

The following table shows the expenditure under the various headings for the four years ended 31st March, 1937 :—

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance—				
Main highways	954,656	1,501,539	1,632,453	1,314,694
Urban roads and streets	397,371	392,032	406,775	424,201
Other roads	718,943	955,994	1,098,366	1,038,204
Total	2,070,970	2,849,565	3,137,594	2,777,099
Construction—				
Main highways	286,709	428,072	624,943	1,622,982
Urban roads and streets	1,104,017	944,235	903,918	938,692
Other roads	1,240,920	1,172,529	1,102,730	1,443,185
Total	2,631,676	2,544,836	2,631,591	4,004,859
Interest and sinking-fund charges—				
Main highways	632,846	612,129	605,403	605,925
Urban roads and streets	585,900	554,400	580,979	573,423
Other roads	1,136,070	1,136,515	1,122,408	1,047,394
Total	2,354,816	2,303,044	2,308,790	2,226,742
Total annual road bill—				
Main highways	1,874,211	2,541,740	2,862,799	3,543,601
Urban roads and streets	2,087,318	1,890,667	1,891,672	1,936,316
Other roads	3,095,933	3,265,038	3,323,504	3,528,783
Total	7,057,462	7,697,445	8,077,975	9,008,700

The principal points emerging from the figures for the years ended 31st March, 1936, have been commented upon in previous annual reports. The figures for 1936-37, as compared with those of the previous year, are commented on below :—

MAINTENANCE.

(a) *Main Highways.*—Expenditure on this item during 1936-37 has decreased by £318,000. The moneys expended by the Main Highways Board on maintenance and by way of grants on maintenance decreased by £315,000. This has been largely due to the large increase in construction, improvement, and renewals of main highways.

(b) *Other Roads.*—This item shows a decrease of £60,000. Grants made by the Main Highways Board decreased by £130,000, whilst grants made by the Public Works Department increased by £10,000. County and road district expenditure shows an increase of £60,000.

(c) *Urban Roads.*—Here an increase of £18,000 is shown due to an increase in expenditure by boroughs and town districts.

CONSTRUCTION.

(a) *Main Highways.*—Expenditure under this head has increased by £998,000. The increase in Main Highways Board and public-works expenditure totalled £1,079,000, whilst county expenditure has declined by £81,000.

(b) *Other Roads.*—An increase of £340,000 is shown under this heading. Moneys expended by the Public Works Department increased by £446,000, whilst moneys expended by counties decreased by £106,000.

TOTAL ROAD BILL.

The following table, showing the percentages of the total expenditure spent on maintenance, construction, and interest and loan charges, is of interest :—

	Maintenance.	Construction.	Interest and Loan Charges.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1933-34	29·3	37·3	33·4
1934-35	37·0	33·1	29·9
1935-36	38·8	32·6	28·6
1936-37	30·8	44·5	24·7