

CARTAGE RATES SCHEDULES.—With the general wage increase granted in October the work of including the percentage increases in schedules and generally bringing the schedules up to date has been delayed. The work will be proceeded with during 1948-49.

COMPARISON OF PRESENT-DAY WITH PRE-WAR COSTS.—In the table that follows a comparison is made between the costs of operating a heavy traffic Class I truck, as at 31st March, 1939, and the costs of operating a similar truck as at the 31st March, 1948. For the purposes of comparison it has been assumed that the trucks are identical in all respects save that the cost of the 1939 truck (new, less tires) was £306 and the corresponding costs of the 1948 truck £715.

Costs as at 31st March, 1939, and 31st March, 1948, for a Class I truck running 14,600 miles :—

Item.	Estimated Costs as at 31st March, 1939.		Estimated Costs as at 31st March, 1948.	
	Item Cost.	Percentage of Total.	Item Cost.	Percentage of Total.
Running Expenses—	£		£	
Petrol	168	21·13	244	20·73
Oil	10	1·27	15	1·27
Tyres	61	7·67	98	8·32
Repairs	82	10·31	127	10·80
Total, running-expenses	321	40·38	484	41·12
Standing charges—				
Licence fees	37	4·65	37	3·14
Insurance	9	1·13	13	1·10
Garage fees	13	1·64	13	1·10
Wages	279	35·09	424	36·02
Depreciation	30	3·77	70	5·96
Total, standing charges	368	46·28	557	47·32
Overhead charges—				
Management	40	5·03	50	4·25
Office salaries	20	2·52	25	2·12
Office rent	5	0·63	5	0·42
Printing and stationery	4	0·50	5	0·43
Postages	3	0·38	5	0·43
Telephone and tolls	5	0·63	5	0·43
Accounting, audit, and legal	2	0·25	2	0·17
Trade subscriptions	2	0·25	2	0·17
General expenses	5	0·63	5	0·42
Contingencies	5	0·63	5	0·43
Interest on capital	15	1·89	27	2·29
Total, overhead charges	106	13·34	136	11·56
Total cost	795	100·00	1,177	100·00
Running-expenses, per mile	d. 5·28		d. 7·95	
Standing charges, per mile	6·05		9·16	
Overhead charges, per mile	1·74		2·24	
Total, expenses per mile	13·07		19·35	

Overhead expenses have been allowed according to the conventions laid down by the Goods-service Charges Tribunal.