

COMPETITION WITH RAILWAYS.

The following figures illustrate the extent to which the organized freight services are operated on routes that parallel the railway and on routes unserved by the railway :—

			Year ended 31st March,			Percentage.	
			1930.	1931.	1932.	Increase.	Decrease.
(a) <i>Motor Freight Routes that substantially parallel Rail Routes.</i>							
Vehicles	..	Number	359	424	434	2	..
Vehicle mileage	..	Miles	4,300,000	5,400,000	5,800,000	7	..
Freight	..	Tons	326,000	354,000	308,000	..	13
Revenue	..	£	276,000	292,000	284,000	..	3
(b) <i>Motor Freight Routes that do not parallel Rail Routes.</i>							
Vehicles	..	Number	606	736	683	..	7
Vehicle mileage	..	Miles	5,500,000	6,300,000	5,900,000	..	6
Freight	..	Tons	550,000	684,000	442,000	..	35
Revenue	..	£	377,000	416,000	324,000	..	22

It is of interest that the number of vehicles and the vehicle mileage in respect of services running on routes that parallel the railways showed gains of 2 and 7 per cent. respectively over the figures for the previous year, while the same figures for the services on routes that do not parallel rail routes showed decreases. The figures relating to the volume of freights and the revenue point to intensified competition with the railways. The volume of freights and revenue for services running alongside the railways fell away to the extent of 13 and 3 per cent. respectively, while the services running where there is no railway showed decreases of 35 and 22 per cent. respectively.

EXPENDITURE ON ROADS, STREETS, AND BRIDGES, 1930-31.

The total expenditure on the construction, maintenance, and interest and sinking-fund charges in respect of the roads, streets, bridges, and footways amounted to £9,179,390 for the year ended 31st March, 1931, against £8,701,075 for the previous year.

The following table summarises the data given in Table No. 10 of the Appendix :—

Expenditure on Roads, Streets, Footways, and Bridges.

A. ABSOLUTE FIGURES.

Item.				County Roads.	Main Highways.	Urban Roads.	Totals.
(a) <i>Nature of Expenditure.</i>							
				£	£	£	£
Maintenance	..	..	..	1,040,828	1,247,393	1,192,377	3,480,598
Construction	..	..	..	1,627,164	977,902	512,386	3,117,452
Capital charges	..	..	..	1,253,899	685,956	641,485	2,581,340
Totals	..	..	..	3,921,891	2,911,251	2,346,248	9,179,390
(b) <i>Source of Moneys.</i>							
Local rates	..	..	..	1,097,382	403,813	1,638,296	3,139,491
General taxation	..	..	..	1,003,502	323,551	..	1,327,053
Motor taxation	..	..	..	201,064	1,514,588	219,965	1,935,617
Loan	..	..	..	1,619,943	669,299	487,987	2,777,229
Totals	..	..	..	3,921,891	2,911,251	2,346,248	9,179,390

B. PERCENTAGES.

Source of Money.				County Roads.	Main Highways.	Urban Roads.	Totals.
(a) <i>Nature of Expenditure.</i>							
				Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Maintenance	..	..	..	26·54	42·85	50·82	37·92
Construction	..	..	..	41·49	33·59	21·84	33·96
Capital charges	..	..	..	31·97	23·56	27·34	28·12
Totals	..	..	..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00
(b) <i>Source of Moneys.</i>							
Local rates	..	..	..	27·98	13·87	69·82	34·20
General taxation	..	..	..	25·59	11·11	..	14·46
Motor taxation	..	..	..	5·13	52·03	9·38	21·09
Loan	..	..	..	41·30	22·99	20·80	30·25
Totals	..	..	..	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00