 14 8	
Prime ..	1 10 8	1 4 5 to 2 3 3		1 4 11	0 19 5 to 1 12 3	
Good ..	1 7 3	1 1 2 to 1 18 8		1 1 2	0 16 5 to 1 8 4	
Ewes (merino) best	1 5 11	0 18 10 to 1 18 10		0 17 2	0 14 5 to 1 6 4	
<i>Fat Lambs.</i>						
Extra prime ..	1 9 10	1 2 9 to 1 18 3		1 6 0	1 3 3 to 1 12 2	
Prime ..	1 10 8	1 0 4 to 1 15 6		1 3 3	1 0 1 to 1 8 1	
Good ..	1 4 2	0 17 4 to 1 13 6		1 0 5	0 17 9 to 1 3 3	
<i>Pigs.</i>						
<i>Back Fatters—</i>						
Extra heavy prime	10 17 6	8 12 0 to 12 15 0		9 19 0	8 14 0 to 10 16 0	
Extra prime and weighty ..	7 8 0	5 12 6 to 8 13 0		7 15 0	6 0 0 to 8 17 6	
<i>Baconers—</i>						
Extra prime ..	5 11 0	5 0 0 to 6 11 0		4 19 0	4 2 6 to 6 0 0	
Prime ..	4 10 0	3 19 0 to 5 5 0		4 3 6	3 12 0 to 4 15 0	
Porkers ..	2 7 0	2 0 0 to 2 19 0		2 6 3	2 2 0 to 2 11 6	

* Not available.

The following is a statement of the stock slaughtered on farms and stations, as well as in municipal abattoirs, during each of the last five years :—

STOCK SLAUGHTERED, 1922 to 1926.

Year ended December—	Number Slaughtered.		
	Sheep and Lambs.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1922	5,863,195	424,199	308,172
1923	4,078,273	461,958	373,609
1924	3,591,219	499,840	368,918
1925	4,194,572	523,920	391,129
1926	4,528,113	499,519	410,062

The purposes for which the slaughtered animals were used were as follows :—

PURPOSES FOR WHICH STOCK WERE SLAUGHTERED,
1922 to 1926.

Year ended December—	For Butcher and Private Use.*			For Export.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1922	3,184,411	413,650	107,022	2,657,515	4,251	..
1923	3,372,722	449,101	139,405	691,630	4,011	..
1924	2,548,327	484,244	139,808	1,035,799	7,391	..
1925	2,697,822	486,739	158,187	1,480,824	25,608	..
1926	3,160,485	483,660	167,850	1,346,425	10,472	2,908

Year ended December—	For Preserving and Salting.			For Boiling Down.		
	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Pigs.
1922	9,763	2,955	200,901	11,506	3,343	249
1923	2,632	2,519	232,914	11,289	6,327	290
1924	4,452	4,323	228,869	2,641	3,882	241
1925	9,725	7,218	232,755	6,201	4,355	187
1926	12,030	2,857	239,099	9,173	2,530	205

* Including carcases held in Cool Stores at end of year.

Of the 4,528,113 sheep and lambs slaughtered in Victoria in 1926, 1,346,425, or 30 per cent., were frozen, as compared with 1,480,824, or 35 per cent., in 1925, 1,035,799, or 29 per cent., in 1924, 691,630, or 17 per cent., in 1923, and 2,657,515, or 45 per cent., in 1922. In 1926-27 the oversea exports included 47,281,544 lbs. of mutton and lamb, valued at £1,195,500.

Mutton and
Lamb frozen
for Export.

The soil and climate of Victoria are well suited to the economical production of both mutton and lamb, and, as there is practically no limit to the demand for these products in Europe, the possibilities for those engaged in raising sheep for export are very great, especially as the number of sheep in the world is not keeping pace with the increase in population. The importance of this export trade to Victorian sheep owners is evidenced by the figures in the appended statement showing the numbers of carcasses exported in each of the last thirteen years. In the four years 1915-16 to 1918-19 the quantity exported was small in comparison with earlier years. The chief reasons for this were, in 1915-16, a drought in the preceding year, and, in the three following years, the lack of shipping space. In the year 1919-20 the exports were much greater than in any previous year, due mainly to the accumulations of the previous three years. The quantities exported in 1920-21 were below the average, owing to the dry condition which had prevailed in the previous year. After a world-wide fall in values, the season 1922-23 was marked by exceptionally heavy exports of both mutton and lamb at improved prices. In the 1923-24 season the export of mutton practically ceased, while the number of lambs exported was only about 40 per cent. of that for the previous year. The abnormal activity in 1922-23 was, to some extent, responsible for the great reduction in exports in 1923-24. Other reasons were a tendency among owners to retain their flocks in expectation of high prices for wool, and the demand for breeding ewes from New South Wales, where a drought had depleted the flocks. The improvement manifested in 1924-25 and 1925-26 was not maintained in 1926-27.

FROZEN MUTTON AND LAMB EXPORTED.

Year (ended June).	Number of Carcasses Exported.		
	Mutton.	Lamb.	Total.
1914-15	653,329	1,056,823	1,710,152
1915-16 .. ..	..	47,546	47,546
1916-17	52,724	365,694	418,418
1917-18	48,743	147,524	196,267
1918-19	649,082	19,889	668,971
1919-20	2,468,091	1,533,411	4,001,502
1920-21	372,916	413,170	786,086
1921-22	314,564	872,140	1,186,704
1922-23	989,456	1,668,059	2,657,515
1923-24	12,945	678,685	691,630
1924-25	87,767	948,032	1,035,799
1925-26	171,803	1,309,021	1,480,824
1926-27	149,358	1,197,067	1,346,425

The average weights of carcasses of mutton and lamb exported from Victoria during the last decade were 48 lbs. and 32 lbs. respectively.

Dairying. The dairying industry is one of the principal sources of the wealth of the community. The value of dairy produce in 1927 was £10,483,760, as compared with £10,364,790 in 1926,

£10,381,175 in 1925, £10,561,940 in 1924, and £10,381,310 in 1923. The following table shows the numbers of cowkeepers and cows at the end of, and the total production of butter and cheese, in each of the last five years :—

DAIRYING, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended March—			Number of Cow-keepers.	Number of Dairy Cows.	Butter made.*	Cheese made.*
					lbs.	lbs.
1923	..	..	62,424	794,898	84,355,939	3,754,958
1924	..	..	61,685	738,149	86,888,723	7,216,938
1925	..	..	61,549	760,207	100,849,382	6,193,135
1926	..	..	58,933	727,940	81,747,291	5,279,009
1927	..	..	56,935	673,089	81,995,815	5,997,648

* Year ended 30th June.

Of the 56,935 cowkeepers in 1926-27, 27,284 had less than 5 cows; 10,796 had from 5 to 9; 5,407 had from 10 to 14; 5,925 had from 15 to 24; and 7,523 had 25 and upwards.

Butter and cheese made on farms.

The next table shows the quantities of butter and cheese made on farms in the last five years :—

BUTTER AND CHEESE MADE ON FARMS, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended June—					Butter.	Cheese.
					lbs.	lbs.
1923	..	..	..	..	5,582,469	418,873
1924	..	..	..	..	5,597,128	420,552
1925	..	..	..	..	5,395,087	228,779
1926	..	..	..	..	4,734,669	389,893
1927	..	..	..	..	3,887,324	516,063

Butter and cheese made in factories.

The quantities of butter, cheese, and concentrated, condensed, and powdered milk, casein, and milk sugar made, and of cream sold, in factories during the last five years were as follows :—

BUTTER, CHEESE, ETC., MADE IN FACTORIES, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended June—	Butter made.	Cream sold.	Cheese made.	Concentrated, Condensed, and Powdered Milk made.	Casein made.	Milk Sugar made.
	lbs.	gallons.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1923	78,773,470	213,170	3,336,085	38,314,261	2,639,240	410,155
1924	81,291,595	373,236	6,796,386	49,099,632	2,946,346	445,430
1925	95,454,295	495,458	5,964,356	45,693,120	2,716,042	415,753
1926	77,012,622	388,235	4,889,116	43,646,852	1,503,369	152,783
1927	78,108,491	344,605	5,481,585	48,186,040	1,803,049	350,570

The quantities of milk, in gallons, received at factories and creameries were 193,507,110 in 1921-22, 196,171,380 in 1922-23, 206,915,177 in 1923-24, 197,804,300 in 1924-25, 240,114,430 in 1925-26, and 205,441,560 in 1926-27.

Exports of butter and cheese.

In 1926-27 there were exported from Victoria to countries outside Australia 34,403,562 lbs. of butter, valued at £2,611,855, all of which was Australian produce, except 56,000 lbs., valued at £3,310, which came from New Zealand. The quantity sent to the United Kingdom was 26,863,815 lbs., valued at £2,012,500. The quantity of cheese exported to overseas countries was 112,854 lbs., and the value thereof, £6,358.

Wool production.

Information relating to the wool clip is obtained direct from the growers, and an allowance is made for the wool on Victorian skins, both stripped and exported. On this basis the production of wool in 1926-27 and earlier seasons was as follows:—

VICTORIAN WOOL CLIP AND ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION.

Districts.	Wool Clip, 1926-27.			
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
Central	6,358,310	408,585	6,766,895	
North-Central	8,194,742	555,716	8,750,458	
Western	27,679,251	1,803,165	29,482,416	
Wimmera	16,147,330	966,872	17,114,202	
Mallee	6,349,433	282,337	6,631,770	
Northern	15,943,826	1,293,122	17,236,948	
North-Eastern	6,252,022	464,258	6,716,280	
Gippsland	5,118,728	359,465	5,478,193	
Total Clip {	1926-27	92,043,642	6,133,520	98,177,162
	1925-26	84,101,370	6,512,929	90,614,299
	1924-25	83,932,699	6,819,164	90,751,863
	1923-24	63,806,820	3,519,735	67,326,555
	1922-23	71,088,919	5,105,031	76,193,950
<hr/>				
	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Wool clip	67,326,555	90,751,863	90,614,299	98,177,162
Wool stripped from Victorian skins and on Victorian skins exported (estimated) ..	15,186,806	16,036,034	20,646,515	23,122,459
Total production ..	82,513,361	106,787,897	111,260,814	121,299,621
Total value ..	£7,695,000	£11,444,240	£7,082,820	£7,876,683

In 1926-27 there were 11,863,262 sheep and 2,671,435 lambs shorn, as compared with 10,990,842 sheep and 2,899,787 lambs in 1925-26, 9,803,371 sheep and 2,790,054 lambs in 1924-25, 9,463,675 sheep and 1,614,147 lambs in 1923-24, and 9,920,239 sheep and 2,278,303 lambs in 1922-23.

Weight of
a fleece.

The next table shows the production of wool per sheep and per lamb shorn in each of the last five years :—

WEIGHT OF A FLEECE, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year.	Weight of a Fleece.		
	Sheep.	Lambs.	Sheep and Lambs combined.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1922-23	7·17	2·25	6·25
1923-24	6·74	2·18	6·08
1924-25	8·56	2·44	7·21
1925-26	7·65	2·25	6·52
1926-27	7·76	2·30	6·75

The production of wool in Victoria, the quantity and value of that used locally for manufacturing purposes, and the balance available for export, in each of the last five years, were as follows :—

WOOL PRODUCTION : HOME CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTABLE BALANCE, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year.	Production.		Used in Manufactures.		Available for Export.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1922-23	102,467,950	6,380,600	20,732,809	1,382,187	81,735,141	4,998,413
1923-24	82,513,361	7,695,000	17,067,647	1,617,871	65,445,714	6,077,129
1924-25	106,787,897	11,444,240	18,886,458	2,124,727	87,901,439	9,319,513
1925-26	111,260,814	7,082,820	22,967,529	1,579,018	88,293,285	5,503,802
1926-27	121,299,621	7,876,683	31,205,206	2,080,347	90,094,415	5,796,336

Prices of
wool.

The following information as to the average prices of wool per lb. which have prevailed during the last three seasons has been obtained from Melbourne wool brokers :—

PRICES OF WOOL, 1924-25 to 1926-27.

Class of Wool.	Average Price per lb. in—		
	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
GREASY MERINO.			
Extra Super (Western District)	38d. to 41d.	35d. to 38d.	32d. to 35d.
Super	31d. to 34d.	28d. to 30d.	27d. to 30d.
Good	25d. to 27d.	23d. to 25d.	23d. to 25d.
Average	22d. to 24d.	19d. to 21d.	19d. to 21d.
Wasty and Inferior	16d. to 18d.	15d. to 17d.	15d. to 17d.
Extra Super Lambs	28d. to 30d.	32d. to 34d.	32d. to 34d.
Super Lambs	21d. to 23d.	24d. to 27d.	24d. to 27d.
Good Lambs	16d. to 18d.	18d. to 20d.	18d. to 20d.
Average Lambs	13d. to 15d.	14d. to 17d.	15d. to 18d.
Inferior Lambs	7d. to 10d.	8d. to 11d.	8d. to 10d.
GREASY CROSSBRED.			
Extra Super Comebacks	32d. to 34d.	30d. to 32d.	29d. to 31d.
Super Comebacks	27d. to 30d.	26d. to 29d.	25d. to 28d.
Fine Crossbred	21d. to 23d.	20d. to 22d.	20d. to 22d.
Medium Crossbred	17d. to 18d.	16d. to 18d.	16d. to 18d.
Coarse Crossbred and Lincoln	12d. to 14d.	11d. to 12d.	11d. to 12d.
Super Fine Crossbred Lambs ..	20d. to 22d.	22d. to 24d.	22d. to 24d.
Good Crossbred Lambs	15d. to 17d.	18d. to 19d.	18d. to 20d.
Coarse and Lincoln Lambs ..	11d. to 13d.	13d. to 15d.	12d. to 14d.
SCOURED.			
Extra Super Fleece	50d. to 54d.	45d. to 48d.	45d. to 48d.
Super Fleece	45d. to 47d.	38d. to 42d.	38d. to 42d.
Good Fleece	38d. to 40d.	34d. to 36d.	34d. to 36d.
Average Fleece	29d. to 34d.	25d. to 27d.	25d. to 27d.
RECORD PRICES FOR THE SEASON.			
Greasy Merino Fleece	53½d.	42½d.	41½d.
„ Comeback Fleece	50½d.	34½d.	32½d.
„ Merino Lambs	48½d.	33½d.	46½d.
„ Comeback Lambs	41½d.	26½d.	30d.
Scoured Fleece	61d.	48½d.	47d.

Flocks of
sheep in
districts.

Returns which were collected in March, 1925, give full information in regard to the flocks of sheep in Victoria. The numbers of flocks and of sheep at that time in the different districts were as follows :—

NUMBERS OF FLOCKS AND OF SHEEP IN DISTRICTS, 1925.

District.	Number of—		Average Number of Sheep to a Flock.	Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.		Flocks.	Sheep.
Central	2,291	990,194	432	9·66	7·84
North-Central	2,098	1,190,606	567	8·84	9·43
Western	5,003	4,122,779	824	21·08	32·66
Wimmera	4,220	2,125,327	504	17·78	16·84
Mallee	1,849	665,674	360	7·79	5·27
Northern	4,647	1,971,660	424	19·58	15·62
North-Eastern	2,073	865,435	417	8·74	6·86
Gippsland	1,550	691,340	446	6·53	5·48
Total	23,731	12,623,015	532	100·00	100·00

The figures do not include 26,883 sheep which were travelling on roads or were located in cities and towns. A comparison with figures based on collections made in 1919 and earlier years appears on page 551 of the *Year-Book* for 1924-25.

Sizes of
flocks.

Excluding sheep travelling and those in cities and towns, the following table contains a classification for the whole State of sheep according to sizes of flocks :—

SHEEP ACCORDING TO SIZES OF FLOCKS, 1925.

Size of Flocks.	Number of—		Percentage of—	
	Flocks.	Sheep.	Flocks.	Sheep.
Under 500	17,187	2,939,575	72·42	23·29
500 and under 1,000	3,692	2,519,857	15·56	19·96
1,000	1,725	2,317,968	7·27	18·36
2,000	851	2,428,522	3·59	19·24
5,000	207	1,399,428	·87	11·09
10,000	62	824,643	·26	6·53
20,000 and upwards	7	193,022	·03	1·53
Total	23,731	12,623,015	100·00	100·00

The above figures are compared with the corresponding ones for 1919 on page 552 of the *Year-Book* for 1924-25. Six of the 7 largest, 42 of the 62 second largest flocks, and 130 of the 207 flocks of between 5,000 to 10,000 sheep in 1925 were in the Western District.

Live Stock
in Australia
and
New Zealand.

In the following statement are given the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs in the various Australian States and New Zealand, according to the latest available figures :—

LIVE STOCK IN AUSTRALASIA.

State, &c.	Horses.	Cattle.		Sheep.	Pigs.
		Dairy Cows.	Other.		
Victoria	447,988	673,089	762,672	14,919,653	284,271
New South Wales ..	622,009	906,229	1,906,915	55,731,857	332,827
Federal Capital Territory	1,383	516	4,993	198,143	94
Queensland	571,622	611,227	4,853,518	16,860,772	183,622
South Australia ..	234,352	127,292	212,715	7,283,945	79,108
Northern Territory ..	27,791	788,396		6,000	329
Western Australia ..	166,463	69,627	757,676	7,458,766	69,798
Tasmania	36,830	67,457	145,655	1,807,558	38,906
New Zealand	303,713	1,303,225	1,954,504	25,649,016	520,143

Bee-keeping. The returns for 1926-27 show that there were in that year 2,968 bee-keepers, who owned 49,483 frame and 4,640 box hives, producing 2,342,746 lbs. and 27,564 lbs. of honey respectively, and 33,238 lbs. of beeswax. The number of bee-keepers owning 20 hives and upwards was 584, as compared with 690 in the previous season. In 1926-27, the quantity of honey produced in the Wimmera district was 872,079 lbs., in the Western district, 678,380 lbs., and in the Gippsland district, 437,894 lbs. The more important particulars of the industry for the last five years are given below :—

BEE-KEEPING, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Season ended May—			Number of Bee-keepers.	Number of Hives.	Honey produced.	Beeswax produced.
					lbs.	lbs.
1923	..	..	3,756	52,060	2,285,000	27,182
1924	..	..	3,535	60,760	2,110,713	25,371
1925	..	..	3,483	71,918	4,054,975	47,117
1926	..	..	3,799	66,192	2,114,807	28,812
1927	..	..	2,968	54,123	2,370,310	33,238

State
expenditure
on rabbit
destruction.

Active operations for the destruction of rabbits, &c., on Crown lands were first undertaken by the Government in 1880, and from that date to 30th June, 1927, sums amounting to £1,317,010 had been expended in connexion therewith, including subsidies to Shire Councils for the destruction

of wild animals. The following are the amounts spent since 1879 :—

EXPENDITURE ON DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS, ETC.

	£		£
1879-80 to 1888-89 ..	142,963	1921-22	40,766
1889-90 to 1898-99 ..	208,638	1922-23	47,410
1899-1900 to 1908-09 ..	170,050	1923-24	85,489
1909-10 to 1918-19 ..	283,693	1924-25	84,368
1919-20	36,672	1925-26	88,874
1920-21	36,158	1926-27	91,929

In addition to the expenditure of £1,317,010 referred to above, sums have frequently been advanced from Loan Funds for the purchase of wire netting for supply to municipalities and land owners. The amounts of these advances in the last five years were as follows :—£23,731 in 1922-23, £26,275 in 1923-24, £32,399 in 1924-25, £42,628 in 1925-26, and £32,338 in 1926-27. A complete system, administered by an officer called the Chief Inspector under the Vermin Destruction Act, exists for effectually keeping the rabbits under control.

Rabbits,
&c., sold at
Melbourne
Fish Market.

The quantity of rabbits, hares, and wild-fowl sold at the Melbourne Fish Market in each of the last five years was as shown in the following statement :—

RABBITS, HARES, AND WILD-FOWL SOLD AT THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended June.	Rabbits.	Hares.	Wild-fowl.
	pairs.	brace.	brace.
1922-23	431,196	21	16,428
1923-24	448,656	42	8,148
1924-25	937,704	74	11,640
1925-26	1,916,460	783	14,784
1926-27	1,640,028	78	20,406

Large quantities of frozen rabbits and hares and of rabbit and hare skins have been exported to overseas countries, the numbers and values for each of the last five years being as follows :—

RABBITS AND HARES AND RABBIT AND HARE SKINS EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Year ended June.	Frozen Rabbits and Hares.		Rabbit and Hare Skins.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	pairs.	£	lbs.	£
1922-23	141,312	10,176	2,140,915	237,853
1923-24	80,499	8,477	2,073,613	282,266
1924-25	54,174	5,196	2,020,070	349,956
1925-26	456,849	53,423	3,513,046	579,000
1926-27	403,147	44,999	2,211,153	381,334

FISHERIES.

The numbers of men and boats engaged in the fishing industry at the different fishing stations throughout the State are given in the following table for the year 1926-27 :—

VICTORIAN FISHERIES—MEN AND BOATS EMPLOYED,
1926-27.

Fishing Stations.	Number of Men.	Boats.		Value of Nets and other Plant.
		Number.	Value.	
			£	£
Anderson's Inlet	14	9	666	250
Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove ..	9	5	1,150	215
Brighton	5	4	71	46
Corner Inlet, Welshpool, Toora, and Port Franklin	80	60	7,542	3,546
Dromana and Rosebud	27	20	2,425	288
Frankston	17	11	472	261
Geelong	85	42	3,794	1,269
Gippsland Lakes	117	97	8,139	4,109
Kerang	3	3	11	25
Lake Boga	1	1	7	20
Lorne	5	3	150	85
Lindsay River	2	2	20	36
Mallacoota	10	6	230	290
Mentone	12	9	241	142
Mordialloc, Chelsea, and Carrum ..	65	39	3,459	1,068
Mornington	53	34	2,682	902
Portarlington and St. Leonards ..	96	56	4,731	1,284
Portland	43	31	4,964	652
Port Albert	76	45	4,110	1,307
Port Campbell	2	2	120	52
Port Fairy	40	34	6,400	592
Port Melbourne	46	29	2,282	1,046
Queenscliff	123	68	15,687	1,938
Rainbow	5	4	80	15
Sandringham and Black Rock ..	51	29	4,369	804
Sorrento, Portsea, and Rye ..	61	36	4,129	853
St. Kilda	16	10	564	192
Torquay	3	3	50	41
Warrnambool	9	8	482	39
Werribee	9	5	649	215
Waranga Basin	8	6	61	74
Western Port (Cowes, Hastings, Grantville, Flinders, San Remo, and Tooradin)	124	99	12,271	2,673
Williamstown	42	31	2,704	567
Wonthaggi	4	4	216	19
Total	1,263	845	94,928	24,915

Melbourne Fish Market. The quantities and values of fish sold in the Melbourne Fish Market during each of the years 1925-26 and 1926-27 were as shown in the next table :—

**FISH SOLD IN THE MELBOURNE FISH MARKET,
1925-26 AND 1926-27.**

		1925-26.		1926-27.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Fresh Fish (Victorian)	lbs.	8,720,225	148,970	8,417,904	140,298
Crayfish	doz.	41,745	45,920	33,507	32,670
Imported Fish (fresh or frozen) ..	lbs.	3,662,898	91,572	3,987,782	99,695
Oysters	bags	13,084	50,745	10,804	8,643
Total .. ..		..	337,207	..	281,306

In addition to the above, 1,347 cwt. of smoked fish, and 2,639 baskets of prawns were sold in this market in 1926-27.

Victorian fish sold. The quantity and value of fish caught in Victorian waters and sold in the Melbourne and Ballarat markets and elsewhere in 1926-27 were as follows :—

VICTORIAN FISH SOLD IN 1926-27.

Markets.	Quantity.		Value.	
	Fish.	Crayfish.	Fish.	Crayfish.
	lbs.	doz.	£	£
Melbourne	8,417,904	10,140	140,298	9,887
Ballarat	511,838	606	8,530	511
Other	392,193	1,821	6,536	1,593
Total	9,321,935	12,567	155,364	11,991

Fish imported. In connexion with this subject, the quantities and values of the different classes of fish imported are of interest. Particulars of imports from overseas countries in each of the last two years are given in the following statement :—

FISH IMPORTED, 1925-26 AND 1926-27.

		1925-26.		1926-27.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Fish—			£		£
Fresh or Frozen	lbs.	2,867,725	71,243	2,810,565	70,421
Smoked .. ..	..	18,783	2,360	31,019	2,478
Fresh Oysters .. ..	..	2,823	2,165	2,115	1,699
Potted or Concentrated, &c. ..	..	..	21,869	..	23,306
Preserved in tins, &c. ..	lbs.	7,648,551	335,419	8,797,022	414,628
N.E.I.	cwt.	2,815	8,695	2,633	8,018
Total .. ..		..	441,751	..	520,550

The most important item in this table is fish preserved in tins and other air-tight vessels, of which 4,050,918 lbs. came from Canada, 820,546 lbs. from Norway, 1,442,384 lbs. from the United Kingdom, and 1,998,836 lbs. from the United States of America, in 1926-27.

The figures relating to agriculture and live stock in Victoria and Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) in 1926 are, for comparative purposes, placed side by side in the table which follows:—

AGRICULTURE AND LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA AND GREAT BRITAIN, 1926.

					Victoria.	Great Britain.
Area	..	..	..	acres	56,245,760	56,208,959
Wheat	..	..	..	bushels	46,886,020	50,773,000
Oats	..	..	..	"	4,884,006	125,440,000
Barley	..	..	..	"	1,920,722	45,920,000
Peas	..	..	..	"	198,947	1,986,800
Potatoes	..	..	..	tons	162,909	3,662,000
Turnips and swedes	..	..	..	"	1,994*	17,876,000
Mangolds	..	..	..	"	6,715	7,142,900
Hay	..	..	..	"	1,387,971	8,121,000
Horses	..	..	..	No.	447,988	1,307,491
Cattle	..	..	..	"	1,435,761	7,450,913
Sheep	..	..	..	"	14,919,653	24,061,819
Pigs	..	..	..	"	284,271	2,345,431

* Includes beet, carrots, and parsnips.

MINING.

The supervision of mining and the inspection of mines are regulated by Act of Parliament. Authority for all mining operations, whether on Crown or private lands, must be obtained in the prescribed manner, and mining leases giving the right to enter on private land for mining purposes may be issued to another than the owner.

The taking out of a "miner's right" entitles the holder to prospect for gold on Crown lands. The right may be had on payment of a sum of 2s. 6d. per annum and remains in force for any number of years not exceeding fifteen. The holder is entitled to take possession for mining purposes of a defined parcel of Crown lands, which is called a "claim." The revenue in 1926-27 from miners' rights was £2,015.

Leases for the purpose of mining for gold are granted for a term not exceeding fifteen years at a yearly rental of 2s. 6d. per acre. For mining leases of land to be worked by means of dredging or hydraulic sluicing the yearly rent is 5s. per acre. Other mineral and coal mining leases are also issued at varying rates. The revenue from these sources in 1926-27 was £3,852.

The area of Crown and private lands under occupation for mining purposes on 31st December, 1926, was 30,334 acres. The subjoined table shows the area being worked for different minerals:—

AREA UNDER OCCUPATION FOR MINING PURPOSES,
31st DECEMBER, 1926 (CROWN LAND AND PRIVATE LAND).

Nature of Mineral, &c.						Area.
						acres.
Gold	..	..	..	..	..	18,559
Coal (ordinary)	..	..	..	..	..	3,883
Coal (brown)	..	..	..	..	..	1,024
Coal (Black and Brown)	..	..	..	..	..	100
Aluminium	..	..	..	..	..	6
Bauxite	..	..	..	..	..	120
Bluestone	..	..	..	..	..	46
Clay	..	..	..	..	..	29
Clay and Chalk	..	..	..	..	..	6
Clay and Schist	..	..	..	..	..	4
Clay and Slate	..	..	..	..	..	3
Clay and Slum	..	..	..	..	..	20
Copper and Silver	..	..	..	..	..	72
Dolomite and Clay	..	..	..	..	..	1
Decomposed Slates and Sandstone	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fire Clay	..	..	..	..	..	18
Granite	..	..	..	..	..	25
Gypsum	..	..	..	..	..	716
Hematite and Iron Ores	..	..	..	..	..	8
Infusorial Earth, Clay and Pigments	..	..	..	..	..	9
Kaolin	..	..	..	..	..	35
Kaolin and Gold	..	..	..	..	..	20
Limestone	..	..	..	..	..	91
Limestone and Clay	..	..	..	..	..	27
Magnesite	..	..	..	..	..	126
Manganese	..	..	..	..	..	166
Manganese and Cobalt	..	..	..	..	..	19
Marble	..	..	..	..	..	6
Molybdenite	..	..	..	..	..	466
Ochre	..	..	..	..	..	5
Ochres, Chalks, and Gold	..	..	..	..	..	5
Oil	..	..	..	..	..	1,915
Pigments	..	..	..	..	..	43
Quicksilver	..	..	..	..	..	55
Sand	..	..	..	..	..	49
Sand and Gravel	..	..	..	..	..	5
Silicate of Alumina	..	..	..	..	..	51
Silver and Gold	..	..	..	..	..	129
Silver and Lead	..	..	..	..	..	196
Slate	..	..	..	..	..	117
Stone	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sulphates and Oil	..	..	..	..	..	224
Tin	..	..	..	..	..	1,035
Tin and Gold	..	..	..	..	..	176
Wolfram and Tin	..	..	..	..	..	52
Tailings Licences	..	..	..	..	..	120
Water-right Licences	..	..	..	..	..	524
Total	..	..	..	..	..	30,334

The mining industry has been well fostered by the Government, not only in the way of financial assistance but also by means of geological surveys and boring. Apart from the annual expenditure of the Mines Department from consolidated revenue, of which a statement is appended, loan moneys amounting to £520,421 (including £249,399 expended on the State Coal Mine), and portions of surplus revenues of past years amounting to £85,000, had been expended or advanced for developmental purposes from 1st July, 1899, to 30th June, 1927.

STATE EXPENDITURE ON MINING, 1922-23 to 1926-27.

Item.	Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£	£	£	£
Mines Department	27,085	26,176	24,567	23,569	25,687
State Coal Mine	436,753	519,536	458,380	471,530	605,218
Brown Coal Mine	48,886	45,830	*	*	*
Coal Mines Regulation—Sinking Fund and Depreciation Fund	22,342	39,628	37,002	41,807	54,555
Diamond drills for prospecting ..	9,411	10,597	12,476	12,242	12,864
Testing plants	3,148	3,499	3,571	3,120	2,378
Geological and underground surveys of mines	3,071	3,436	3,591	3,595	3,791
Mining Development—					
Advances to companies, &c., boring for gold, coal, &c. ..	6,963	6,711	8,739	12,368	10,678
Miscellaneous	1,806	2,107	2,431	2,143	2,065
Total	559,465	657,520	550,757	570,374	717,236

* The control of the Brown Coal Mine was transferred to the Electricity Commissioners on 1st April, 1924.

Yearly grants are also made to Schools of Mines, particulars of which will be found on page 353 of this work. Since 1st July, 1899, £520,421 has been apportioned from loan receipts and expended on mining development; details of this expenditure appear in the next statement:—

LOAN MONEY EXPENDED ON MINING DEVELOPMENT.

	£
Advances to companies—Development of mining ..	62,740
“ “ Boring for gold and coal, &c. ..	62,532
Construction of roads and tracks for mining purposes ..	57,579
Plant for testing metalliferous material	12,357
Construction of races and dams	8,260
Advances to miners for prospecting	27,839
Purchase of cyanide process patent rights	20,000
Equipping Schools of Mines with mining appliances ..	9,975
State Coal Mine	249,399
Miscellaneous	9,740
Total	<u>520,421</u>

The advances from loan moneys and revenue to mining companies to 30th June, 1927, for the development of mining, totalled £279,532, of which sum £40,941 had up to that date been repaid, £52,246 realized, and £160,821 written off, leaving £25,524 outstanding. Interest received during 1926-27 amounted to £584, and interest outstanding on 30th June, 1927, to £2,386.

The mineral production of the State (excluding salt) is summarized in the subjoined statement, which contains particulars of the recorded production of all metals and minerals up to the end of the year 1926 :—

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

Metals and Minerals.	Recorded during 1926.		Total Recorded to end of 1926.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold	Fine ozs. 49,078	208,471	Fine ozs. 71,226,075	302,548,425
Silver.. .. .	{ 2,373	307	1,463,808*	222,592
Platinum .. .. .	.. .. .	..	30,577	7,880
	.. .. .	..	311	1,671
Coal, black	tons 591,001	657,798	tons 11,850,304	8,628,068
„ brown	957,935	188,899	2,712,724	652,591
Ore—copper .. .. .	.. .. .	..	18,730	218,590
„ tin	29	5,075	16,924	949,688
„ antimony .. .. .	.. .. .	..	104,272†	612,035
„ silver-lead .. .. .	.. .. .	..	793	5,760
„ iron .. .. .	.. .. .	..	5,434	12,540
„ manganese .. .. .	.. .. .	..	407	1,949
Wolfram .. .. .	.. .. .	..	118	11,785
Diamonds .. .. .	.. .. .	..	..	128
Sapphires, &c. .. .. .	.. .. .	..	..	630
Gypsum	10,217	7,613	101,473	76,655
Magnesite	94	281	1,817	5,498
Kaolin	3,153	4,157	31,353	40,719
Diatomaceous earth .. .. .	.. .. .	..	8,657	33,137
Pigment clays	2,278	1,275	4,431	5,133
Phosphate rock	120	120	15,781	16,764
Molydenite	42	7,350	868‡	30,911
Fluorspar .. .. .	.. .. .	..	623	1,888
Jarosite (Red Oxide)	60	660	60	660
Bluestone, freestone, granite, &c.†	.. .. .	700,200	.. .. .	9,254,591
Limestone, &c.§	.. .. .	..	.. .. .	..
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	1,782,206	.. .. .	323,340,288

* Extracted from gold at the Melbourne Mint. † Concentrates. ‡ From 1866 only.
§ Record from 1900.

NOTE.—The value of gold as shown above is based on the average value of Victorian gold received at the Melbourne Mint.

Gold was first found in Victoria in 1849 in the Pyrenees Ranges, but it was not until 1851 that the first discovery of any importance took place. In the latter part of that year the Clunes, Anderson's Creek, Ballarat, and Bendigo fields were succes-

sively discovered, and over 200,000 ounces of gold were produced. Next year the gold rush took place, and it is estimated that, in 1852, 40,000 men were camped at Ballarat, 25,000 at Castlemaine, and 40,000 at Bendigo. The production of gold in 1852 amounted to 2,286,535 ounces, and in the ten years 1852-1861 it totalled over 25,000,000 ounces. The largest quantity produced in any one year was 3,053,744 ounces in 1856. The annual value of the output for the ten years 1852-1861 averaged over £10,000,000 sterling. The estimated value of the gold produced from 1851 to 1926 was £302,548,425, as shown in the preceding statement.

**Gold raised
in Victoria.**

The quantities of gold raised in Victoria in different periods are shown in the next table:—

GOLD RAISED IN VICTORIA, 1851 to 1926.

Period.	Quantity (Gross ozs.).	Period.	Quantity (Fine ozs.).
1851-60	23,334,263	1901-10	7,095,061
1861-70	16,276,566	1911-15	2,161,349
1871-80	10,156,297	1916-20	905,561
1881-90	7,103,448	1921-25	421,250
1891-1900	7,476,038	1926	49,078

The yield has been on the down grade since 1906, the return for the State for 1926 having been the second lowest since 1851. The quantities raised in the other principal gold-producing States in 1926 were 437,343 ounces in Western Australia, 9,086 ounces in Queensland, and 19,435 ounces in New South Wales. The total production of gold in the world in 1925, as shown in the United States Mint Report, was 19,059,915 ounces.

The yield of gold for the last two years in each mining district of the State, as estimated by the mining registrars, is shown in the following table. The quantities represented by the aggregate figures, which are given in gross ounces, were 141 ounces less than the total output in 1925, and exceeded that for 1926 by 5 ounces:—

**Mining
district
gold yields.**

DISTRICT YIELDS OF GOLD, ALLUVIAL AND QUARTZ, 1925 AND 1926.

Mining District.	1925.			1926.		
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
Ararat and Stawell ..	3,703	60	3,763	1,492	35	1,527
Ballarat	910	1,068	1,978	712	1,474	2,186
Beechworth	6,631	10,844	17,475	3,384	15,905	19,289
Bendigo	337	17,347	17,684	367	16,415	16,782
Castlemaine	1,529	7,194	8,723	1,110	10,887	11,997
Gippsland	145	121	266	212	1,103	1,315
Maryborough	193	1,634	1,827	185	738	923
Total	13,448	38,268	51,716	7,462	46,557	54,019

Gold-mining
dividends.

The amount of the dividends declared in each of the last five years by gold-mining companies operating in each mining district of the State was as follows :—

DIVIDENDS PAID BY GOLD MINING COMPANIES IN EACH MINING DISTRICT, 1922 to 1926.

Mining District.	Amount Distributed.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£	£	£
Ararat and Stawell .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Ballarat .. ..	..	1,635	475	..	..
Beechworth	18,450	9,000	..	..	1,000
Bendigo	20,250	37,872	13,500	6,000	1,500
Castlemaine	17,883	12,459	..	..	..
Gippsland .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Maryborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	56,583	60,966	13,975	6,000	2,500

The average number of men employed in gold mining is estimated annually by the Mines Department. The figures for the last five years are given below :—

NUMBER OF MEN EMPLOYED IN GOLD MINING, 1922 to 1926.

Year.	Alluvial Miners.	Quartz Miners.	Total.
1922	1,048	2,262	3,310
1923	770	2,212	2,982
1924	816	1,835	2,651
1925	725	1,628	2,353
1926	550	1,417	1,967

The number of men employed in each mining district in 1926 was as follows :—Ararat and Stawell, 155 ; Ballarat, 57 ; Bendigo, 680 ; Beechworth, 470 ; Castlemaine, 360 ; Gippsland, 180 ; and Maryborough, 65.

The value of the mining plants employed in alluvial and quartz mining during each of the last five years was as shown hereunder :—

VALUE OF MACHINERY ON GOLD-FIELDS, 1922 to 1926.

Year.	Approximate Value of Machinery Employed in—		
	Alluvial Mining.	Quartz Mining.	Total.
	£	£	£
1922	135,295	508,630	643,925
1923	133,200	486,300	619,500
1924	95,777	381,050	476,827
1925	99,179	331,550	430,729
1926	81,849	301,550	383,399

A feature of alluvial mining in Victoria for the last twenty-five years has been the treatment in bulk of low-grade auriferous alluvial deposits and their overburden by bucket dredges and pump hydraulic sluicing plants on barges. In 1926, the number of pump hydraulic sluices at work was 4, in addition to which 11 jet elevators, 3 gravitation plants, and 1 bucket dredge were operating. Particulars relating to these dredging and sluicing plants for the last five years are as follows:—

DREDGING AND SLUICING, 1922 to 1926.

Year.			Number of Plants.	Area Worked.	Quantity of Material Treated.	Gold Obtained.	Tin Obtained.
				acres.	cub. yds.	ozs.	tons.
1922	..	..	32	41	1,736,735	11,939	115
1923	..	..	24	27	1,294,300	9,017	77
1924	..	..	17	13	1,198,900	5,260	38
1925	..	..	19	22	1,332,600	7,184	69
1926	..	..	19	11	539,260	3,554	29

These plants employed 109 men in 1926. The yield of gold in that year per cubic yard of material was 3·2 grains. Since the inception of dredge mining 1,891,095 ounces of gold and 1,677 tons of tin have been won by this system.

The quantity of tailings treated at old lode and alluvial mines by the cyanide process and the yield of gold therefrom are shown in the subjoined table for the last five years:—

CYANIDATION, 1922 to 1926.

Year.				Number of Plants.	Quantity of Tailings Treated.	Yield of Gold.	Value of Yield.
					tons.	ozs.	£
1922	..	..	..	12	41,163	5,847	22,654
1923	..	..	..	14	18,644	3,415	13,445
1924	..	..	..	14	12,108	2,052	7,637
1925	..	..	..	14	8,344	971	3,281
1926	..	..	..	7	7,748	1,323	5,028

Records show that the total amount of tailings which have been treated by the cyanide and other processes is 16,010,631 tons, and that the gold which has been won thereby amounts to 1,283,052 ounces, which is equal to an average yield of 1 dwt. 14 grs. per ton.

A Sludge Abatement Board, appointed by the Government, is entrusted with the duty of regulating the disposal of mining sludge, and preventing the silting of streams and injury to lands by battery sand and infertile debris.

Government batteries. Batteries for testing small quantities of ore for prospectors have been erected by the Government in various mining districts. The number of these plants and their operations in the last five years were as follows :—

GOVERNMENT BATTERIES, 1922 to 1926.

Year.					Number of Batteries.	Quantity of Ore Treated.	Yield of Gold.
						tons.	ozs.
1922	..	..	..	..	34	1,286	1,424
1923	..	..	..	..	34	1,000	649
1924	..	..	..	..	33	1,006	668
1925	..	..	..	..	31	895	776
1926	..	..	..	..	31	476	618

Since 1897, the year in which the first battery was erected, 75,567 tons of ore have been crushed for 52,861 ounces of gold.

Coal mining. Bituminous coal is found in three main areas in the southern portion of the State, viz., the Wannon, the Otway, and South Gippsland. The Wannon area is comparatively unprospected, owing to almost the whole of the land having been sold. In the Otway area bores have been sunk without disclosing seams of payable thickness. The South Gippsland area occupies about 2,000 square miles, and coal mining is being carried on at Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Outtrim, Jumbunna, and Korumburra.

Brown coal. The brown coal beds of Victoria have an approximate area of 1,200 square miles, and are reputed to be the thickest known. At Morwell, 780 feet of coal were passed through in a bore 1,010 feet deep. It is estimated that the average thickness of the coal in the deposits at Morwell, Alberton, and Altona is 50 feet, and that the total deposits in the State amount to 11,000,000,000 tons. These deposits are practically untouched, as the total output of brown coal for all years has been only 2,712,724 tons, valued at

£652,591, of which, 876,468 tons were obtained in 1925, and 957,935 tons in 1926. Of the total output for 1926, 219,376 tons valued at £76,908 were obtained from the State Brown Coal Mine at Morwell, and 734,004 tons valued at £110,600 from the State Mine at Yallourn.

A comprehensive statement of the activities controlled by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria will be found on page 591.

The State coal-field. The State coal mine at Wonthaggi, on the Powlett River, was opened in November, 1909. In June, 1911, the control of the mine was transferred to the Railways Commissioners. The area reserved for mining is about 17 square miles. Boring has proved that about 28,000,000 tons of coal existed in the central area of 5 square miles. The output of coal for the year ended 31st December, 1926, was 531,869 tons, valued at £585,055. The total output up to the end of 1926 was 7,451,450 tons, valued at £5,795,977. The average number of men employed at the mine throughout the year ended 31st December, 1926, was 1,741.

Victorian coal production and value. The quantity of coal, exclusive of brown coal, raised in Victoria up to the end of 1926 was 11,850,304 tons, valued at £8,628,068. The total quantity raised prior to 1892, the average annual production for different periods from 1892 to 1920, and the production for each of the years 1921 to 1926, together with the value per ton at the pit's mouth, are given in the following table :—

COAL PRODUCTION AND VALUE PER TON.

Period.			Average Annual Production.	Average Annual Value per ton at pit's mouth.
			tons.	s. d.
Prior to 1892	..	..	*77,914	18 8
1892-1900	..	..	184,517	9 11
1901-10	..	..	168,548	11 8
1911-15	..	..	608,512	9 2
1916-20	..	..	437,833	15 11
1921	..	..	514,859	23 5
1922	..	..	559,284	23 9
1923	..	..	476,823	22 0
1924	..	..	518,315	22 0
1925	..	..	534,246	22 4
1926	..	..	591,001	22 3

* Total production up to date mentioned.

The quantities of coal produced in the other States in 1926 were as follows :—New South Wales, 10,885,766 tons; Queensland, 1,221,059 tons; Western Australia, 474,819 tons; and Tasmania, 90,661 tons.

The numbers of fatal and non-fatal accidents in gold and coal mines during the last five years are shown below. Only those non-fatal accidents have been recorded which rendered the injured unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days.

MINING ACCIDENTS, 1922 to 1926.

Year.	Gold Mines.			Coal Mines.		
	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.	Miners Employed.	Persons Killed.	Persons Injured.
1922	3,310	..	4	1,953	..	11
1923	2,982	1	6	2,131	1	11
1924	2,651	..	2	2,289	3	17
1925	2,353	1	6	2,593	5	20
1926	1,967	5	14	2,939	2	6

As a result of gold mining accidents during the last five years 7 persons were killed and 32 were injured and rendered unfit for work for a period of at least fourteen days. These numbers were equivalent to annual rates of 0·53 and 2·41 respectively per 1,000 employed. Coal mining accidents during the same period accounted for 11 deaths and 65 injuries resulting in disablement for at least fourteen days, these being equal to yearly rates of 0·92 and 5·46 respectively per 1,000 employees.

The record of boring operations conducted by the Mines Department during the last five years is as follows:—

GOVERNMENT BORING OPERATIONS, 1922 to 1926.

Year.	Number of Machines.	Bores put down for—				Total Depth Bored.
		Gold.	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Total.	
1922	15	6	182	..	188	feet. 25,200
1923	13	4	67	1	72	19,670
1924	14	16	74	2	92	34,300
1925	13	10	38	15	63	30,000
1926	14	29	45	14	88	20,000

Note—The boring done at the State Coal Mine is not included.

Antimony. Up to the end of 1926 the quantity of antimony produced in Victoria was 104,272½ tons of concentrates valued at £612,035. The whole of it was obtained at Costerfield. No antimony was obtained in 1926, but, for the previous year, the yield was 120½ tons of concentrates valued at £5,380.

Tin. The production of tin ore in the State up to the end of 1926 was 16,924 tons, valued at £949,688. In the year 1926 the quantity produced was 29 tons, as against 69 tons in 1925, 38 tons in 1924, 78 tons in 1923, and 115 tons in 1922. Of the tin won during the last five years nearly the whole was obtained in the Beechworth district.

Gypsum. The quantity of gypsum produced in the State in 1926 was 10,217 tons, most of which was obtained at Bolton, Waitchie, and Boort. The output for the previous year was 14,518 tons. Up to the end of 1926 the quantity raised in Victoria was 101,473 tons, valued at £76,655.

Kaolin. The quantity of kaolin produced in 1926 was 3,153 tons, and in the previous year, 1,594 tons. Up to the end of 1926 the total output was 31,353 tons, valued at £40,719.

Molybdenite. The total value of molybdenite produced in the State up to the end of 1926 was £30,911. In the year 1926 the output was valued at £7,350, as against £5,545 in 1925. The whole of the output was obtained at Everton, near Beechworth.

Quarries. The quantity and value of stone raised from Victorian quarries during the last five years were as set forth in the following table :—

QUARRIES, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Year ended June—	Number of Quarries.	Quantity of Stone Operated on—				Approximate Value of Stone Raised.
		Bluestone.	Sand-stone.	Granite.	Limestone.	
		c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	c. yds.	£
1923 ..	106	1,244,262	10,776	1,775	*	384,510
1924 ..	105	1,429,719	2,536	2,242	*	436,175
1925 ..	117	1,504,093	1,926	2,387	221,171	497,270
1926 ..	127	1,650,461	6,000	2,444	300,708	587,910
1927 ..	116	1,941,739	8,368	6,848	308,095	700,200

* Informatio not available.

In 1926-27 the number of persons employed in quarries was 2,516, and the wages paid amounted to £567,826. These figures include the employees and wages connected with stone-breaking and tar-paving works, most of which are carried on in conjunction with quarries and cannot be separated therefrom.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Industrial progress.

The earliest year for which there are statistical records of the factories of the State is 1850, at which date the number of manufacturing establishments is shown to have been 68. Subsequently fair and regular progress was made in the industry until in 1900, the year before Federation, there were 3,097 factories working. The years immediately following Federation were marked by increased industrial activity, which was well maintained in later years. During the last ten years nearly all existing lines of manufacture have shown a notable expansion, and many industries new to the State have been firmly established. Since 1917-18 the number of factories has increased by 37 per cent., the number of persons employed by 37 per cent., the amount of salaries and wages paid by 155 per cent., the value of output by 90 per cent., the value of machinery and plant and premises by 151 per cent., and the horse power of factory machinery by 178 per cent. The difference between the cost of materials used and the value of the output was equivalent to an added value of £356 4s. 7d. per person employed in 1926-27, as compared with £210 17s. 3d. in 1917-18. In 1917-18, 77 per cent. of factories used mechanical power as against 86 per cent. in 1926-27. The increase in the added value relatively to employees, the larger proportion of factories using power, and the higher aggregate power of establishments as a whole are indications of increasing industrial efficiency. The proportion of children employed in factories to total employees was 5 per cent. in 1917-18 and 5·58 per cent. in 1926-27.

Since 1917-18 the number of factories employing over 100 hands has increased by 26·5 per cent., and the number of hands employed by such factories has increased by 38·2 per cent. While factories of this size formed only 3·2 per cent. of the total number in the State in 1926-27, they employed 42·8 per cent. of the total number of hands.

The appended table summarizes the position of the industries at various stages since 1871, but, the figures for the years prior to 1911 are not strictly comparable, for the reason that they have not been compiled upon the same basis.

GROWTH IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons employed.	Amount of Salaries and Wages paid.	Value of Plant, Machinery, Land, and Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1871 ..	1,740	19,468	*	4,725,125	*
1881 ..	2,488	43,209	*	8,044,296	†13,370,836
1891 ..	3,141	52,225	*	16,472,859	†22,390,251
1901 ..	3,249	66,529	*	12,298,500	§19,478,780
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921-22 ...	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	7,425	154,158	29,057,052	61,031,975	118,177,398
1925-26 ..	7,461	152,959	29,329,400	60,396,500	119,986,439
1926-27 ..	7,630	161,639	31,822,589	63,850,005	127,397,951

* Particulars not available.

† 1880.

‡ 1890.

§ 1900.

NOTE.—Up to the year 1915 inclusive the statistics relate to the calendar year; for subsequent years they relate to the year ending 30th June.

The first Factories Act in Victoria was passed in 1873, and since that year many other Acts dealing with the subject have been placed upon the statute-book. The *Factories and Shops Act* 1915 (No. 2650) consolidated all Acts passed prior to that date. The general provisions of factory legislation, including "Wages Boards," are fully dealt with in Part "Social Condition" of this work.

In the year 1902 the classification of industries for statistical purposes, as shown in the next table, was adopted by the Statisticians of Australia. A factory was defined as an establishment employing on the average four persons or more, or an establishment employing less than four persons where machinery is worked by other than manual power, whether the business carried on is that of making or repairing for the trade (wholesale or retail) or for export. The table shows for the year 1926-27 the number of factories in each industry, the power used, the number of persons employed, the wages paid, the values of materials and fuel and light used, and the value of articles produced or work done, and has been compiled from returns rendered compulsorily by all factory proprietors:—

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1926-27.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1926-27.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
							£	£	£	£
<i>Class I.—Treating Raw Material the product of Pastoral Pursuits, or Vegetable Products, not otherwise classed.</i>										
Boiling down	9	319	8	178	..	..	53,941	11,337	197,645	274,658
Bone milling	12	801	12	105	..	3	31,666	15,902	53,774	119,786
Tanning	44	4,203	65	2,220	..	19	570,283	41,896	1,814,634	2,760,910
Fellmongering	32	1,479	30	539	..	2	139,216	28,073	1,678,183	2,069,151
Chaffcutting and grain crushing ..	138	2,203	115	545	..	15	87,622	11,987	776,327	989,823
Other	8	63	5	249	..	2	61,861	402	145,854	237,661
Total	243	9,068	235	3,836	..	41	944,589	109,597	4,666,417	6,451,989
<i>Class II.—Oils and Fats, Animal and Vegetable.</i>										
Oil, grease, glue	13	735	10	208	..	18	61,444	15,442	290,742	429,804
Soap and candle	18	768	13	532	..	160	145,502	40,000	646,322	1,111,040
Total	31	1,503	23	740	..	178	206,946	55,442	937,064	1,540,844

Class III.—Processes relating to Stone, Clay, Glass, &c.

Bricks, tiles, pipes and pottery ..	95	8,576	65	2,508	..	148	631,362	264,432	173,889	1,475,557
Cement, including cement tiles and pipes	36	8,672	8	1,005	..	6	250,243	197,431	288,637	1,081,748
Glass, including bottles ..	4	1,565	6	675	..	15	173,314	60,971	107,090	507,787
Glass bevelling ..	29	124	22	296	1	4	76,409	1,314	113,034	227,428
Marble and stone dressing ..	48	713	60	418	..	8	123,922	3,886	73,286	251,255
Modelling ..	50	574	59	616	..	12	157,558	6,609	213,957	469,593
Other ..	15	534	10	174	..	1	41,013	28,248	36,241	120,793
Total ..	277	20,758	230	5,692	1	194	1,453,821	562,891	1,006,134	4,084,161

Class IV.—Working in Wood.

Cooperage ..	11	361	7	269	..	1	83,657	2,816	61,353	186,653
Saw-milling (forest) ..	207	4,358	284	2,565	..	13	597,744	1,218	115,827	999,495
Saw-milling, joinery, &c. ..	336	11,031	268	4,391	..	75	1,111,869	35,963	1,688,340	3,308,817
Boxes and Cases ..	42	1,493	37	388	2	4	111,494	5,328	215,533	381,139
Wood carving, turning ..	69	1,242	61	469	2	24	124,324	5,484	156,273	352,779
Other ..	13	189	19	218	..	37	53,493	637	75,880	150,064
Total ..	678	18,674	676	8,300	4	154	2,082,581	51,446	2,313,206	5,378,947

Class V.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.

Agricultural implement ..	73	3,911	70	3,616	..	134	931,404	51,620	891,930	2,228,570
Engineering ..	315	7,451	358	5,838	4	133	1,551,664	82,694	1,653,951	3,948,285
Railway workshop ..	21	6,854	..	7,042	..	6	1,755,202	77,855	1,859,932	4,257,700
Ironworks and foundries ..	117	6,507	125	3,728	1	133	951,571	122,850	1,075,029	2,611,695
Sheet-iron, tin, &c. ..	118	1,149	116	1,769	..	271	414,832	15,778	663,487	1,323,515
Brass, copper smithing ..	101	1,008	112	1,374	..	71	345,704	18,048	314,329	839,517
Wireworking ..	27	640	34	357	..	22	97,116	3,184	218,638	379,818
Electrical apparatus ..	105	1,100	92	1,275	..	74	307,464	9,835	283,005	747,172
Stove, range ..	23	171	29	257	..	..	71,530	4,008	49,125	157,063
Other ..	123	2,201	107	1,376	2	37	345,010	23,233	598,179	1,199,273
Total ..	1,023	30,992	1,043	26,632	7	881	6,771,497	409,105	7,607,605	17,692,908

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1926-27—continued.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
							£	£	£	£
<i>Class VI.—Connected with Food and Drink, &c.</i>										
Bacon curing	21	1,821	28	511	..	21	151,622	20,552	1,063,199	1,425,509
Butter, cheese	182	6,456	31	1,995	..	294	552,659	143,344	6,582,332	7,813,409
Meat freezing, preserving	13	4,812	..	720	..	10	185,760	23,209	1,644,631	2,032,843
Biscuit	9	755	5	764	..	560	212,390	23,051	729,889	1,220,747
Flourmilling	44	6,073	29	1,040	..	25	267,873	50,068	5,017,009	5,789,618
Jam, fruit, sauce, &c.	58	1,860	26	1,647	2	929	504,442	35,580	1,489,407	2,427,373
Oatmeal, starch, &c.	45	2,177	17	395	3	371	135,180	18,568	934,124	1,362,310
Sugar, confectionery, &c.	136	10,830	118	2,293	19	2,019	810,001	134,736	4,779,147	6,607,207
Aerated water, cordial, &c.	107	617	103	628	8	93	175,236	8,601	331,312	696,393
Malt	21	555	10	266	..	4	75,531	18,290	491,550	725,192
Brewing	10	5,123	3	1,147	..	6	377,393	66,509	1,143,932	2,605,704
Distilling	9	508	2	146	..	6	38,849	12,132	177,079	338,102
Condiments, coffee, cocoa, &c.	15	851	4	268	..	142	81,314	8,440	394,473	584,899
Tobacco, &c.	12	615	19	1,071	..	611	353,842	8,422	1,146,122	1,921,004
Other	50	4,486	41	422	..	9	122,044	45,142	197,081	521,541
Total	732	47,539	436	13,313	32	5,100	4,044,136	616,644	26,121,287	36,071,851

*Class VII.—Clothing and Textile
Fabrics, and Fibrous Material.*

Woollen mill	27	13,995	17	2,955	..	3,745	1,012,566	151,998	2,299,910	4,581,445
Clothing, tailoring, &c. ..	530	546	497	1,602	50	7,033	1,315,336	21,916	1,997,060	3,807,553
Dressmaking and millinery ..	505	630	146	313	359	8,002	1,011,496	14,984	1,910,914	3,374,749
Underclothing, shirt ..	178	1,035	107	473	73	6,280	825,842	15,755	2,038,513	3,377,463
Hat, cap	53	605	49	545	3	1,148	299,444	10,914	413,813	886,457
Hosiery	176	2,141	124	976	76	4,942	799,361	28,176	1,675,244	3,164,652
Oilskin, waterproof clothing ..	9	53	7	73	1	238	51,340	934	84,162	167,794
Boot, shoe	204	3,366	266	6,329	21	5,576	2,140,054	40,565	3,058,257	6,105,072
Boot repairing	272	364	254	259	..	18	101,738	2,373	74,663	227,636
Fur	55	94	52	189	13	365	99,188	1,552	361,740	552,188
Sail, tent, rope, twine, &c. ..	29	1,721	32	607	..	488	188,288	14,483	534,374	930,211
Other	49	284	43	274	5	476	127,076	6,900	212,223	416,567
Total	2,087	24,834	1,594	14,595	601	38,311	7,971,729	310,550	14,660,873	27,591,787

*Class VIII.—Books, Paper, Printing,
Engraving, &c.*

Printing	445	5,989	527	5,797	14	1,659	1,914,975	51,393	1,938,372	4,869,350
Bookbinding, &c. ..	37	410	33	673	1	600	225,060	5,550	286,040	643,174
Papermaking, paper bags, boxes &c. ..	46	2,286	32	804	3	998	321,604	59,203	573,110	1,243,336
Die sinking, engraving, &c. ..	20	93	25	158	..	7	40,736	1,035	16,423	78,820
Other	34	317	39	255	2	93	81,496	3,121	116,814	256,557
Total	582	9,095	656	7,687	20	3,357	2,583,871	120,302	2,930,759	7,091,237

<i>Class IX.—Musical Instruments</i> ..	19	376	8	508	..	16	124,610	2,269	150,304	337,548
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<i>Class X.—Arms and Explosives</i> ..	8	689	1	322	..	214	118,442	17,872	227,946	440,722
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FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1926-27—continued.

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Victorian Year-Book, 1926-27.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class XI.—Vehicles and Fittings, Saddlery, Harness, &c.</i>							£	£	£	£
Coachbuilding	235	1,562	273	1,561	..	18	375,662	14,084	318,026	869,997
Motor Body Building and Repairs ..	72	962	97	1,878	..	48	496,529	10,313	636,222	1,359,157
Motor, repairs and assembling ..	599	2,237	442	3,431	..	66	760,998	31,771	83,948	1,129,738
Saddle, harness	26	35	27	159	..	40	44,456	309	61,415	122,777
Other	17	66	23	162	..	11	38,996	630	52,035	108,764
Total	949	4,862	862	7,191	..	183	1,716,581	57,107	1,151,641	3,590,428
<i>Class XII.—Shipbuilding, Fitting, &c.</i>	13	1,358	10	372	..	6	92,795	5,686	37,827	167,572
<i>Class XIII.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.</i>										
Upholstery, bedding, &c. ..	72	970	48	627	3	306	185,227	6,399	412,818	730,156
Cabinet, including billiard table ..	344	3,511	419	2,943	..	98	702,910	20,720	774,070	1,829,102
Picture frame	16	37	17	60	..	8	17,701	342	20,655	47,308
Other	64	439	57	680	3	196	171,902	4,840	321,711	593,527
Total	496	4,957	541	4,310	6	603	1,077,740	32,301	1,529,254	3,200,093

*Class XIV.—Drugs, Chemicals, and
By-products.*

Polishes, &c.	19	203	8	117	..	140	52,135	2,083	209,145	324,010
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	53	2,157	18	701	2	696	261,045	24,109	482,549	1,006,195
Fertilizers	8	2,068	..	931	..	6	246,219	43,091	1,027,516	1,759,892
Other	34	607	24	145	1	22	38,155	2,759	101,330	195,579
Total	114	5,035	50	1,894	3	864	597,554	72,042	1,820,540	3,285,676

*Class XV.—Surgical and Scientific
Appliances*

44	89	35	216	1	17	51,558	1,530	38,681	119,518
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*Class XVI.—Timepieces, Jewellery,
and Plated-ware*

117	546	123	797	1	123	214,018	7,598	225,417	547,052
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*Class XVII.—Heat, Light, and
Energy.*

Electric light	86	219,626	5	1,109	..	6	323,286	682,482	2,001	1,768,514
Gas, coke	33	2,810	..	955	..	4	264,918	127,562	915,890	1,967,485
Other	10	3,570	2	469	..	434	177,389	32,807	776,953	1,330,232
Total	129	226,006	7	2,533	..	444	765,593	842,851	1,694,844	5,066,231

*Class XVIII.—Rubber and Leather-
ware (except Saddlery and Harness)*

Fancy leather, belting, &c. ..	61	310	61	473	..	403	155,510	3,271	299,066	528,019
Rubber goods	69	8,146	57	2,759	..	743	800,029	112,999	2,300,674	4,032,609
Total	130	8,456	118	3,232	..	1,146	955,539	116,270	2,599,740	4,560,628

FACTORIES—POWER, WORKERS, WAGES, ETC., AND PRODUCTION, 1926-27—*continued.*

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Victorian Year-Book, 1926-27.

Nature of Industry.	Number of Factories.	Actual Horse-power of Engines used.	Average Number of Persons Employed.				Value of—			
			Males.		Females.		Wages paid.	Fuel and Light used.	Materials used, including Containers.	Articles Produced or Work Done.
			Working Proprietors.	Employees.	Working Proprietors.	Employees.				
<i>Class XIX.—Wares, not elsewhere included.</i>							£	£	£	£
Umbrella	5	12	4	62	..	153	31,027	276	75,700	129,274
Foys	6	53	4	38	..	..	8,875	229	13,839	28,733
Other Industries	7	90	2	41	..	9	9,087	440	7,857	20,752
Total	18	155	10	141	..	162	48,989	945	97,396	178,759
Grand Total	7,690	414,992	6,658	102,311	676	51,994	31,822,589	3,392,448	69,816,935	127,397,951

Increase in
value of out-
put of certain
industries,
1921-22 and
1926-27.

Most of the more important manufacturing industries in the State have shown a substantial increase in the value of output in the last five years. The output for the years 1921-22 and 1926-27 of a number of leading industries is shown in the following table, the industries being arranged in order of increase in value:—

OUTPUT OF INDUSTRIES, 1921-22 AND 1926-27.

Industry.	Value of Output.		Increase in Five Years.	
	1921-22.	1926-27.	Value.	Per cent.
	£	£	£	
Rubber goods	1,556,224	4,032,609	2,476,385	159·1
Woollen mills	2,482,761	4,581,445	2,098,684	84·5
Motor, &c.	1,127,608	2,488,890	1,361,282	120·7
Railway workshops ..	3,182,559	4,257,700	1,075,141	33·8
Jam, preserves, pickles, &c. ..	1,538,230	2,427,373	889,143	57·8
Knitting, hosiery	2,297,739	3,164,652	866,913	37·7
Fellmongeries	1,212,620	2,069,151	856,531	70·6
Underclothing, shirts, &c. ..	2,613,300	3,377,463	764,163	29·2
Engineering, ironworks and foundries, &c.	5,897,158	6,639,072	741,914	12·6
Butter, cheese, &c.	7,115,642	7,813,409	697,767	9·8
Furniture, cabinetmaking ..	1,247,508	1,829,102	581,594	46·6
Cement and cement goods ..	458,474	1,031,748	573,274	125·0
Bricks, tiles, pottery	999,383	1,475,557	476,174	47·6
Meat preserving	1,564,475	2,032,843	468,368	29·9
Agricultural implements ..	1,767,843	2,228,570	460,727	26·1
Fertilizers	1,302,288	1,759,892	457,604	35·1
Breweries	2,200,882	2,605,704	404,822	18·4
Sawmilling, joinery, boxes and cases	3,649,316	4,042,735	393,419	10·8
Electrical apparatus	364,411	747,472	383,061	105·1
Electric light and power ..	1,407,268	1,768,514	361,246	25·7
Upholstery, bedding	483,326	840,804	357,478	74·0
Paper, paper bags, &c.	900,379	1,243,336	342,957	38·1
Modelling, plaster sheets ..	136,633	469,593	332,960	243·7
Oatmeal, &c.	993,149	1,319,218	326,069	32·8
Confectionery	2,289,555	2,605,704	316,149	13·8
Boots and boot repairs	6,043,172	6,332,708	289,536	4·8
Biscuit	942,440	1,220,747	278,307	29·5
Fur	285,796	552,188	266,392	93·2
Dressmaking, millinery	3,142,365	3,374,749	232,384	7·4
Distilleries	113,645	338,102	224,457	197·5
Chemicals, drugs	791,125	1,006,195	215,070	27·2
Printing	4,694,295	4,869,350	175,055	3·7
Brass and copper	665,649	839,517	173,868	26·1

INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES.

The salient features in connexion with the chief industries are set forth in the succeeding pages.

Tanneries,
&c.

The development of the tanning and fellmongering industry during the past ten years is shown by the particulars contained in the next two tables :—

TANNERIES, ETC., 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Horse-power of Engines.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Number of Working Proprietors	Amount of Wages Paid.
			£			£
1917-18	76	3,476	271,120	2,485	69	347,753
1918-19	81	4,035	370,765	2,984	74	455,548
1919-20	86	4,631	400,110	3,384	85	631,920
1920-21	80	4,707	436,395	2,851	87	675,152
1921-22	78	5,341	504,355	2,995	93	625,446
1922-23	79	5,530	513,815	3,052	105	652,026
1923-24	80	5,850	557,930	2,429	105	646,015
1924-25	76	5,929	567,315	2,815	99	*661,695
1925-26	76	5,975	579,445	2,938	96	*687,475
1926-27	76	5,682	564,530	2,375	95	*709,499

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of bark used in connexion with tanning operations in 1926-27 was 12,446 tons. The output of tanneries and fellmongeries for each of the last ten years was as follows :—

OUTPUT OF TANNERIES, ETC., 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number Tanned—			Sheep Skins Stripped.	Wool Washed (weight after washing).	Value of Articles produced or Work done.
	Hides and Skins.					
	Cow and Ox.	Calf.	Sheep and other Skins.			
				number	lbs.	£
1917-18 ..	601,950	217,605	1,418,595	1,641,000	24,560,590	5,061,236
1918-19 ..	670,956	234,548	1,742,898	2,354,487	34,483,316	6,913,279
1919-20 ..	738,907	251,973	2,780,017	5,030,438	38,191,912	8,296,091
1920-21 ..	694,322	308,542	1,406,472	2,604,413	14,619,943	4,200,077
1921-22 ..	792,974	512,515	2,042,317	2,214,980	17,458,847	3,953,649
1922-23 ..	780,221	663,813	2,403,940	2,407,830	19,939,785	4,577,664
1923-24 ..	788,942	526,818	2,387,235	971,559	12,885,685	4,675,911
1924-25 ..	783,115	557,354	1,849,575	1,225,616	13,469,200	4,604,042
1925-26 ..	775,972	542,166	1,896,652	1,523,566	15,875,925	4,491,077
1926-27 ..	660,905	645,945	1,487,468	1,602,165	17,387,073	4,836,061

The value of the leather imported into Victoria from overseas countries during the year ended 30th June, 1927, was £182,660.

Particulars in regard to the soap and candle works in the State for the past ten years are given below :—

SOAP AND CANDLE WORKS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Products.		Value of Output.
					Soap.*	Candles.	
		£		£	cwt.	cwt.	£
1917-18	17	130,795	769	91,604	228,310	37,290	951,114
1918-19	15	140,600	681	92,663	206,429	39,680	957,295
1919-20	16	143,310	738	103,333	243,156	40,908	1,321,112
1920-21	16	164,110	696	115,749	225,748	32,662	1,134,820
1921-22	17	174,460	742	139,519	267,858	31,613	1,096,955
1922-23	19	196,355	769	142,685	296,888	39,519	1,152,270
1923-24	17	210,270	741	147,124	289,364	34,424	937,148
1924-25	17	201,400	714	143,779†	295,672	29,415	1,176,919
1925-26	17	214,125	700	147,161†	295,930	28,048	1,185,722
1926-27	18	235,705	705	145,502†	331,728	25,359	1,111,040

* Not including soap made in small soap works not classified as factories, viz., 1,134 cwt. in 1917-18, 1,054 cwt. in 1918-19, 907 cwt. in 1919-20, 996 cwt. in 1920-21, 859 cwt. in 1921-22, 1,346 cwt. in 1922-23, 1,258 cwt. in 1923-24, 736 cwt. in 1924-25, 920 cwt. in 1925-26, and 853 cwt. in 1926-27.

† Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The quantity of tallow used in 1926-27 in the manufacture of soap and candles was 195,915 cwt. in factories, and 510 cwt. in minor works.

The imports from oversea countries in 1926-27 included 371,907 lbs. of soap valued at £33,160, and 52,911 lbs. of candles valued at £3,509.

Particulars relating to brickyards and potteries for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27 are shown in the following statement. The value of the land, plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with such works in 1926-27 was £1,065,645 :—

BRICKS, POTTERY, PIPES, AND TILES, 1917-18 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid	Number of Bricks Made.*	Value of—	
					Pipes and Tiles.	Pottery.
			£		£	£
1917-18 ..	78	1,907	231,090	107,139,000	171,836	73,398
1918-19 ..	84	2,361	314,452	133,176,000	246,763	121,286
1919-20 ..	93	2,569	336,295	119,142,000	255,562	97,844
1920-21 ..	92	2,794	481,352	203,425,000	362,495	177,410
1921-22 ..	93	2,655	495,288	169,715,000	355,784	185,293
1922-23 ..	92	3,201	631,454	227,183,000	439,159	203,828
1923-24 ..	104	3,540	735,719	247,598,000	541,796	241,821
1924-25 ..	102	3,069	655,034†	201,440,000	427,522	296,551
1925-26 ..	98	2,902	621,631†	190,505,000	423,113	205,874
1926-27 ..	95	2,721	631,362†	230,914,000	493,627	158,071

* In addition, there are bricks made in small brickyards not tabulated as factories.

† Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The estimated value of bricks made in 1926-27 was £793,892, being an increase of £122,147 on the value of those made in the preceding year.

Detailed information in regard to the forest saw-mills of the State for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27 is given in the table which follows :—

FOREST SAW-MILLS, 1917-18 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Value of Machinery and Plant in Use.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Victorian Timber Sawn.	
					Quantity.	Value.
		£		£	super ft.	£
1917-18 ..	162	260,280	2,106	248,940	78,984,000	355,430
1918-19 ..	187	315,670	2,506	319,547	91,540,000	503,470
1919-20 ..	203	366,355	2,884	406,335	99,142,000	693,995
1920-21 ..	246	473,275	3,509	563,627	113,215,000	905,720
1921-22 ..	239	517,725	3,356	627,432	112,008,000	896,070
1922-23 ..	227	516,800	3,230	616,680	118,366,000	946,930
1923-24 ..	241	624,590	3,587	686,419	134,639,000	942,476
1924-25 ..	234	559,450	3,318	667,684*	114,705,000	745,582
1925-26 ..	215	642,140	2,955	579,795*	109,534,000	711,971
1926-27 ..	207	573,550	2,862	597,744*	115,813,000	914,334

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the forest saw-mills there were 471 other factories working in wood. Particulars relating to these for the year 1926-27 are given on page 571.

Firewood.

The quantity of timber sawn for firewood consumption in the year 1926-27 was 286,363 tons valued at the saw-mills at £305,166. There is also a large amount of firewood taken from the forests which does not pass through these sawmills, and its value cannot be reliably estimated. The increased use of brown coal briquettes and the extension of the use of gas and electricity for cooking and heating has caused a reduction in the demand for firewood in recent years.

Agricultural and Dairy Machinery Works.

Owing to a revision of the classification of Victorian statistics, Dairy Machinery has now been amalgamated with Agricultural Implements, and the main particulars are shown hereunder for the year 1926-27 :—

**AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY MACHINERY WORKS,
1926-27.**

Year.	No. of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Value of—		
				Fuel, &c., Used.	Materials Used.	Output.
1926-27 ..	73	3,820	£ 931,404*	£ 51,620	£ 891,930	£ 2,228,570

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

The stripper-harvester, which is a Victorian invention, is one of the principal implements manufactured.

In the following table particulars of bacon and ham curing establishments are given for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27. The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings in connexion with these establishments was £157,710 in 1917-18 and £319,115 in 1926-27.

BACON CURING, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Establishments.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Pigs Slaughtered for Curing.	Weight of Bacon and Hams Cured.	Value of Output.
			£	number	lbs.	£
1917-18 ..	21	455	65,870	197,880	17,908,100	1,084,440
1918-19 ..	21	503	76,308	201,770	18,343,400	1,107,910
1919-20 ..	21	549	99,736	182,320	16,675,090	1,384,351
1920-21 ..	22	442	90,394	139,881	13,369,107	1,335,186
1921-22 ..	22	477	103,783	163,917	15,583,960	1,366,832
1922-23 ..	24	494	104,841	186,524	17,293,395	1,289,267
1923-24 ..	24	534	118,751	217,847	20,458,243	1,602,615
1924-25 ..	21	531	129,474*	218,158	20,431,914	1,571,357
1925-26 ..	21	546	142,515*	222,487	19,739,326	1,520,272
1926-27 ..	21	560	151,622*	230,391	19,739,524	1,425,509

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

In addition, the following quantities of bacon and hams were returned as having been cured on farms:—2,738,428 lbs. in 1916-17, 3,403,776 lbs. in 1917-18, 3,859,205 lbs. in 1918-19, 2,698,919 lbs. in 1919-20, 1,755,993 lbs. in 1920-21, 1,812,838 lbs. in 1921-22, 1,975,729 lbs. in 1922-23, 2,082,731 lbs. in 1923-24, 1,561,955 lbs. in 1924-25, 1,474,599 lbs. in 1925-26, and 1,212,786 lbs. in 1926-27. The total quantity of bacon and hams cured in 1926-27 was thus 20,952,310 lbs.—a decrease of 261,615 lbs. as compared with 1925-26.

Butter and cheese factories. The number of butter, cheese, and kindred factories in 1926-27 was 182. Of these 148 were making butter, 27 cheese, 4 concentrated milk, 6 condensed milk, 11 powdered milk, 5 casein, and 1 milk sugar. There were also 26 creameries attached to the factories. The following table gives some indication of the value of this industry to the State:—

BUTTER AND CHEESE FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Output.
		£		£	£
1917-18	181	683,140	1,677	226,050	5,086,238
1918-19	180	786,275	1,918	273,335	6,056,342
1919-20	181	1,025,325	2,054	338,507	6,365,927
1920-21	184	1,238,745	2,127	414,420	9,194,654
1921-22	188	1,395,425	2,351	492,446	7,115,642
1922-23	182	1,509,545	2,278	497,816	7,899,377
1923-24	184	1,685,530	2,280	511,001	7,974,676
1924-25	186	1,812,525	2,427	565,422*	8,212,788
1925-26	183	1,889,475	2,213	528,310*	7,631,400
1926-27	182	1,969,280	2,320	552,659*	7,813,409

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

Further particulars relating to butter and cheese factories will be found under the heading of Dairying on page 548.

Meat freezing and preserving works numbered thirteen in 1926-27, and gave employment to 730 hands, the wages amounting to £185,760. The approximate value of machinery, plant, land and buildings in that year was £1,090,430. The output for each of the last ten years is given in the following table:—

MEAT FREEZING AND PRESERVING, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.			Frozen.			
			Cattle.	Sheep.	Rabbits and Hares.	Poultry.
			qrs.	number.	number.	number.
1917-18	..	..	3,832	196,267	7,403,324	4,620
1918-19	..	..	8,640	668,971	2,352,212	2,700
1919-20	..	..	177,230	4,001,510	5,451,384	2,736
1920-21	..	..	49,372	786,086	2,189,378	9,468
1921-22	..	..	55,355	1,186,704	908,104	8,856
1922-23	..	..	17,006	2,657,515	282,624	5,284
1923-24	..	..	16,044	691,630	160,998	6,776
1924-25	..	..	25,690	1,035,799	108,338	6,386
1925-26	..	..	102,432	1,480,824	913,698	6,906
1926-27	..	..	41,890	1,346,425	806,294	1,764

Year.			Preserved.			
			Beef.	Mutton.	Rabbits and Hares.	Other Meats, &c.
			cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
1917-18	..	..	17,810	28,530	9,530	15,110
1918-19	..	..	75,790	118,520	9,625	9,850
1919-20	..	..	104,725	60,850	7,580	1,860
1920-21	..	..	3,641	443	1	764
1921-22	..	..	8,808	4,419	29	30
1922-23	..	..	9,500	2,092	16	3,925
1923-24	..	..	8,008	564	32	1,411
1924-25	..	..	13,885	954	4	1,467
1925-26	..	..	23,202	2,084	..	4,327
1926-27	..	..	14,880		29	3,700

Imports and
exports of
meats.

The following statement shows the imports from and exports to oversea countries of frozen and preserved meats, other than bacon and ham, during the year ended 30th

June, 1927 :—

MEATS IMPORTED AND EXPORTED OVERSEA, 1926-27.

Meats.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Frozen—				
Mutton .. ..	..	..	7,277,691 lbs.	141,998
Lamb .. ..	..	..	40,093,853 „	1,053,502
Beef	86 lbs.	10	4,015,588 „	60,949
Pork	202,955 lbs.	8,332	232,675 „	7,785
Rabbits and Hares ..	..	..	403,147 prs.	44,999
Poultry	2,292 lbs.	149	882 „	468
Game	16,553 lbs.	1,243	..	..
Potted and Concentrated	..	50,201	..	6,738
Preserved in tins ..	285,415 lbs.	13,678	725,415 lbs.	27,601
Sausage Casings.. ..	5,486 cwt.	114,779	9,872 cwt.	189,127
Not elsewhere included ..	..	796	..	6,356
Total value ..	..	189,188	..	1,539,523

The value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings used in connexion with flour mills was estimated at £517,510 in 1917-18 and at £1,046,175 in 1926-27. Particulars of the industry for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27 are as follows :—

FLOUR MILLS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Mills.	Persons Employed.	Amount of Wages Paid.	Wheat Ground into Flour.	Flour Made.	Value of Total Output.
			£	busbels.	tons.	£
1917-18 ..	55	1,021	155,330	15,034,990	311,450	3,989,510
1918-19 ..	53	1,063	169,233	16,621,290	347,840	4,656,403
1919-20 ..	51	1,064	189,224	16,920,890	353,683	6,082,741
1920-21 ..	51	947	191,688	12,387,960	260,032	5,745,507
1921-22 ..	45	997	228,195	14,697,290	308,532	5,759,281
1922-23 ..	47	1,089	244,436	16,601,530	352,002	5,415,067
1923-24 ..	47	1,114	266,540	18,552,540	382,204	5,495,110
1924-25 ..	46	1,064	267,034*	17,165,253	359,597	6,218,248
1925-26 ..	45	1,039	258,112*	15,909,787	336,704	5,995,735
1926-27 ..	44	1,094	267,873*	17,052,350	360,051	5,789,618

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

In addition to the flour made, the wheat ground in 1926-27 produced 7,472,640 bushels of bran and 7,415,832 bushels of pollard. Other grain operated on amounted to 31,960 bushels in 1917-18, 40,113 bushels in 1918-19, 39,235 bushels in 1919-20, 40,094 bushels in 1920-21, 65,788 bushels in 1921-22, 44,363 bushels in 1922-23, 34,283 bushels in 1923-24, 59,825 bushels in 1924-25, 47,659 bushels in 1925-26, and 32,158 bushels in 1926-27.

**Exports of
bread stuffs.**

During the year 1926-27, 2,108,965 lbs. of biscuits valued at £66,377, and 149,339 tons of flour valued at £2,123,361, were exported from Victoria to countries beyond Australia.

**Jam, pickle,
and sauce
works.**

In 1926-27 there were 58 establishments in which the manufacture of jams, pickles, and sauces was carried on, and the number of persons employed therein was 2,604, of whom 28 were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £504,442, and the value of machinery, plant, land and buildings was £769,680. The quantities of fruit and sugar used and the output for each of the last ten years were as shown below :—

JAM, PICKLE, AND SAUCE WORKS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Fruit Used.	Sugar Used.	Jams and Jellies Made.	Fruit Preserved.	Fruit Pulped.	Sauce Made.	Pickles Made.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	pints.	pints.
1917-18..	497,650	286,860	398,500	115,580	94,810	7,064,520	1,972,320
1918-19..	496,690	314,645	495,575	133,230	91,550	4,913,050	2,137,730
1919-20..	628,721	262,585	323,452	181,562	225,522	6,546,610	1,874,240
1920-21..	465,349	171,706	231,297	61,542	178,786	6,601,330	1,239,250
1921-22..	384,214	148,886	157,712	239,656	100,317	6,600,530	1,056,430
1922-23..	450,199	177,334	206,966	221,157	114,615	8,439,440	2,106,950
1923-24..	552,262	191,216	197,850	239,077	208,688	10,696,190	2,361,250
1924-25..	537,246	190,675	220,174	282,360	151,416	7,893,760	2,057,480
1925-26..	674,793	209,648	236,345	350,363	168,906	9,305,590	2,686,500
1926-27..	792,283	246,170	300,822	335,798	110,420	7,385,438	2,615,267

Some of these establishments also candied fruit peel, the quantities being 9,330 cwt. in 1917-18, 8,449 cwt. in 1918-19, 10,466 cwt. in 1919-20, 13,306 cwt. in 1920-21, 10,743 cwt. in 1921-22, 6,831 cwt. in 1922-23, 3,820 cwt. in 1923-24, 7,263 cwt. in 1924-25, 4,973 cwt. in 1925-26 and 4,508 cwt. in 1926-27. The value of the output in 1926-27 of the whole of the establishments whose produce is shown in the above table was £2,427,373.

**Beet Sugar
Industry.**

In 1896 Parliament made available £62,000 to assist in the establishment of the beet sugar industry at Maffra, in Gippsland. On receiving a guarantee that 1,500 acres of beet would be sown by local land-holders, a company erected a

large building and plant, and operated for two seasons. Although a good quality of sugar was produced, various climatic, financial, and other difficulties compelled the company to close down the works, and the Government, as chief creditor, took control.

In 1910 a definite campaign to revive the industry was commenced, and the mill was re-opened; since that time it has operated from year to year. Estates were purchased by the Government at Boisdale and Kilmany, and land was allotted to settlers, subject to the proviso that each would grow a certain quantity of beet. The compulsory system of securing acreage was not found satisfactory, and all crops are now grown voluntarily. Recently the financial results have been sufficiently favorable to more than compensate for all losses; the by-products have been found to be of great value to the dairying industry, and the sugar has become a most important item of Gippsland's food supply.

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission have advanced their irrigation scheme on the Macallister River, which will provide water for the district this season. Under irrigation it is anticipated that the beet supply will increase, and that the industry will expand on more favorable lines than in the past.

The following particulars summarize the results of the industry for the last ten seasons:—

Season.				Area Harvested.	Sugar Beet Harvested.	Sugar Produced.
				acres.	tons.	tons.
1917-18	..	..	..	1,200	14,487	1,660
1918-19	..	..	..	1,009	12,289	1,263
1919-20	..	..	..	1,080	13,084	1,551
1920-21	..	..	..	1,180	7,147	833
1921-22	..	..	..	1,602	16,578	1,872
1922-23	..	..	..	2,045	20,444	2,784
1923-24	..	..	..	1,937	29,512	3,499
1924-25	..	..	..	1,897	24,468	3,017
1925-26	..	..	..	1,880	21,194	2,315
1926-27	..	..	..	2,024	9,851	1,177

Last season was almost a failure owing to a drought, and the poorest season yet experienced; growers were paid 40s. a ton for their beets. Conditions appear much more favorable for the coming season, and the area under beets has been increased.

Breweries. Particulars regarding breweries for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27 are set forth in the next table. Machinery and plant were valued at £435,960 in 1917-18 and at £810,900 in 1926-27, whilst land and buildings were valued at £471,980 and £621,980 respectively in those years. The wages paid in 1926-27 amounted to £377,393.

BREWERIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Breweries.	Persons Employed.	Materials Used—			Beer and Stout Made.	Value of Output.
			Sugar.	Malt.	Hops.		
			cwt.	bushels.	lbs.	gallons.	£
1917-18	18	875	109,640	650,500	748,840	21,021,000	1,334,344
1918-19	17	940	112,080	625,770	722,590	20,963,000	1,476,335
1919-20	17	1,016	110,020	720,515	769,765	22,610,000	1,830,548
1920-21	16	1,054	104,140	753,260	736,580	22,257,000	2,098,720
1921-22	15	1,053	107,160	688,090	717,950	22,388,000	2,200,882
1922-23	14	1,091	110,051	723,511	768,870	23,212,000	2,322,814
1923-24	14	1,186	112,840	743,131	796,769	23,907,000	2,412,387
1924-25	14	1,263	113,729	744,048	784,080	23,286,000	2,479,619
1925-26	11	1,113	118,310	777,041	811,063	24,347,000	2,594,835
1926-27	10	1,156	121,666	814,298	831,317	26,484,000	2,605,704

Distilleries. The number of distilleries working in 1926-27 was 9, and the persons employed numbered 154, of whom two were working proprietors. The estimated value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £270,210. The quantities of materials used in manufacture and of spirits distilled in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

DISTILLERIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Materials Used.				Spirits Distilled.
	Wine.	Malt.	Other Grain.	Molasses.	
	gallons.	bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	proof gal.
1917-18	3,962,560	1,150,091
1918-19	397	5,604,480	1,185,629
1919-20	3,230,080	702,586
1920-21	1,422	2,682,960	572,671
1921-22	1,167,600	390,840
1922-23	85,120	473,152
1923-24	2,350,880	730,158
1924-25	2,727,650	561,153
1925-26	2,994,880	785,595
1926-27	2,437,920	995,708

Spirits made by vine-growers for fortifying wine are not included in the foregoing table. The following quantities were distilled in vineyards for that purpose during the last ten years:—5,134 gallons in 1917-18, 2,232 gallons in 1918-19, 5,141 gallons in 1919-20, 15,486 gallons in 1920-21, 23,020 gallons in 1921-22, 14,930 gallons in 1922-23, 13,792 gallons in 1923-24, 19,245 gallons in 1924-25, 14,850 gallons in 1925-26, and 11,259 gallons in 1926-27.

The number of tobacco, cigar, and cigarette factories licensed in 1926-27 was twenty-eight, of which sixteen were too small to be classified as ordinary factories and were consequently not included in the statistical tabulation on page 272. In the year mentioned the remaining twelve gave employment to 1,701 persons who were paid £353,842 in wages, and used machinery, plant, land and buildings valued at £419,540. The subjoined table shows the quantity of tobacco leaf used by and the output of the full number of licensed establishments for the last ten years:—

TOBACCO FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Unmanufactured Leaf Operated on.		Quantity Manufactured.			
	Australian.	Imported.	Tobacco.	Snuff.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	number.	number.
1917-18 ..	558,278	4,598,364	5,479,191	313	27,920,180	126,883,970
1918-19 ..	405,625	5,096,176	5,842,142	1,049	27,973,908	125,372,900
1919-20 ..	573,932	5,139,098	6,164,126	426	35,232,399	143,374,400
1920-21 ..	751,137	5,290,854	6,443,480	228	35,549,722	109,686,950
1921-22 ..	535,590	5,250,641	6,345,508	232	33,893,695	152,908,600
1922-23 ..	540,322	5,628,555	6,709,030	231	32,699,019	99,771,650
1923-24 ..	471,832	4,998,680	5,833,903	99	29,244,981	87,896,350
1924-25 ..	427,152	5,222,496	5,998,437	50	30,794,864	77,840,200
1925-26 ..	449,575	5,055,260	5,879,683	100	29,595,805	70,135,500
1926-27 ..	527,807	4,662,288	5,520,998	—	27,657,963	70,314,868

There were twenty-seven woollen mills working in 1926-27, and the number of persons employed therein was 6,717, of whom seventeen were working proprietors. The wages paid amounted to £1,012,566, and the approximate value of the machinery, plant, land and buildings was £3,302,890. The value of the raw materials used during the year was £2,288,556, and that of the goods manufactured in the same period, £4,581,445. The quantities of wool and cotton used and of goods manufactured in each of the last ten years were as follows:—

WOOLLEN MILLS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Quantity of Scoured Wool Used.	Quantity of Cotton Used.	Goods Manufactured—				Value of Output.
			Tweed and Cloth.	Flannel.	Blankets.	Shawls and Rugs.	
	lbs.	lbs.	yards.	yards.	pairs.	number	£
1917-18	4,332,420	832,400	1,429,050	5,411,990	214,410	8,560	1,036,081
1918-19	4,614,585	513,800	1,429,200	5,047,490	191,130	19,430	1,126,119
1919-20	7,285,570	578,542	2,212,202	3,667,816	165,794	51,637	1,976,428
1920-21	7,702,055	553,282	2,509,198	4,035,298	224,745	47,179	2,397,610
1921-22	8,015,650	586,836	1,872,512	5,759,987	297,700	51,598	2,482,761
1922-23	9,640,760	621,490	1,714,460	6,622,350	314,803	71,073	3,264,025
1923-24	7,936,456	848,812	1,927,298	6,095,442	377,354	115,443	3,561,480
1924-25	8,782,203	544,364	1,898,647	3,594,427	319,026	130,094	3,433,231
1925-26	10,679,901	285,482	3,438,142	3,618,260	250,943	93,766	3,976,224
1926-27	14,510,421	1,013,077	4,854,389	6,213,860	327,113	116,855	4,581,445

During the period 1917-18 to 1926-27 the value of the output of woollen mills increased by 342 per cent. Steady progress is indicated by the above table, the year 1926-27 having shown a large increase in output of all articles of manufacture.

The development which has taken place in the boot industry in recent years is exhibited in the following tables :—

BOOT FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Wages Paid.
			£	£
1917-18	231	8,565	577,125	858,874
1918-19	238	8,961	627,770	987,203
1919-20	264	10,357	716,305	1,252,004
1920-21	304	9,212	927,310	1,208,760
1921-22	334	11,714	1,130,425	1,760,589
1922-23	371	12,434	1,338,555	1,922,345
1923-24	400	12,434	1,529,615	1,941,075
1924-25	430	12,099	1,748,815	2,054,563*
1925-26	431	12,262	1,764,685	2,088,244*
1926-27	204	12,192	1,470,440	2,140,054*

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

For the year 1926-27 the boot repair factories have been excluded from this classification. To enable a comparison to be made the following figures relating to boot repair establishments are given :—

Year.	Number of Factories.	Persons Employed.	Value of Machinery Plant, Land, and Buildings.	Wages Paid.
1926-27	272	536	£414,350	£101,738

OUTPUT OF BOOT FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Goods Manufactured—		Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
	Boots and Shoes.	Slippers.*		
	pairs.	pairs.	£	£
1917-18	6,049,510	205,614	2,093,803	3,442,302
1918-19	6,073,117	243,383	2,563,423	4,040,550
1919-20	6,774,267	552,652	3,909,570	5,996,639
1920-21	5,447,504	559,213	2,911,852	4,964,462
1921-22	7,571,231	903,992	3,109,863	6,043,172
1922-23	7,591,946	851,289	3,059,769	6,157,132
1923-24	7,063,385	1,107,257	2,879,194	5,888,699
1924-25	7,496,004	1,167,581	2,913,105	5,832,625
1925-26	7,660,638	1,724,418	2,995,490	6,045,226
1926-27	8,147,282	2,100,228	3,006,256†	6,105,072†

* Includes canvas shoes and house-boots.

† The value of materials used in boot repairing was £74,663, and the value of output, £379,620.

The value of the output of establishments connected with the manufacture of dress, i.e., clothing, tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, underclothing, hats and caps, &c., but exclusive of boots and shoes, was £15,517,404 in 1926-27, as compared with £7,674,705 in 1917-18. During the period 1917-18 to 1926-27 the persons employed increased by 21 per cent., the wages paid by 130 per cent., the value of materials used by 151 per cent., and the value of the output by 102 per cent. Particulars of the industry for each of the last ten years are as follows:—

DRESS (EXCLUSIVE OF BOOT) FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Factories.	Number of Persons Employed.			Amount of Wages Paid.	Value of Materials Used.	Value of Output.
		Males.	Females.	Total.			
					£	£	£
1917-18	1,209	3,730	24,630	28,360	1,788,136	4,512,648	7,674,705
1918-19	1,210	3,776	23,505	27,281	1,915,096	5,205,460	8,599,603
1919-20	1,252	4,123	25,490	29,613	2,490,549	6,628,276	11,407,324
1920-21	1,346	4,383	25,980	30,363	2,872,171	7,804,264	12,994,011
1921-22	1,424	4,674	27,370	32,044	3,328,326	7,689,101	13,429,230
1922-23	1,526	4,951	28,595	33,546	3,554,303	7,456,539	13,354,238
1923-24	1,501	4,751	26,772	31,523	3,574,059	7,181,020	13,118,477
1924-25	1,500	4,823	26,295	31,118	3,837,919*	7,388,950	13,584,190
1925-26	1,491	4,862	26,458	31,320	4,022,168*	7,833,863	14,199,570
1926-27	1,535	5,348	28,941	34,289	4,492,778*	8,530,529	15,517,404

* Including amounts drawn by working proprietors.

Particulars relating to the electric light and power works of the State are given in the next table:—

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER WORKS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Horse-power of Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Electricity Supplied.	Value of Output.
			£		£	British units.	£
1917-18	75	48,526	1,889,550	1,167	183,948	79,486,000	760,117
1918-19	77	48,777	2,135,310	1,149	190,280	83,778,000	835,190
1919-20	78	49,241	2,632,665	1,215	217,995	100,838,000	953,039
1920-21	79	54,189	2,660,945	1,242	283,309	115,105,000	1,131,331
1921-22	84	57,481	3,166,750	1,350	334,805	136,021,000	1,407,268
1922-23	88	72,106	4,042,910	1,451	377,048	157,728,000	1,614,139
1923-24	90	154,622	5,864,065	1,752	462,172	405,108,000	2,176,551
1924-25	84	205,777	7,900,455	2,011	549,849	413,556,000	2,382,582
1925-26	83	188,342	5,035,460	1,149	338,807	460,710,000	1,648,113
1926-27	86	219,626	5,144,035	1,120	323,286	580,221,000	1,768,514

The decrease in the number of persons and the value of machinery and plant and output in electric supply undertakings for the last two years is due to a change in the method of compilation. In previous years, the figures related to both generation and distribution, but since 1924-25 only those relating to the former are given.

The particulars relating to the power houses at Newport under the control of the Victorian Railways Commissioners and the State Electricity Commission are included for the last four years in the figures which appear in the above table. This largely accounts for the seeming discrepancy between the quantity and value of the output for the years mentioned. The quantity of electricity generated in these power houses in 1926-27 was 241,534,000 units; the value of this has been estimated at bulk rates by the respective departments.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACTS 1918 AND 1920.

When it was first appointed in 1919, the operations of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria were carried on under the provisions of the *Electricity Commissioners' Act* 1918, which provided for the appointment by the Governor in Council of three Commissioners to administer the Act. By an amending Act of the 24th December, 1920, the name of the Act was changed to the *State Electricity Commission Act* 1918, and provision was made, *inter alia*, for the appointment of four Commissioners for a period of seven years, one of whom would devote the whole of his time to the Commission's works as permanent chairman. In addition to the Acts mentioned above, the Commission administers the *Electric Light and Power Act* 1915, the provisions of which give it control over all electrical undertakings in the State.

The duties of the Commission include the following:—

- (1) To inquire into and report to the Government as to the steps which should be taken to co-ordinate and concentrate all electrical undertakings in Victoria, and to secure the efficient inter-connexion of such undertakings by the adoption of the necessary standards of plant, pressure, &c.
- (2) To encourage and promote the use of electricity for industrial and manufacturing purposes, and to report to the Government on the prospects of establishing new industries in Victoria requiring large quantities of electrical energy.
- (3) To carry out investigations of coal deposits or of water power in connexion with the generation of electricity.

The Commission is vested with the following powers in relation to electrical undertakings:—

- (1) To erect and operate electrical undertakings.
- (2) To supply electricity in bulk to any corporation.
- (3) To supply electricity to any person outside any area in which there is an existing undertaking.

- (4) To carry on any business associated with an electric undertaking.
- (5) To make regulations as to precautions to be adopted in the use of electricity, and to arrange for the licensing of electric wiremen.

Authority is also given to the Commission to establish and operate State Coal Mines.

The Commission has complete control over all officers and employees required for the carrying out of the provisions of the Act.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Act, the Commission has constructed a coal winning plant and an electric generating station in the neighbourhood of Morwell, for the purpose of utilizing the practically unlimited supplies of brown coal in that area. The scheme provides for the winning of coal on the open cut system by means of mechanical appliances, for the erection of a power station close to the site of the open cut, having an initial capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, with provision for triplication, and for the erection at Yarraville of a receiving station with the necessary switch and transforming gear. Both stations are now complete and in operation, as is also the initial installation of briquetting plant at Yallourn, which produces, approximately, 100,000 tons of brown coal briquettes annually.

The Commission has also installed at Newport a station with an initial capacity of 15,000 kilowatts. This station, which was built mainly to meet the urgent need for electricity pending the completion of the Yallourn plant, is now regarded as a peak load station.

Supply of electricity from the Commission's generating station at Yallourn is already being given to the following towns in the Gippsland district (in addition to the Commission's township of Yallourn):—Morwell, Traralgon, Moe, Trafalgar, Yarragon, Maffra, Sale, Tyers, Heyfield, Mirboo North, Drouin, Korumburra, Leongatha, Cowwarr, Boolarra, Rosedale, Bairnsdale, Stratford, Newry and Darnum. Ultimately, supply will be given to other towns throughout Gippsland.

A transmission line has been built from Geelong, stretching through the western and south-western district of Victoria to the city of Warrnambool (a distance of 117 miles), giving supply to the latter town and to the following towns *en route*:—Colac, Camperdown, Terang, Mortlake, Warrion, Beacac, Cobden, Noorat, Alvie, Allansford, Winchelsea, Cororooke, Pomboineit, Kolora, Bellerine, Moolap, Larpent, Nalangil, Ryan's Lane, Wool Wool and Birregurra.

Supply has also been given to the towns of Point Lonsdale, Queenscliff, Portarlington, Drysdale, Ocean Grove, and Barwon Heads, by another transmission line from Geelong.

The energy is generated at the Melbourne Electric Supply Company's Power House at Geelong under an agreement between that body and the Electricity Commission until such time as energy is available from the Commission's main power station at Yallourn.

The Commission is supplying energy in bulk to the Melbourne City Council, the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, the Melbourne

Harbor Trust, the municipalities of Box Hill, Brunswick, Coburg, Williamstown, Footscray, Heidelberg, Northcote, Port Melbourne, Preston, Braybrook, and Lilydale, and has built a subsidiary line, operating at 22,000 volts which encircles the eastern half of the outer metropolitan area, passing through and giving service to Ringwood, Dandenong, Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula. It has also taken over the supply and retail distribution of energy to Dandenong, Werribee, Altona, Sunbury, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale, and Essendon—Flemington. At the 30th June, 1927, the Commission was supplying, either in retail or in bulk, over 100 towns or centres throughout Victoria.

The Commission is empowered to develop hydro-electric resources, and with this object to maintain survey parties constantly in the field for the purpose of obtaining data relative to stream flow, volume, &c.

The building of hydro-power stations at Royston, Rubicon, Rubicon Lower and Sugarloaf is proceeding. A fifth station, at Rubicon Falls, of 400 B.H.P., is complete. It supplies energy for the construction of the scheme, as well as supplying power and light to Thornton and farms in the district. A sixth station, at Snobbs Creek, is included in the scheme, but its construction is being deferred for the present. All will feed into a common sub-station about eight miles from Sugarloaf. The total capacity of hydraulic turbines to be installed in these stations is 40,250 brake horse-power. All stations will be in operation in 1928. The construction of the transmission line from Sugarloaf to Thomastown, and from Sugarloaf to Albury and Corowa (New South Wales), via Benalla and Wangaratta, is complete, and, pending completion of the hydro-electric plant, supply is given to the north-eastern portions of the State over the transmission line from Yallourn, via Yarraville and Thomastown terminal stations. This line also serves Echuca, Shepparton, Wahgunyah, Yarrawonga, Springhurst, Mooroopna, Tatura, Merrigum, Benalla, Chiltern, Tongala, Rutherglen and Kyabram.

Particulars in regard to gasworks are given below for each of the last ten years, but the figures for the last two years are not comparable with those of preceding years owing to the exclusion of all particulars relating to distribution. Prior to 1925-26 the published figures included both manufacture and distribution.

GASWORKS, 1917-18 to 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Works.	Persons Employed.	Wages Paid.	Coal Used.	Gas Made.	Coke Produced.	Value of Output.
			£	tons.	cubic feet.	tons.	£
1917-18 ..	47	2,089	375,181	318,560	4,505,847,000	200,660	1,263,030
1918-19 ..	46	2,270	420,597	353,584	4,904,351,000	220,287	1,373,603
1919-20 ..	45	2,267	472,855	331,149	4,592,305,000	206,245	1,395,320
1920-21 ..	45	2,213	576,515	339,250	4,499,088,000	216,771	1,608,999
1921-22 ..	45	2,309	609,600	383,092	5,151,380,000	239,755	1,953,936
1922-23 ..	45	2,444	639,954	402,537	5,443,993,000	260,526	1,941,808
1923-24 ..	45	2,561	699,173	410,517	5,407,962,000	259,080	2,008,571
1924-25 ..	45	2,464	668,006	406,868	5,608,313,000	226,438	2,087,358
1925-26 ..	35	933	258,764	422,783	5,801,335,000	273,773	1,433,000
1926-27 ..	33	959	264,918	442,391	5,855,817,000	283,998	1,967,485

Oil was used as well as coal in the manufacture of gas, the number of gallons consumed each year being 396,717 in 1917-18, 355,933 in 1918-19, 343,764 in 1919-20, 360,376 in 1920-21, 600,188 in 1921-22, 248,481 in 1922-23, 223,986 in 1923-24, 175,127 in 1924-25, 114,947 in 1925-26, and 88,601 in 1926-27.

The facilities afforded in the metropolitan area have had the effect of bringing within that area the more important of the manufacturing industries. The distribution of factories by classes between the metropolis and the remainder of the State, for 1917-18 and each of the last three years, is exhibited in the following statement:—

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	Number of Factories.							
	Metropolis.				Remainder of State.			
	1917-18	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1917-18	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	85	83	80	83	225	191	187	160
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	16	18	20	21	10	9	10	10
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	95	151	152	168	77	110	112	109
Working in wood . .	205	356	364	336	248	349	330	342
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	520	707	721	807	197	216	229	216
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	237	267	263	267	412	454	448	465
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . .	1,188	1,627	1,629	1,719	300	373	364	368
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	294	380	393	410	157	176	171	172
Musical instruments, &c. . .	11	19	19	19	..	1	..	..
Arms and explosives . .	8	8	7	7	4	1	1	1
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . .	256	427	449	468	305	419	423	481
Ship and boat building and repairing . .	11	10	10	11	2	1	1	2
Furniture, upholstery and bedding . .	249	387	390	448	25	38	39	48
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . .	64	93	89	92	39	38	28	22
Surgical and other scientific appliances . .	29	35	36	40	1	2	3	4
Jewellery, time-pieces and plated-ware . .	87	106	100	112	5	5	5	5
Heat, light, and power . .	55	102	109	26	107	120	107	103
Rubber and Leather-ware . .	41	56	56	106	..	3	2	24
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	59	75	84	18	3	12	16	..
Total . .	3,510	4,907	4,985	5,158	2,117	2,518	2,476	2,532

Since 1917-18 the number of factories in the State has increased by 2,063, the greatest numerical increase in the classes being that

of the clothing and textile factories, of which there were 599 more in 1926-27 than in 1917-18.

The employment afforded in each class of industry is set forth in the next statement:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Class of Industry.	1917-18.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Treating raw materials, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	3,632	4,276	4,077	4,209	4,112
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	883	920	950	891	941
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	3,921	6,661	6,181	5,975	6,117
Working in wood . . .	6,948	10,825	10,198	9,685	9,134
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	16,183	24,978	24,464	25,663	28,563
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	17,100	19,199	19,344	18,813	18,881
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . .	40,312	50,248	49,633	50,188	55,101
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	8,940	12,098	11,703	11,374	11,720
Musical instruments, &c. . .	229	498	467	529	532
Arms and explosives . . .	1,030	423	428	471	537
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . .	4,654	7,028	6,984	7,386	8,236
Ship and boat building and repairing . . .	653	392	432	388	388
Furniture, bedding, and upholstery . . .	2,867	4,629	4,782	4,527	5,460
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . .	2,207	2,699	2,774	2,713	2,811
Surgical and other scientific appliances . . .	149	195	236	230	269
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware . . .	1,028	1,110	1,069	1,097	1,044
Heat, light, and power . . .	4,146	5,879	6,311	4,186	2,984
Rubber and Leatherware, n.e.i. . .	750	1,071	940	919	4,496
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	2,609	3,033	3,185	3,715	313
Total . . .	118,241	156,162	154,158	152,959	161,639

The total increase in the number of hands employed during the period covered by the above table was 43,398, which represented an advance of about 36 per cent. The greatest development had taken place in clothing factories, vehicles, &c., and metal works, which showed increases of 14,789, 3,582, and 12,380 respectively in the number of persons employed in 1926-27 as compared with the number in 1917-18. The apparent increase in rubber and leatherware is due to an alteration in classification by which rubber goods have been transferred from minor wares.

Size of
factories.

An examination of the figures relating to the number of factories in 1917-18 and in 1926-27 shows that percentage increases were more pronounced in the smallest sized factories and in those employing from 51 to 100 and from 21 to 50 hands. In the case of persons employed, the largest percentage increases were in the groups under 4 hands, 51 to 100 hands, and over 100 hands respectively. Particulars of factories of different sizes in 1917-18 and 1926-27 are given in the next two tables :—

FACTORIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED.

Size of Factory.	Number of Factories.			Average Number of Persons Employed.		
	1917-18.	1926-27.	Increase.	1917-18.	1926-27.	Increase.
Under 4 hands..	1,213	2,051	% 69·08	2,738	4,315	% 57·59
4 " ..	615	811	31·87	2,460	3,244	31·87
5 to 10 " ..	1,810	2,215	22·37	12,472	15,465	23·99
11 to 20 " ..	881	1,125	27·69	12,804	16,479	28·70
21 to 50 " ..	669	900	34·52	21,166	28,774	35·94
51 to 100 " ..	243	340	39·92	16,559	24,177	46·00
Over 100 " ..	196	248	26·53	50,042	69,185	38·25
Total ..	5,627	7,690	36·66	118,241	161,639	36·70

PROPORTION OF FACTORIES OF DIFFERENT SIZES.

Size of Factory.	Percentage to Total.			
	Factories.		Persons Employed.	
	1917-18.	1926-27.	1917-18.	1926-27.
Under 4 hands	21·56	26·7	2·32	2·7
4 "	10·93	10·6	2·08	2·0
5 to 10 "	32·17	28·8	10·55	9·6
11 to 20 "	15·65	14·6	10·83	10·2
21 to 50 "	11·89	11·7	17·90	17·8
51 to 100 "	4·32	4·4	14·00	14·9
Over 100 "	3·48	3·2	42·32	42·8
Total	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Occupations
in factories.

In the following table the persons employed in factories are grouped according to their occupational status :—

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Occupations.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25	1925-26.	1926-27.
Working proprietors ..	6,904	7,296	7,500	7,255	7,254	7,334
Managers, overseers ..	4,454	4,673	4,929	5,043	5,213	5,580
Accountants, clerks ..	6,307	6,582	6,966	6,827	6,034	6,519
Engine-drivers, firemen	2,156	2,106	2,197	2,142	2,065	2,036
Workers in factory or works ..	119,598	126,791	129,617	128,706	128,948	137,025
Outworkers ..	1,476	1,228	870	728	736	592
Carters, messengers ..	3,115	3,316	3,378	2,766	2,394	2,065
Others ..	866	633	705	691	315	488
Total ..	144,876	152,625	156,162	154,158	152,959	161,639

Outworkers. The term “ outworker ” used in the above table relates to factory workers working in their own homes, but does not include individuals working for themselves. The employment of outworkers is regulated by a special provision of the Factories and Shops Act. They are required to register their names and addresses with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and factory proprietors are forbidden to give work to those who are not registered.

Sex distribu-
tion in
factories.

The average numbers of males and females employed in factories and their proportions to the male and female populations, for the years 1917-18 to 1926-27, were as follows :—

EMPLOYMENT OF MALES AND FEMALES IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Male Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Female Population.	Number.	Average per 10,000 of Total Population.
1917-18 ..	76,654	1,142	41,587	562	118,241	838
1918-19 ..	81,357	1,188	40,992	550	122,349	855
1919-20 ..	92,101	1,243	44,421	588	136,522	913
1920-21 ..	96,379	1,277	44,364	580	140,743	926
1921-22 ..	97,789	1,279	47,087	599	144,876	934
1922-23 ..	103,092	1,307	49,533	618	152,625	960
1923-24 ..	107,578	1,334	48,584	593	156,162	961
1924-25 ..	105,984	1,286	48,174	578	154,158	930
1925-26 ..	104,512	1,246	48,447	573	152,959	908
1926-27 ..	108,969	1,278	52,670	613	161,639	944

Males formed 64·8 per cent. in 1917-18 and 67·4 per cent. in 1926-27 of the total persons employed. The increase during the period 1917-18 to 1926-27 in the number of males employed was 32,315, or 42·2 per cent., and in the number of females employed, 11,083, or 26·7 per cent.

Of the total females in factories 80·3 per cent. are engaged in the textile and clothing industries, and 10·6 per cent. in the preparation of food and drink. The extent of female employment in certain industries is shown in the next table :—

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES, 1926-27.

Industry.	Number Employed.		Females per 100 Males.
	Males.	Females.	
Oatmeal, &c.	412	374	90·77
Biscuit	769	560	72·82
Jam, pickle, and sauce	1,673	931	55·64
Confectionery	1,927	1,985	103·01
Tobacco, &c.	1,090	611	56·05
Woolen mills	2,972	3,745	126·00
Clothing, tailoring, &c.	2,099	7,083	337·44
Dressmaking, millinery	459	8,361	1,821·57
Underclothing, shirts, ties, &c.	580	6,353	1,095·34
Hats, caps, &c.	594	1,151	193·77
Hosiery	1,100	5,018	456·18
Waterproof clothing	80	239	298·75
Fur	241	378	156·84
Boots and shoes	6,595	5,597	84·86
Printing, &c.	6,324	1,673	26·45
Bookbinding, &c.	706	601	85·12
Paper making, Paper bag, &c.	836	1,001	119·73
Sail, tent, rope, twine	639	488	76·36
Chemicals	719	698	97·08
Ammunition	323	214	66·25
Upholstery, bedding, &c.	734	427	58·17
Match	177	433	244·63
Fancy leather	422	384	90·99
Rubber goods	2,816	743	26·38
All other factories	74,682	3,622	4·85
Total	108,969	52,670	48·33

A favorable feature of factory statistics has been the small proportion of children engaged in factories.

Of the male and female employees, boys and girls under 16 constituted 4·46 and 7·77 per cent. respectively in 1926-27, as against 4·45 and 5·97 per cent. in 1917-18. The number of children

employed in factories and their proportions to the total employees are given in the subjoined table for the years 1917-18 to 1926-27:—

CHILDREN EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Total Children.	Proportion per cent. of—		
				Boys to Male Employees.	Girls to Female Employees.	Children to Total Employees.
1917-18 ..	3,195	2,447	5,642	4.45	5.97	5.00
1918-19 ..	3,137	2,389	5,526	4.15	5.90	4.73
1919-20 ..	3,721	2,872	6,593	4.04	6.47	4.83
1920-21 ..	3,715	2,798	6,513	4.11	6.39	4.86
1921-22 ..	3,780	3,120	6,900	4.13	6.71	5.00
1922-23 ..	4,031	3,163	7,194	4.18	6.48	4.95
1923-24 ..	4,057	3,422	7,479	4.03	7.15	5.03
1924-25 ..	4,027	3,223	7,250	4.05	6.78	4.94
1925-26 ..	3,980	3,489	7,469	4.06	7.30	5.13
1926-27 ..	4,567	4,041	8,608	4.46	7.77	5.58

Machinery
in factories.

In the following table are shown the number of factories using mechanical power, the total horse-power of the engines used, and the value of the machinery and plant for the ten years 1917-18 to 1926-27:—

MACHINERY IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Number of Factories equipped with Machinery.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Horse-power of Engines.
		£	
1917-18	4,371	12,612,797	149,095
1918-19	4,470	13,645,220	153,408
1919-20	4,737	15,846,935	166,803
1920-21	5,161	18,179,385	182,143
1921-22	5,473	21,182,110	191,881
1922-23	5,762	23,994,715	216,427
1923-24	6,030	28,223,915	314,561
1924-25	6,168	32,563,815	374,064
1925-26	6,321	30,549,130	367,318
1926-27	6,637	31,580,350	414,992

The nature of the power used and the capacity of the machinery in the factories of the State are set out in the next table. Establishments using more than one kind of mechanical power are included once only in the first portion, usually under the power which is principally used. The second portion shows the total horse-power of engines used.

POWER USED IN FACTORIES, 1917-18 TO 1926-27.

Year.	Number of Factories using—					
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Water, Wind, or Horses.	Manual Labour.
1917-18 ..	896	784	2,365	285	41	1,256
1918-19 ..	875	782	2,481	297	35	1,250
1919-20 ..	910	761	2,712	315	29	1,301
1920-21 ..	941	705	3,128	360	27	1,371
1921-22 ..	935	666	3,474	364	34	1,280
1922-23 ..	910	655	3,795	372	30	1,334
1923-24 ..	885	540	4,174	402	29	1,259
1924-25 ..	812	476	4,448	403	29	1,257
1925-26 ..	736	413	4,709	432	31	1,140
1926-27 ..	678	334	5,141	467	17	1,053

Year.	Actual Horse-power of Engines.				
	Steam.	Gas.	Electricity.	Oil.	Total.
1917-18 ..	89,561	19,045	38,246	2,243	149,095
1918-19 ..	91,245	18,929	40,791	2,443	153,408
1919-20 ..	95,747	19,183	48,814	3,059	166,803
1920-21 ..	103,048	19,331	56,602	3,162	182,143
1921-22 ..	106,882	19,327	62,663	3,009	191,881
1922-23 ..	112,547	18,968	81,679	3,233	216,427
1923-24 ..	195,744	18,394	95,340	5,083	314,561
1924-25 ..	233,290	17,869	117,525	5,380	374,064
1925-26 ..	235,872	15,422	107,812	8,212	367,318
1926-27 ..	268,061	13,548	123,359	10,024	414,992

Although steam is the principal motive power, and was used to supply 65 per cent. of the total mechanical power employed in factories in 1926-27, a remarkable development is shown in the use of electricity, which in 1917-18 was used by 2,365, and in 1926-27 by 5,141 factories, the actual horse-power increasing from 38,246 to 123,359 in the same period.

Wages in
Factories.

The total amount and the average amount of salaries and wages paid to persons employed in factories are given in the following table for each of the last ten years :—

SALARIES AND WAGES PAID IN FACTORIES.

Year.	Drawings by Working Proprietors (excluding Profits).		Salaries paid to Managers and Clerks.		Wages paid to Factory Workers.		Total Salaries and Wages paid.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1917-18	..	..	1,462,220	190,707	8,679,530	2,170,144	12,502,601
1918-19	..	..	1,625,584	208,524	9,906,082	2,340,213	14,080,403
1919-20	..	..	1,967,959	270,875	12,515,207	2,948,132	17,702,173
1920-21	..	..	2,384,372	310,024	15,284,545	3,898,275	21,377,216
1921-22	..	..	2,563,467	357,691	16,933,984	3,991,353	23,846,495
1922-23	..	..	2,761,045	394,366	18,038,101	4,353,680	25,547,192
1923-24	..	..	3,003,855	436,425	19,577,822	4,458,982	27,472,084
1924-25	1,538,868	74,043	3,055,257	443,676	19,460,304	4,484,904	29,057,052
1925-26	1,590,771	80,876	2,996,929	448,387	19,547,974	4,664,463	29,329,400
1926-27	1,837,094	95,988	3,268,208	495,735	20,931,037	5,194,577	31,822,539
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1917-18	..	..	231 4 4	99 15 11	132 8 6	55 10 1	110 15 4
1918-19	..	..	244 5 4	101 7 5	141 19 8	60 19 0	120 9 5
1919-20	..	..	264 8 1	118 6 9	157 16 8	70 17 5	135 10 5
1920-21	..	..	298 19 7	124 15 2	185 12 4	82 5 11	159 8 4
1921-22	..	..	316 18 11	133 16 4	202 19 11	91 2 11	172 16 9
1922-23	..	..	331 10 9	134 14 8	204 12 2	94 16 5	175 15 9
1923-24	..	..	339 19 1	142 13 5	212 19 0	99 7 1	184 15 11
1924-25	233 8 11	111 13 7	347 18 0	143 13 7	214 15 5	100 19 4	186 16 4*
1925-26	240 18 4	124 4 8	363 7 11	149 9 3	218 0 4	104 2 6	189 16 5*
1926-27	275 18 6	141 18 5	369 19 2	151 16 8	223 18 1	106 12 0	193 14 1*

* These figures are based on numbers of persons employed and the wages, etc., paid to all persons employed, excluding working proprietors.

The particulars appearing in the above table reveal continued increases from year to year in the average earnings of all groups. In the average wage of all employees, the largest increase was from the year 1919-20 to 1920-21. The figures for the year 1926-27 show an advance of £3 17s. 8d. in the average wage paid per employee.

The average wage for 1926-27 (£193 14s. 1d.) was probably below the average according to the determinations of Wages Boards, and would be mainly accounted for by the fact that the former sum is based on the actual payments to workers, while the latter represents the average of the sums to which they would have been entitled if they had worked throughout the whole year. There is, of necessity, a difference between the two averages, as all hands are not continuously employed, nor are all factories working throughout the whole year.

The cost of production and the value of the output in each class of manufacturing industry during the year 1926-27 are given in the subjoined statement:—

FACTORY COSTS AND OUTPUT, 1926-27.

Class of Industry.	Cost of—			Value of Output.
	Raw Materials Used.	Fuel, Light, and Power Used.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	
	£	£	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. . .	4,666,417	109,597	944,589	6,451,989
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. . .	937,064	55,442	206,946	1,540,844
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. . .	1,006,134	562,891	1,453,821	4,084,161
Working in wood . . .	2,313,206	51,446	2,082,581	5,378,947
Metal works, machinery, &c. . .	7,607,605	409,105	6,771,497	17,692,908
Connected with food and drink, &c. . .	26,121,287	616,644	4,044,136	36,071,851
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. . .	14,660,873	310,550	7,971,729	27,591,787
Books, paper, printing, &c. . .	2,930,759	120,302	2,583,871	7,091,237
Musical instruments, &c. . .	150,304	2,269	124,610	337,548
Arms and explosives . . .	227,946	17,872	118,442	440,722
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. . .	1,151,641	57,107	1,716,581	3,590,428
Ship and boat building and repairing . . .	37,827	5,686	92,795	167,572
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding . . .	1,529,254	32,301	1,077,740	3,200,093
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products . . .	1,820,540	72,042	597,554	3,285,676
Surgical and other scientific instruments . . .	38,681	1,530	51,558	119,518
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware . . .	225,417	7,598	214,018	547,052
Heat, light, and power . . .	1,694,844	842,851	765,593	5,066,231
Rubber and leatherware, n.e.i. . .	2,599,740	116,270	955,539	4,560,628
Minor wares, n.e.i. . .	97,396	945	48,989	178,759
Total . . .	69,816,935	3,392,448	31,822,589	127,397,951

The difference between the sum of the first three columns and the last column represents the amount available for miscellaneous expenses, interest, and profit. The proportions which this margin and the chief items of the cost of production bear to the total value

of production in each class of industry are shown in the following table:—

PROPORTIONATE VALUE OF COSTS, ETC., TO PRODUCTION
IN FACTORIES, 1926-27.

Class of Industry.	Percentage of Costs, &c., to Total Value of Production.			
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, &c.	Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.
	%	%	%	%
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c. ..	72·3	1·7	14·7	11·3
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c. ..	60·8	3·6	13·4	22·2
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c. ..	24·6	13·8	35·6	26·0
Working in wood ..	43·0	1·0	38·7	17·3
Metal works, machinery, &c. ..	43·0	2·3	38·3	16·4
Connected with food and drink, &c. ..	72·4	1·7	11·2	14·7
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c. ..	53·1	1·1	28·9	16·9
Books, paper, printing, &c. ..	41·3	1·7	36·4	20·6
Musical instruments, &c. ..	44·5	0·7	36·9	17·9
Arms and explosives ..	51·7	4·0	26·9	17·4
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c. ..	32·1	1·6	47·8	18·5
Ship and boat building and repairing	22·6	3·4	55·4	18·6
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding ..	47·8	1·0	33·7	17·5
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products ..	55·4	2·2	18·2	24·2
Surgical and other scientific instruments ..	32·4	1·3	43·1	23·2
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware ..	41·2	1·4	39·1	18·3
Heat, light, and power ..	33·4	16·7	15·1	34·8
Rubber and Leatherware, n.e.i. ..	57·0	2·5	21·0	19·5
Minor wares, n.e.i. ..	54·5	·5	27·4	17·6
Total ..	54·8	2·7	25·0	17·5

There are considerable variations in the proportions which the cost of materials and the expenditure on wages bear to the value of the output in the different classes of industries. These are, of course, due to the difference in the treatment required to present the raw material in its manufactured form. Thus in brickworks, &c., the sum paid in wages represents 36 per cent. and the cost of raw materials 25 per cent. of the value of the finished article, whilst in the industries connected with food and drink the expenditure on wages amounts to 11 per cent. and that on raw materials to 72 per cent. of the value of the output.

Cost of
production,
1917-18 to
1926-27.

In the next table the cost of production, the value of the output of factories, and the balance available for profit and miscellaneous expenses are compared for the years 1917-18 to 1926-27 :—

**COST OF PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF OUTPUT OF
FACTORIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.**

Year.	Cost of Production.				Total Value of Output.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	All other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	£	£	£	£	£
1917-18 ..	42,133,636	1,248,186	12,502,601	11,182,292	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	52,098,737	1,457,124	14,080,403	12,559,413	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	65,563,104	1,723,220	17,702,173	16,486,866	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	65,401,425	2,184,096	21,377,216	17,045,557	106,008,294
1921-22 ..	60,352,561	2,329,760	23,846,495	19,714,365	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	62,658,163	2,443,681	25,547,192	20,637,307	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	62,217,874	2,803,239	27,472,084	21,428,730	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	65,205,233	2,964,635	29,057,052	20,950,478	118,177,398
1925-26 ..	67,164,445	3,156,382	29,329,400	20,336,212	119,986,439
1926-27 ..	69,816,935	3,392,448	31,822,589	22,365,979	127,397,951

These figures are reduced in the appended statement to their proportionate value of the total output.

**PROPORTION OF OUTLAY TO OUTPUT OF FACTORIES,
1917-18 to 1926-27.**

Year.	Proportion of Outlay to Output.				Total.
	Materials.	Fuel, Light, and Power.	Salaries and Wages.	Other Expenditure, Interest, and Profit.	
	%	%	%	%	%
1917-18 ..	62·8	1·9	18·6	16·7	100·0
1918-19 ..	65·0	1·8	17·5	15·7	100·0
1919-20 ..	64·6	1·7	17·4	16·3	100·0
1920-21 ..	61·7	2·0	20·2	16·1	100·0
1921-22 ..	56·8	2·2	22·4	18·6	100·0
1922-23 ..	56·3	2·2	23·0	18·5	100·0
1923-24 ..	54·6	2·5	24·1	18·8	100·0
1924-25 ..	55·2	2·5	24·6	17·7	100·0
1925-26 ..	56·0	2·6	24·4	17·0	100·0
1926-27 ..	54·8	2·7	25·0	17·5	100·0

The apparent decrease for 1924-25, 1925-26, and 1926-27 in the percentage available for profit and miscellaneous expenses, as shown in the last table, is due to the fact that the amount of salaries and wages includes for those years the sums drawn regularly by working

proprietors amounting respectively to £1,612,911, £1,671,647, and £1,933,032.

The ratio of salaries and wages to the value of the output of factories was 24·2 per cent. on the average of the last five years, as against 19·5 per cent. in the period 1917-18 to 1921-22. The cost of materials was 55·4 per cent. of the value of output in the period 1922-23 to 1926-27, as compared with 61·9 per cent. in the years 1917-18 to 1921-22. The proportionate outlay on fuel, light, and power was 1·9 per cent. in the former and 2·5 per cent. in the latter period. The balance available for miscellaneous expenses, rent, interest, and manufacturers' profit was £17 17s. 11d. in every £100 of the total output value in the period 1922-23 to 1926-27, as compared with £16 4s. 0d. in the preceding five-year period.

In the following statement the amount of capital invested in machinery and plant and land and buildings used in connexion with the various classes of manufacturing industries is shown for the year 1926-27 :—

MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1926-27.

Class of Industry.	Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
	£	£
Treating raw material, product of pastoral pursuits, &c.	728,080	917,570
Treating oils and fats, animal, vegetable, &c.	309,425	243,765
Processes in stone, clay, glass, &c.	1,378,705	1,198,425
Working in wood	1,242,460	1,144,400
Metal works, machinery, &c.	3,805,465	4,352,135
Connected with food and drink, &c.	5,864,050	5,851,870
Clothing and textile fabrics, &c.	4,445,195	6,934,000
Books, paper, printing, &c.	2,793,080	2,678,165
Musical instruments, &c.	42,115	171,670
Arms and explosives	280,970	437,340
Vehicles, saddlery, harness, &c.	666,950	2,417,105
Ship and boat building and repairing	103,635	172,870
Furniture, upholstery, and bedding	286,025	1,117,775
Drugs, chemicals, and by-products	826,100	710,055
Surgical and other scientific instruments	21,695	79,050
Jewellery, time-pieces, and plated-ware	63,245	257,615
Heat, light, and power	7,856,720	2,746,220
Rubber and Leatherware, n.e.i.	839,460	777,960
Minor wares, n.e.i.	26,075	61,665
Total	31,580,350	32,269,655

The capital invested in plant, buildings, &c., used in connexion with three classes of industries—food and drink; clothing and textile fabrics; and heat, light and power—amounted, in the year under review, to £33,698,055, or more than one-half of the total for all manufacturing industries.

The values of machinery and plant and of land and buildings used in connexion with manufacturing industries are shown in the next table for the years 1917-18 to 1926-27 :—

**MACHINERY, PLANT, LAND AND BUILDINGS USED IN
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, 1917-18 to 1926-27.**

Year.						Value of Machinery and Plant.	Value of Land and Buildings.
						£	£
1917-18	..	..	..	..	..	12,612,797	12,847,485
1918-19	..	..	..	..	..	13,645,220	13,673,515
1919-20	..	..	..	..	..	15,846,935	14,957,585
1920-21	..	..	..	..	..	18,179,385	17,313,350
1921-22	..	..	..	..	..	21,182,110	19,810,170
1922-23	..	..	..	..	..	23,994,715	22,428,525
1923-24	..	..	..	..	..	28,223,915	24,972,560
1924-25	..	..	..	..	..	32,563,815	28,468,160
1925-26	..	..	..	..	..	30,549,130	29,847,370
1926-27	..	..	..	..	..	31,580,350	32,269,655

It will be seen from these figures that the values of machinery and plant and land and buildings increased by 151 per cent. between 1917-18 and 1926-27.

In the appended table the number of accidents in factories is given for the last ten years. The particulars in the table relate to establishments which came within the scope of the Factories Acts in force in the years specified, and not to those classified for statistical purposes in the preceding tables.

The large increase shown in the number of accidents since 1919 is mainly attributable to an amendment of the law, which made compulsory the reporting of accidents. Previously, only those of a serious nature were reported.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES, 1917 to 1926.

Year.						Number of Employees.	Number of Accidents.	Percentage of Accidents to Number of Employees.
1917	..	..				97,561	442	·453
1918	..	..				104,242	459	·440
1919	..	..				116,369	362	·311
1920	..	..				116,846	862	·737
1921	..	..				117,633	830	·705
1922	..	..				126,630	787	·621
1923	..	..				128,915	1,034	·802
1924	..	..				129,147	1,052	·814
1925	..	..				128,013	996	·778
1926	..	..				135,510	1,252	·924

**Manufactures—
Penal
Department
and Blind
Institute.**

The foregoing tables do not include particulars relating to work of various kinds done by the Penal Department at Pentridge and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. At the former establishment the manufacture of wire netting, clothing, brushware, boots, mats, blankets, flannel, underclothing, bread, and printing are carried on. The estimated value of the output for 1926-27 was £58,837, and of the materials used, £46,036. The articles produced are used principally by Government Departments. The work carried on by the latter is the manufacture of brooms, brushware, wickerware, and coir mats and matting, and gives employment to 144 persons (124 males and 20 females). The value of the work turned out for the period under review was £30,219.

**Value of
Victorian
production.**

The value of all articles produced or manufactured in Victoria has been compiled from actual returns or estimates in the office of the Government Statist, and the results are set forth in the following table:—

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1922-23 TO 1926-27.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
<i>Cultivation.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Wheat	8,031,875	8,189,069	11,993,546	6,665,150	9,546,812
Oats	1,416,355	1,455,331	934,538	684,320	653,291
Barley, malting ..	298,792	195,545	258,263	202,206	192,349
" other ..	137,445	66,665	95,743	87,960	103,390
Maize	205,314	253,276	137,948	172,825	152,055
Other Cereals ..	75,553	71,173	53,227	58,525	58,483
Grass and Clover					
Seed	3,537	3,880	3,886	2,749	2,350
Potatoes	1,040,662	701,229	682,878	1,309,470	671,673
Onions	139,888	215,444	209,803	267,793	110,839
Other Root Crops ..	11,800	15,032	12,340	18,297	15,161
Hay	6,327,338	5,229,162	3,639,496	3,497,253	4,719,925
Straw	76,644	66,677	66,920	63,988	47,970
Green Forage* ..	512,255	536,855	497,655	539,365	436,205
Tobacco	35,600	41,880	49,120	47,160	57,700
Grapes, not made into wine, raisins, &c.	71,793	45,589	45,372	77,333	74,889
Raisins, ordinary ..	132,308	27,420	57,867	78,452	99,080
" sultanas ..	555,059	122,775	733,919	676,965	1,195,183
Currents	171,642	57,027	110,099	93,972	132,536
Wine	171,740	217,713	153,986	177,371	254,184
Hops	23,195	29,772	53,000	54,193	16,074
Other Crops	81,447	104,066	78,848	125,788	109,022
Fruit grown for sale in orchards and gardens	1,172,325	1,193,689	1,091,508	1,247,723	970,831
Fruit in private orchards and gar- dens	10,670	10,505	9,945	12,070	9,570
Market Gardens ..	493,780	810,600	731,000	830,450	887,550
Less Deductions ..	..	..	-3,535,135	-3,283,560	-4,822,130
Total	21,197,026	19,660,374	18,165,772	13,702,818	15,744,992

* Exclusive of area under sown grasses.

VALUE OF VICTORIAN PRODUCTION, 1922-23 TO 1926-27—continued.

Produce.	Value in—				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Dairying and Pastoral.</i>					
Milk consumed in natural state ..	1,995,280	2,130,245	1,784,590	2,333,000	2,326,800
Butter made ..	6,660,600	6,491,310	6,618,240	6,182,120	6,233,400
Cheese made ..	168,180	253,795	204,890	227,660	270,620
Cream made (not for butter) ..	127,530	177,090	190,540	184,350	154,880
Condensed, Concentrated, and Powdered Milk ..	1,434,720	1,509,400	1,582,915	1,437,660	1,498,060
Cattle ..	3,384,270	1,413,310	3,538,240	3,707,000	2,330,830
Pigs ..	1,280,040	1,507,600	1,588,620	1,720,740	1,343,750
Sheep (without wool) ..	3,752,260	2,600,450	4,390,380	3,316,660	2,585,770
Wool ..	6,380,600	7,695,000	11,440,240	7,082,820	7,376,683
Less Deductions ..	..	..	-1,723,178	-1,771,800	-2,340,426
Total ..	25,178,480	23,778,300	29,615,977	24,420,210	22,280,367
<i>Mining.</i>					
Gold ..	453,962	405,245	285,316	200,958	208,778
Coal ..	695,430	563,239	610,671	762,521	846,697
Stone from Quarries (including limestone) ..	468,468	518,064	530,820	666,765	700,200
Other Metals and Minerals ..	48,021	45,829	41,848	37,284	124,567
Total ..	1,665,881	1,532,427	1,468,655	1,667,528	1,880,242
<i>Forest Produce.</i>					
Timber (Forest Saw-mills only) ..	946,930	942,480	745,580	711,970	863,493
Firewood (estimated) ..	927,860	1,033,700	1,053,870	1,071,000	888,400
Bark for Tanning ..	136,830	130,660	132,935	129,490	136,906
Total ..	2,011,620	2,106,840	1,932,385	1,912,460	1,888,799
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>					
Honey and Beeswax ..	40,122	45,559	78,981	41,694	47,282
Poultry production (estimated) ..	4,315,810	4,587,560	4,443,200	4,515,400	4,819,500
Rabbits and Hares ..	266,478	310,930	403,680	697,665	508,340
Fish ..	160,151	161,905	164,296	187,851	167,461
Total ..	4,782,561	5,105,954	5,090,157	5,442,610	5,542,583
Total Value of Primary Products ..	54,835,568	52,183,395	56,272,946	47,145,626	47,336,983
Manufacturing—Added Value* ..	46,355,804	49,141,526	45,271,348	46,006,461	51,005,430
Grand Total ..	101,191,372	101,325,421	101,544,294	93,152,087	98,342,413

* Exclusive of value of output of butter and cheese factories, and forest saw-mills (as regards Victorian timber), which is included above under the headings "Dairying and Pastoral" and "Forest Produce," respectively.

The figures for the last three years in the above table under the headings "Cultivation" and "Dairying and Pastoral" are not strictly comparable with those of previous years owing to certain deductions

(in addition to freight and handling charges) having been made consisting chiefly of cost of bags, cases, seed, manure, spraying material, and produce used in the production of crops in the former, and of hay, bran and pollard, green fodder, and root crops used as fodder in the case of the latter.

Similarly the basis for the calculation of added value in manufacturing has been altered since the year 1923-24. Added value is now obtained by deducting from the total value of output the cost of materials used, fuel and light, tools replaced, repairs to plant, &c., whereas prior to 1924-25 the value of materials used was the only deduction. This explains the apparent decrease under this head for 1924-25.

The values of different kinds of production per head of the total population in each of the last five years were as follows:—

VALUE OF PRODUCTION PER HEAD OF POPULATION,
1922-23 to 1926-27.

Produce.	Value of Produce per head in—				
	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cultivation ..	13 6 7	12 1 11	10 19 3	8 2 9	9 4 0
Dairying and Pastoral	15 16 8	14 12 7	17 17 5	14 10 0	13 0 4
Mining ..	1 0 11	0 18 10	0 17 9	0 19 10	1 1 11
Forest ..	1 5 4	1 5 11	1 3 4	1 2 8	1 2 1
Miscellaneous ..	3 0 2	3 2 10	3 1 5	3 4 8	3 4 9
Total Primary Production	34 9 8	32 2 1	33 19 2	27 19 11	27 13 1
Manufactures ..	29 3 0	30 4 8	27 6 5	27 6 5	29 15 11
Grand Total	63 12 8	62 6 9	61 5 7	55 6 4	57 9 0

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR VICTORIA, 1836 to 1927.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immi- grants (by Sea).	Emi- grants (by Sea).
	Persons.	Males.	Females.					
1836	224	186	38	1	3	..	..	..
1840	10,291	7,254	3,037	358	198	177	4,080	..
1850	76,162	45,495	30,667	2,673	780	969	10,760	3,304
1860	537,847	328,251	209,596	22,863	12,061	4,351	29,037	21,689
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087
1880	860,067	451,456	408,611	26,148	11,652	5,286	56,955	45,294
1890	1,133,266	596,064	537,202	37,578	18,012	9,187	79,777	63,820
1900	1,197,206	602,487	594,719	30,779	15,215	8,308	82,157	83,684
1910	1,301,408	646,482	654,926	31,437	14,736	10,240	82,594	77,951
1911	1,339,893	668,818	671,075	33,044	15,217	11,088	106,349	93,246
1912	1,382,553	690,056	692,497	35,817	16,595	11,738	124,527	99,933
1913	1,415,416	707,444	707,972	35,978	15,475	11,324	114,586	101,718
1914	1,435,188	713,307	721,881	36,225	16,503	11,830	109,149	*99,043
1915	1,424,445	694,210	730,235	35,010	15,823	12,832	*85,977	*82,189
1916	1,404,663	666,245	738,418	34,239	16,489	11,341	*80,458	*76,687
1917	1,417,060	671,075	745,985	33,035	14,555	9,506	*58,976	*58,774
1918	1,437,245	684,243	753,002	31,601	15,177	9,156	*48,566	*51,631
1919	1,503,035	739,956	763,079	31,621	19,370	11,706	*33,621	*37,099
1920	1,527,909	753,803	774,106	36,214	16,832	14,898	*65,595	59,956
1921	1,550,686	764,905	785,781	35,593	16,165	13,676	66,537	63,944
1922	1,590,225	788,626	801,599	36,288	15,156	12,996	81,903	66,355
1923	1,625,380	806,546	818,834	35,876	17,219	13,126	87,248	69,986
1924	1,657,095	824,182	832,913	36,139	16,503	13,296	88,467	72,548
1925	1,684,017	838,693	845,324	35,922	15,836	13,370	77,487	64,276
1926	1,711,827	852,399	859,428	35,362	16,335	13,405	88,026	73,799
1927	1,741,390	867,409	873,981	35,074	16,773	13,608	90,338	77,079

* Exclusive of members of the Australian Expeditionary Forces.

STATE FINANCE.

Year ended June—	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.	Expenditure by Government from Loan Funds.	Loan Expenditure on—		
				Railways.	Country Water Supply.	Closer Settlement (Including Soldier Settlement).
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1836*	..	2,165	..	..	..	..
1840*	255,984	70,129	..	..	..	..
1850*	259,433	196,440	..	..	..	..
1860*	3,082,461	3,315,307	†	†	†	..
1870*	3,261,883	3,428,382	†	†	†	..
1880	4,621,282	4,875,029	1,435,376	1,209,892‡	37,982	..
1890	8,519,159	9,645,737	4,188,934	3,260,244	427,186	..
1900	7,453,355	7,285,636	1,033,588	594,484	144,149	63,985
1910	8,760,305	8,742,293	1,209,505	657,666	286,823	198,945
1911	9,372,637	9,362,291	2,657,271	1,230,381	311,709	956,900
1912	10,181,840	10,171,386	2,974,149	1,703,453	259,281	889,000
1913	10,508,945	10,479,741	2,202,697	1,231,113	256,724	569,473
1914	10,958,037	10,944,718	3,282,386	2,468,338	239,963	273,189
1915	10,529,017	11,706,968	4,912,585	3,172,444	304,766	211,636
1916	11,470,875	11,683,363	4,047,651	2,440,317	347,135	81,490
1917	11,813,879	11,795,295	2,306,627	1,266,352	287,561	92,700
1918	12,672,787	12,631,169	1,901,747	761,705	284,020	282,970
1919	13,044,088	12,979,407	2,627,716	577,356	414,459	1,105,541
1920	15,866,184	15,752,459	7,502,756	1,146,593	484,325	5,221,221
1921	19,054,475	18,941,698	11,099,694	1,413,434	810,437	6,936,252
1922	20,357,733	20,297,279	11,880,927	3,886,534	968,047	4,287,132
1923	21,634,677	21,611,309	8,764,306	1,674,643	1,210,485	2,420,764
1924	23,075,968	23,050,968	8,407,526	1,395,282	1,415,109	2,433,330
1925	24,384,887	24,250,483	7,940,589	1,379,182	1,405,623	1,725,960
1926	25,269,756	25,559,583	8,001,375	1,489,285	1,587,477	1,307,819
1927	27,128,700	27,744,903	9,277,180	1,821,005	1,541,900	1,866,362
Total to date	..	..	160,199,930	63,455,840	19,052,457	32,609,568

NOTE.—For expenditure by the Country Roads Board, see page 613.

* Year ended 31st December.

† Details of Loan Expenditure for each year prior to 1872-3 are not available. The total loan expenditure up to 30th June, 1872, was £12,484,568, of which £9,790,526 had been expended on Railways, and £878,062 on Country Water Supply.

‡ Including purchase money of the late Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company's lines.

STATE AND MUNICIPAL FINANCE.

Year.	Public Debt at end of Financial Year. *	Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.		
		No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	No.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.
	£		£	£		£	£
1857	1,458,700	19	16,520,160	219,960	16	2,890,550	58,113
1860	5,643,100	41	19,512,925	324,728	42	8,242,199	122,470
1870	12,099,800	65	22,607,630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881
1880	20,567,700	57	31,199,483	416,765	117	52,647,936	405,187
1890	41,377,693	59	86,226,966	925,638	133	108,086,680	925,673
1900	49,325,885	58	67,302,423	657,775	150	106,839,331	531,102
1910	55,576,725	60	114,113,507	1,015,028	146	150,970,220	754,586
1911	57,983,764	61	119,400,893	1,056,575	146	155,677,624	761,853
1912	60,737,216	61	127,743,501	1,149,044	147	160,128,933	796,472
1913	62,776,724	61	137,649,219	1,259,569	147	164,268,467	840,080
1914	66,130,726	61	147,205,224	1,320,545	147	167,405,523	854,483
1915	73,083,927	52	149,235,137	1,378,006	141	169,724,979	827,466
1916	76,775,032	51	154,105,571	1,407,021	139	172,309,539	847,206
1917	78,125,395	52	158,777,843	1,487,526	139	172,558,872	875,940
1918	79,595,646	52	164,306,704	1,598,643	139	176,297,529	927,901
1919	82,031,929	52	172,838,636	1,857,884	139	184,599,186	1,022,241
1920	87,647,739	55	193,947,624	2,053,584	138	205,555,121	1,171,379
1921	97,317,831	53	210,501,055	2,314,017	139	215,984,328	1,279,099
1922	109,099,199	53	233,586,201	2,648,855	139	221,623,773	1,382,922
1923	118,562,029	53	264,693,364	2,992,159	139	235,274,597	1,496,764
1924	124,108,326	53	288,230,793	3,354,343	139	250,480,405	1,646,410
1925	131,169,565	55	314,333,446	3,763,373	139	257,350,043	1,815,707
1926	140,264,989	55	339,221,826	4,191,063	139	267,100,576	1,921,483

* Including corporations guarantee loans.

EXPENDITURE BY THE COUNTRY ROADS BOARD.

Year.	Expenditure on Maintenance of Roads.*	Loan Expenditure on—			Total Expenditure on Construction and Maintenance of Roads.
		Mainten'ce State Highways‡	Construction Works.†	Developmental Roads.‡	
	£	£	£	£	£
1913-14	9,490	..	24,440	..	33,930
1914-15	49,888	..	342,681	..	392,569
1915-16	98,879	..	464,787	..	563,666
1916-17	130,537	..	226,603	..	357,140
1917-18	173,785	..	226,395	1,703	401,883
1918-19	179,133	..	284,734	47,561	511,428
1919-20	192,303	..	335,755	315,701	843,759
1920-21	221,395	..	271,850	693,245	1,186,490
1921-22	267,969	..	288,864	626,998	1,183,831
1922-23	288,129	..	266,046	364,112	918,287
1923-24	343,233	..	200,755	467,329	1,011,317
1924-25	463,065	5,117	228,849	600,404	1,297,435
1925-26	441,625	346,707	302,844	658,565	1,749,741
Total	2,859,431	351,824	3,464,603	3,775,618	10,451,476

* One-half of this expenditure incurred prior to 1st January, 1925, and one-third of expenditure incurred subsequent to that date, is repaid by the municipalities affected annually.‡

† One-half of this expenditure is repaid by the municipalities over a period of 31½ years.

‡ The municipalities pay a proportion of the interest on the expenditure incurred in making these roads, and they maintain the roads after they have been constructed.

§ The whole cost is borne by the State.

BANKING.

Year.	Joint Stock Banks (excluding Commonwealth Bank).					State Savings Banks.*		
	No. of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Deposits.	No. of Branches & Agencies.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.
		£	£	£	£			£
1854	6	3,367,560	10,536,528	7,494,909	5,068,792	4	2,761	180,020
1860	9	6,134,657	12,693,727	9,238,731	7,225,728	9	10,135	484,501
1870	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571	10,899,026	123	41,738	1,047,147
1880	11	9,126,250	23,284,822	19,488,512	17,972,703	202	92,115	1,661,409
1890	16	13,281,790	60,937,955	42,224,084	40,292,065	360	281,509	5,262,105
1900	11	13,746,458	41,755,928	31,895,571	30,638,285	371	375,070	9,110,793
1910	11	13,933,729	47,341,431	44,746,441	43,188,975	416	560,515	15,417,887
1911	12	14,529,658	49,343,205	48,158,503	47,485,600	423	595,424	17,274,423
1912	12	14,529,735	49,543,884	47,836,052	47,258,048	422	641,736	19,662,465
1913	16	23,677,252	50,335,420	49,255,216	48,686,121	433	674,542	21,508,125
1914	16	25,074,076	51,996,067	51,819,656	50,896,536	445	705,029	23,258,775
1915	16	25,112,160	59,449,407	55,813,235	54,040,102	451	721,936	24,874,811
1916	17	26,519,044	63,435,125	60,195,632	59,202,831	461	746,597	26,143,908
1917	17	27,006,166	59,737,528	65,329,672	64,042,657	459	780,139	28,344,042
1918	16	27,013,981	75,489,092	78,296,932	76,390,503	464	813,031	30,756,929
1919	16	28,155,048	70,903,238	80,028,961	78,518,187	468	850,486	34,104,110
1920	17	35,915,745	88,536,893	88,049,750	86,085,423	473	886,344	37,232,543
1921	16	36,001,087	84,033,765	83,741,022	82,249,429	484	928,009	42,956,461
1921-2	15	36,872,469	74,659,508	78,100,614	76,546,572	499	970,431	45,968,222
1922-3	15	38,914,827	83,170,293	86,657,683	85,135,739	518	1,015,346	49,540,039
1923-4	15	41,627,576	84,248,711	85,937,244	84,301,488	540	1,059,008	51,497,200
1924-5	15	45,581,952	86,530,137	87,377,627	85,674,995	560	1,095,462	53,145,015
1925-6	15	45,928,051	92,845,850	91,953,493	90,067,719	567	1,130,121	56,461,927
1926-7	14	51,706,539	99,961,588	93,538,580	91,923,909	582	1,167,631	58,303,506

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. Particulars relating to Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December; those relating to Trustee Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June. They were merged into one institution on 1st October, 1897, and is since known as the State Savings Bank. The figures exclude School Banks and Deposit Stock Accounts.

CROWN LANDS ; COMMERCE.

Year.	Crown Land Sales.		Imports.	Exports.	Total Exports of Victorian Produce.	Exports Oversea of—	
	Area Sold.	Amount Realized.	Total Value.	Total Value.		Butter.	
						Quantity.	Value.
	acres.	£	£	£	£	lbs.	£
1857	500,383	1,067,450	17,256,209	15,079,512	..	572,770	16,240
1860	492,248	663,238	15,093,730	12,962,704	11,061,076	705,040	27,974
1870	337,507	463,821	12,455,758	12,470,014	9,103,323	137,475	4,704
1880	409,738	471,824	14,556,894	15,954,559	11,220,467	1,096,401	29,996
1890	249,373	322,946	22,954,015	13,266,222	10,291,821	1,297,777	47,972
1900	494,694	526,650	18,301,811	17,422,552	13,918,556	32,087,739	1,243,260
1910	127,890	171,904	*	*	*	39,698,122	1,780,044
1911	121,062	136,277	*	*	*	51,304,010	2,361,587
1912	128,069	165,854	*	*	*	31,451,378	1,545,771
1913	152,989	164,065	*	*	*	34,542,925	1,681,987
1914	129,235	145,003	*	*	*	† 9,373,252	† 475,898
1915	117,161	113,167	*	*	*	† 16,630,637	† 800,385
1916	89,177	80,238	*	*	*	† 11,417,311	† 719,653
1917	81,991	79,992	*	*	*	† 30,706,719	† 2,189,052
1918	76,039	78,235	*	*	*	† 24,323,648	† 1,664,299
1919	100,945	114,654	*	*	*	† 23,969,104	† 1,860,415
1920	187,228	192,861	*	*	*	† 24,170,187	† 2,089,296
1921	109,874	100,890	*	*	*	† 32,813,204	† 4,027,256
1922	106,286	118,698	*	*	*	† 45,985,904	† 3,026,447
1923	142,812	167,669	*	*	*	† 41,653,344	† 3,190,805
1924	126,123	167,322	*	*	*	† 35,578,812	† 2,751,312
1925	185,035	129,187	*	*	*	† 53,731,160	† 4,051,632
1926	124,080	87,740	*	*	*	† 32,874,047	† 2,542,626
1927	..	..	*	*	*	† 34,403,562	† 2,611,855

* Information not available owing to the Federal Government having abandoned the collecting and recording of Inter-State imports and exports from 13th September, 1910.

† For period of six months to 30th June.

‡ For year ended 30th June.

NOTE.—In addition to the quantity of land actually sold and the amount realized for sales effected and completed within the year, the figures under the head "Crown Land Sales" represent during each of the years after 1863 the total extent of, and the amount paid on lands purchased under deferred payments on which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold. This amounted, at the end of 1926, to 8,856,710 acres. The figures for 1894 include 12,221 acres disposed of to Messrs. Chaffey Bros. in previous years at £1 per acre, which area and amount were not previously taken into account. The figures for 1895 include 11,584 acres granted without purchase to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.; but, except for this, lands granted without purchase, which amounted, up to the end of 1926, to 130,463 acres (including 50,000 granted to Messrs. Chaffey Bros.), are excluded.

The figures for 1894 and 1895 which are referred to above appear on page 601 of the Year-Book for 1920-21.

COMMERCE—continued.

Year.	Value of Australian Produce Exported Oversea.	Value of Oversea Imports.	Value of Oversea Exports.	Value of Total Oversea Trade.
	†	†	†	†
	£	£	£	£
1859 ..	*	12,873,360	12,558,129	25,431,489
1860 ..	*	12,736,535	11,390,445	24,126,980
1870 ..	*	10,608,267	11,236,300	21,844,567
1880 ..	*	9,034,538	12,151,798	21,186,336
1890 ..	*	15,161,356	9,553,031	24,714,387
1900 ..	11,855,052	11,937,644	12,165,364	24,103,008
1910 ..	17,388,708	20,002,606	18,188,236	38,190,842
1911 ..	17,936,017	21,850,963	18,915,716	40,766,679
1912 ..	18,366,092	25,081,074	19,113,121	44,194,195
1913 ..	16,750,278	24,387,073	17,837,591	42,224,664
1914 (to 30th June) ..	8,746,861	12,718,794	8,994,698	21,713,492
1914-15 ..	12,009,497	21,050,310	12,349,662	33,399,972
1915-16 ..	14,279,482	26,761,922	14,748,730	41,510,652
1916-17 ..	18,668,224	25,474,839	19,030,146	44,504,985
1917-18 ..	20,270,842	21,113,588	20,716,688	41,830,276
1918-19 ..	27,682,262	35,026,311	28,095,159	63,121,470
1919-20 ..	42,236,835	33,788,287	43,124,940	76,913,227
1920-21 ..	33,890,767	57,608,777	34,871,961	92,480,738
1921-22 ..	33,681,068	36,352,056	34,644,182	70,996,238
1922-23 ..	33,148,563	46,729,100	33,768,701	80,497,801
1923-24 ..	29,088,613	49,592,643	29,612,548	79,205,191
1924-25 ..	41,066,355	54,289,690	41,641,979	95,931,669
1925-26 ..	32,645,589	50,327,055	33,107,576	83,434,631
1926-27 ..	34,323,556	55,560,899	34,741,689	90,302,588

* Information not available.

† The figures in these columns refer only to Imports from and Exports to countries beyond Australia.

COMMERCE—continued.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—						
	Wool.		Tallow.		Wheat.		Frozen Meats.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.
	lbs.	£	cwt.	£	bushels.	£	£
1850	17,780,000	815,892	87,763	130,397	85	21	..
1860	24,216,847	2,021,396	6,029	15,687	328	165	..
1870	51,830,526	3,199,309	197,420	358,092	5,294	1,458	..
1880	111,509,915	6,372,306	134,022	191,531	2,378,097	539,421	..
1890	131,041,074	5,862,011	162,140	156,535	505,025	95,930	..
1900	100,743,853	4,164,656	153,340	171,327	6,246,645	874,323	432,120
1910	164,213,073	7,190,789	248,735	378,924	15,319,971	3,091,079	888,001
1911	159,955,473	6,255,599	334,937	480,256	20,351,479	3,592,534	941,406
1912	166,859,531	6,990,918	229,638	324,497	9,183,280	1,836,387	889,297
1913	143,391,292	6,282,291	258,969	371,316	11,220,525	2,053,454	1,565,061
1914*	44,626,388	1,979,174	156,470	227,759	17,579,763	3,260,551	710,018
1914-15	115,234,566	5,251,177	143,695	192,400	786,432	160,642	1,779,952
1915-16	100,526,942	6,203,565	24,831	45,214	9,974,218	2,767,099	140,973
1916-17	84,127,550	6,149,212	106,260	246,091	18,089,912	4,177,726	630,494
1917-18	87,681,189	6,820,006	44,819	133,577	10,050,700	2,776,635	478,921
1918-19	146,762,561	10,968,651	177,489	467,529	15,070,085	3,923,715	891,297
1919-20	156,458,960	12,800,519	265,870	1,037,986	28,675,295	7,983,987	4,096,685
1920-21	118,862,086	8,909,004	101,400	282,306	21,760,063	10,086,400	1,036,982
1921-22	193,425,056	11,185,526	203,829	336,869	32,268,626	9,182,731	1,132,230
1922-23	204,143,606	16,115,971	278,058	451,405	9,252,600	2,498,066	2,448,056
1923-24	118,152,098	13,067,701	99,118	188,767	16,762,086	3,922,823	707,179
1924-25	117,325,046	14,446,378	215,726	441,986	31,777,857	10,413,976	1,123,529
1925-26	194,663,036	15,402,800	205,879	399,783	10,110,257	3,132,983	1,528,751
1926-27	177,553,535	14,305,946	210,945	355,498	24,750,755	6,976,711	1,322,723

* Period of six months to 30th June.

COMMERCE ; SHIPPING.

Year.	Exports (Oversea) of—			Shipping.			
	Flour.		Hides and Skins.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
	tons.	£	£				
1850 ..	..	..	1,245	555	108,030	508	87,087
1860 ..	995	17,713	141,194	1,814	581,642	1,841	599,137
1870 ..	1,077	13,423	23,141	1,759	630,474	1,834	645,571
1880 ..	11,742	113,404	86,127	1,648	1,006,478	1,688	1,028,721
1890 ..	7,323	68,036	163,258	2,076	2,119,171	2,078	2,128,895
1900 ..	21,672	132,398	271,691	1,928	2,901,619	1,935	2,912,696
1910 ..	68,766	609,960	1,296,516	2,308	4,952,273	2,312	4,954,773
1911 ..	79,684	629,427	1,089,451	2,335	5,148,184	2,347	5,156,952
1912 ..	68,782	600,267	1,329,400	2,399	5,426,146	2,385	5,410,801
1913 ..	84,689	710,416	1,688,409	2,481	5,950,035	2,469	5,902,277
1914* ..	48,113	398,442	552,211	1,281	3,150,689	1,297	3,208,400
1914-15	21,058	191,214	885,075	2,324	5,290,063	2,329	5,308,817
1915-16	55,600	653,490	534,440	2,392	4,935,129	2,385	4,902,245
1916-17	101,991	1,213,751	548,736	1,962	4,042,819	1,967	4,050,095
1917-18	135,180	1,529,789	478,236	1,721	2,871,343	1,724	2,873,770
1918-19	144,073	1,707,399	1,078,163	1,730	2,870,974	1,709	2,815,938
1919-20	207,616	3,259,296	1,947,747	1,792	3,987,262	1,809	4,021,188
1920-21	87,422	1,900,888	784,421	2,246	4,663,126	2,248	4,651,818
1921-22	145,127	2,157,754	768,010	2,442	5,506,127	2,436	5,518,393
1922-23	178,812	2,024,921	1,562,572	2,634	6,611,352	2,634	6,618,968
1923-24	211,685	2,175,854	1,704,857	2,666	6,782,495	2,676	6,749,873
1924-25	177,778	2,408,542	2,158,241	2,577	6,807,357	2,605	6,876,355
1925-26	162,081	2,177,935	2,273,963	2,470	6,485,561	2,447	6,494,779
1926-27	167,260	2,123,361	2,106,123	2,667	7,187,147	2,666	7,180,748

* Period of six months to 30th June.

POST OFFICE, TELEGRAPHS, AND TELEPHONES.

Year.	Postage.			Electric Telegraphs.			Tele- phones.‡
	Number of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.†	Number of Newspapers.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.‡	Number of Sub- scribers.
1860	311	8,116,302	5,683,023	33	*	166,803	..
1870	677	11,133,283	5,287,482	95	3,371	454,598	..
1880	1,100	24,195,149	10,640,540	284	6,019	1,160,912	..
1890	1,671	62,526,448	22,729,005	748	13,499	3,114,783	2,307
1900	1,615	74,291,204	25,466,342	824	15,198	1,993,009	5,136
1910	1,657	143,483,191	*	1,374	16,405	2,757,737	20,236
1911	1,720	159,092,011	36,125,728	1,455	17,403	2,894,664	22,859
1912	1,730	175,588,805	37,826,929	1,538	18,649	2,969,237	26,562
1913	1,749	189,975,987	40,950,516	1,648	19,403	2,971,041	30,640
1914	1,816	188,440,698	40,737,663	1,748	26,146	3,267,195	34,071
1915-16	1,787	191,427,078	40,246,088	1,796	28,937	3,335,026	36,372
1916-17	1,782	201,093,447	43,175,024	1,711	29,446	3,428,871	38,025
1917-18	1,726	197,830,163	36,695,699	1,695	29,606	3,532,430	40,754
1918-19	1,715	188,526,047	34,982,384	1,671	30,860	3,804,234	44,035
1919-20	1,707	197,080,463	31,756,907	1,663	29,955	4,490,656	49,017
1920-21	1,712	180,797,030	31,660,611	1,703	31,243	4,096,843	52,791
1921-22	1,721	170,337,926||	31,293,290||	1,791	31,839	3,940,167	55,986
1922-23	1,736	178,682,295||	37,264,106||	1,858	32,594	4,094,863	61,201
1923-24	1,774	195,166,640||	40,241,184||	2,040	35,043	4,308,242	71,138
1924-25	1,785	205,819,138||	44,828,254||	2,219	38,388	4,461,790	81,794
1925-26	1,792	213,819,753||	46,552,400||	2,300	43,110	4,475,214	93,215
1926-27	1,821	229,642,369||	46,829,100||	2,333	46,241	4,460,352	101,891

* Information not available.

† Post cards were first issued in April, 1876. They are included with letters in this column.

‡ Telegrams on Railway service are not included in 1890 and subsequent years. There was a reduction in the rates for telegrams in 1885 which led to a large increase in their number.

§ The Telephone system was taken over by the Post Office on 22nd September, 1887. Previously it was worked as a private undertaking.

|| Exclusive of letters and newspapers posted in other States for delivery in Victoria, which are included in all previous years. In 1920-21 these numbered:—Letters, 20,681,335; newspapers, 2,218,408.

STATE RAILWAYS, ETC.

Year.	State Railways.					Churches, Chapels, and Buildings used for Public Worship.
	Miles Constructed.	Capital Cost.	Total Receipts.	Working Expenses.	Train Miles Travelled.	
		£	£	£		
1880	1,199	18,041,295	1,492,917	814,075	4,380,802	3,307
1890	2,471	32,588,375	3,131,866	2,132,158	11,773,152	4,583
1900	3,186	39,496,247	3,025,162	1,902,540	10,107,549	5,037
1910	3,544	43,091,478	4,455,748	2,827,735	12,045,866	4,748
1911	3,576	44,021,212	4,909,062	3,109,323	13,319,572	4,887
1912	3,675	45,603,114	5,233,979	3,455,086	14,203,681	4,946
1913	3,700	47,076,911	5,222,271	3,605,001	14,648,489	4,993
1914	3,888	49,311,907	5,581,474	3,886,348	15,570,098	5,173
1915	3,928	51,620,187	5,183,687	4,528,316	15,880,677	5,134
1916	4,153	54,560,106	5,730,743	4,141,588	14,424,357	5,059
1917	4,176	55,808,163	5,980,638	4,305,958	14,594,775	5,042
1918	4,205	56,694,141	6,593,873	4,603,905	14,147,896	5,010
1919	4,245	57,658,557	6,476,076	4,474,771	13,587,968	4,953
1920	4,270	58,496,357	8,287,063	6,265,754	15,687,177	4,720
1921	4,322	60,012,250	9,851,908	8,093,869	16,583,638	4,997
1922	4,372	63,186,759	10,857,853	8,287,146	15,830,605	4,846
1923	4,389	64,938,085	11,413,782	8,442,214	16,323,481	5,068
1924	4,488	66,212,984	12,025,987	8,982,880	17,245,219	4,964
1925	4,537	67,470,720	12,830,283	9,704,455	18,172,188	5,062
1926	4,681	69,181,724	12,743,566	9,833,240	18,267,000	4,884
1927	4,692	70,668,661	13,760,769	10,521,032	18,781,264	..

NOTE.—The figures for 1880 in relation to State Railways are for the calendar year; those for 1890 and subsequent years relate to the period of twelve months ending 30th June of the year mentioned in the table.

EDUCATION.

[illegible]

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES; OLD-AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS.

Year.	Friendly Societies.*				Old-age and Invalid Pensions.†		
	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Receipts.	Funds at end of Year.	Old-age.	Invalid.	Amounts Expended.
			£	£	No.	No.	£
1860	61	5,028	20,084	26,421	..	..	..
1870	592	34,224	117,295	186,384	..	..	..
1880	748	45,876	171,987	450,719	..	..	..
1890	1,003	86,450	322,747	909,504	..	..	..
1900	1,132	96,802	372,631	1,318,165	..	..	..
1910	1,475	139,308	534,616	2,122,602	20,218	..	470,656
1911	1,498	145,439	559,585	2,246,396	23,722	2,272	573,699
1912	1,505	151,262	580,371	2,361,464	24,449	3,162	672,593
1913	1,501	155,601	606,785	2,490,957	25,434	3,918	715,924
1914	1,524	158,511	620,765	2,644,216	27,150	4,844	795,449
1915	1,533	158,746	634,649	2,775,787	28,365	6,054	839,718
1916	1,522	157,819	672,650	2,912,178	28,446	6,869	908,159
1917	1,516	158,035	653,055	3,017,503	29,064	7,921	1,070,386
1918	1,496	153,870	658,435	3,073,083	29,159	8,901	1,168,498
1919	1,489	146,919	664,526	3,056,666	29,179	9,337	1,199,787
1920	1,475	143,651	681,232	3,173,678	29,565	10,277	1,348,100
1921	1,464	143,421	763,031	3,375,050	30,385	11,174	1,533,430
1922	1,467	145,254	790,788	3,549,798	30,958	11,444	1,581,898
1923	1,469	150,264	1,193,550	3,838,052	31,248	11,707	1,589,362
1924					32,603	12,220	1,947,069
1925					33,845	12,950	2,027,202
1926	1,467	156,599	820,550	4,280,400	36,800	14,062	2,348,571
1927	..	..	..	..	38,702	15,327	2,666,470

* Until 1880 the figures given do not represent particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the State, but only of such as furnished returns. For that year and subsequent years the returns are complete. The figures for 1923-24 relate to a period of eighteen months ended 30th June, 1924.

† Old-age pensions were first granted in Victoria on 18th January, 1901, and the Commonwealth Government took over the administration on 1st July, 1909. The figures relate to the financial year ended 30th June.

LIVE STOCK ; CRIME.

Year.	Live Stock.				Crime : Number of Persons—			
	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Taken into Custody.*	Committed for Trial.*	Convicted after Commitment.*	Executed.
1860	76,536	722,332	5,780,896	61,259	29,030	1,329	796	3
1870	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	22,527	908	573	5
1880	275,516	1,286,267	10,360,285	241,936	22,843	680	398	1
1890	436,469	1,782,881	12,692,843	282,457	37,339	1,129	662	..
1900	392,237	1,602,384	10,841,790	350,370	26,104	575	374	1
1910	472,080	1,547,569	12,882,665	333,281	19,070	503	354	..
1911	507,813	1,647,127	13,857,804	348,069	19,398	522	334	..
1912	530,494	1,508,089	11,892,224	240,072	19,814	518	352	1
1913	562,331	1,528,553	12,113,682	221,277	21,554	568	352	..
1914	552,053	1,362,542	12,051,685	243,196	21,084	518	342	..
1915	493,779	1,043,604	10,545,632	192,002	20,276	561	391	..
1916	514,403	1,175,098	12,576,587	254,436	17,599	509	343	2
1917	514,061	1,371,049	14,760,013	323,159	12,689	440	276	..
1918	523,788	1,596,544	15,773,902	267,819	10,346	340	209	2
1919	513,500	1,631,120	14,422,745	186,810	11,993	506	307	..
1920	487,503	1,575,159	12,171,084	175,275	14,582	759	442	..
1921	496,124	1,750,369	12,325,818	230,770	15,249	715	483	..
1922	494,947	1,785,660	11,765,520	294,962	16,163	684	434	1
1923	486,075	1,591,367	11,059,761	259,795	17,223	570	361	..
1924	473,236	1,605,554	12,649,898	288,509	17,786	514	347	1
1925	463,051	1,513,787	13,740,500	339,601	17,922	648	451	..
1926	447,988	1,435,761	14,919,653	284,271	18,853	719	436	..

* The figures prior to 1900 represent the number of offences with which persons arrested were charged ; those for 1900 and subsequent years represent distinct arrests.

MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Gold Raised.		Black Coal Produced.		Other Minerals.	Total.
	Estimated Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	oz. gross.	£	tons.	£	£	£
1870	1,304,304	5,217,216	100	100	24,421	5,241,737
1880	829,121	3,316,484	..	..	30,936	3,347,420
1890	588,560	2,354,240	14,601	13,899	16,311	2,384,460
1900	807,407	3,229,628	211,596	101,599	49,017*	3,380,244
1910	609,998	2,422,745	369,059	188,977	139,434	2,751,156
1911	542,074	2,140,855	653,864	298,829	178,107	2,617,791
1912	516,255	2,039,464	589,143	258,455	201,796	2,499,715
1913	467,052	1,847,475	593,912	274,371	222,898	2,344,744
1914	443,347	1,755,236	617,536	288,535	235,238	2,279,009
1915	352,272	1,397,793	588,104	274,770	282,884	1,955,447
1916	276,188	1,090,194	417,183	216,292	229,901	1,536,387
1917	217,092	857,500	466,220	335,259	307,473	1,500,232
1918	171,271	674,655	439,575	349,696	317,971	1,342,322
1919	146,981	575,260	423,946	372,075	382,791	1,330,126
1920	165,115	648,969	442,241	464,739	493,937	1,607,645
1921	114,602	443,938	514,859	603,323	495,893	1,543,154
1922	117,944	453,962	559,284	664,251	547,668	1,665,881
1923	105,111	405,245	476,823	525,270	601,912	1,532,427
1924	74,638	285,316	518,315	569,555	613,784	1,468,655
1925	51,857	200,958	534,246	596,117	791,598	1,588,673
1926	49,078	208,471	591,001	657,798	915,277	1,781,546

* From 1900 the production of stone quarries is included in the value of mineral production; before 1894 it was included in the output of manufacturing industries.

AGRICULTURE.

Year.	Total Area Cultivated.	Area under each Description of Tillage.					
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Malze.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	52,340½	28,510½	5,007¼	2,101½	24½	..	..
1860-61	407,740½	161,251½	86,337½	4,123½	1,650	111½	662
1870-71	762,031	284,167	149,309	19,646	1,014	1,168	4,366
1880-81	1,742,949	977,285	134,089	68,630	1,769	1,569	23,378
1890-91	2,417,527	1,145,163	221,048	87,751	10,357	948	25,992
1900-01	3,717,002	2,017,321	362,689	58,853	9,389	823	7,812
1910-11	5,386,247	2,398,089	392,681	52,687	20,151	2,640	11,068
1911-12	5,109,849	2,164,066	302,238	53,541	18,223	1,098	11,535
1912-13	5,706,579	2,085,216	439,242	71,631	19,986	1,428	11,875
1913-14	6,129,893	2,565,861	442,060	83,351	17,962	1,779	12,630
1914-15	5,969,304	2,863,535	434,815	62,492	19,433	1,955	12,944
1915-16	7,069,608	3,679,971	353,932	61,400	22,258	3,137	8,563
1916-17	6,750,894	3,125,692	441,598	93,015	23,076	3,481	9,956
1917-18	5,782,954	2,690,216	293,214	84,931	20,987	1,597	11,899
1918-19	5,491,020	2,214,490	342,867	100,198	22,559	982	12,398
1919-20	5,358,351	1,918,269	559,547	85,323	23,474	784	9,655
1920-21	6,425,250	2,295,865	443,636	93,954	24,149	1,717	7,655
1921-22	6,583,276	2,611,198	318,681	100,127	23,227	1,320	9,423
1922-23	7,049,429	2,644,314	492,356	102,773	25,846	1,291	12,287
1923-24	6,976,441	2,454,117	520,654	56,564	29,104	899	12,195
1924-25	6,976,664	2,705,323	517,229	63,764	23,126	1,029	12,787
1925-26	6,890,628	2,513,494	437,696	103,395	21,913	978	15,056
1926-27	7,304,194	2,915,315	303,424	88,896	20,046	864	11,476

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Rye.	Peas and Beans.	Potatoes.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.
1850-51	556,167	99,535	40,144	4	..	..	5,613
1860-61	3,459,914	2,633,693	83,854	25,045	1,720	11,973	77,258
1870-71	2,870,409	2,237,010	240,825	20,028	14,856	73,449	127,579
1880-81	9,727,369	2,362,425	1,068,830	49,299	13,978	403,321	129,262
1890-91	12,751,295	4,919,325	1,571,599	574,083	17,583	739,310	204,155
1900-01	17,847,321	9,582,332	1,215,478	604,180	11,989	146,357	123,126
1910-11	34,813,019	9,699,127	1,340,387	982,103	32,647	223,284	163,312
1911-12	20,891,877	4,585,326	1,024,584	792,660	9,981	181,113	119,092
1912-13	26,223,104	8,323,639	1,744,527	715,299	17,141	232,856	191,112
1913-14	32,936,245	8,890,321	1,812,890	800,529	19,029	226,564	176,602
1914-15	3,940,947*	1,608,419	600,599	1,013,419	13,415	124,612	189,225
1915-16	58,521,706	9,328,894	1,734,511	999,886	42,857	151,508	173,821
1916-17	51,162,438	8,289,289	1,799,784	1,172,330	42,953	162,951	187,992
1917-18	37,737,552	6,141,287	1,970,650	1,152,787	17,021	213,840	182,195
1918-19	25,239,871	5,274,984	2,028,635	711,679	7,428	160,419	137,533
1919-20	14,858,380	6,603,067	1,528,654	878,922	8,547	128,639	145,888
1920-21	39,468,625	10,907,191	2,495,762	1,065,880	21,359	146,150	171,628
1921-22	43,867,596	6,082,258	2,336,248	951,960	14,442	182,579	173,660
1922-23	35,697,220	8,093,459	2,442,041	879,915	15,718	238,552	148,354
1923-24	37,795,704	9,366,205	1,455,435	1,464,731	11,151	253,908	238,520
1924-25	47,364,495	9,572,003	1,444,823	891,987	13,000	274,391	139,043
1925-26	29,255,534	4,998,165	1,774,963	768,761	10,788	185,551	160,729
1926-27	46,886,020	4,884,006	1,920,722	685,407	10,443	217,151	162,909

* In 1914-15 the almost total failure was due to drought.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.						
	Potatoes.	Mangel- wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Green Forage.	Chicory.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	2,837 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	..	..	13,567	130	..
1860-61	24,841 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,029	1,228 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	90,920 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,020 $\frac{1}{2}$	..
1870-71	39,026	957	1,886	287	163,181	6,868	220
1880-81	45,951	1,284	808	1,056	249,656	9,617	230
1890-91	53,818	892	708	2,238	413,052	10,091	258
1900-01	38,477	636	507	2,815	502,105	18,975	184
1910-11	62,904	1,254	872	6,161	832,669	71,826	467
1911-12	47,692	797	658	3,652	860,205	75,177	399
1912-13	47,575	1,121	627	4,977	1,203,728	84,460	506
1913-14	74,574	952	470	6,121	977,684	98,963	531
1914-15	65,495	893	563	8,937	895,755	139,654	595
1915-16	56,910	1,091	758	9,294	1,330,455	60,426	805
1916-17	73,618	860	524	6,324	897,186	49,667	658
1917-18	66,966	690	500	5,134	748,808	55,903	664
1918-19	51,620	581	407	5,512	984,479	73,641	536
1919-20	53,918	547	460	6,863	1,116,998	89,802	295
1920-21	62,687	524	410	8,000	1,333,397	79,524	392
1921-22	63,895	560	401	6,158	1,159,135	89,410	615
1922-23	61,741	684	433	6,954	1,261,408	102,451	739
1923-24	59,306	854	538	4,714	1,277,606	107,371	608
1924-25	61,295	736	238	4,504	1,120,312	99,531	309
1925-26	63,369	1,046	624	5,379	1,013,613	107,873	528
1926-27	66,185	690	286	8,471	1,080,993	87,241	540

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Area under each Description of Tillage.							Artificial Grass.*
	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.	To-bacco.	Vines.	Other Crops.	Gardens and Orchards.	Land in Fallow.	
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1850-51	..	..	..	161½	..	..	..	..
1860-61	..	..	91	1,138	579½	7,298½	20,457½	11,640
1870-71	242	64	93	5,466	24	14,856	69,191	146,984
1880-81	2,817	428	1,990	4,980	984	22,288	194,140	254,994
1890-91	2,587	789	618	20,686	1,095	33,864	385,572	235,241
1900-01	2,235	401	109	30,634	2,671	57,496	602,870	207,896
1910-11	1,295	121	329	23,412	5,291	68,153	1,434,177	991,195
1911-12	1,188	122	356	24,193	4,785	70,316	1,469,608	1,041,772
1912-13	2,429	131	138	24,579	6,084	73,623	1,627,223	1,085,846
1913-14	1,452	117	284	22,435	6,135	77,960	1,738,572	1,094,566
1914-15	149	115	196	21,801	6,195	87,237	1,346,545	1,202,130
1915-16	2,435	107	160	22,353	5,711	91,499	1,358,343	1,182,995
1916-17	1,769	87	73	23,264	6,654	93,833	1,899,559	1,292,817
1917-18	2,312	64	82	25,236	5,842	95,180	1,672,729	1,268,810
1918-19	2,152	71	167	26,072	7,443	96,724	1,548,121	1,269,493
1919-20	1,235	72	406	27,441	6,757	98,969	1,357,536	1,062,244
1920-21	1,872	93	95	29,255	6,309	99,969	1,935,747	1,051,290
1921-22	1,800	104	604	33,175	6,684	103,795	2,052,964	1,032,104
1922-23	1,468	194	890	38,892	7,705	100,122	2,186,881	957,454
1923-24	1,306	224	1,047	42,599	10,656	101,782	2,294,297	938,647
1924-25	1,424	269	1,228	42,467	5,845	99,978	2,215,270	843,095
1925-26	1,290	312	1,179	40,712	5,762	99,274	2,457,136	820,337
1926-27	854	196	1,154	41,162	6,414	100,966	2,569,021	952,239

* Not included in land under cultivation.

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.	Produce.						
	Mangel- wurzel.	Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, and Turnips.	Onions.	Hay.	Chicory.	Grass and Clover Seeds.	Hops.
	tons.	tons.	cwt.	tons.	tons.	bushels.	cwt.
1850-51	..	..	..	20,971	..	..	..
1860-61	13,446	6,405	26,189	144,211	..	..	..
1870-71	10,521	10,363	32,900	183,708	1,349	2,652	318
1880-81	12,640	4,335	99,580	300,581	960	26,320	2,744
1890-91	14,676	8,556	279,220	567,779	1,859	36,415	7,931
1900-01	7,670	4,514	255,320	677,757	233	35,084	2,741
1910-11	17,654	7,481	749,680	1,292,410	432	16,262	737
1911-12	9,568	4,953	418,220	1,032,288	333	9,503	777
1912-13	14,615	5,628	572,820	1,572,933	500	23,206	1,387
1913-14	15,642	3,166	495,100	1,350,374	360	16,349	961
1914-15	9,921	2,249	630,560	568,956	380	1,100	903
1915-16	13,067	4,938	751,740	2,341,094	595	24,087	855
1916-17	10,307	2,025	563,260	1,232,721	515	13,174	975
1917-18	7,826	2,809	434,900	949,545	518	22,059	838
1918-19	9,818	2,412	484,220	1,113,861	485	15,443	522
1919-20	6,388	2,121	540,640	1,242,489	148	8,625	691
1920-21	6,742	2,289	859,700	1,984,854	310	11,555	1,199
1921-22	7,768	2,134	631,720	1,548,453	468	12,226	1,812
1922-23	8,120	1,878	888,180	1,665,089	640	7,859	2,071
1923-24	13,569	4,222	633,660	1,541,287	690	6,466	2,481
1924-25	10,022	1,847	531,100	1,492,588	314	8,597	4,240
1925-26	10,333	2,758	434,560	929,068	430	7,330	3,934
1926-27	6,715	1,994	878,560	1,387,971	257	5,876	1,169

AGRICULTURE—continued.

Year.			Produce.			
			Tobacco.	Grapes not made into Wine.	Grapes made into Wine.	Wine made.
			cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	gallons.
1850-51	..	..	..	..	..	4,621
1860-61	..	..	1,257	7,979	..	12,129
1870-71	..	..	467	26,296	98,642	629,219
1880-81	..	..	17,333	24,817	79,045	484,028
1890-91	..	..	326*	63,535	293,775	2,008,493
1900-01	..	..	311*	235,268	396,644	2,578,187
1910-11	..	..	1,090	397,808	194,630	1,362,420
1911-12	..	..	3,686	542,761	140,489	983,423
1912-13	..	..	661	564,991	168,588	1,206,111
1913-14	..	..	2,037	675,388	161,105	1,131,491
1914-15	..	..	1,192	528,468	92,408	605,636
1915-16	..	..	596	898,991	185,775	1,380,367
1916-17	..	..	410	827,967	185,230	1,302,660
1917-18	..	..	526	623,935	135,635	800,068
1918-19	..	..	1,825	804,124	215,255	1,349,309
1919-20	..	..	2,669	1,071,319	253,118	1,634,680
1920-21	..	..	908	717,069	355,698	2,222,305
1921-22	..	..	3,735	1,101,880	212,959	1,335,066
1922-23	..	..	4,151	1,607,502	272,462	1,717,490
1923-24	..	..	1,165	2,320,800	386,929	2,177,127
1924-25	..	..	3,199	1,925,959	216,390	1,368,765
1925-26	..	..	7,871	1,973,258	280,626	1,637,274
1926-27	..	..	†	3,169,722	417,502	2,346,314

* The tobacco crops of 1890-91 and 1900-1 failed in most parts of the State.

† Not available.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Year.			Bacon and Hams Cured.	Cheese made.	Butter made.
			lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1891	..	..	*	3,311,012	16,703,786
1900	..	..	13,204,547	4,284,170	55,604,118
1910	..	..	16,581,361	4,530,893	70,603,787
1911	..	..	19,617,212	4,549,843	86,500,474
1912	..	..	20,094,206	4,176,778	67,655,834
1913	..	..	19,340,878	4,856,321	73,381,567
1914	..	..	18,861,755	4,395,502	62,421,288
1915	..	..	13,705,004	3,497,278	42,345,113
1916-17	..	..	18,146,328	5,869,562	59,568,771
1917-18	..	..	21,324,846	5,285,003	64,405,711
1918-19	..	..	22,212,395	6,055,964	66,240,403
1919-20	..	..	19,385,509	7,735,023	60,218,945
1920-21	..	..	15,139,100	3,636,571	64,938,458
1921-22	..	..	17,396,798	5,675,909	82,981,570
1922-23	..	..	19,269,124	3,754,958	84,355,939
1923-24	..	..	22,540,974	7,216,938	86,888,723
1924-25	..	..	21,993,869	6,193,135	100,849,382
1925-26	..	..	21,213,925	5,279,009	81,747,291
1926-27	..	..	20,952,310	5,997,648	81,995,815

* Not available.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production.						
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Maize.	Hay.	Potatoes.	Onions.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,119,878	465,257	123,423	79,967	861,479	417,150	116,721
1905	3,366,290	678,040	182,828	88,167	1,641,936	597,426	133,638
1906	3,109,980	810,851	205,832	70,496	1,681,768	333,678	79,800
1907	2,443,906	791,162	241,507	87,973	3,023,128	383,145	108,155
1908	4,405,303	989,844	253,309	116,402	3,256,308	411,840	138,408
1909	5,501,605	777,547	165,181	119,725	2,432,840	517,775	98,325
1910	5,512,060	909,295	227,382	96,166	2,455,560	534,515	63,723
1911	3,547,266	663,916	261,443	147,357	3,200,109	614,540	177,744
1912	4,343,202	953,750	332,430	119,305	4,010,979	678,448	176,142
1913	5,352,141	777,903	236,804	121,234	2,565,740	573,227	138,257
1914	1,391,647	397,078	161,899	234,597	4,181,827	800,269	167,098
1915	10,972,820	942,607	294,597	191,645	4,098,664	1,017,563	105,244
1916	10,232,488	828,929	299,481	163,638	2,033,990	550,086	118,423
1917	7,547,510	965,973	373,379	243,766	2,801,158	519,605	141,343
1918	5,994,469	1,175,882	461,056	190,522	4,622,523	1,079,496	236,451
1919	5,726,667	1,848,903	477,573	336,920	8,304,475	1,328,640	274,375
1920	14,307,377	1,295,229	447,352	186,529	5,259,863	586,458	131,104
1921	10,509,945	931,346	401,600	194,358	4,413,091	555,111	157,930
1922	8,031,875	1,416,355	436,237	205,314	6,327,338	1,040,662	139,888
1923	8,189,069	1,455,331	262,210	253,276	5,229,162	701,229	215,444
1924	11,993,546	934,538	354,006	137,948	3,639,496	682,878	209,803
1925	6,665,150	684,320	290,166	172,825	3,497,253	1,309,470	267,793
1926	9,546,812	653,291	295,739	152,055	4,719,925	671,673	110,839

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION—continued.

Year.	Value of Agricultural Production—continued.						
	Green Forage.	Raisins.	Currants.	Fruit (including Grapes not made into Wine).	Market Gardens.	All Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	74,755	49,526	9,757	405,263	197,600	295,437	6,216,213
1905	85,103	89,346	11,952	406,495	183,325	263,875	7,728,421
1906	91,255	180,473	21,994	524,962	197,650	267,808	7,576,547
1907	149,742	110,248	19,296	458,453	225,550	333,189	8,375,454
1908	157,665	102,483	21,472	441,700	231,975	478,577	11,005,286
1909	141,465	130,558	49,334	489,738	255,350	417,890	11,097,333
1910	179,565	132,262	48,829	586,084	269,450	397,695	11,412,586
1911	187,943	195,560	88,899	639,104	258,275	311,535	10,293,691
1912	211,150	213,818	60,421	696,029	260,350	373,633	12,429,657
1913	247,408	176,026	71,413	803,536	269,425	368,623	11,701,737
1914	418,962	181,177	37,085	536,797	323,375	352,819	9,184,630
1915	181,278	361,879	123,473	808,802	284,475	382,081	19,765,128
1916	149,001	227,448	91,355	633,718	268,650	359,317	15,956,524
1917	167,709	191,523	92,803	783,293	284,050	289,061	14,401,173
1918	368,205	317,668	139,880	934,677	405,790	435,485	16,362,104
1919	449,010	632,936	139,153	1,330,550	442,155	592,688	21,884,045
1920	397,620	348,305	157,298	1,090,751	427,035	555,429	25,190,350
1921	447,030	570,473	187,605	1,236,707	500,640	432,302	20,538,158
1922	512,255	687,367	171,642	1,254,788	493,780	479,525	21,197,026
1923	536,855	150,195	57,027	1,249,783	810,600	550,193	19,660,374
1924	497,655	791,786	110,099	1,146,825	731,000	471,327	18,165,772*
1925	539,365	750,417	93,972	1,337,126	830,450	548,071	13,702,818*
1926	436,205	1,294,263	182,536	1,055,290	887,550	560,944	15,744,992*

* The figures for 1924 to 1926 are not comparable with those for former years. The cost of bags, cases, seed and spraying material has been deducted from the values of the various crops for the last two years. The value of hay and manure, viz., £3,535,135 in 1924, £3,283,560 in 1925, and £4,822,130 in 1926, which obviously cannot be deducted from any particular item, has been subtracted from the total value of Agricultural Production. Similar deductions were not made in other years.

PASTORAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

Value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.									
Year.	Wool Produced.	Horses Pro- duced.	Cattle Produced.	Sheep Produced.	Pigs Pro- duced.	Milk Consumed In Natural State.*	Butter made.	Cheese made.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904	3,543,810	198,456	1,740,767	1,429,970	380,616	696,972	2,414,695	89,022	10,494,308
1905	3,313,550	176,267	2,064,000	1,599,800	331,140	753,510	2,496,680	102,563	10,837,410
1906	3,869,000	335,538	2,480,226	1,913,202	325,381	817,317	2,978,860	116,860	12,836,384
1907	3,878,431	273,700	2,056,198	1,716,908	424,660	850,126	2,855,305	109,948	12,166,276
1908	3,556,168	15,274	298,606	597,880	380,650	845,004	2,388,743	126,252	8,208,577
1909	4,044,755	261,268	1,602,853	1,317,320	470,081	891,755	2,493,990	130,670	11,212,697
1910	4,318,100	388,556	1,860,888	1,298,740	541,785	1,020,360	3,109,510	105,340	12,643,279
1911	4,142,747	520,580	2,344,680	1,558,170	454,815	1,317,484	3,860,100	106,160	14,304,736
1912	3,751,083	328,020	1,166,430	709,660	389,350	1,805,320	3,478,640	125,480	11,752,983
1913	4,032,954	454,820	2,277,170	1,572,420	678,355	1,694,826	3,341,920	126,670	14,179,135
1914	3,410,913	..	1,766,473	1,134,678	735,065	1,821,580	2,998,820	117,210	11,984,739
1915	4,066,003	..	226,480	784,575	472,050	2,295,376	2,528,360	129,110	10,501,954
1916	5,927,814	262,020	4,774,610	3,928,860	825,450	2,451,170	4,224,420	223,040	22,617,394
1917	6,410,077	70,880	5,270,940	3,641,630	1,002,250	2,786,890	4,229,310	197,750	23,609,727
1918	7,621,410	97,640	5,383,660	3,288,330	884,280	3,395,040	4,868,670	257,880	25,796,910
1919	7,908,010	..	4,856,100	2,782,290	1,139,960	3,973,020	4,945,480	344,210	25,949,070
1920	4,729,400	..	5,289,650	1,750,220	1,250,680	4,583,650	7,043,950	189,070	24,816,620
1921	4,662,750	71,800	3,099,300	1,991,600	1,277,730	4,181,790	5,127,570	203,620	20,616,160
1922	6,350,600	..	3,384,270	3,752,260	1,280,040	3,557,530	6,690,600	163,180	25,178,480
1923	7,695,000	..	1,413,310	2,900,460	1,507,600	3,316,835	6,491,310	253,795	23,778,300
1924	11,440,240	..	3,538,240	4,390,880	1,588,620	3,558,045	6,618,240	204,890	29,615,977†
1925	7,082,820	..	3,707,000	3,316,660	1,720,740	3,955,010	6,182,120	227,660	24,420,210†
1926	7,876,683	..	2,330,830	2,585,770	1,343,750	3,979,740	6,233,400	270,620	22,280,367†

* Including cream not made into butter, and concentrated milk.

† The total value of pastoral and dairy production for the years 1924 to 1926 is not comparable with former years. Deductions have been made for the value of hay, bran, pollard, green fodder and root crops used as fodder on the pastoral and dairy holdings of the State. The value of the products thus consumed was £1,723,178 in 1924, £1,771,800 in 1925, and £2,340,426 in 1926. These amounts have been deducted from the total value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.

MANUFACTORIES (EXCLUSIVE OF QUARRIES).

Year.	Number.	Number of Hands Employed.	Salaries and Wages Paid.	Value of Machinery, Plant, Land & Buildings.	Value of Output.
			£	£	£
1860 ..	566	5,467	..	..	..
1870 ..	1,579	17,630	..	..	..
1880 ..	2,468	38,178	..	7,465,328	13,370,836
1890 ..	3,104	56,369	..	16,773,448	22,390,251
1900 ..	3,097	64,207	..	11,894,949	19,478,780
1910 ..	4,873	102,176	7,600,932	16,613,348	36,660,854
1911 ..	5,126	111,948	8,911,019	18,257,889	41,747,863
1912 ..	5,263	116,108	10,102,244	19,457,795	45,410,773
1913 ..	5,613	118,744	10,714,336	20,775,738	47,936,647
1914 ..	5,650	118,399	11,099,940	21,975,646	49,439,985
1915 ..	5,413	113,834	11,036,345	22,529,072	51,466,093
1916-17 ..	5,445	116,970	11,833,517	23,784,289	60,047,284
1917-18 ..	5,627	118,241	12,502,601	25,460,282	67,066,715
1918-19 ..	5,720	122,349	14,080,403	27,318,735	80,195,677
1919-20 ..	6,038	136,522	17,702,173	30,804,520	101,475,363
1920-21 ..	6,532	140,743	21,377,216	35,492,735	106,008,294
1921-22 ..	6,753	144,876	23,846,495	40,992,280	106,243,181
1922-23 ..	7,096	152,625	25,547,192	46,423,240	111,286,343
1923-24 ..	7,289	156,162	27,472,084	53,196,475	113,921,927
1924-25 ..	7,425	154,158	29,057,052	61,031,975	118,177,398
1925-26 ..	7,461	152,959	29,329,400	60,396,500	119,986,439
1926-27 ..	7,690	161,639	31,822,589	63,850,005	127,397,951

INSURANCE, ETC.

Year.	Life Assurance.			Insurance—other than Life.		Amount Received from the Commonwealth Government by the State of Victoria.*
	Number of Policies.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premiums.	Premiums.	Losses.	
		£	£	£	£	£
1894 ..	131,210	23,095,900	..	..	..	..
1900 ..	172,713	26,315,862	..	..	..	..
1910 ..	292,055	36,495,251	1,315,172	851,949	353,348	1,922,278
1911 ..	311,695	38,185,859	1,378,059	897,185	391,324	1,617,572
1912 ..	331,846	40,132,346	1,454,169	956,677	423,737	1,667,657
1913 ..	351,250	41,546,825	1,519,427	1,048,271	414,541	1,691,833
1914 ..	368,481	43,305,375	1,593,707	1,336,103	663,504	1,733,280
1915 ..	381,106	44,402,089	1,650,909	1,426,456	569,695	1,757,894
1916 ..	401,591	46,145,573	1,758,827	1,561,437	679,312	1,743,467
1917 ..	425,481	48,389,346	1,870,513	1,645,632	458,367	1,722,409
1918 ..	453,724	51,563,634	1,984,909	1,768,511	477,949	1,739,481
1919 ..	484,965	55,656,616	2,150,203	1,940,085	794,499	1,764,239
1920 ..	524,520	61,405,905	2,388,209	2,324,700	676,486	1,847,085
1921 ..	562,332	66,102,630	2,574,329	2,501,200	891,573	1,878,449
1922 ..	607,840	72,347,222	2,828,556	2,512,430	833,576	1,918,967
1923 ..	650,432	78,690,619	3,084,990	2,702,081	1,107,396	1,969,772
1924 ..	689,711	84,273,720	3,338,971	3,014,988	1,499,664	2,014,746
1925 ..	720,662	89,327,985	3,546,325	3,166,387	1,733,234	2,055,834
1926 ..	747,191	93,754,740	3,742,062	3,209,767	1,884,518	2,090,951
1927 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,127,159

* Year ended 30th June.

APPENDIX.

Information received since the parts of the book which deal with the subjects mentioned were sent to press is given below :—

PART II.—FINANCE.

REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC., OF VICTORIA, 1926-27.

	£	£
Public Revenue	27,128,700	
Public Expenditure	27,744,903	
Expenditure from Loan Funds ..	9,277,180	
Public Debt at 30th June, 1927—		
Payable in London		58,040,287
Payable in Australia		91,506,679
Total		149,546,966

The interest on the public debt at 30th June, 1927, was £7,315,362, of which £2,652,314 was payable in London, and £4,663,048 in Australia.

The amount collected by the State through Taxation (including Motor Taxation £804,903) in 1926-27 was £6,411,936, or £3 14s. 11d. per head of population.

PART III.—POPULATION.

Estimated population of the State of Victoria, 31st December, 1927 :—

Males	867,409
Females	873,981
Total	1,741,390

Estimated population of Melbourne and suburbs, 31st December, 1927, 975,160.

PART VI.—ACCUMULATION.

Bank Deposits in Victoria, 31st December, 1927 :—

	£
Joint Stock Banks	88,605,840
Commonwealth Bank	4,323,406
Commonwealth Savings Bank	5,811,532
State Savings Bank*	59,051,903
State Penny Bank Department	196,685
Total	157,989,366

* Including Deposit Stock Accounts.

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