

The figures for the last three years are as follows :—

Year ended 31st March,	Number of Vehicles.	Revenue.
		£
1934	269	2,016
1935	96	1,594
1936	142	2,360
Total	..	5,970

6. ROAD FINANCE.

(a) DOMINION'S ROAD BILL, 1930-35.

The Department has investigated the numerous statistical data available from official sources and has analysed and classified them in order to show approximately what the roads, streets, and bridges are costing under the headings of construction, maintenance, and loan charges. The figures which have been analysed relate to the five years ended 31st March, 1935.

The classification of the roads into main highways, urban roads and streets, and other roads has been carried out, as each class of road or street has differing problems attached to it. This classification has involved a certain amount of estimation, as also have certain aspects of the figures for the whole road bill. Any estimations have been made on a conservative basis, and the figures are sufficiently close to actual fact to form a basis for reliable broad conclusions.

The following table shows the expenditure under the various headings for the five years ended 31st March, 1935 :—

—	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.
	£	£	£	£	£
Maintenance—					
Main highways	1,326,372	1,202,343	858,577	919,194	1,268,610
Urban roads and streets.. ..	581,734	529,104	453,969	397,371	392,032
Other roads	1,130,811	1,009,702	763,648	708,424	947,057
Total	3,038,917	2,741,149	2,076,194	2,024,989	2,607,699
Construction—					
Main highways	838,477	540,841	261,602	275,676	406,562
Urban roads and streets.. ..	1,077,380	1,338,677	1,224,214	1,104,047	944,235
Other roads	1,656,395	1,489,127	1,122,145	1,085,672	1,010,182
Total	3,572,252	3,368,645	2,607,961	2,465,395	2,360,979
Interest and sinking fund charges—					
Main highways	595,845	635,930	622,128	632,846	612,129
Urban roads and streets.. ..	615,530	640,728	642,282	585,900	554,400
Other roads	1,125,027	1,198,786	1,129,482	1,136,070	1,136,515
Total	2,336,402	2,475,444	2,393,892	2,354,816	2,303,044
Total annual road bill—					
Main highways	2,760,694	2,379,114	1,742,307	1,827,716	2,287,301
Urban roads and streets.. ..	2,274,644	2,508,509	2,320,465	2,087,318	1,890,667
Other roads	3,912,233	3,697,615	3,015,275	2,930,166	3,093,754
Total	8,947,571	8,585,238	7,073,047	6,845,200	7,271,722

The principal points emerging from the figures for the years ended 31st March, 1934, have been commented upon in previous annual reports. The figures for 1934-35, as compared with those of the previous year, are commented on below :—

(1) Maintenance.

(i) *Main Highways*.—The increase of approximately £350,000 is due to increases in the expenditure of the Main Highways Board in this direction and of counties out of ordinary revenue.

(ii) *Other Roads*.—This increase of approximately £240,000 is due partly to a grant of some £178,000 made out of the Main Highways Account by way of subsidy on rates levied on farming land under the terms of section 28 of the Finance Act (No. 3), 1934, partly to an increase in the amount of the subsidy paid out of the Main Highways Account to local authorities under section 37 of the Finance Act, 1930, and partly to increases in the expenditure of counties on roads other than main highways out of ordinary revenue.