

The following table shows the expenditure under the various headings for the three years ended 31st March, 1936 :—

—	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.
Maintenance—	£	£	£
Main highways	954,656	1,501,539	1,632,453
Urban roads and streets	397,371	392,032	406,775
Other roads	718,943	955,994	1,098,366
Total	2,070,970	2,849,565	3,137,594
Construction—			
Main highways	286,709	428,072	624,943
Urban roads and streets	1,104,047	944,235	903,918
Other roads	1,240,920	1,172,529	1,102,730
Total	2,631,676	2,544,836	2,631,591
Interest and sinking fund charges—			
Main highways	632,846	612,129	605,403
Urban roads and streets	585,900	554,400	580,979
Other roads	1,136,070	1,136,515	1,122,408
Total	2,354,816	2,303,044	2,308,790
Total annual road bill—			
Main highways	1,874,211	2,541,740	2,862,799
Urban roads and streets	2,087,318	1,890,667	1,891,672
Other roads	3,095,933	3,265,038	3,323,504
Total	7,057,462	7,697,445	8,077,975

The principal points emerging from the figures for the years ended 31st March, 1935, have been commented upon in previous annual reports. The figures for 1935-36, as compared with those of the previous year, are commented on below :—

(1) *Maintenance.*

(a) *Main Highways.*—Expenditure on this item during 1935-36 increased by £130,000. The moneys expended by the Main Highways Board on maintenance increased by £90,000, while county expenditure on main highways maintenance out of revenue increased by £40,000.

(b) *Other Roads.*—Expenditure under this head increased by £142,000 due to County Councils increasing their expenditure out of revenue by £106,000 and to the Public Works increasing their expenditure out of the Consolidated Fund.

(2) *Construction.*

(a) *Main Highways.*—This item has increased by £197,000, of which the increase in Main Highways Board expenditure accounts for £146,000 and the increase in County Council payments for the balance, £30,000 being loan-moneys and £15,000 being unemployment-relief expenditure.

(b) *Urban Roads and Streets.*—This item has decreased by £40,000, mainly due to a decrease in borough payments on construction out of loan.

(c) *Other Roads.*—A decrease of £70,000 is shown under this heading, due largely to a decrease in Public Works Department expenditure by £65,000. Public Works expenditure from the unemployment funds decreased by £137,000, but expenditure from the Public Works Fund increased by £72,000.

(3) *Loan Charges.*

The increases under this head have been due to an increase in interest and sinking-fund charges to the rates ruling in 1933-34.

(4) *Total Road Bill.*

The following table, showing the percentages of the total expenditure on maintenance, construction, and interest and loan charges, is of interest :—

—	Maintenance.	Construction.	Interest and Loan Charges.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1933-34	29·3	37·3	33·4
1934-35	37·0	33·1	29·9
1935-36	38·8	32·6	28·6