

## F. PETROL CONSUMPTION.

The following table shows a classification of the manner in which petrol was consumed in the Dominion during the last eleven calendar years :—

Calendar Year.					Estimated Consumption of Petrol.		
					By Motor-vehicles (i.e., Petrol on which all Duty was paid).	Other—i.e., Engines, Aeroplanes, &c. (Petrol on which Refunds of Duty were made).	Total
					Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1928	..	..	..	..	41,457,150	2,057,940*	43,515,090*
1929	..	..	..	..	56,575,840	3,650,040	60,225,880
1930	..	..	..	..	62,821,479	3,907,900	66,729,379
1931	..	..	..	..	55,202,983	5,286,000	60,488,983
1932	..	..	..	..	49,861,976	5,495,479	55,357,455
1933	..	..	..	..	51,293,572	5,400,000	56,693,572
1934	..	..	..	..	55,991,831	6,100,000	62,091,831
1935	..	..	..	..	62,807,535	6,483,600	69,291,135
1936	..	..	..	..	72,107,051	6,685,600	78,792,651
1937	..	..	..	..	82,110,905	7,339,000	89,449,905
1938	..	..	..	..	89,306,192	7,590,000	96,896,192

\* Excludes an unknown amount of petrol on which duty was not paid.

The total gallons are calculated from the quantity of motor-spirits on which petrol-tax was paid. A further tremendous increase in motor-vehicle petrol-consumption took place in 1938 as compared with 1937, the previous peak year, the figures showing an increase of 7,000,000 gallons.

Translated into terms of miles travelled by motor-vehicles, it is estimated that the 7,000,000-gallon increase in petrol-consumption represents over 100,000,000 more vehicle-miles than were run in the previous year, when it was estimated that motor-vehicles travelled approximately 1,500,000,000 miles.

## 3. ROADS.

## A. LIMITATION OF LOADS ON ROADS.

Not a great deal of change has taken place in the mileages of classified roads during the year. In most districts the roads have now been classified to carry the maximum loads possible while giving adequate protection to the road-surfaces. The present position in regard to the classification of all rural roads is as follows :—

## (1) CLASSIFICATION OF ALL RURAL ROADS AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

					Total Formed Roads.	Class Three.	Class Four.	Class Five.	Total Classification.
					Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
North Island	..	..	..	..	26,539	5,561	8,675	2,464	16,700
South Island	..	..	..	..	21,898	6,420	2,242	275	8,937
Totals	..	..	..	..	48,437	11,981	10,917	2,739	25,637

## (2) CLASSIFICATION OF MAIN HIGHWAYS (RURAL SECTIONS) AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

					Main Highways.	Class Three.	Class Four.	Class Five.	Total Classification.
					Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
North Island	..	..	..	..	6,496	3,011	3,110	119	6,240
South Island	..	..	..	..	5,306	4,385	157	32	4,574
Totals	..	..	..	..	11,802	7,396	3,267	151	10,814

In many districts the main highways only are classified, thus virtually restricting loads throughout the whole area. Owing to several major alterations in certain main-highway routes during the year the length of classified highways shows a slight reduction pending the classification of the newly declared highways. However, less than 9 per cent. of the rural-highway mileage now remains unclassified.