

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (LIABILITIES).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 21 February 1905 ;—*for*,

“RETURN showing the TOTAL AMOUNT of the OUTSTANDING BALANCES
of the LOANS of LOCAL AUTHORITIES in England and Wales, Scotland,
and Ireland, respectively, at the close of the Financial Years 1873-4,
1883-4, 1893-4, and 1903-4, with the Totals for the three Countries
on those dates.”

Home Office,
7 August, 1905. }

THOMAS COCHRANE.

(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)



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7 August 1905.

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RETURN showing the TOTAL AMOUNT of the OUTSTANDING BALANCES of the LOANS of LOCAL AUTHORITIES in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, at the close of the Financial Years 1873-4, 1883-4, 1893-4, and 1903-4.

ENGLAND AND WALES.[†]

Classes of Local Authorities. [†] (1.)	1873-4. (2.)	1883-4. (3.)	1893-4. (4.)	1903-4. (5.)
Total amount of the outstanding balances of the loans of :—	£	£	£	£
1. Town councils (excluding sums for harbours, &c., item No. 13) - - - - -	(a) 28,943,722	70,389,948	107,024,433	210,811,910
2. Urban sanitary authorities and urban district councils, other than town councils (excluding sums for harbours, &c., item No. 13) - - - - -	(a) 6,171,912	13,111,573	15,102,062	32,325,061
3. Corporation and late Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London (b) - - - - -	5,361,875	5,804,681	6,234,777	6,715,427
4. Councils of metropolitan boroughs and authorities superseded by those councils - - - - -	1,651,466	2,344,631	3,079,472	9,496,378
5. County authorities superseded under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1888 - - - - -	3,011,049	3,517,260	—	—
6. Metropolitan Board of Works (superseded under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1888) (c) - - - - -	8,986,048	17,369,049	—	—
7. London County Council - - - - -	—	—	21,675,931	35,901,397
8. Other county councils, joint committees of such councils, and the Lancashire Asylums Board - - - - -	—	—	2,954,558	12,657,235
9. School boards - - - - -	(d) 990,006	(d) 13,666,438	(d) 20,998,367	(d) { 13,990,005 300,224
10. Poor law authorities (excluding the Metropolitan Asylum Board, <i>see</i> No. 11) - - - - -	2,876,961	5,280,534	6,372,523	11,570,090
11. Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District - - - - -	526,936	877,733	1,098,920	3,522,132
12. Rural sanitary authorities and rural district councils - - - - -	99,575	1,444,119	2,044,393	4,597,057
13. Harbour, pier, and dock authorities - - - - -	20,432,510	26,779,326	32,239,746	40,980,516
14. Other local authorities - - - - -	(a) 5,142,896	4,294,655	5,333,188	11,040,706
Total for all local authorities (England and Wales) - - - - -	£ 84,194,956	164,879,947	224,158,370	393,908,138
Total amount standing to the credit of sinking funds and other similar funds applicable to the repayment of the portion of the above-mentioned balances repayable by means of such funds - - - - -	£ Not ascertained	2,229,486	4,687,878	13,936,837

* The information in the foregoing Statement was compiled from the Summaries of the Local Taxation Returns for England and Wales relating to the years 1873-4, 1883-4 and 1893-4 (Parliamentary Papers, No. 410, Session 1875; No. 250-VI., Session 1885; and No. 436-IV., Session 2, 1895), and the particulars furnished for the purposes of those Returns for the year 1903-4. The financial years to which the Local Taxation Returns for 1873-4 relate ended at dates between the 31st May 1873 and Michaelmas, 1874. Subject to some exceptions, the more important of which are indicated in the footnotes (b), (c) and (d), the financial years to which the Returns for 1883-4, 1893-4 and 1903-4 relate ended in March 1884, March 1894, and March 1904, respectively.

† Sums outstanding in respect of loans raised by the London County Council, other county councils, town councils, and the late Metropolitan Board of Works, and advanced on loan to other local authorities (*c.g.*, boards of guardians, school boards, councils of metropolitan boroughs) are included once only in the table, *viz.*, as outstanding loans of the authorities to whom the advances were made.

(a) Items 1, 2, and 14.—Column 2.—The outstanding balances at the end of 1873-4 of the loans raised for purposes of the Burial Acts by town councils and other urban sanitary authorities form an indistinguishable portion of the sum of 5,142,896*l.* entered in column 2 against Item 14.

(b) Item 3.—Columns 2 to 5.—Including, as regards the Corporation of the City, amounts outstanding at 31st December, 1873, 1883, 1893, and 1903, respectively, and, as regards the late Commissioners of Sewers, who were superseded by the Corporation in 1898, amounts outstanding at Michaelmas, 1873, 1883, and 1893 respectively.

(c) Item 6.—Columns 2 and 3.—Amounts outstanding at Michaelmas, 1873 and 1883, respectively.

(d) Item 9.—Columns 2, 3, and 4.—Amounts outstanding at Michaelmas, 1873, 1883, and 1893, respectively. Column 5.—The amount of 13,990,005*l.* was the total on 25th or 31st March 1904, of the outstanding loans of certain school boards which had not before the latter date been abolished under the Education Act, 1902. The amount of 300,224*l.* was the total on 29th September 1903, of the outstanding loans of all other school boards in existence on 31st March 1904. The amount of the outstanding loans at the end of March 1904 of the last-mentioned school boards has not been ascertained.

S. B. PROVIS,

Secretary to the Local Government Board.

RETURN showing the TOTAL AMOUNT of the OUTSTANDING BALANCES—*cont.*

SCOTLAND.*

Classes of Local Authorities. (1.)	1873-4.† (2.)	1883-4.‡ (3.)	1893-4. (4.)	1903-4. (5.)
	£	£	£	£
Parochial boards (superseded by parish councils under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894):—				
Loans under Public Health Acts		365,047	††—	—
Other loans - - - -		473,870	§§376,265	—
Parish councils - - - -		—	—	§§786,201
School boards - - - -		2,584,109	3,810,264	5,474,225
Heritors for ecclesiastical purposes		26,213	11,148	9,791
County authorities (superseded by county councils under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889):—				
Commissioners of supply -		†77,372	—	—
County road trusts - - -		†27,430	—	—
County councils - - - -		—	††891,609	2,295,590
District lunacy boards - - -		††—	§§438,659	§§1,591,873
Burgh authorities - - - -		†10,248,890	‡21,797,193	38,032,946
District fishery boards - - -		135	—	4,297
Harbour and port authorities -		8,081,026	¶9,564,484	**11,120,545
Total - - - -		†21,884,092	36,889,622	59,314,968

* Compiled from the Memoranda to the Local Taxation Returns for Scotland relating to the years 1884-5, 1894-5 and 1903-4. The figures for 1903-4 are exclusive of the amounts due by one local authority to another.

† The information for 1873-4 is not available and cannot now be ascertained.

‡ The figures for 1883-4 relating to county authorities, to burgh authorities and to the total debt, are incomplete, the debt shown being less than the actual indebtedness, because—

- (1) Loans contracted on the security of the common good of burghs, and not forming a charge upon the rates, had not been included in the Local Taxation Returns made by some burgh officials; and
- (2) The old turnpike trusts and statute labour road trusts were merged in the new county road boards under the Roads and Bridges Act, 1878, and the debts were re-valued or written off. In a number of cases a valuation had not been arrived at in 1884, and the total indebtedness of the county roads and bridges trusts for that year was not inserted in the Local Taxation Returns, for, if given, it would have been altogether misleading for any purposes of comparison. The first year in which the total indebtedness of the new trusts is given is 1888-9, when the amount is entered as 300,972*l.*

†† In 1890-1 a readjustment of the debts of parochial boards and county councils was made in consequence of the transfer to the latter bodies under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, of the administration under the Public Health Acts formerly carried out by parochial boards. The amount of debt transferred from parochial boards to county councils was over 400,000*l.*

‡‡ Particulars as to the debt, &c., of district lunacy boards were included for the first time in the local taxation returns for 1893-4. The amount of district lunacy board debt for 1883-4 has not been ascertained.

§§ Barony parochial asylum became a district asylum in 1898-9, and the asylum debt was thereupon transferred to district lunacy boards. The amount of such asylum debt in 1893-4 was 162,402*l.*, and in 1883-4 was 162,917*l.*

¶ Includes 5,079,528*l.* the value of annuities in 1895-6, the value for 1893-4 not having been ascertained.

** In addition, interest remaining unpaid amounted to 174,774*l.*

" " " " " 181,561*l.*

G. FALCONAR-STEWART,

Secretary,

Local Government Board for Scotland.

IRELAND.

Classes of Local Authorities. (1.)	1873-4. (2.)	1883-4. (3.)	1893-4. (4.)	1903-4. (5.)
	£	£	£	£
Counties - - -	564,778	602,427	326,074	285,856
Lunatic asylum districts* - -	—	—	—	1,287,323
Towns - - -	1,310,765	2,905,819	3,871,742	7,013,275
Water Commissioners' district† -	—	453,918	692,302	1,757,548
Joint Drainage board districts‡ -	—	99,000	91,843	153,312
Joint burial board districts‡ -	—	1,500	1,450	11,036
Unions - - -	26,568	251,373	1,569,409	272,678
Rural districts* - - -	—	—	—	2,418,908
Harbours - - -	1,172,734	1,917,797	2,474,194	2,808,375
Total Ireland - £	3,074,845	6,231,834	9,027,014	16,008,311

* For the first three years given in the table the loans for lunatic asylum districts are included in the indebtedness of counties, and those of rural districts in that of unions.

† No information available for the first year in this case.

‡ These boards were not in existence in 1873-4.

Local Government Board,
Dublin, 30th May 1905.

A. R. BARLAS,
Assistant Secretary.

SUMMARY.

(1.)	1873-4. (2.)	1883-4. (3.)	1893-4. (4.)	1903-4. (5.)
	£	£	£	£
England and Wales - - -	84,194,956	164,879,947	224,158,370	393,908,138
Scotland - - -	(Figures not available.)	21,884,092	36,889,622	59,314,968
Ireland - - -	3,074,845	6,231,834	9,027,014	16,008,311
Grand Total for United Kingdom - - - } £	—	192,995,873	270,075,006	469,231,417