

The Chairman of the former Goods-service Charges Tribunal, Judge Archer, has been appointed Transport Charges Appeal Authority.

The Transport Charges Committee was set up in January, 1949, and by the end of the year dealt with 9 cases, including the revision of a rates schedule and the approval of 2 contracts. One appeal against a decision of the Committee was dealt with by the Transport Charges Appeal Authority, the decision resulting in an amendment of the fares approved by the Committee.

Tables 38 to 41 in the Appendix set out all fare alterations made during the year ended 31st March, 1949.

H. COMPARISON OF PRESENT-DAY WITH PRE-WAR COSTS

In the table set out below a comparison has been made between the estimated costs of operating a Heavy Traffic Class I truck as at 31st March, 1939, 1948, and 1949. For the purposes of comparison it has been assumed that the vehicles run 14,600 miles a year and are identical in all respects save that the cost of a new truck (less tires) amounted to £306 in 1939 and £715 in 1948 and 1949.

Estimated Cost of Operating a Class I Truck as at 31st March, 1939, 1948, and 1949

Item.	Estimated Costs as at 31st March, 1939.		Estimated Costs as at 31st March, 1948.		Estimated Costs as at 31st March, 1949.	
	Item Cost.	Percentage of Total.	Item Cost.	Percentage of Total.	Item Cost.	Percentage of Total.
Running-expenses—	£		£		£	
Petrol	168	21·13	244	20·73	233	20·10
Oil	10	1·27	15	1·27	15	1·29
Tires	61	7·67	98	8·32	91	7·86
Repairs	82	10·31	127	10·80	127	10·96
Total, running-expenses ..	321	40·38	484	41·12	466	40·21
Standing charges—						
Licence fees	37	4·65	37	3·14	37	3·19
Insurance	9	1·13	13	1·10	13	1·12
Garage fees	13	1·64	13	1·10	13	1·12
Wages	279	35·09	424	36·02	424	36·59
Depreciation	30	3·77	70	5·96	70	6·04
Total, standing charges ..	368	46·28	557	47·32	557	48·06
Overhead charges—						
Management	40	5·03	50	4·25	50	4·32
Office salaries	20	2·52	25	2·12	25	2·16
Office rent	5	0·63	5	0·42	5	0·43
Printing and stationery ..	4	0·50	5	0·43	5	0·43
Postages	3	0·38	5	0·43	5	0·43
Telephone and tolls	5	0·63	5	0·43	5	0·43
Accounting, audit, and legal	2	0·25	2	0·17	2	0·17
Trade subscriptions	2	0·25	2	0·17	2	0·17
General expenses	5	0·63	5	0·42	5	0·43
Contingencies	5	0·63	5	0·43	5	0·43
Interest on capital	15	1·89	27	2·29	27	2·33
Total, overhead charges ..	106	13·34	136	11·56	136	11·73
Total cost	795	100·00	1,177	100·00	1,159	100·00
	d.		d.		d.	
Running-expenses, per mile ..	5·28		7·95		7·66	
Standing charges, per mile ..	6·05		9·16		9·16	
Overhead charges, per mile ..	1·74		2·24		2·24	
Total expenses, per mile ..	13·07		19·35		19·06	