

The principal points emerging from the 1937-38 figures as compared with those for the previous year are as follows :—

LOAN-MONEYS.

This item shows a large increase of £1,050,000 over the previous year's figures and now represents 29 per cent. of the total money expended. For 1936-37 this figure represented 22·5 per cent. of the total, while in 1930-31 it represented 30 per cent.

LOCAL RATES.

The increase in expenditure under this heading is only £80,000, the item now representing 24·2 per cent. of the total expenditure. In 1936-37 the proportion of the total taken by this item was 27·7 per cent.

EMPLOYMENT TAXATION.

The expenditure under this heading has been maintained at approximately the 1936-37 figure, and represents 6·7 of the total road bill.

GENERAL TAXATION.

This item has advanced by £128,000 and comprises 12·4 per cent. of the total, against 13·2 per cent. in 1936-37 and 14·5 per cent. in 1935-36.

MOTOR-TAXATION.

Next to loan-moneys this item is the chief source of moneys for expenditure on roads, some £339,000 more having been spent in the year under review than in the previous year. The proportion of expenditure from this source represents 27·7 per cent., against 28·9 per cent. in the previous year.

GENERAL.

The following table indicates the approximate percentages of the various sources of revenue comprised in the total expenditure on roads during the five years ended 31st March, 1938 :—

Item.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36	1936-37.	1937-38.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Loan	9·8	10·8	14·0	22·5	29·0
Local rates	32·9	30·2	30·3	27·7	24·2
Unemployment taxation	21·3	19·1	12·5	7·7	6·7
General taxation	16·0	14·8	14·5	13·2	12·4
Motor-taxation	20·0	25·1	28·7	28·9	27·7
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

(2) ANNUAL CHARGES PER MILE ON ROADS, STREETS, ETC., 1934-38.

The following table shows the annual expenditure for the five years ended 31st March, 1938, on the various classes of roads, &c., computed per mile of road and/or street :

Class of Road.	Year ended 31st March,	Length of Formed Roads.	Annual Charges per Mile of Road.		
			Maintenance.	Interest and Loan Charges.	Total.
		Miles.	£	£	£
Main highways	1934	10,975	87	58	145
	1935	11,176	134	55	189
	1936	11,649	140	52	192
	1937	11,684	113	52	165
	1938	11,728	126	55	181
Urban roads and streets	1934	4,086	97	143	240
	1935	4,035	97	137	234
	1936	4,059	100	143	243
	1937	4,177	102	137	239
	1938	4,201	110	138	248
Other roads	1934	36,010	20	32	52
	1935	36,947	26	31	57
	1936	36,350	30	31	61
	1937	36,467	28	29	57
	1938	36,699	32	31	63
Total, all roads	1934	51,071	41	46	87
	1935	52,158	55	44	99
	1936	52,058	60	44	104
	1937	52,328	53	43	96
	1938	52,628	59	45	104

Tables Nos. 5 and 6 of the Appendix shows the lengths of various classes of roads, streets, and bridges during the years from 1922 to 1938, inclusive.