

COMMERCE.

IT would be only natural to suppose that the commerce of these countries would increase in an equal ratio with the population. For many years, however, the expansion of trade was far more rapid; and Australasia now shows a larger ratio of trade compared with population than any other country. If an exception is to be made to this broad statement it is only in favour of Belgium, half of whose trade consists of goods in transit to or from the north-western and central parts of the Continent.

Prior to 1825 no complete returns of commerce are available for Australasia. The following table, commencing with that year, gives the trade, value per inhabitant, and rate of annual increase for each successive period :—

	Total trade.	Value per inhabitant.	Annual increase per cent. for each period.	
			Of total trade.	Of value per inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.		
1825	511,998	10 13 11	.....	.....
1841	5,573,000	22 4 0	16·09	4·67
1851	8,957,610	18 10 7	4·86	1·82*
1861	52,228,207	41 19 10	19·28	8·53
1871	69,474,084	35 18 4	2·89	1·57*
1881	101,710,967	36 12 3	3·89	0·19
1891	144,766,285	37 3 1	3·59	0·15
1892	124,802,379	31 13 2	16·00*	17·36*

* Decrease.

Although the preceding table shows an increase of £1 4s. 9d. per inhabitant during the twenty years that elapsed from 1871 to 1891, the amount per head in 1891 was only 10s. 10d. larger than that of 1881, and in 1892, when the general depression began to make itself seriously felt, it was less than in any year since the gold discovery. The small progress exhibited until 1891 is more apparent than real, for the volume of merchandise has largely increased, though the monetary value in proportion to population exhibits only a slight development. The small increase in the trade *per inhabitant* is attributable to a depreciation in the value of wool, which is now, and has always been, the staple of Australasian products.

The figures just given refer to the apparent trade, but as the outlets of various important districts of some of the Colonies are through other Colonies, the real trade is less than shown. Thus, the whole of the Barrier District of New South Wales is reached through South Australia, and the exports of this district first appear correctly as exports from New South Wales, then they figure as imports into South Australia, and lastly as exports from that province. Other examples of a similar nature might be given. Viewing Australasia as one country, and eliminating the intercolonial traffic, the balance, which may properly be called the external trade, was as follows :—

	Total trade.	Value per inhabitant.	Annual increase per cent. for each period.	
			Of total trade.	Of value per inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.		
1861	35,061,282	28 3 10	.....	.....
1871	39,729,016	20 10 10	1·26	3·22*
1881	64,554,678	23 6 3	4·97	1·27
1891	84,651,488	22 0 6	2·75	0·57*
1892	75,347,098	19 2 3	12·35*	15·24*

* Decrease.

By far the greater part of the external trade of Australasia is with the United Kingdom ; and of the remainder the larger proportion is carried on with foreign countries, principally the United States, France, Germany, and Belgium, while the trade with other British possessions has of late years considerably declined.

The subjoined table shows the distribution of the external trade in the three divisions to which reference has been made :—

Trade with—	1801.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£	£
The United Kingdom	Imports ..	13,467,370	12,006,419	25,662,185	30,823,474
	Exports ..	12,207,228	18,486,703	24,342,422	32,638,841
	Total....	25,674,598	30,493,122	50,004,607	63,462,315
British Possessions outside Australasia	Imports ..	1,767,391	2,382,148	3,078,195	3,094,417
	Exports ..	3,656,065	764,652	4,257,961	2,231,608
	Total....	5,423,456	8,146,800	7,336,156	5,326,025
Foreign Countries ..	Imports ..	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,603,326	7,490,424
	Exports ..	746,490	3,843,970	2,610,589	8,372,724
	Total....	3,963,228	6,089,094	7,213,915	15,863,148
Total, External Trade	Imports ..	18,451,499	16,633,691	33,343,706	41,408,315
	Exports ..	16,609,783	23,005,325	31,210,972	43,243,173
	Total....	35,061,282	39,729,016	64,554,678	84,651,488
					75,347,098

TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Prior to the year 1883 the European trade of Australasia was principally carried on with the United Kingdom. Since that date direct commercial relations have been established with the leading Continental countries. Notwithstanding the heavy shipments of wool to the Continent, and the return trade therefrom, the British trade has only declined relatively, while the absolute increase during the ten years ending 1891 was £13,457,708, equal to nearly 27 per cent.; the trade of Australasia with foreign countries had increased during the same period, £8,649,233 or nearly 120 per cent. From 1891 to 1892 trade with the United Kingdom decreased by £6,675,694, and trade with foreign countries by £1,468,591. The trade with the British possessions outside Australasia has never been of much value, and is now less than formerly, having fallen from £7,336,156 in 1881 to £5,326,025 in 1891, and to £4,165,920 in 1892. As compared with 1891, the year 1892 shows therefore a decrease in trade with the United Kingdom of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with foreign countries of $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and with British possessions outside Australasia of 22 per cent.

Under present conditions, unless the new Tariff Bill now before the United States Congress should become law, no extension of commercial relations with the United States can be looked forward to, but trade with the East gives good promise for the future, especially with India, China, Japan, and the East Indian Archipelago, where markets for Australasian wool will possibly in time be found—little or nothing in that direction having been accomplished up to the present; but Japan has established a national line of steamers to foster the trade between that country and Australasia. A large amount of business is already transacted with India and Ceylon, which bids fair to increase, particularly in regard to tea, which now strongly competes with the Chinese leaf in public estimation. The value of the direct import of Indian teas increased from £280,780 in 1890 to £344,078 in 1891, and £333,400 in 1892, while the imports from China of this article decreased from £788,943 in 1890 to £764,428 in 1891, and £632,350 in 1892.

Trade with the South Pacific Islands is valuable, and increasing, consisting mostly of raw articles imported from them, in exchange for Australasian produce. The bulk of this trade is done with Fiji and New Caledonia, and the latter deals principally with New South Wales, Sydney being the terminal port for the French mail-steamers of the Messageries line. Owing to the enforcement of the new French Customs tariff, which is highly protective in its character in the French colonies as well as in France, the New Caledonian trade, however, bids fair to be lost to Sydney; while the exports from New South Wales to New Caledonia in 1892 amounted to £184,128, they fell in 1893 to £89,791, or over

50 per cent. The trade with New Guinea is at present but small, though when the resources of that prolific island come to be developed a large amount of trade may be expected.

Every year steamers of greater tonnage and higher speed are visiting the Colonies from Europe, and a considerable expansion of commerce must of necessity spring up, owing to the new outlets for trade being constantly opened through this increased communication, and to the striking advance in shipping facilities, subjects which have been fully discussed in the preceding chapter.

The value of the imports from the principal foreign countries with Australasia may be gathered from the following statement :—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium .....	.....	.....	26,713	321,025	373,766
France and New Caledonia	136,124	158,992	340,750	369,035	191,004
Germany	109,172	3,899	225,672	1,773,277	1,390,529
Netherlands and Java	114,304	194,519	466,444	654,660	800,576
Italy .....	.....	.....	7,874	58,484	54,310
Sweden and Norway	22,666	106,720	259,156	459,414	275,177
China	827,347	874,925	1,430,993	699,143	479,719
Japan .....	.....	.....	23,245	61,286	63,234
South Sea Islands	40,200	135,060	124,447	78,235	76,511
United States	1,080,673	616,625	1,593,088	2,920,115	2,200,148
Other Countries	886,252	154,384	104,944	95,700	98,877
Total	3,216,738	2,245,124	4,603,326	7,490,424	6,004,151

The exports from Australasia to the countries mentioned in the preceding table are shown below :—

Country.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium .....	.....	.....	100,437	1,485,731	1,474,798
France and New Caledonia	26,793	101,758	336,408	1,835,734	2,092,052
Germany .....	.....	.....	70,422	863,815	1,778,487
Netherlands and Java	3,907	39,517	52,192	92,645	164,060
Italy .....	.....	.....	152,914	27,999	26,234
Sweden and Norway .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	968
China	114,149	29,137	73,599	30,749	30,029
Japan	1,805	9,470	6,872	16,578	7,904
South Sea Islands	36,130	153,568	140,299	149,370	156,550
United States	76,154	367,361	1,298,905	3,269,261	2,316,641
Other Countries	487,582	3,143,159	373,451	600,792	342,653
Total	746,490	3,843,970	2,610,589	8,372,724	8,390,406

The commerce with foreign countries from the commencement of the period under review exhibits very satisfactory progress ; the imports have nearly doubled, while the exports have increased more than twelve and a half times ; and, if the total trade be considered, the increase was over 260 per cent. This expansion is chiefly due to the development of the European continental trade, consequent on the diversion of part of

the wool business from London, which was largely brought about by the display of local resources in the Sydney and Melbourne International Exhibitions of 1879 and 1880. The annual increase per cent. of imports, exports, and total trade of the Australasian Colonies with their four principal customers amongst foreign countries for the eleven years 1891-92 is given in the following table :—

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Belgium	27·40	27·67	27·55
France and New Caledonia	*5·40	18·07	11·68
Germany	17·98	34·12	24·05
United States	2·98	5·40	4·14

* Decrease.

Belgium exhibits the greatest progress ; but Antwerp, the port from which a great portion of German and French manufactures are shipped, is also the distributing centre for the greater part of the wool destined for the Continent ; large quantities landed there ultimately find their way to Germany, France, and other countries. The French, early in 1883, were the first to establish direct commercial relations, the steamers of the *Messageries Maritimes*, a subsidised line, making their appearance for the first time in Australian waters in the year named. In 1887 the vessels of the *Norddeutscher Lloyd* Company, of Bremen, commenced trading with Australasia ; and in the latter part of 1888 a line of German cargo-boats opened up further communication between the great wool-exporting cities of Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and the ports of Antwerp, Hamburg, and Dunkirk. Belgium has also established a line of steamships ; and, in addition to these foreign Companies, there are some British lines running their vessels direct to Continental ports.

The result of these efforts to establish commercial relations is evident from the increase of trade which the foregoing table discloses, and in the diversion, now rapidly being effected, in the channel by which the wool required for Europe reaches the market. The example of the South American Republics, the bulk of whose produce now finds a market at the ports of Antwerp, Hamburg, Havre, and Dunkirk, without passing through London, was not lost on Continental buyers. It was manifest that direct shipments of wool to Europe could as readily be made from Sydney or Melbourne, as from Buenos Ayres or Monte Video, hence the presence, in increasing numbers, in the local markets of representative buyers from the principal Continental firms.

THE WOOL TRADE.

The rapid growth of the Continental wool trade during the periods from 1881 to 1891 and from 1891 to 1892 is illustrated by the following

table, which shows the values exported direct to the principal countries, and the proportion of the total amount taken by each :—

Country.	Value.			Proportion.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	per cent	per cent	per cent
United Kingdom ...	15,777,327	19,891,218	18,666,141	97·8	82·7	78·3
Belgium	96,557	1,453,755	1,446,630	0·6	6·0	6·1
Germany	53,809	782,676	1,662,866	0·3	3·3	7·0
France	26,965	1,386,768	1,617,010	0·2	5·8	6·8
United States	132,699	514,551	302,922	0·8	2·1	1·3
Other Countries ...	48,725	34,259	125,960	0·3	0·1	0·5
Total.....	16,136,082	24,063,227	23,821,529	100·0	100·0	100·0

The value of the wool shipped from Australasia has thus increased by nearly eight millions sterling, or almost 48 per cent., in the eleven years. It will be observed that while the wool exported to the United Kingdom has increased in value to the extent of nearly three millions, the proportionate share of such exports to the total wool exports has declined from 97·8 to 78·3 per cent. The export of wool to foreign countries has increased both absolutely and relatively.

It is necessary to point out here that all the figures in the present chapter dealing with the export of wool are based on the Customs returns of the different Colonies, and represent the values placed on the wool by the exporters. As the figures relating to the value of the wool clip which are given in the chapter on the pastoral resources of the Colonies show, there is an evident tendency on the part of exporters to overvalue their consignments of wool.

The following table shows the total and proportionate value of the wool shipped direct to countries outside Australasia by each Colony :—

Colony.	Value.			Proportion.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	per cent	per cent	per cent
New South Wales..	4,485,295	7,917,587	7,629,259	27·8	32·9	32·0
Victoria.....	5,327,934	7,070,661	6,561,529	33·0	29·4	27·6
Queensland	996,047	2,438,321	3,112,384	6·2	10·1	13·1
South Australia ...	1,747,696	1,888,107	1,673,457	10·8	7·8	7·0
Western Australia.	256,689	311,925	314,445	1·6	1·3	1·3
Tasmania ..	416,572	313,422	219,291	2·6	1·3	0·9
New Zealand	2,905,849	4,123,204	4,311,164	18·0	17·2	18·1
Australasia ...	16,136,082	24,063,227	23,821,529	100·0	100·0	100·0

It will be seen by the table just given that Victoria was credited in 1881 with exporting wool to a considerable value in excess of that of New South Wales. In 1891 and 1892, however, the positions were reversed, notwithstanding the fact that large quantities of wool from New South Wales are still sent to Melbourne for export. In 1881 the wool produced in other Colonies, chiefly New South Wales, but credited to Victoria, was valued at £2,780,600; in 1891 the value was £2,767,000, and in 1892, £2,283,000; the wool imported into and credited to New South Wales, the produce of other Colonies, for the last two years in question was £109,000 and £174,000 respectively. South Australia also receives a large quantity of New South Wales wool for shipment, though not to nearly so great an extent as Victoria.

In connection with this subject, a statement of the amount of wool of its own production, which each Colony exports, whether direct or by way of the other Colonies, may not be without interest. The figures relate to 1892 :—

Colony.	Domestic Wool Exported.			Proportion of Export of Australasia.
	Direct.	By way of the other Colonies.	Total.	
	£	£	£	per cent.
New South Wales	7,137,095	2,900,283	10,037,378	41·5
Victoria	3,426,612	57,612	3,484,224	14·4
Queensland	3,109,884	1,146,055	4,255,939	17·6
South Australia	1,232,077	207,414	1,439,491	6·0
Western Australia	314,445	12,258	326,703	1·3
Tasmania	219,291	110,294	329,585	1·4
New Zealand	4,310,770	2,338	4,313,108	17·8
Australasia	19,750,174	4,436,254	24,186,428	100·0

In the table given on the preceding page the value of the direct export of wool is quoted at £23,821,529. The apparent discrepancy, however, is of no moment, when it is remembered that about one-fifth of the clip of Australasia is subject to valuation—first, at the Border of the Colony in which it is produced; and, again, at the port from which it is finally shipped to Europe or America. In the amount of £24,186,428 shown above is, besides, included the value of such wool as was exported during 1892 to one of the adjacent Colonies, and there held over for the sales in January of the following year.

The following figures serve to illustrate the development of the local wool sales in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, for the seasons 1884-5, 1891-2, 1892-3, 1893-4. These seasons are taken as

extending from 1st March in one year to 28th February in the following year. The number of bales sold during each period shown was :—

Colony.	1884-5.	1891-2.	1892-3.	1893-4.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
New South Wales	109,589	233,338	359,781	400,196
Victoria	192,625	292,694	310,828	305,715
South Australia	32,157	58,011	54,285	62,871

EXTERNAL TRADE.

Australasia has for many years maintained important commercial relations with the United States of America, and in 1892 America's share of the trade of Australasia with foreign countries was about 31 per cent. of the whole. The greater part of this trade was carried on with New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand. The main exports to the United States are specie, wool, coal, kauri gum, and New Zealand flax—chiefly the two first mentioned—so that, though large in its nominal amount, the trade is less valuable than would at first sight appear. The export of wool, which had formerly been unimportant, amounted in 1891 to £514,551, an increase of £325,314 over the total of the previous year, but in 1892 there was again a fall to £302,922. Should wool, as may confidently be expected, be placed on the free list in the new American tariff, a great expansion of this trade may be looked for.

The Australasian exports to China are but small compared with the imports, and evince a considerable falling off since 1861. The figures given by the Customs returns as the imports and exports between Australasia and China do not, however, represent the whole amount of the trade, as a considerable portion of the trade with Hongkong is in reality intended for the Chinese Empire—Hongkong, although a British possession, being to a large extent a distributing centre for the Empire. In view of this fact the following table has been compiled, which shows the trade with the Empire and with Hongkong :—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Chinese Empire	706,131	699,143	479,719	56,269	30,749	30,029
Hongkong	753,853	648,785	689,791	451,456	491,771	449,408
Total	1,459,984	1,347,928°	1,169,510	507,725	522,520	479,408

Besides the foregoing countries, Australasia maintained a not inconsiderable trade with the South Seas, Java, and Scandinavia; with the two countries last mentioned the trade consists mainly of imports.

The figures relating to the trade that each Colony carries on with countries outside Australasia would be extremely interesting if they could be given with exactness; unfortunately this is impossible, as the destination of goods exported overland cannot be traced beyond the Colony to which they are in the first instance despatched; all that can be given is the trade by sea, which the following series of tables shows. The imports from countries outside Australasia were:—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	11,357,096	14,256,210	11,575,333	14 18 9	12 9 4	9 15 11
Victoria	10,768,791	13,045,493	10,124,634	12 7 6	11 7 9	8 14 2
Queensland	1,492,395	3,133,209	2,374,005	6 14 3	7 18 6	5 14 2
South Australia	3,566,917	4,038,763	3,384,842	12 17 7	12 10 1	10 4 5
Western Australia	203,743	695,358	711,357	7 1 5	13 12 11	12 4 2
Tasmania	445,576	698,973	561,733	3 16 3	4 13 10	3 13 6
New Zealand.....	5,504,278	5,490,300	5,880,957	11 3 4	8 14 4	9 1 7
Australasia	33,343,706	41,408,315	34,562,861	12 0 10	10 15 6	8 15 4

The exports to countries outside Australasia were as follow:—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	9,326,349	14,340,850	13,054,570	12 5 4	12 10 10	11 1 0
Victoria	11,515,661	11,097,653	10,240,534	13 4 8	9 13 9	8 16 2
Queensland	1,301,400	3,378,816	4,194,741	5 17 1	8 8 3	10 1 9
South Australia	3,172,920	5,620,561	4,243,107	11 9 2	17 8 0	12 6 2
Western Australia	357,702	562,076	567,876	12 2 4	11 0 7	10 2 11
Tasmania	513,363	382,381	315,872	4 7 10	2 11 4	2 1 4
New Zealand.....	5,023,577	7,860,836	8,167,537	10 3 10	12 9 7	12 14 4
Australasia	31,210,972	43,243,173	40,784,237	11 5 5	11 5 0	10 6 11

Combining the figures given in these tables, the total external trade of Australasia, and the value per head of each Colony, as well as the group, are :—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	20,683,445	28,597,069	24,629,903	27 4 1	25 0 2	20 16 11
Victoria	22,284,452	24,143,146	20,365,168	25 12 2	21 1 6	17 10 4
Queensland	2,793,705	6,562,025	6,568,746	12 11 4	16 6 9	15 15 11
South Australia	6,739,837	9,659,324	7,627,949	24 6 9	29 18 1	23 0 7
Western Australia	566,445	1,257,434	1,279,233	19 3 9	24 13 6	22 17 1
Tasmania	958,939	1,081,354	877,605	8 4 1	7 5 2	5 14 10
New Zealand.....	10,527,855	13,351,136	13,998,494	21 7 2	21 3 11	21 15 11
Australasia	64,554,678	84,651,483	73,347,098	23 6 3	22 0 0	19 2 3

It will be seen by the returns treating the imports and exports separately that the expansion of trade in the various Colonies has not been uniform. The imports of New South Wales in 1891 exceeded those of 1881 by nearly 3 millions sterling, while in 1892 they were only slightly in excess of those of 1881. The exports of 1891 exceeded those of 1881 by over 5 millions, and decreased in 1892 by over a million and a quarter. The Victorian imports increased from 1881 to 1891 in about the same ratio, but in 1892 were below those of 1881, while the exports, both in 1891 and 1892, were less than they were in 1881. The Tasmanian import trade has largely increased, while the exports in 1892 exhibit a falling off of over 38 per cent. compared with those of 1881. The South Australian imports were slightly less in 1892 than they were in 1881, while the exports, which in 1891 nearly doubled those of 1881, shrunk in 1892 by about £1,400,000. The value of the New Zealand imports was about the same as in 1881, but the exports had increased by over 50 per cent., and show a further increase of £300,000 in 1892. The Queensland imports more than doubled from 1881 to 1891, and shrunk by about £800,000 in 1892, while the exports increased steadily, and were in 1892 three times larger than in 1881. Western Australia imports and exports increased both from 1881 to 1891, and from 1891 to 1892. No rigid deductions can possibly be drawn from the facts just given, for, as is well known, some of the provinces—notably Queensland and Tasmania—are not yet in a position to maintain a direct foreign trade, and in a forced comparison with the rest of Australasia are apt to suffer.

If the total trade of 1892 be considered, New South Wales heads the list with a commerce valued at £24,629,903, Victoria, with £20,365,168, being second, while New Zealand ranks third, with a trade of £13,998,494. Taking all the Colonies together, the external imports and exports combined equal a trade of £19 2s. 3d. per inhabitant, a falling off of £2 18s. 3d. as compared with 1891, and of £4 4s. as compared with 1881.

The value of the direct trade between Australasia and the United Kingdom, other British Possessions, and Foreign Countries, for 1881, 1891, and 1892, is shown in the following tables :—

Imports from	1881.	1891.	1892.
British Empire—	£	£	£
United Kingdom	25,662,185	30,823,474	26,066,951
India and Ceylon	842,943	1,258,072	1,062,722
Canadian Dominion	100,478	151,727	79,690
Cape Colony	1,303	382	127
Fiji	63,190	332,774	282,725
Mauritius	1,364,421	459,179	199,141
Hongkong	642,308	648,785	689,791
Straits Settlements	59,043	188,571	140,004
Other Possessions	4,509	54,927	37,559
Total, British	28,740,380	33,917,891	28,558,710
Foreign Countries—			
France and New Caledonia	340,750	369,035	191,044
Germany	225,672	1,773,277	1,390,529
Italy	7,874	58,484	54,310
Belgium	26,713	321,025	373,766
Sweden and Norway	259,156	459,414	275,177
United States	1,593,088	2,020,115	2,200,148
Netherlands and Java	466,444	654,660	800,876
South Sea Islands	124,447	73,285	76,511
China	1,430,093	699,143	479,719
Japan	23,245	61,286	63,234
Other Countries	104,944	95,700	98,877
Total, Foreign	4,603,326	7,490,424	6,004,151
Total External Imports	33,343,706	41,408,315	34,562,861

Exports to.	1881.	1891.	1892.
British Empire—	£	£	£
United Kingdom	24,342,422	32,638,341	30,719,670
India and Ceylon	3,153,835	1,000,871	581,532
Canadian Dominion .....	.....	40	63
Cape Colony	314,460	171,412	81,789
Fiji	157,913	166,326	166,315
Mauritius	95,475	107,151	63,452
Hongkong	359,034	491,771	449,379
Straits Settlements	38,767	151,243	183,756
Other Possessions	137,577	142,704	147,875
Total, British	28,600,383	34,870,449	32,393,831
Foreign Countries—			
France and New Caledonia	336,498	1,835,734	2,002,052
Germany	70,422	863,815	1,778,487
Italy	152,914	27,999	26,234
Belgium	100,437	1,485,731	1,474,793
Sweden and Norway .....	.....	.....	968
United States	1,298,905	3,269,261	2,316,641
Netherlands and Java	52,192	92,645	104,060
South Sea Islands	140,299	149,370	156,580
China	78,599	30,749	30,029
Japan	6,872	16,573	7,904
Other Countries	373,451	600,792	342,653
Total, Foreign	2,610,589	8,372,724	8,390,406
Total, External Exports	31,210,972	43,243,173	40,784,237

Total Trade with.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£
British Empire—			
United Kingdom.....	50,004,607	63,462,815	56,788,621
India and Ceylon.....	3,996,778	2,258,943	1,644,254
Canadian Dominion.....	100,478	151,767	79,753
Cape Colony.....	315,763	171,794	81,916
Fiji.....	221,103	499,100	449,040
Mauritius.....	1,459,896	566,330	262,593
Hongkong.....	1,002,242	1,140,556	1,139,170
Straits Settlements.....	97,810	339,814	323,760
Other Possessions.....	142,086	197,721	185,434
Total, British.....	57,340,763	68,788,340	60,952,541
Foreign Countries—			
France and New Caledonia.....	677,248	2,204,819	2,283,056
Germany.....	296,094	2,637,092	3,169,016
Italy.....	160,788	86,483	80,554
Belgium.....	127,150	1,806,756	1,848,564
Sweden and Norway.....	259,156	459,414	276,145
United States.....	2,891,993	6,189,376	4,516,789
Netherlands and Java.....	518,636	747,305	964,936
South Sea Islands.....	204,746	227,655	233,091
China.....	1,509,592	729,892	509,748
Japan.....	30,117	77,864	71,138
Other Countries.....	478,395	696,492	441,530
Total, Foreign.....	7,213,915	15,863,148	14,394,557
Total, External Trade.....	64,554,678	84,651,488	75,347,098

TRADE WITH UNITED KINGDOM.

The importance to the United Kingdom of its trade with the Australasian Colonies has already been alluded to. The following figures illustrate the position occupied by the imports from these Colonies into Great Britain, as compared with the sum of the imports from all her Possessions:—

Year.	As Returned by British Customs.		Percentage of Imports from Australasia to total from British Possessions.
	Total Imports from British Possessions.	Imports from Australasia.	
1881	£ 91,539,660	£ 26,975,381	29·5
1891	99,464,718	31,261,566	31·4
1892	97,766,304	30,542,609	31·2

A comparison of the total trade done by the United Kingdom with some of her principal Possessions discloses some peculiar facts. Although it is very little more than a century since the commencement of Australasian settlement, the trade of these Colonies with the United

40 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.

Kingdom is only exceeded by that of India, while it is considerably more than double that of Canada, and in a larger degree exceeds the trade of any other British Possession. The following table, which is taken from the returns of the Board of Trade, and differs slightly from the local returns, shows the trade, exclusive of specie, for the three years, 1881, 1891, and 1892, of the principal portions of the Empire with the United Kingdom, and the proportion of the total trade which each transacts :—

Country.	1881.	1891.	1892.	Percentage of Trade to total of British Possessions with United Kingdom.		
				1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£			
India	63,682,398	64,783,605	59,560,393	35·7	33·6	33·3
British North America.....	20,608,159	20,906,357	23,095,986	11·6	10·8	12·9
Cape Colony and Natal	13,105,264	14,892,965	14,058,112	7·4	7·7	7·9
Straits Settlements	6,527,675	7,946,127	7,073,708	3·7	4·1	4·0
Hongkong	4,815,905	3,833,859	2,809,640	2·7	2·0	1·6
Australasia	50,957,785	59,493,319	52,045,260	28·6	30·9	29·1

If a comparison of the trade of the United Kingdom with Australasia during 1892 be made with that of Great Britain and other countries, it will be found it is surpassed only by that with the United States with £149,598,323, France with £64,856,480, British India with £59,560,393, and Germany with £55,368,552 ; so that Australasia, with a trade of £52,045,260, stands fifth of all countries so far as the value of its commercial relations with the United Kingdom are concerned. The total trade (exclusive of specie) of the United Kingdom with principal foreign countries and Australasia for the three periods shown, according to the Board of Trade returns, was :—

Country.	1881.	1891.	1892.	Percentage to Total Trade of United Kingdom.		
				1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	per cent	per cent	per cent
France	70,069,848	69,114,136	64,856,480	10·1	9·3	9·1
Germany	52,927,199	56,976,104	55,368,552	7·6	7·7	7·7
Belgium	25,047,833	30,525,737	29,827,272	3·6	4·1	4·2
Spain	14,421,326	16,050,936	16,128,907	2·1	2·2	2·3
Italy	10,792,615	10,272,329	9,592,847	1·6	1·2	1·3
United States	139,990,876	145,475,197	149,598,323	20·2	19·5	20·9
Argentine Republic	4,000,090	7,817,256	10,348,637	0·6	1·0	1·4
Chili	5,417,363	5,916,225	7,900,737	0·8	0·8	1·1
Brazil	13,254,733	12,855,202	11,729,991	1·9	1·7	1·6
Uruguay	1,881,522	1,568,891	1,605,310	0·3	0·2	0·2
Australasia	50,957,785	59,493,319	52,045,260	7·3	8·0	7·3

INTERCOLONIAL TRADE.

The intercolonial trade of Australasia is increasing in a slightly higher ratio than does the population. The following figures represent the total value of this important branch of the general trade, as well as the value per inhabitant. It is obvious, and the matter has been alluded to in a previous paragraph, that the total intercolonial trade, which is shown by the table, represents in reality twice the actual value of goods passing from one Colony to another, the same goods figuring in one place as an export, and in another as an import. The value of goods passing through for foreign countries, as well as goods imported from abroad and re-exported, is also included. The movement of goods will, therefore, be half what the table shows :—

Year.	Total.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
1861	17,166,925	13 16 0
1871	29,745,068	15 7 6
1881	37,156,289	13 8 4
1891	60,114,797	15 12 10
1892	49,455,281	12 10 11

The figures given in the following table represent the intercolonial imports and exports together, and, although labouring under the defect just mentioned, afford interesting evidence of the way in which the prosperity of each Colony is bound up with that of the others :—

Colony.	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	percent	percent	percent
New South Wales..	13,211,372	22,730,348	18,118,870	35·6	37·8	36·6
Victoria	10,686,172	13,575,205	11,023,923	28·8	22·6	22·3
Queensland	4,810,286	6,822,366	6,984,319	12·9	11·3	14·1
South Australia ...	3,089,466	11,034,215	7,888,211	8·3	18·4	16·0
Western Australia.	341,156	822,125	994,024	0·9	1·4	2·0
Tasmania	2,027,781	2,411,428	1,966,521	5·5	4·0	4·0
New Zealand.....	2,990,056	2,719,110	2,479,413	8·0	4·5	5·0
Australasia ...	37,156,289	60,114,797	49,455,281	100·0	100·0	100·0

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TRADE.

Considering now the general trade of the Colonies, irrespective of its origin or destination, some important results are arrived at, the bearing

of which will hereafter be discussed. For the three years, 1881, 1891, and 1892, the total external and intercolonial imports were :—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	17,587,012	25,383,397	20,776,526	23 2 7	22 3 11	17 11 9
Victoria	10,718,521	21,711,608	17,174,545	19 4 3	18 19 1	14 15 6
Queensland	4,063,625	5,079,004	4,382,657	13 5 8	12 12 11	10 10 10
South Australia	5,320,549	10,051,123	7,517,447	19 4 3	31 2 4	22 13 11
Western Australia	404,831	1,280,093	1,391,109	13 14 3	25 2 5	24 17 0
Tasmania	1,431,144	2,051,964	1,497,161	12 5 0	13 15 6	9 15 10
New Zealand	7,457,045	6,503,849	6,943,056	15 2 7	10 6 6	10 16 3
Australasia	52,982,727	72,061,038	59,682,501	19 2 8	18 14 11	15 2 10

The values of external and intercolonial exports were :—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	16,307,305	25,944,020	21,972,247	21 9 0	22 13 9	18 11 11
Victoria	16,252,103	16,006,743	14,214,540	18 13 6	13 19 6	12 4 6
Queensland	3,540,366	8,305,387	9,170,408	15 18 6	20 13 6	22 1 1
South Australia	4,508,754	10,642,416	7,998,713	16 5 7	32 19 0	24 3 0
Western Australia	502,770	799,466	882,148	17 0 8	15 13 9	15 15 2
Tasmania	1,555,576	1,440,818	1,346,965	13 6 3	9 13 5	8 16 3
New Zealand	6,060,866	9,566,397	9,534,851	12 5 11	15 3 10	14 16 11
Australasia	48,728,240	72,705,247	65,119,878	17 12 0	18 18 4	16 10 4

The total trade, or imports and exports combined, was as follows :—

Colony.	1881.	1891.	1892.	Value per Inhabitant.		
				1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	33,894,817	51,327,417	42,748,773	44 11 7	44 17 8	36 3 8
Victoria	32,970,624	37,718,351	31,389,091	37 17 9	32 18 7	27 0 0
Queensland	7,603,991	13,384,391	13,553,065	34 4 2	33 6 5	32 11 11
South Australia	9,829,303	20,693,539	15,516,160	35 9 10	64 1 4	46 16 11
Western Australia	907,601	2,079,559	2,273,257	30 14 11	40 16 2	40 12 2
Tasmania	2,986,720	3,492,782	2,844,126	25 11 3	23 8 11	18 12 1
New Zealand	13,517,911	16,070,246	16,477,907	27 8 6	25 10 4	25 13 2
Australasia	101,710,967	144,766,285	124,802,379	36 14 8	37 13 3	31 13 2

The point most notable in the series of tables just given is the very marked impetus which the trade of South Australia had received during the period 1881–1891 ; a trade of £64 ls. 4d. per inhabitant, the value transacted by South Australia during 1891, is almost without parallel

in any important country. This huge trade was, however, not drawn altogether from its own territory, for in 1891 more than £5,731,000, or about £17 15s. per inhabitant, and in 1892, £3,553,000, or £10 15s. per inhabitant, was due to the Barrier District of New South Wales, of which South Australia is the natural outlet. And it must also be remembered that a considerable portion of these goods is entered as imports to South Australia when they arrive, and as exports to New South Wales when they cross the border en route to Broken Hill. Of the total shrinkage of £17 4s. 5d. per head during 1892, £7 must, therefore, be attributed to the falling off of the Barrier trade.

The trade of New South Wales for 1891 stood at £51,327,417, which was the highest ever recorded, but in 1892 it fell to £42,748,773, an amount exceeded during each of the three preceding years, while the value per inhabitant during 1892 was the lowest recorded during the decade. All of the Colonies had advanced their total trade from 1881 to 1891, and all, except Victoria and Tasmania, their exports. In 1892 all the Colonies except New Zealand showed larger imports than in 1881, while both exports and total trade had increased in every Colony except Victoria and Tasmania. As compared with 1891, Western Australia and New Zealand are the only Colonies that show an increase in imports; Queensland and Western Australia, in exports; and Queensland, Western Australia, and New Zealand in total trade.

It will be interesting to measure the volume of Australasian trade, shown by the foregoing figures, with the latest returns of other countries. Such a means of comparison the following table affords, the returns being for either the year 1891 or for 1892. As regards Australasia, the external trade only has been taken :—

Country.	Total Trade.			Per Inhabitant.
	Merchandise.	Specie and Bullion.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	715,434,048	61,240,304	776,674,352	20 10 0
France	426,752,000	48,837,000	475,589,000	12 8 11
Germany	394,966,269	23,528,821	418,495,090	8 9 4
Italy	85,832,000	4,679,000	90,511,000	2 18 6
Belgium	238,665,000	14,098,000	252,763,000	41 13 0
Cape Colony	16,907,369	2,796,421	19,703,790	12 18 0
Canada	49,529,540	755,760	50,285,300	10 8 1
Argentine Republic	34,086,000	2,192,000	36,278,000	10 7 4
Chili	25,832,000	1,124,000	26,956,000	10 13 4
United States	387,016,800	31,804,200	418,821,000	6 13 9
Australasia	70,998,518	4,348,580	75,347,098	19 2 3

The trade per inhabitant for Australasia exceeds that of any country appearing in the list, the United Kingdom and Belgium excepted. In the case of Belgium it is but proper to remark that about one-half of the trade credited to it comprises goods in transit to and from Germany and France.

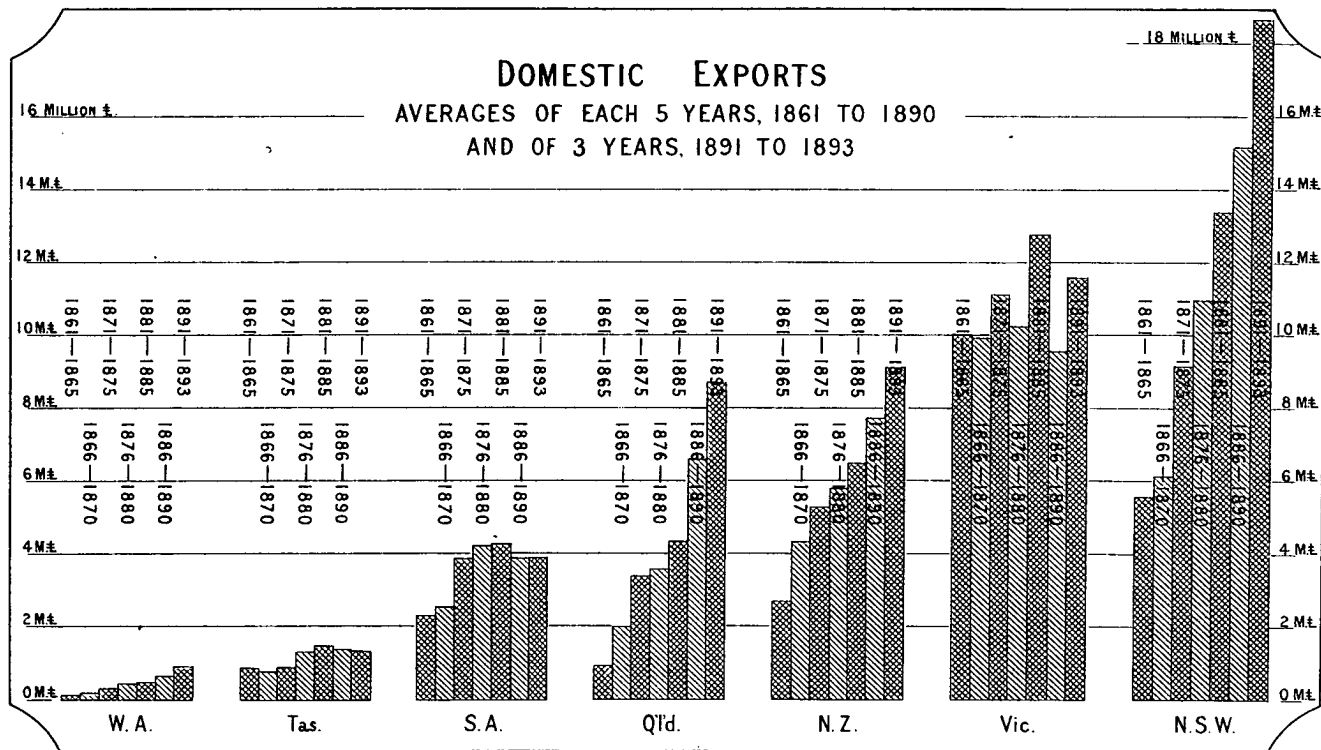
From the foregoing pages it will be readily seen that an excess in the value of imports over exports is a prominent feature of the trade of Australasia taken as a whole, although in some Colonies the reverse is the case. The surplus of imports is due to two causes: (1) the importation, by the Governments and local bodies of the various Colonies, of money to cover the cost of construction of public works; and (2) the private capital sent to Australasia for investment. Taking the Colonies as a whole, these two items combined exceed the payments made for interest on past loans, both public and private, and the sums drawn from the country by absentees. Some of the Colonies have ceased to borrow, or the amount of their borrowing falls below their yearly payments for interest; in such cases there is an excess of exports. Hereunder is shown the balance of trade of each Colony and of Australasia for the six years, 1887-1892, and the amount of public loan money expended during the same period, but this does not cover the whole question, as the amount of private capital invested is not given:—

Colony.	Excess of Imports.	Expenditure from Public Loans.
	£	£
New South Wales	*660,440	15,573,291
Victoria.....	47,810,060	15,873,599
Queensland	*13,297,651	9,461,729
South Australia	*3,694,525	4,746,953
Western Australia	1,582,419	820,828
Tasmania	1,747,285	3,910,662
New Zealand	*14,684,618	4,302,841
Australasia	18,802,530	54,689,903

* Excess of Exports.

These figures have a very important bearing on the future condition of Australasia, but comment on this subject will come more properly in the Chapter dealing with Finance, and will be found there.

The values of the exports of Australasia and of its various provinces have been given in the previous pages without respect to the locality



where the articles were produced. It will be instructive to see to what extent the exports have been the produce of the Colony whence they were shipped. The following table shows the value of the exports of domestic produce from each Colony, as returned by the Customs for the years 1881, 1891, and 1892, and the value thereof per inhabitant :—

Colony.	Total Value.			Value per Inhabitant.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales ..	11,955,277	21,103,816	17,695,616	15 14 6	18 9 1	14 19 7
Victoria	12,480,567	13,026,426	11,410,808	14 6 10	11 7 6	9 16 4
Queensland	3,478,376	7,979,080	9,010,613	15 12 11	19 17 4	21 13 4
South Australia	3,755,781	4,810,512	3,400,388	13 11 3	14 17 10	10 5 4
Western Australia ..	498,634	788,873	870,814	10 17 10	15 9 7	15 11 1
Tasmania	1,548,116	1,367,927	1,330,144	13 5 0	9 3 8	8 14 0
New Zealand.....	5,762,250	9,400,094	9,365,863	11 13 9	14 18 6	14 11 8
Australasia	39,479,001	58,476,728	53,084,251	14 5 2	15 4 3	13 9 4

The foregoing figures show the total external and intercolonial exports of domestic produce for the seven Colonies, but must be regarded as merely an approximation, since it is difficult to ascertain with exactitude the domestic exports of some of the Colonies. This is especially the case with Victoria, and in a lesser degree with New South Wales and South Australia. In the first-mentioned Colony large quantities of wool, the produce of the other Colonies—chiefly New South Wales—are exported as domestic produce, amounting in 1892 to £2,283,209. There is some export of New South Wales as locally-grown wool from South Australia, but the value thereof is by no means large. Wool, chiefly from Queensland, is exported as domestic produce by New South Wales; the amount thus unduly credited in 1892 was £174,078. As regards New South Wales, tin and copper ore, the former chiefly from Queensland and Tasmania, and the latter from South Australia, which are imported for the purpose of being refined, are exported as domestic produce. So also, Queensland cattle after being fattened in New South Wales pastures are exported as local produce, but in these instances a material change is wrought in the imports, which is not the case with wool. An attempt has been made to remove these elements of error, and the amounts shown in the

following table may be accepted as the true value of domestic produce exported from each Colony during 1892:—

Colony.	External and Intercolonial Domestic Exports.	
	Value.	Percentage to Total.
	£	
New South Wales.....	17,287,271	34·3
Victoria	9,127,599	18·1
Queensland.....	9,010,613	17·9
South Australia.....	3,446,448	6·8
Western Australia	870,814	1·7
Tasmania.....	1,330,144	2·6
New Zealand	9,365,868	18·6
Australasia	50,438,757	100·0

Placing the values of the external exports of domestic production of Australasia side by side with those of some of the more important countries of the world, a useful comparison is afforded, and from whatever standpoint the matter be viewed these Colonies must appear in a very favourable light. The figures refer to either 1891 or 1892. Coin and bullion have been excluded from the amount given for Australasia, also, as previously stated, the intercolonial trade:—

Country.	Exports of Domestic Produce (exclusive of Coin and Bullion).	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
United Kingdom.....	227,077,053	5 19 10
France	142,800,000	3 14 9
Germany	147,705,500	2 19 9
Austria-Hungary	65,559,000	1 11 8
Italy	35,072,000	1 2 8
Belgium	60,761,000	10 0 3
Cape Colony	8,153,398	5 6 9
Canada	20,318,707	4 4 1
Argentine Republic	20,644,000	5 18 0
United States	211,610,836	3 7 7
Australasia	29,811,331	7 11 3

The extent to which the geographical position of a Colony enables it to benefit by the production of its neighbours is illustrated by the proportion which the non-domestic bear to the total exports. The

following table indicates this proportion for each Colony, according to the Customs returns for 1892; and it would appear that South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales, in the order named, benefit largely by their position. The re-export trade of the other Colonies is insignificant:—

Colony.	Value.	Percentage to Total Exports.
	£	
New South Wales	4,276,631	19·5
Victoria	2,803,738	19·7
Queensland	159,795	1·7
South Australia	4,598,325	57·5
Western Australia	11,334	1·3
Tasmania	16,821	1·2
New Zealand	168,983	1·8
Australasia—Total Re-Exports	12,035,627	18·5

This re-export trade is very evenly distributed into external and intercolonial trade, £6,075,829 of it being external, and £5,959,798 intercolonial.

The importance of the pastoral industry to Australasia will be made clear in another part of this volume. Its value to each Colony varies, as the statement hereunder shows. In no Colony does the proportion of exports of this class fall below 32 per cent. of the total value of domestic produce exported. In the case of New South Wales it reaches about 73 per cent., while in New Zealand, Queensland, and Victoria it is over 60 per cent. In the totals the external trade is distinguished from the whole volume of the pastoral export:—

Colony.	Wool.	Other Pastoral Produce.	Total.	Percentage of Exports of Pastoral Produce to Total Export of Domestic Products.
	£	£	£	
New South Wales.....	10,211,456	2,694,962	12,906,418	72·9
Victoria	5,767,433	1,165,012	6,932,445	60·8
Queensland.....	4,255,939	1,401,863	5,657,802	62·8
South Australia.....	1,393,431	370,249	1,763,680	51·9
Western Australia.....	326,703	39,700	366,403	42·1
Tasmania	329,585	103,766	433,351	32·6
New Zealand.....	4,313,307	1,672,405	5,985,712	63·9
Australasia—				
Total Domestic	26,597,854	7,447,957	34,045,811	64·1
Australasia—				
External Domestic.....	22,161,600	4,808,467	26,970,067	77·7

MOVEMENTS OF GOLD.

Since the discovery of gold in the year 1851, large quantities of the metal—in the form of coin as well as bullion—have been exported from the Australasian Colonies every year. In the figures shown for the Colonies as a whole, no attempt has been made to exclude the inter-colonial trade. The excess of exports of gold from each of them, calculated for ten-year periods from the year 1851 to the end of 1892, is given herewith. The largest exporters, it will be found, are also the largest producers, as Victoria, New Zealand, and Queensland. The other Colonies, except Western Australia, now produce very little more than suffices to meet their local requirements. The returns of the gold imports and exports for New South Wales, it must be remembered, are swollen by large quantities of Queensland gold, which is simply sent to Sydney to be minted, and then exported in the shape of coin, but only the excess of exports appears in the following table:—

Colony.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-92.	1851-92.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	8,337,067	13,656,650	5,248,994	277,509	914,312	23,469,532
Victoria	86,342,134	62,609,042	37,223,632	23,106,371	2,624,357	211,904,536
Queensland .....	.....	1,768,575	9,430,137	11,540,245	3,923,104	26,667,061
South Australia	1,900,955	*395,633	*1,100,309	*673,548	123,707	*139,828
Western Australia .....	.....	19,586	*38,000	*44,320	222,466	159,732
Tasmania	843,029	*41,570	158,696	872,754	164,750	1,997,459
New Zealand	48,981	20,294,822	14,215,143	7,637,381	1,797,925	43,994,252
Total excess of exports..	97,472,166	97,911,472	65,187,293	42,716,392	9,815,621	313,052,744
Average per annum	9,747,217	9,791,147	6,513,729	4,271,639	4,907,810	7,453,637

* Excess of Imports.

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The net revenue derived from the taxation of goods imported into Australasia during 1892 amounted to £8,694,106, which is equal to £2 4s. 1d. per inhabitant. It will be found, from a consideration of a subsequent table, that the rate per inhabitant varies very greatly, not only comparing one Colony with another, but for the same Colony in

different years. The variation spoken of arises from diverse causes. Thus, the influence of good or bad times on the purchasing power of the people naturally reacts on the Customs collections, although the rise or fall of the rate per inhabitant is not always a safe indication of such influence. Certain Colonies still produce less than they require in agricultural produce, notably New South Wales and Queensland; a good season, since it enables these Colonies to more nearly meet their requirements, means a decrease in the revenue derived from the importation of agricultural produce. Similar effects are also felt in regard to the revenue derived from live stock and other forms of produce. In considering this question, it must also be remembered that for many years the Colonies have been systematic borrowers in the London market, and they have also been the recipients of much money sent for investment by private persons. As loans of all descriptions reach the borrowing country in goods, and as a considerable proportion of the importations into all the Colonies is the subject of taxation, years of lavish borrowing are naturally years of large revenue collections, and, coincident with the cessation of the flow of foreign capital, there is naturally found a decrease in Customs revenue. There have also been extensive alterations in the tariffs affecting the revenue during the years which the following tables cover. In New South Wales in 1891, in South Australia in 1887, radical tariff changes were made, and in other years minor alterations took place in nearly all the other Colonies. To these is chiefly attributable any sharp rise in the rate of revenue per inhabitant. It must, however, be allowed that tariff changes have been made which have affected the collections to a very slight extent. This is notably the case with the recent alterations in the Victorian duties.

Speaking generally, it may be said that the Customs revenue is declining, or likely to decline. Apart from the specific causes mentioned above, other effective, if less obtrusive, influences are at work. Year by year the industries of the Colonies are being developed, and the local producer is acquiring a firm hold upon the domestic markets. In several of the Colonies little, if any, revenue is now received from duties on agricultural produce, as such produce is not imported; and many descriptions of manufactured goods have likewise ceased to be imported, the locally-made article being produced in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. There can be no reasonable doubt but that this tendency will be still more marked in the future; and if the present rate of expenditure is to be maintained, Australasian Treasurers will find it necessary to look to other sources than the Customs for the revenue necessary to carry on the business of the country.

So far as the duties payable may be taken as a basis of classification, the imports may be divided into two classes—one comprising intoxicants and narcotics, upon which duties equal to an average of about 120 per cent. *ad valorem* are levied, and another class consisting of imports selected for taxation at specific or *ad valorem* rates. The value of

intoxicants and narcotics imported during 1892 into each Colony was £3,083,866, while the import duties collected thereon was not less than £3,787,005, the amounts credited to each Colony being as follow :—

Colony.	Imports of Intoxicants and Narcotics for Home Consumption.	Amount of Import Duties collected.
	£	£
New South Wales	1,082,614	1,225,224
Victoria	858,103	954,835
Queensland	389,693	490,278
South Australia	177,701	204,795
Western Australia	106,822	119,455
Tasmania	79,985	121,167
New Zealand	388,948	671,251
Australasia	3,083,866	3,787,005

These collections represent about 43½ per cent. of the total Customs revenue raised, the remaining portion being distributed among the various Colonies, as the following table shows. The total value of imports for home consumption, exclusive, of course, of the value of intoxicants, narcotics, coin, and bullion, is also given. A column has been added showing what the collections amount to, stated as an average *ad valorem* duty on the total imports for home consumption :—

Colony.	Imports for Home Consumption (exclusive of Coin and Bullion, and Intoxicants and Narcotics).	Amount of Import Duties collected (less duty paid on Intoxicants and Narcotics).	Average <i>ad valorem</i> Duty.
	£	£	½ cent.
New South Wales	15,046,412	1,350,983	9·0
Victoria	12,698,777	1,187,541	9·4
Queensland	3,637,762	629,776	17·3
South Australia	2,741,421	406,928	14·8
Western Australia	1,261,653	151,921	12·0
Tasmania	1,396,925	197,139	14·1
New Zealand	6,255,624	982,813	15·7
Australasia	43,038,574	4,907,101	11·4

The comparison afforded by the last column, however, has no special value, seeing that a large proportion, probably from 45 to 50 per cent. of the importations other than intoxicants and narcotics, are admitted free of duty, all the Colonies except Western Australia having still a large free list. Reckoning only goods subject to duty, the average rate of duties levied is equal to about 22 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The import duties collected in the various Colonies for each of the last six years are set forth in the following table, drawbacks and refunds being allowed for as regards all the Colonies as far as shown by their returns :—

Colony.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	1,831,432	1,863,211	1,849,684	2,133,799	2,576,207	2,064,378
Victoria	2,682,012	2,771,315	2,588,367	2,384,418	2,142,376	1,730,947
Queensland	1,345,104	1,346,768	1,242,343	1,202,840	1,120,054	1,063,562
South Australia	605,443	588,366	675,085	606,780	611,723	572,528
Western Australia.....	154,352	167,992	178,231	233,777	271,376	259,267
Tasmania	301,802	309,762	330,991	378,951	318,306	288,546
New Zealand.....	1,361,995	1,409,005	1,493,945	1,555,323	1,654,064	1,665,683
Australasia.....	8,282,140	8,456,479	8,353,646	8,585,883	8,694,106	7,644,911

The revenue per inhabitant derived from import duties offers probably more food for reflection than the figures in the table just given. New South Wales raised the smallest revenue compared with population of any of the Colonies of the group until 1892, a circumstance due to the comparatively low rate of the tariff; in 1892 its collections were about the average for Australasia. The variations in the rates from year to year are interesting as illustrating the force of the remarks a few pages back introducing the subject of Customs duties :—

Colony.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	1 15 4	1 14 11	1 13 7	1 17 3	2 3 7	1 14 1
Victoria	2 10 10	2 10 10	2 6 3	2 1 7	1 16 10	1 9 7
Queensland	3 13 10	3 11 4	3 4 0	2 19 11	2 13 10	2 9 10
South Australia	1 19 4	1 13 1	2 3 2	2 3 11	1 16 11	1 13 6
Western Australia.....	3 13 4	3 18 0	3 19 0	4 10 7	4 16 11	4 3 10
Tasmania	2 4 0	2 4 2	2 6 0	2 10 11	2 1 8	1 17 6
New Zealand.....	2 5 2	2 6 2	2 8 1	2 9 4	2 11 6	2 10 4
Australasia.....	2 6 9	2 6 6	2 4 10	2 4 8	2 4 1	1 13 0

A general statement of the Customs duties levied in each Colony would form a fitting close to this Chapter, but there is so little concordance in the tariffs of the Colonies that it is not possible to arrange the duties under general heads, so as to convey a distinct impression of the scope of each. Indeed it is more than probable that the keenest analysis will fail to detect any scientific principle underlying the rates of duty charged. Specific duties on large items of general consumption were the first sources of revenue; these have been increased from time to time, but have rarely been diminished when once imposed. The necessities of the Treasury or other causes subsequently led to the imposition of *ad valorem* duties. The only canon of taxation which seemed to have weighed with the framers of the tariffs was, that raw material required for local manufacturers should remain untaxed, and even this obvious rule has not infrequently been departed from.

SHIPPING AND TRADE OF 1893.

Returns have been received from the various Colonies giving particulars respecting the shipping and commerce for 1893, but as the statements were not sufficiently complete to warrant their use in the foregoing tables, the figures for 1892 were inserted there, and such of the information for 1893 as could be procured will be found in the following tables. The value of the total wool export, as returned by the Customs, to the British Empire and principal Foreign Countries in 1893 was as follows :—

Colony.	Value of Wool Exported to—					Total.	Exported to Australasian Colonies for re-export (included in the two preceding columns).
	United Kingdom.	France.	Germany	Belgium.	Other Countries.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	4,760,701	904,014	950,156	1,085,551	2,749,489	10,449,911	2,727,096
Victoria	3,684,848	812,847	217,252	330,758	58,202	5,103,907	37,271
Queensland	2,171,282	.....	.....	.....	1,407,582	3,578,864	1,407,582
South Australia	1,482,701	178,557	26,935	70,960	233,124	2,001,277	233,124
Western Australia	218,212	.....	.....	.....	26,760	244,972	5,702
Tasmania	208,162	.....	.....	.....	88,280	296,442	88,280
New Zealand	3,767,813	494	.....	.....	6,431	3,774,738	.....
Australasia	16,293,719	1,895,912	1,194,343	1,406,269	4,569,808	25,450,111	4,499,055

From these figures have to be deducted imports to the amount of £803,422 in New South Wales, £2,552,831 in Victoria, and £545,207 in South Australia, so that the net exports of these Colonies were £9,646,489, £2,551,076, and £1,456,070 respectively, and the total wool export of Australasia may be set down at £21,548,651.

The shipping and trade during 1893 of the principal ports of each Colony were as shown below :—

Ports.	Shipping.			Commerce.			
	Inwards.	Outwards	Total.	Imports.	Exports.		
					Domestic.	Re-Exports.	Total.
New South Wales—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Sydney	1,902,265	1,588,857	3,488,122	14,924,157	9,357,331	5,171,113	14,528,444
Newcastle	524,844	842,363	1,367,207	451,253	1,589,946	18,564	1,608,510
Other Ports	163,262	174,737	337,999	2,781,625	6,146,936	637,333	6,784,269
Total	2,590,371	2,602,957	5,193,328	18,107,035	17,094,213	5,827,010	22,921,223
Victoria—							
Melbourne	1,921,677	1,873,110	3,794,787	10,438,901	9,036,307	2,906,141	11,942,448
Geelong	41,390	99,263	140,653	138,798	892,536	1,212	893,793
Other Ports	46,120	48,178	94,293	2,706,115	365,033	107,272	472,305
Total	2,009,187	2,020,551	4,029,738	13,283,814	10,293,926	3,014,625	13,308,551
Queensland—							
Brisbane	318,502	196,247	514,749	2,467,211	2,160,547	442,471	2,603,018
Townsville	30,946	85,716	116,662	462,489	1,816,496	28,612	1,845,108
Rockhampton	20,279	60,103	80,382	338,473	2,353,322	4,209	2,357,531
Cooktown	2,458	61,219	63,677	49,612	98,931	14,963	113,894
Other Ports	92,396	77,762	170,158	1,029,373	2,032,728	61,808	2,694,536
Total	464,581	481,047	945,628	4,347,158	9,062,024	552,063	9,614,087
South Australia—							
Adelaide	1,000,082	945,122	1,954,204	3,844,510	1,736,753	2,609,664	4,346,417
Port Pirie	86,901	114,371	201,272	332,265	289,161	1,500,435	1,789,596
Port Augusta	22,166	43,939	66,105	17,236	510,906	32,216	543,122
Other Ports	89,956	81,063	171,019	3,740,189	758,655	1,026,146	1,784,801
Total	1,208,105	1,184,495	2,392,600	7,934,200	3,295,475	5,168,461	8,463,936
Western Australia—							
Albany	459,179	459,179	918,358	95,449	105,719	30,758	136,477
Fremantle	50,653	38,652	95,305	997,027	417,849	10,795	434,644
Other Ports	29,877	27,878	57,755	401,962	346,869	157	347,026
Total	548,709	525,709	1,071,418	1,494,438	870,437	47,710	918,147
Tasmania—							
Hobart	305,361	300,408	605,769	492,090	*	*	499,730
Launceston	105,760	106,671	212,431	467,725	*	*	667,883
Other Ports	55,191	61,048	116,239	97,868	*	*	184,571
Total	466,312	468,127	934,439	1,057,683	1,336,586	15,598	1,352,184
New Zealand—							
Auckland	238,220	178,866	417,086	1,487,827	1,149,176	107,274	1,256,450
Wellington	142,302	154,194	296,496	1,698,374	1,101,451	15,933	1,117,384
Invercargill	82,841	100,117	182,958	219,426	679,233	1,790	681,023
Lytelton & Christchurch	43,953	110,100	154,053	1,272,860	1,709,971	153,142	1,863,113
Dunedin	53,276	41,529	94,805	1,500,638	1,073,504	147,435	1,220,939
Other Ports	55,012	57,660	112,672	732,390	2,844,108	2,347	2,845,445
Total	615,604	642,466	1,258,070	6,911,515	8,557,443	427,921	8,985,364
Total for Australasia	7,890,869	7,925,352	15,825,221	53,135,843	50,510,104	15,053,388	65,563,492

In the above table the line "Other Ports" includes the overland trade, wherever such trade takes place.
 * Figures not available.

The following table shows the tonnage and trade for 1893, distributed in four important divisions :—

TONNAGE.

Colony.	External Tonnage.				Australasian Colonies.	Total.
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions outside Australasia.	Foreign Countries.	Total.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
New South Wales.....	777,100	365,991	979,210	2,122,301	3,071,027	5,193,328
Victoria	675,889	131,080	307,978	1,114,947	2,914,791	4,029,738
Queensland	164,004	115,626	27,541	307,071	638,557	945,628
South Australia	595,387	100,987	288,190	984,564	1,408,036	2,392,600
Western Australia	332,107	55,943	90,335	528,385	543,033	1,071,418
Tasmania	122,811	529	4,757	128,097	806,342	934,439
New Zealand	449,425	51,207	142,174	642,806	615,264	1,258,070
Australasia	3,166,723	821,263	1,840,185	5,828,171	9,997,050	15,825,221

TRADE.

Colony.	External Trade.				Australasian Colonies.	Total.
	United Kingdom.	British Possessions outside Australasia.	Foreign Countries.	Total.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	15,487,631	984,755	5,779,047	22,251,433	18,776,825	41,028,258
Victoria	13,003,536	937,460	3,159,601	17,100,597	9,491,768	26,592,365
Queensland	5,254,009	232,251	184,047	5,670,307	8,290,938	13,961,245
South Australia	5,403,564	1,186,236	1,056,279	7,646,079	8,752,057	16,398,136
Western Australia	1,082,081	147,141	39,000	1,268,228	1,144,357	2,412,585
Tasmania	628,694	3,926	9,847	642,467	1,767,400	2,409,867
New Zealand	11,518,470	322,242	1,171,872	13,012,584	2,884,295	15,896,879
Australasia	52,377,985	3,814,011	11,399,699	67,591,695	51,107,640	118,699,335