

## NEW TRAMWAYS.

### Heidelberg-Essendon Line Wanted.

Representatives of Essendon, Brunswick, Coburg, Northcote, Heidelberg, and Preston councils waited upon the Tramways Board yesterday and urged that a line be constructed from Essendon to Heidelberg. It was stated that the northern suburbs are growing rapidly, and that tramway communication is essential. It was realised that the councils must meet any loss incurred in the running of the trams during the first five years. The councils were quite prepared to do that.

In a statement after the conference, the chairman of the Tramways Board (Mr. A. Cameron) said that the deputation had asked that the line, which would involve about 10 route miles of tramways, be constructed at once. Taking into consideration the huge cost of construction at present he did not think that the tramway would be justified. Such tramways could not yield anything like the necessary revenue. Under the board's general scheme, provision was made for the construction of a line along Dean, Dawson, and Holden streets to join the present Northcote-Preston route. Later, another line from Mount Alexander road by way of Moreland road to Heidelberg, and still later a line from Essendon to the Heidelberg line by way of Bell street might be built. Although these lines were included in the general plan, it did not imply that they would be built for many years. The proper course was to construct a modern arterial road between Essendon and Heidelberg, and it would then be time to consider whether a motor-bus service was justified. The Minister for Public Works was convening a conference with regard to main roads and bridges, and he thought that the matter of the tramway should be deferred until after that conference had been held.