

2. DEVELOPMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORT.

A. REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR-VEHICLES, BY TYPES OF VEHICLE.

Under the Motor-vehicles Act a new vehicle is registered and simultaneously licensed for the ensuing year or part thereof. The license is renewable each year. If a license is not renewed, the registration is classed as "dormant," and after remaining "dormant" for two complete years is cancelled, the assumption being that the vehicle in question is permanently off the road. If, however, the vehicle is again brought into use after its registration has thus been cancelled, it is treated as a new registration. The registration figures set out hereunder, therefore, are not an exact record of the number of new vehicles introduced into our traffic system; they include an unknown but probably small number of vehicles which have been out of commission for more than two years.

The following table sets out the annual registrations since 1926 :—

Year ended 31st March,	Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Cycles.	Total Registrations.
1926	18,811	4,409	5,130	28,350
1927	16,439	4,692	5,464	26,595
1928	12,531	3,399	4,560	20,490
1929	18,739	4,167	4,768	27,674
1930	20,802	5,745	4,300	30,847
1931	12,378	4,113	3,139	19,630
1932	6,151	2,656	2,058	10,865
1933	4,716	2,640	2,072	9,428
1934	5,551	3,339	1,956	10,846
1935	12,895	5,011	2,233	20,139
1936	19,469	6,445	2,421	28,335
1937	25,796	8,999	3,028	37,823
1938	29,837	10,413	3,018	43,268
1939	28,937	10,862	2,233	42,032

The foregoing figures have been incorporated in the following table, which shows the relative increase or decrease in the annual registrations measured according to the figures for 1926 :—

Year ended 31st March,	Cars.	Commercial Vehicles.	Cycles.	Total Registrations.
1926	100	100	100	100
1927	87	106	107	94
1928	67	77	89	72
1929	100	95	93	98
1930	111	130	84	109
1931	66	93	61	69
1932	33	60	40	38
1933	25	60	40	33
1934	30	76	38	38
1935	69	114	44	71
1936	103	146	47	100
1937	137	204	59	133
1938	159	236	59	163
1939	154	246	44	148

In comparison with the year 1937-38, the commercial-vehicle registrations increased by 4.31 per cent., whilst there was a decline of 3.01 per cent. in car registrations and of 26.01 per cent. in motor-cycle registrations.

The increase in commercial-vehicle registrations, 449, includes a considerable number of agricultural vehicles not previously registered.

B. REGISTRATIONS OF MOTOR-VEHICLES, BY COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE.

The following table shows the country of manufacture and the number of motor-vehicles registered during the years ended 31st March, 1927 to 1939, inclusive :—

Year ended 31st March,	Great Britain.	United States of America or Canada.	Other Countries.	Total Registrations.
<i>Motor-cars.</i>				
1927	2,185	13,623	631	16,439
1928	2,172	10,078	281	12,531
1929	2,886	15,667	186	18,739
1930	3,675	16,993	134	20,802
1931	3,265	9,057	56	12,378
1932	2,607	3,477	67	6,151
1933	2,832	1,834	50	4,716
1934	3,091	2,406	54	5,551
1935	6,096	6,730	69	12,895
1936	9,396	10,023	50	19,469
1937	14,556	11,133	107	25,796
1938	16,610	12,919	308	29,837
1939	16,452	11,884	601	28,937
Totals	85,823	125,824	2,594	214,241