

## DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORT

LICENSING OF MOTOR-VEHICLES BY PRINCIPAL GROUPS.—Under the Motor-vehicles Act, 1924, motor-vehicles are required to be registered and licensed. Such licences are renewable annually, and the following table gives the number of motor-vehicles in the principal groups, licensed as at the 31st March, 1948, the figures for the two preceding years being included for purposes of comparison :—

| Type.                                                                      | Number licensed as at 31st March, |         |         | Increase of<br>1948 over<br>1947 Licences. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                                                            | 1946.                             | 1947.   | 1948.   |                                            |
| Cars .. .. .                                                               | 201,425                           | 202,437 | 217,871 | 15,434                                     |
| Trucks not exceeding 2 tons laden .. .. .                                  | 30,435                            | 33,134  | 36,591  | 3,457                                      |
| Trucks exceeding 2 tons laden .. .. .                                      | 23,499                            | 25,375  | 28,839  | 3,464                                      |
| Passenger-trucks .. .. .                                                   | 1,947                             | 1,997   | 2,100   | 103                                        |
| Omnibuses .. .. .                                                          | 1,025                             | 1,133   | 1,267   | 134                                        |
| Taxis, including private-hire cars .. .. .                                 | 2,113                             | 2,147   | 2,231   | 84                                         |
| Service cars .. .. .                                                       | 595                               | 637     | 679     | 42                                         |
| Rental cars .. .. .                                                        | 546                               | 828     | 1,047   | 219                                        |
| Motor-cycles .. .. .                                                       | 16,167                            | 17,699  | 19,066  | 1,367                                      |
| Trailers .. .. .                                                           | 20,031                            | 22,788  | 25,254  | 2,466                                      |
| Local-body and other vehicles exempted from<br>annual licence fees .. .. . | 11,903                            | 14,451  | 17,549  | 3,098                                      |
| Government vehicles .. .. .                                                | 5,814                             | 8,296   | 8,455   | 159                                        |
| Totals .. .. .                                                             | 315,500                           | 330,922 | 360,949 | 30,027<br>or 9·07 per<br>cent.             |

All classes of vehicles licensed at 31st March, 1948, showed gains over the figures for the preceding year.

Table No. 1 of the Appendix shows full details of the licensed motor-vehicles as at 31st March, 1948, by postal districts.

Table No. 2 gives, for purposes of comparison, the number of motor-vehicles licensed year by year as at 31st March, 1937 to 1948, inclusive.

PETROL-CONSUMPTION.—The table hereunder shows for the individual calendar years 1937 to 1947 the estimated quantities of petrol consumed by motor-vehicles, used for other purposes, and the total consumption :—

| Calendar Year. | Estimated Consumption of Petrol.                                            |                                                                                               |             |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                | By Motor-vehicles ( <i>i.e.</i> ,<br>Petrol on which all<br>Duty was paid). | Other ( <i>i.e.</i> , Engines,<br>Aeroplanes, &c., on<br>which Refunds of<br>Duty were made). | Total.      |
|                | Gallons.                                                                    | Gallons.                                                                                      | Gallons.    |
| 1937 .. .. .   | 82,111,000                                                                  | 7,339,000                                                                                     | 89,450,000  |
| 1938 .. .. .   | 89,306,000                                                                  | 7,590,000                                                                                     | 96,896,000  |
| 1939 .. .. .   | 91,955,000                                                                  | 8,027,000                                                                                     | 99,982,000  |
| 1940 .. .. .   | 74,114,000                                                                  | 9,649,000                                                                                     | 83,763,000  |
| 1941 .. .. .   | 66,924,000                                                                  | 15,326,000                                                                                    | 82,250,000  |
| 1942 .. .. .   | 46,100,000                                                                  | 10,442,000                                                                                    | 56,542,000  |
| 1943 .. .. .   | 50,178,000                                                                  | 9,200,000                                                                                     | 59,378,000  |
| 1944 .. .. .   | 53,663,000                                                                  | 9,000,000                                                                                     | 62,663,000  |
| 1945 .. .. .   | 65,541,000                                                                  | 9,045,000                                                                                     | 74,586,000  |
| 1946 .. .. .   | 86,440,000                                                                  | 10,146,000                                                                                    | 96,586,000  |
| 1947 .. .. .   | 101,270,000                                                                 | 13,746,000                                                                                    | 115,016,000 |