

APPENDIX D

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAIN HIGHWAYS BOARD

The Hon. MINISTER OF WORKS.

SIR,—

In accordance with the requirements of section 24 of the Main Highways Act, 1922, the Main Highways Board has the honour to submit its twenty-sixth annual report for presentation to Parliament. The report covers the period 1st April, 1949, to 31st March, 1950.

GENERAL

The present length of main highways maintained or subsidized by the Board is 12,724 miles, and particulars of expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1950, as well as a detailed statement of the position of various works, are shown later in this report.

Of the total length of main highways, 5,228 miles have been classified as State highways.

The total expenditure under vote "Highways Maintenance," which includes bridge renewals and fixed charges, amounted to £3,876,297. Under the vote "Highways Construction" the total expenditure was £2,246,736, giving a grand total expenditure of £6,123,033, as compared with a total expenditure of £5,608,977 for the year immediately preceding.

The registration of motor-vehicles showed an increase of 26,366 over the previous year's figures, and the latest figures included 2,617 more heavy trucks—i.e., over 2 tons laden.

The length of new sealing completed was 329 miles, together with 35 miles of priming coats, making a total of 364 miles. Of this total, 11 miles were carried out on deviations and reconstructed sections of the older sealed highways and 63 miles constituted sealing on previous priming. In consequence, the net increase in dustless surfacing is 301 miles. This makes a Dominion total of 4,487, or 35 per cent. of the highways system. In addition to the above, a length of 333 miles of existing sealed surfaces received a maintenance coat.

The length of new bridging completed was 5,591 lineal feet, compared with 3,107 lineal feet for the previous year.

An analysis of the expenditure for 1949–50 by the Board and by local authorities on maintenance of main and State highways, as distinct from renewals, construction, and other overhead charges, is shown in the tabulation below:—

	Board's Contribution.	Local Authorities' Contribution.	Total.	Percentage of Board's Contribution to Total.	Percentage of Local Authorities' Contribution to Total.
	£	£	£		
North Island ..	1,757,979	152,316	1,910,295	92·03	7·97
South Island ..	750,966	74,123	825,089	91·02	8·98
Totals ..	2,508,945	226,439	2,735,384	91·72	8·28