

A
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
SEVEN COLONIES OF AUSTRALASIA,

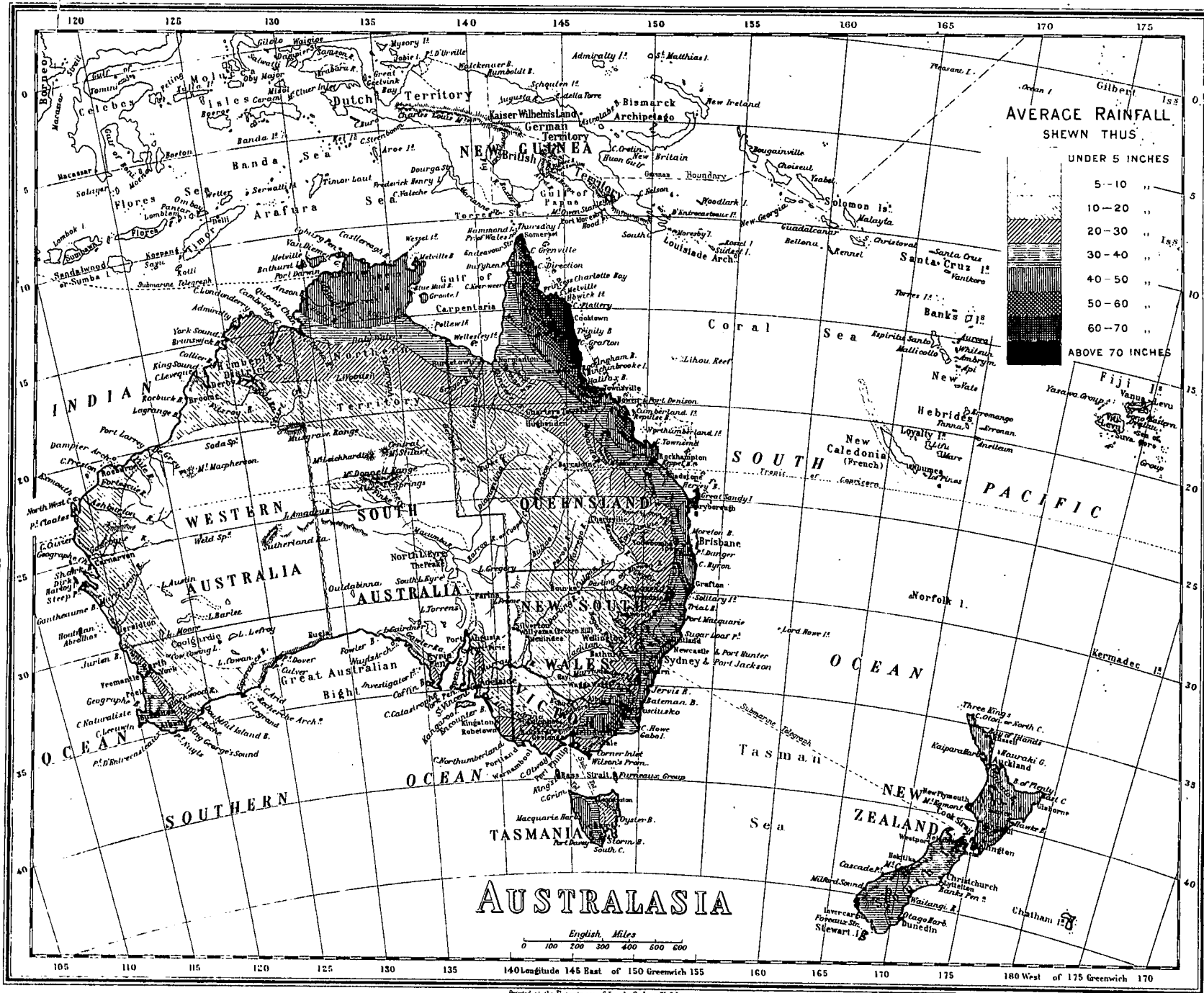
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WITH MAP AND DIAGRAMS.

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PREFACE.

THE general plan adopted in previous editions of this work has been followed in this issue; but several chapters have been recast, and there has been added, by way of appendix, a set of tables corresponding with the various subdivisions of the text, and forming a synoptical view of the progress of each Colony since 1861. The most important changes in the text will be found in the chapters dealing with Public Finance and Accumulation. In all cases the figures have been revised to accord with the latest official information, and refer for the most part to the year 1893; in some instances, owing to lack of latter data, I have been compelled to use statistics relating to 1892, but the occasions when this was necessary were neither many nor important. In some of the later chapters, notably those dealing with financial matters, particulars have been carried down to the middle of the current year; and the appendix contains some later figures than those to be found in the earlier chapters.

Care has been taken to correct errors that have escaped notice in previous editions, and to keep this edition free from them. Should any such have remained undetected, as in the multitude of references is quite possible, it would be deemed a favour if their nature and position were pointed out.

T. A. C.

Sydney, 11 September, 1894.

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POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

THE Seven Colonies of Australasia, which now possess a population of over four millions, and a degree and distribution of material wealth scarcely paralleled by any other community on the globe, were unknown and undreamt of a little more than a century ago. It is the object of these pages to present a short account of the magnificent development to which these infant States have already attained, and to show, in reference to the various elements of prosperity which go to build up a nation, their importance, not only as compared with one another, but also as regards the world at large.

The earliest attempt at settlement in Australasia was the foundation of the Colony of New South Wales, which took place in 1788. Colonisation was commenced in Tasmania in 1804, in Western Australia in 1829, in Victoria in 1834, in South Australia in 1836, in New Zealand in 1840, and in 1842 the district of Moreton Bay, in Queensland, was proclaimed open to free settlement, although as far back as 1825 this locality had been used as a penal settlement. Originally, the colonies now known as Victoria and Queensland formed part of New South Wales, while Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand were, prior to being proclaimed separate colonies, dependencies of New South Wales. South Australia, from the date of first permanent settlement, was established a separate Colony.

The first settlement in New South Wales, the oldest Colony of the group, was effected by an expedition under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, who landed at Botany Bay on 19th January, 1788, and formally took possession of the whole continent. Botany Bay being found unsuitable, the fleet was brought round to Port Jackson, and the city of Sydney founded on the 26th January of the same year. New South Wales was proclaimed a Colony on the 7th of the following month, and its boundaries were defined as extending from Cape York, the northern extremity of Queensland, 10° 37' south latitude, to South East Cape, the most southerly point of Tasmania, 43° 39' south latitude, and from the 135th degree of east longitude to the east coast, including

adjacent islands. The boundaries thus defined include the whole of the territories now known as New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, and about half of the area of South Australia. Though the Colony was originally a penal settlement, free immigration existed from the first, and after the abolition of transportation in 1840 all traces of the penal element were rapidly lost. The Constitution Act of New South Wales was assented to on the 16th July, 1855, and proclaimed on the 24th November of the same year; and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 22nd May, 1856. The boundaries of the Colony at the date of proclamation included that portion of the continent now known as Queensland, but were exclusive of Victoria, which had been made a separate Colony in 1851.

Tasmania, formerly known as Van Diemen's Land, was colonised from New South Wales, having been intended to serve the purpose of a subsidiary penal settlement. Lieutenant Bowen, in charge of an expedition despatched from Sydney, took possession of the island on the 12th September, 1803, and formed a settlement on the east bank of the Derwent River, at Risdon; but the actual commencement of colonisation dates from February, 1804, when Lieutenant-Colonel Collins established himself at Sullivan's Cove, and laid the foundations of the present city of Hobart. The Government was administered from Sydney until the year 1825, when, in the month of December, Van Diemen's Land was duly constituted an independent province. In May, 1853, it was officially announced that transportation had ceased, and in the following year the name of the Colony was changed from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania. The Royal assent to the existing Constitution Act was proclaimed on the 24th October, 1855, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 2nd December, 1856.

The foundation of the Colony of Western Australia dates from the year 1826, when Major Lockyer landed at Albany in charge of an expedition from Sydney, consisting of a detachment of the 39th Regiment and a number of prisoners. In 1827, Captain Stirling arrived in H.M.S. "Success," and explored the Swan River, with a view to establishing a permanent settlement on its banks; and in June, 1829, Captain Fremantle landed near its mouth, and in the same year the town of Perth was founded. The Colony was known originally as the Swan River settlement; it was made a separate Colony on the 1st June, 1829, Captain Stirling being appointed the first Governor. Western Australia remained a Crown Colony under the direct control of the British Government until 20th October, 1890. The present Constitution Act of Western Australia was assented to on the 15th August, 1890; it was proclaimed on 21st October, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 30th December in the same year.

The first attempt to settle Victoria was made in 1803. On the 7th October of that year Lieutenant-Colonel Collins arrived from England with the intention of founding in Port Phillip a convict settlement

similar to that which had been established at Sydney. The expedition landed on the shores of Port Phillip, near Sorrento, and several explorations of the country were made ; but in the course of a few months the attempt at colonisation was abandoned, as the place was believed to be unsuitable for a settlement. For twenty years the District of Port Phillip, as it was called, continued to be neglected. In 1824, Hume and Hovell undertook an exploration of the territory to the south and west of the land then known to the settlers. They reached, it is believed, the western arm of Port Phillip, not far from the present town of Geelong. In 1826 another expedition, under Captain S. Wright, was sent from Sydney to form a settlement at Western Port, but returned by order of Governor Darling, after one year's trial, although the reports of Hume and Hovell, and the officers of the military, were favourable to the occupation being continued. The first permanent settlement took place in 1834, at Portland Bay, by Mr. Edward Henty. In May, 1835, John Batman arrived at Port Phillip, from Launceston, Tasmania, and obtained from the aborigines tracts of land covering an area of 600,000 acres on the shores of Port Phillip and the banks of the Yarra, but the grants were afterwards disallowed by the Imperial Government. In August of the same year another party, under the leadership of J. P. Fawcner, also from Launceston, arrived in the Yarra, and formed a settlement on the site now occupied by the city of Melbourne. In 1836, Sir Richard Bourke, then Governor of New South Wales, despatched Captain Lonsdale from Sydney, with the title of "Resident Magistrate of the District of Port Phillip," to establish a regular Government, with a party of soldiers as well as the necessary civil officials. In 1837 the Governor of New South Wales arrived from Sydney, and gave the name of Melbourne to the new settlement. Port Phillip was separated from the Mother Colony on the 1st July, 1851, and became an independent Colony under the name of Victoria. The Constitution Act of Victoria was proclaimed on the 23rd November, 1855, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 21st November, 1856.

South Australia was colonised in the year 1836, by immigrants sent from England, under the auspices of the South Australian Colonisation Company. Until a site for the capital was chosen the immigrants were landed at Kangaroo Island. Colonel Light, who was sent out to select the site for the settlement, arrived in August, 1836, and, after examining Nepean Bay, Port Lincoln, and Encounter Bay, decided upon establishing the capital where Adelaide now stands. Captain Hindmarsh, the first Governor, arrived at the close of the same year, and proclaimed the Colony on the 28th December. At this date, the northern boundary was fixed at the 26th parallel of south latitude, which remained the limit of the Colony till July, 1863, when the boundary was extended northward to the seaboard. The Act granting Responsible Government was proclaimed on the 24th October, 1856, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 22nd April, 1857.

In 1831 a settlement was established by the Imperial Government at Port Essington, under Sir Gordon Bremer. It was principally used as a military post, and as a harbour of refuge for distressed vessels, but after an occupation of nineteen years it was abandoned. In 1862, Mr. John M'Douall Stuart, a South Australian explorer, succeeded in crossing the continent from Adelaide to Adam Bay on the north coast. He represented the country as suitable for settlement, and application was accordingly made to the Imperial Government for permission to annex the whole of the territory lying between the 26° of south latitude and the seaboard, and the meridians of 129° and 138° east longitude. This tract of territory was formally granted to South Australia in July, 1863, and is now known as the Northern Territory of South Australia. In 1864 the first colonising expedition to the Northern Territory was despatched from Adelaide; a settlement was established at Escape Cliffs, Adam Bay, but the locality being found unsuitable, the colonists, in 1870, removed to Port Darwin, which has since remained the official centre. The administration of the territory is under the control of a Government Resident, who is directly responsible to the authorities of South Australia.

The first attempt at colonisation in New Zealand was made in 1825, by an expedition under the command of Captain Herd, who bought two islands in the Hauraki Gulf, and a strip of land at Hokianga. The attempt failed, owing to the savage character of the natives. Subsequently, a settlement having grown up at what is now called Russell, in the Bay of Islands, in consequence of the frequent visits of whaling-vessels, Mr. Busby, in 1833, was appointed British Resident there.

In 1839 a Company organised in England, styled the "New Zealand Land Company," despatched a preliminary expedition to New Zealand for the purpose of treating with the natives for the purchase of land. They arrived in September of the same year, and established themselves at Port Nicholson, and on January 21st, 1840, the first body of immigrants arrived. On January 29th, Captain Hobson, R.N., arrived at the Bay of Islands, and on the following day the islands were placed under British rule, and became a dependency of New South Wales. On May 21st of the same year the whole of the islands were declared under the sovereignty of Great Britain, and on the 3rd May, 1841, New Zealand was established a separate Colony. Five immigrant-ships arrived in 1840, and settlements were made at Wellington and Auckland. By the treaty of Waitangi, which was signed on February 5th, 1840, the native chiefs ceded the sovereignty of the islands to the British Crown. Disturbances, however, soon occurred between the Maoris and the white settlers, and for about a quarter of a century matters were in a more or less unsettled state. The chief events may be thus summarised:—The Wairau massacres occurred in June, 1843; rising headed by Honi Heki in July, 1844; rebellion of Wiremu Kingi in March, 1860; general war with the Maoris commenced in 1863; serious British

reverses, including the Gate Pah disaster, in 1864; outbreak of the Hau-hau heresy in March, 1865; death of the chief, William Thompson, which practically closed the war, in 1867; rebellion under Te Kooti in November, 1868, which was not finally quelled until July, 1870; submission of the Maori King to the British Government in February, 1875. Constitutional Government was conferred on New Zealand in 1853, and a system by which the local governing power was vested in Provincial Councils, presided over by elective superintendents, continued till November 1876, when it was abolished by an Act of the General Assembly, and Parliament took over the administration of all affairs other than local. The Constitution provides for two Houses of Legislature, as in the other Australasian Colonies. The first session of the General Assembly was opened on the 27th May, 1854, but the members of the Executive were not responsible to Parliament. The first Ministers under a system of Responsible Government were appointed on the 18th April, 1856. In February, 1865, Wellington was established as the seat of Government, and has remained so ever since.

Queensland, like Victoria, is an offshoot of New South Wales. In 1825 the first convict establishment was formed at Eagle Farm, in the Moreton Bay district. The penal settlement came to an end in the year 1842, and the district was proclaimed open to free settlement. From that date to December, 1859, the territory was under the control of the New South Wales Government, the local administration being entrusted to a Government Resident. Its separation from New South Wales took place in 1859, and its Constitution was proclaimed on the 10th December of that year. The first representative Parliament was opened on the 29th May, 1860.

AREAS AND BOUNDARIES.

THE Australasian Colonies comprise the continent of Australia, the adjacent island of Tasmania, and the islands of New Zealand. The group is politically subdivided into seven Colonies, which, with the area of each, are as follow :—

Colony.	Area.	
	In acres.	In square miles.
New South Wales.....	198,848,000	310,700
Victoria	56,245,760	87,884
Queensland.....	427,838,100	668,497
South Australia.....	578,361,600	903,690
Western Australia	678,400,000	1,060,000
Australia	1,939,693,460	3,030,771
Tasmania	16,778,000	26,216
New Zealand	66,861,440	104,471
Australasia.....	2,023,332,900	3,161,458

The British Empire, exclusive of territories under protectorates and spheres of influence, extends over an area of 9,114,700 square miles, so that more than one-third of its area is embraced within the limits of the seven colonies. Australasia is more than twenty-six times as large as the United Kingdom, more than fifteen times as large as France, more than half as large again as Russia in Europe, and almost equal in extent to the continent of Europe or to the United States of America.

The mainland of Australia lies between 10° 39' and 39° 11½' south latitude, and the meridians of 113° 5' and 153° 16' east longitude. Its greatest length is 2,400 miles from east to west, and its greatest

breadth, 1,971 miles from north to south. Its area may be approximately stated at 3,030,771 square miles, and its coast-line 8,850 miles, equal to 1 mile to each 342 square miles of land, the smallest proportion of coast shown by any of the continents. Tasmania, to the south of the mainland, is separated from Victoria by Bass' Straits, about 150 miles in width. New Zealand is opposite the south-eastern coast of Australia, the width of ocean intervening, known as the Tasman Sea, is about 1,100 miles.

New South Wales lies principally between the 29th and 36th parallels of south latitude, and between the 141st and 153rd meridians of east longitude. The length of the Colony, from Point Danger on the north to Cape Howe on the south, is 680 miles. From east to west, along the 29th parallel, the breadth is 760 miles; while diagonally, from the south-west corner—where the Murray passes into South Australia—to Point Danger, the length reaches 850 miles. The seaboard extends over 700 miles. There are no islands of importance on the coast of New South Wales. Lord Howe Island, some 400 miles north-east of Sydney, forms a portion of the Colony, while Norfolk Island, though under the administration of the Governor, does not belong to New South Wales.

Victoria is situated between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. The dividing line between Victoria and South Australia was fixed on the 141st meridian of east longitude, but through an error in survey the present recognised boundary falls about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the 141st meridian. The error is against South Australia, and the authorities of that Colony have been demanding for many years a re-adjustment of territory, but there seems little prospect of the present arrangement being disturbed. The extreme length of Victoria from east to west is 420 miles, and the breadth 250 miles. The coast-line is about 600 miles.

Queensland reaches from the 11th to the 29th parallel of south latitude, and from the 138th to the 153rd meridian of east longitude. The boundary line separating Queensland from South Australia extends northwards along the 141st meridian of east longitude as far as the 26th parallel of south latitude, and from thence along the 138th meridian of east longitude to the seaboard. This line also requires re-adjustment, the present reputed boundary being in all probability too far eastward. The greatest length from north to south is 1,300 miles, and the breadth 800 miles. The coast-line is about 2,550 miles. The coast of Queensland in some parts is studded with islands. The largest are Stradbroke and Moreton on the south-east coast, while Thursday Island on the far north coast is an important place of call, and is now being fortified as one of the lines of defence for the colonies of the eastern seaboard.

The island of New Guinea lies close to the northern extremity of Queensland, being separated from the mainland by Torres' Straits. It is occupied by Dutch, English, and German colonists. The British

colony of New Guinea embraces all that group of islands lying within the 141st and 155th meridian of east longitude, and the 5th and 12th parallels of south latitude. The Government is vested in an Administrator and an Executive Council; toward the expenses of Government the three colonies on the eastern seaboard of Australia each contribute £5,000 annually. By an Act passed in 1887, Queensland engaged for ten years to hold itself primarily responsible for the whole amount of this subsidy. The area of British New Guinea is estimated to be 90,000 square miles, and the population 350,000.

South Australia extends from the 11th to the 38th parallel of south latitude, and from the 129th to the 141st meridian of east longitude. The province of South Australia, properly so called, lies between the 38th and 26th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 129th meridians of east longitude; the Northern Territory is bounded by the 26th and 11th parallels of south latitude, and the 129th and the 138th meridians of east longitude. The greatest length of the Colony from north to south is 1,850 miles, and the width 650 miles, with a seaboard of 2,000 miles, of which about 900 miles are washed by the Indian Ocean, the Arafura Sea, and the waters of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The most important islands belonging to the Colony are Kangaroo Island on the south coast, 85 miles long and 30 broad; Melville Island, off Port Darwin, on the northern coast; Bathurst Island, separated from the last mentioned by Apsley Straits; and Groote Eyland, in the Gulf of Carpentaria. A stockade was erected by Captain Bremer on Melville Island in 1824, but it was abandoned in 1829.

Western Australia consists of the country between the 14th and 35th parallels of south latitude, and the 113th and 129th meridian of east longitude. The greatest length north and south is 1,450 miles, and the width from east to west 850 miles. The coast-line is about 3,000 miles.

Tasmania is an island situated about 150 miles south of Victoria, from which it is separated by Bass' Strait. It lies between 40° 33' and 43° 39' south latitude, and the meridians of 144° 39' and 148° 23' east longitude. Its greatest length from north to south is 210 miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west is 200 miles. There are several small islands belonging to Tasmania. Flinders' Island, in Bass' Strait, has an area of 513,000 acres, and King's Island, the chief of the north-west group, contains 272,000 acres. Including the adjacent islands, the area of Tasmania is 26,216 square miles.

New Zealand is to the east of Australia, its nearest point to the mainland being Cape Maria van Diemen, which is about 1,100 miles from Sugarloaf Point, in New South Wales. New Zealand and its dependencies lie between the 33rd and 53rd parallels of south latitude, and between 166° 30' east longitude and 173° west longitude. The waters known as the Tasman Sea separate the Colony of New Zealand from the continent of Australia.

The North Island, or New Ulster, has a length of about 515 miles, by a breadth of about 250 miles ; its area is estimated at 44,467 square miles, and its coast-line at 2,200 miles. Wellington, the seat of Government, is at the southern extremity of this island.

The South, or as it is officially called the Middle Island, or New Munster, has a length of about 525 miles by a breadth of about 180 miles. Its area is 58,525 square miles, and its coast-line measures 2,000 miles.

Stewart Island, or New Leinster, lies off the southern extremity of South Island, and has an area of 665 square miles ; its greatest length is 30 miles by a breadth of 25 miles.

In 1887 a proclamation was made declaring the Kermadec Islands, lying between the 29th and 32nd parallels, and the 177th and 180th meridians of west longitude, part of the Colony of New Zealand. A protectorate is exercised by the Imperial Government over the Cook Islands or Hervey Group. The British Resident is appointed on the recommendation of the New Zealand Government, which also defrays the cost of the administration.

Including the Chatham Islands, the Auckland Islands, the Campbell Islands, the Bounty Islands, and many others which are dependent, the total area of the Colony of New Zealand is estimated at 104,471 square miles.

CLIMATE.

THE Tropic of Capricorn divides Australia into two parts ; of these the northern or inter-tropical portion contains 1,176,000 square miles, comprising half of Queensland, the Northern Territory of South Australia, and the north-western divisions of Western Australia. The whole of New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, and Tasmania, South Australia proper, half of Queensland, and more than half of Western Australia, comprising 1,985,500 square miles, are without the tropics. In a region so extensive very great varieties of climate are naturally to be expected, but it may be stated as a general law that the climate of Australasia is milder than that of corresponding lands in the Northern Hemisphere. During July, which is the coldest month in these latitudes, one half of Australasia has a mean temperature ranging from 40° to 64°, and the other half from 64° to 80°. The following are the areas subject to the various average temperatures during the month referred to:—

Temperature, Fahrenheit.	Area in square miles.
35° — 40°	300
40° — 45°	39,700
45° — 50°	88,000
50° — 55°	635,300
55° — 60°	701,300
60° — 65°	858,200
65° — 70°	529,700
70° — 75°	234,500
75° — 80°	24,500

The temperature during December ranges from 50° to above 95° Fah., half Australia having a mean temperature below 83°. Dividing the land into zones of average summer temperature, the following are the areas which would fall to each:—

Temperature, Fahrenheit.	Area in square miles.
50° — 55°	300
55° — 60°	66,300
60° — 65°	111,300
65° — 70°	74,300
70° — 75°	373,600
75° — 80°	453,000
80° — 85°	756,500
85° — 90°	588,400
90° — 95°	602,400
95° and over.	135,400

Judging from the figures just given, it must be conceded that a considerable area of the continent is not adapted for colonisation by European

rices. The region with a mean summer temperature in excess of 95° Fahr. is the interior of the Northern Territory of South Australia north of 20th parallel; and the whole of the country, excepting the seaboard, lying between the meridians of 120° and 140° and north of the 25th parallel has a mean temperature in excess of 90° Fahr.

Climatically, as well as geographically, New South Wales is divided into three marked divisions. The coastal region, which is between the parallels of 28° and 37° south latitude, has an average summer temperature ranging from 78° in the north to 67° in the south, with a winter temperature of from 59° to 52°. Taking the district generally the difference between the mean summer and mean winter temperature may be set down as averaging not more than 20°, a range smaller than is found in most other parts of the world. The famed resorts on the Mediterranean seaboard bear no comparison with the Pacific slopes of New South Wales, either for natural salubrity or for the comparative mildness of the summer and winter.

Sydney, situated as it is midway between the extreme points of the Colony, in latitude 33° 52' S., has a mean temperature of 62·9°, corresponding with that of Barcelona, the great maritime city of Spain, and of Toulon, in France; the former being in latitude 41° 22' N., and the latter in 43° 7' N. At Sydney the mean summer temperature is 71°, and that of winter 54°. The range is thus 17° Fahr. At Naples, where the mean temperature for the year is about the same as at Sydney, the summer temperature reaches a mean of 74·4°, and the mean of winter is 47·6°, with a range of 27°. Thus the summer is warmer, and the winter much colder, than at Sydney. The highest temperature in the shade ever experienced in Sydney was 106·9°, and the lowest winter temperature was 35·9°, giving a range of 71°. At Naples the range has been as great as 81°, the winter minimum falling sometimes below the freezing-point. The mean temperature of Sydney for a long series of years was, spring 62°, summer 71°, autumn 64°, and winter 54°.

Passing from the coast to the tableland, a distinct climatic region is entered. Cooma, with a mean summer temperature of 65·4° and winter 41·4°, may be taken as illustrative of the climate of the southern tableland, and Armidale of the northern. The first-named town stands in the centre of the Monaro plains, at an elevation of 2,637 feet above sea-level, and enjoys a summer as mild as either London or Paris, while its winters are far less severe. On the New England tableland, the climate of Armidale and other towns may be considered as nearly perfect as can be found. The yearly average temperature is scarcely 56·1°, while the summer only reaches 67°, and the winter falls to 43·77°, a range of temperature approximating closely to that of the famous health-resorts in the south of France.

The climatic conditions of the western districts of the Colony are entirely different from those of the other two regions, and have often been cited as disagreeable. Compared with the equable temperature

of the coastal district, or of the tableland, there may appear some justification for such a reputation, but only by comparison. The climate of the great plains, in spite of the heat of part of the summer, is very healthy. The town of Bourke may be taken as an example. Seated in the midst of the great plain of the interior, it illustrates peculiarly well the defects, as well as excellencies, of the climate of the whole region. Bourke has exactly the same latitude as Cairo, yet its mean summer temperature is $1\cdot3^{\circ}$ less, and its mean annual temperature 4° less than that of the Egyptian city. New Orleans also lies on the same parallel, but the American city is 4° hotter in summer. As regards winter temperature, Bourke leaves little to be desired. The mean winter reading of the thermometer is $54\cdot7^{\circ}$, and accompanied as this is by clear skies and an absence of snow, the season is both refreshing and enjoyable.

The rainfall of New South Wales varies from an annual average of 64 inches at the Tweed Heads, on the northern coast, to less than 12·5 inches in the Trans-Darling country. The coastal districts average about 45 inches of rain per annum; on the tableland the mean rainfall is 30·84 inches, but in the western interior it is as low as 17 inches. The average rainfall of Sydney for the last thirty-four years was 49 inches.

The climate of Victoria does not differ greatly from that of New South Wales; the heat, however, is generally less intense in summer and the cold greater in winter. Melbourne, which stands in latitude $37^{\circ} 50' S.$, has a mean temperature of $57\cdot3^{\circ}$, and therefore corresponds with Bathurst in New South Wales, Washington in the United States, Madrid, Lisbon, and Messina. The difference between summer and winter is, however, less at Melbourne than at any of the places mentioned. The mean temperature is 6° less than that of Sydney and 7° less than that of Adelaide,—the result of a long series of observations being:—spring, 57° ; summer, $65\cdot3^{\circ}$; autumn, $58\cdot7^{\circ}$; winter, $49\cdot2^{\circ}$. The highest recorded temperature in the shade at Melbourne was $110\cdot7^{\circ}$, and the lowest was 27° .

Ballarat, the second city of Victoria, about 100 miles westerly from Melbourne, and situated at a height of about 1,400 feet above sea-level, has a minimum temperature of 29° , and a maximum of $104\cdot5^{\circ}$ the average yearly mean being $54\cdot1^{\circ}$. Bendigo, which is about 100 miles north of Melbourne, and 700 feet above the level of the sea, has a rather higher average temperature, ranging from $31\cdot2^{\circ}$ to a maximum of $106\cdot4^{\circ}$, the average yearly mean being $59\cdot4^{\circ}$. At Wilson's Promontory, the most southerly point of Australia, the minimum heat is $38\cdot6^{\circ}$, and the maximum $96\cdot4^{\circ}$, the average yearly mean being $56\cdot7^{\circ}$.

During the year 1892 the rainfall at Melbourne amounted to 24·96 inches, and for the last twenty-eight years it averaged 25·51 inches, with an average of 131 days during the year in which rain fell. At Bendigo, during 1892, 26·85 inches fell, and 33·73 at Portland. Among the mountain ranges in Gippsland the rainfall averaged 36 inches.

As about one-half of the Colony of Queensland lies within the tropics, it is but natural to expect that the climate would be very warm. The temperature, however, has a less daily range than that of other countries under the same isothermal lines. This circumstance is due to the sea-breezes which blow with great regularity, and temper what would otherwise be an excessive heat. The hot winds which prevail during the summer in some of the other Colonies are unknown in Queensland. Of course in a territory of such large extent as that of Queensland there are many varieties of climate, and the heat is greater along the coast than on the elevated lands of the interior. In the northern parts of the Colony the high temperature is very trying to persons of European descent.

The mean temperature at Brisbane, during December, January, and February, is about 76° , while during the months of June, July, and August it averages about 60° . Brisbane, however, is situated near the extreme southern end of the Colony, and its average temperature is considerably less than that of many of the towns further north. Thus, the winter in Rockhampton averages nearly 65° , while the summer heat rises almost to 85° , and at Townsville and Normanton the average temperature is still higher.

The average rainfall of Queensland is high, especially along the northern coast, where it ranges from 60 to 70 inches per annum. At Brisbane 50.38 inches is the average of thirty-three years, and even on the plains of the interior from 20 to 30 inches usually fall every year. During 1892 as much as 64.98 inches of rain fell in Brisbane, the number of wet days being 146.

South Australia, extending as it does over about 26 degrees of latitude, naturally presents considerable variations of climate. The southern portions have a climate greatly resembling that of the coast of Italy. The coldest months are June, July, and August, during which the temperature is very agreeable, averaging for a series of years 53.6° , 51.7° , and 54° for those months respectively. On the plains slight frosts occasionally occur, and ice is sometimes seen on the highlands. The summer is the only really disagreeable portion of the year. The sun at that season has great power, and the temperature frequently reaches 100° in the shade, with hot winds blowing from the interior. The weather on the whole is remarkably dry. At Adelaide there are on an average 120 rainy days per annum; during the last fifty-four years the mean rainfall has been 21.08 inches per annum, while further north the quantity recorded was considerably less. The country is naturally very healthful, and in evidence of this it may be mentioned that no great epidemic has ever visited the Colony.

The climate of the Northern Territory of South Australia is extremely hot, except on the elevated tablelands. Altogether the temperature of this part of the Colony is very similar to that of Northern Queensland, and the climate is equally unfavourable to Europeans. It is a fact

worthy of notice that the malarial fevers which are so troublesome to the pioneers of the northern parts of Australia almost, and in some cases entirely, disappear after the land has been settled and consolidated by stock. The rainfall in the extreme north, especially in January and February, is exceedingly heavy. The average yearly rainfall in the coast districts is about 63 inches.

Western Australia has practically only two seasons. The winter, or wet season, commences in April and ends in October; the summer, or dry season, comprises the remainder of the year. During the wet season frequent and heavy rains fall, and thunderstorms with sharp showers occur in the summer. The extremes of drought and flood experienced in the other Colonies are almost unknown in Western Australia, but the north-west coast is sometimes visited with hurricanes of great violence during the summer months. In the southern and old settled parts of the Colony the mean temperature is about 64° , but in the more northern portions the heat is excessive, though the dryness of the atmosphere makes it superior to most tropical climates. At Perth, in 1892, the mean temperature was 64° , the maximum being 109° and the minimum 35° ; the rainfall for the same year was 31.23 inches. Although the heat is very great during three months of the year, the nights and mornings are almost always cool, and through there being so little moisture in the air no danger arises from camping out.

Tasmania, protected as it is by its geographical position, and by the tempering influence of the surrounding ocean, from extremes of heat or cold, enjoys an exceedingly genial climate. The greater part of the island in the settled regions is characterised by a mild and equable temperature, ranging between the extremes of 20° to 44° in winter to 78° to 96° in summer. Spring and autumn are the most pleasant seasons of the year, especially the latter, when the mean reading of the thermometer is about 57° . The mean temperature of Hobart for the last fifty years was 55° . The richness of its flora is an evidence of the genial nature of the climate of Tasmania, while the purity of its atmosphere is proved by the small proportion of zymotic diseases recorded in the bills of mortality. The hot winds of the continent of Australia are felt in the northern parts of Tasmania only, and, even there, are greatly reduced in temperature by their passage across Bass' Straits. Generally speaking, all through the summer months there are alternate land and sea breezes, which tend to cool the atmosphere even in the hottest days. The climate of Tasmania is fresh and invigorating, and is much recommended as a restorative for those whose constitutions have been enfeebled by residence in hotter climes. Large numbers of tourists in search of health visit the island every summer. The rainfall, except in the mountain districts, is moderate and regular. The average downfall at Hobart for a long series of years was 22.93 inches, with 143 wet days per annum.

The climate of New Zealand is in some respects similar to that of Tasmania, but the changes of weather and temperature are often very

sudden. As the Colony extends over more than 10 degrees of latitude, it possesses a considerable amount of variety in regard to climate. The North Island, in this respect, is somewhat similar to Rome, Montpellier, and Milan, while the Middle or Southern Island more resembles Jersey, in the Channel Islands. The mean annual temperature of the North Island is 57°, and of the Middle Island 52°, while the yearly average of the whole Colony for each season is as follows :—Spring 55°, summer 63°, autumn 57°, and winter 48°. The mean temperature of New Zealand is lower than that of similar latitudes in Europe, though higher than is experienced in America on corresponding parallels. The mean temperature of the South or Middle Island is less by about 5° than that of the North Island. Snow very seldom lies on the ground at the sea-level in the North Island, and only occasionally in the South Island. The summits of Ruapehu, the highest mountain in the North Island, and of the great mountain chain in the South Island, are covered with perpetual snow from an altitude of 7,500 feet above the level of the sea. Ice is occasionally seen in winter-time in all parts of New Zealand. The whole Colony is subject to strong breezes, which frequently culminate in gales. The rainfall of New Zealand during 1892 varied very much at the several observing stations. At Auckland the fall amounted to 41·33 inches, while at Wellington, it reached as high as 67·66 inches. At Lincoln, on the east coast of the Middle Island, near Christchurch, only 27·88 inches fell, although at Dunedin, on the same coast, but more to the south, there was a fall of 47·55 inches, of which quantity nearly 4½ inches fell on one day—Feb. 8. Periods of lasting drought are almost unknown in New Zealand ; indeed it is very seldom that the records of any station show the lapse of a whole month without rain. The number of days in the year on which rain fell varied from 184 in Wellington, to 124 at Lincoln.

The following table illustrates the rainfall of Australasia :—

Rainfall.	Rainfall area in square miles for each division.			
	Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
Under 10 inches	1,254,400	.....	.....	1,254,400
10 to 20 „	867,200	9,440	.....	876,640
20 to 30 „	411,300	.....	69,650	480,950
30 to 40 „	232,100	8,380	17,410	257,890
40 to 50 „	144,300	8,380	17,410	170,090
50 to 60 „	49,300	.....	.....	49,300
60 to 70 „	57,700	.....	.....	57,700
Above 70 „	14,500	.....	.....	14,500
	3,030,800	26,200	104,470	3,161,470

SHIPPING.

THE earliest date for which there is reliable information in regard to Australasian shipping is 1822. The growth of the trade of Australasia since then has been marvellous, and although the rate at which population has advanced has been as large as could reasonably be expected, the growth of shipping has been even more rapid. Taking the whole period covered by the following table, the increase of population has averaged about 5 per cent. yearly, while that of shipping has slightly exceeded 7 per cent. The summary herewith gives the total tonnage which arrived at and departed from the various ports of the Colonies, including both foreign and intercolonial trade. Should any comparison be made between Australasia and other countries, the figures would have little significance, as the traffic between the various ports of the Colonies, which is included in the statement, becomes merely coastal trade when the whole of the Colonies are taken as one country. This distinction is kept in view throughout this Chapter, as well as in the succeeding one dealing with exports and imports :—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1822 ...	268	147,869	1871 ...	13,274	4,229,904
1841 ...	2,576	552,347	1881 ...	15,935	8,943,545
1851 ...	5,340	1,088,108	1891 ...	18,468	17,479,535
1861 ...	10,316	2,828,484	1892 ...	17,512	17,213,970

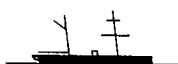
In the year 1822 all the settlements on the mainland were comprised in the designation of New South Wales, and as late as 1859 Queensland formed part of the mother Colony. Thus an exact distribution of tonnage can only be made subsequent to the year last named. The following table gives details for the census years, 1871, 1881, and 1891, as well as for the year 1892 :—

Colony.	1871.		1881.		1891.		1892.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
New South Wales	4,014	1,500,479	4,357	2,786,500	6,121	5,694,236	6,027	5,647,184
Victoria	4,394	1,355,025	4,248	2,412,534	5,001	4,715,109	4,521	4,456,254
Queensland	415	93,236	1,803	882,491	1,170	997,118	1,098	972,428
South Australia	1,436	337,026	2,249	1,359,591	2,429	2,738,589	2,170	2,545,070
Western Australia	294	137,717	368	285,046	598	1,045,555	676	1,124,565
Tasmania	1,283	216,160	1,383	383,762	1,573	1,044,606	1,645	1,137,140
New Zealand	1,438	540,261	1,527	833,621	1,481	1,244,322	1,375	1,331,323
Australasia	13,274	4,229,904	15,935	8,943,545	18,468	17,479,535	17,512	17,213,970

SHIPPING

INWARDS AND OUTWARDS

1841



552,347 TONS

1822



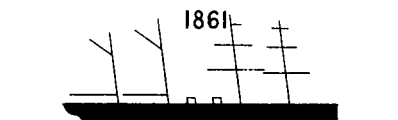
147,869 TONS

1851



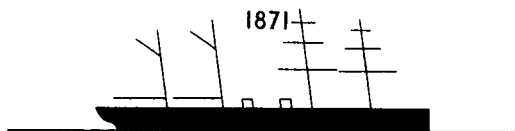
1,088,108 TONS

1861



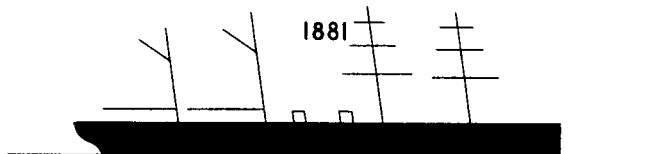
2,828,484 TONS

1871



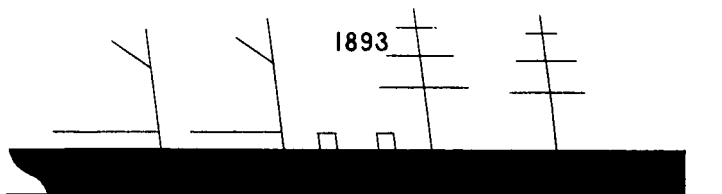
4,229,904 TONS

1881



8,943,545 TONS

1893



15,825,221 TONS

The tonnage of Australasia, as well as that of nearly all of the provinces individually, for the year 1891 was the highest on record, being about $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than that of the previous year. This result was partly due to the circumstance that a large amount of goods remained unshipped at the close of 1890, owing to the maritime strike, which of necessity appears in the returns of 1891. The tonnage of 1892, although slightly less than that of 1891, was, nevertheless, more than 10 per cent. larger than that of 1890.

In the following tables the average tonnage of vessels trading with Australasia and the daily movements of tonnage are given. The year 1861 is made the first point of comparison, the nature of the returns being such as to render it impossible to satisfactorily exclude the coastal trade from the general tonnage before that date. The average tonnage per vessel for each of the last four census periods, and for the year 1892, was :—

1861	549
1871	546
1881	867
1891	1,471
1892	1,558

The increase in the carrying capacity of vessels trading with Australasia is truly remarkable, especially since 1871. The change, however, is due, not so much to Australasian enterprise, as to the general tendency everywhere exhibited to substitute large and speedy steamships for the sailing vessels of former days.

The following figures represent the average daily movements of foreign-going tonnage (entered and cleared) in Australasian ports at various periods :—

1861	2,950
1871	3,505
1881	8,639
1891	17,691
1892	17,508

that is to say, thirty-eight vessels, of 20,650 tons in the aggregate, entered or cleared every week during the year 1861, whilst in 1892 the average weekly shipping movement was 79 vessels, aggregating nearly 123,000 tons.

The position which each Colony occupied in 1881 is much the same as that held by it to-day, but, as might naturally be expected, the ratio of increase has been very different for the various Colonies. Those least developed in 1881 show the greatest proportionate increase during the period, as the figures herewith demonstrate. The total external and

intercolonial tonnage, inwards, for 1881, 1891, and 1892 was as follows :—

Colony.	1881.		1891.		1892.		Increase per cent., 1881-92.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	
New South Wales	2,254	1,456,230	3,021	2,321,898	2,960	2,304,540	93
Victoria	2,125	1,219,231	2,531	2,333,864	2,255	2,224,652	82
Queensland	936	455,985	607	502,794	566	490,860	7
South Australia	1,120	634,203	1,220	1,308,720	1,091	1,283,391	83
Western Australia	135	145,048	310	533,433	356	572,090	204
Tasmania	694	192,024	785	514,706	816	506,533	195
New Zealand	765	420,134	737	618,515	686	675,223	61
Australasia	8,079	4,572,864	9,211	8,698,930	8,730	8,617,312	88

The meaning of the increase shown above, so far at least as some of the colonies are concerned, is apt to be misunderstood; thus, the abnormal development of Western Australia should not be set down as altogether due to the increased trade of that colony, but to the circumstance that one of its ports lies in the track of the large steam-vessels trading between Europe and the Eastern Colonies; and this remark, to a minor extent, is applicable also to some of the more populous colonies.

In the next table the combined external and intercolonial tonnage inwards and outwards, and the proportion claimed by each colony, are given. It will be seen that New South Wales at each period held the largest share of tonnage :—

Colony.	Inward and Outward.						Percentage of Tonnage to each Colony.		
	1881.		1891.		1892.		1881.	1891.	1892.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.			
New South Wales	4,357	2,786,500	6,121	5,694,236	6,027	5,647,184	31.1	32.6	32.8
Victoria	4,248	2,412,534	5,091	4,715,109	4,521	4,456,254	27.0	27.0	25.9
Queensland	1,803	882,491	1,170	997,118	1,098	972,428	9.9	5.7	5.7
South Australia	2,249	1,359,591	2,429	2,738,589	2,170	2,545,076	15.2	15.6	14.8
Western Australia	368	235,046	598	1,045,555	676	1,124,565	3.2	6.0	6.5
Tasmania	1,383	383,762	1,578	1,044,606	1,645	1,137,140	4.3	6.0	6.6
New Zealand	1,527	833,621	1,481	1,244,322	1,375	1,331,323	9.3	7.1	7.7
Australasia	15,935	8,943,545	18,468	17,479,535	17,512	17,213,970	100.0	100.0	100.0

In the foregoing tables the shipping passing from one colony to the other has been included with the tonnage to places outside Australasia. In the following statement, however, reference is made only to the trade with the British Empire and foreign countries. These are, therefore, the figures which should be used if comparisons are instituted between Australasia and other countries :—

Trade with—	1861.		1871.		1881.		1891.		1892.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
The United Kingdom—										
Inwards	387	308,711	305	294,321	768	999,403	967	1,863,664	810	1,670,316
Outwards	140	116,397	288	266,432	491	651,825	753	1,484,745	728	1,521,500
Total	527	425,108	593	560,753	1,259	1,651,228	1,720	3,348,409	1,538	3,191,816
British Possessions outside Australasia—										
Inwards	232	101,442	320	133,127	623	393,234	511	536,879	484	583,199
Outwards	280	166,860	337	163,350	596	374,753	463	469,453	424	467,101
Total	512	268,302	657	296,477	1,219	767,987	974	1,006,332	908	1,050,300
Foreign Countries—										
Inwards	385	149,311	449	192,377	519	302,607	754	938,662	781	1,003,479
Outwards	537	234,135	645	229,809	638	431,265	942	1,163,647	875	1,144,718
Total	922	383,446	1,094	422,186	1,157	733,872	1,696	2,102,309	1,656	2,148,197
External Trade—										
Inwards	1,004	559,464	1,074	619,825	1,910	1,695,244	2,232	3,339,205	2,075	3,256,994
Outwards	957	517,392	1,270	659,591	1,725	1,457,843	2,158	3,117,845	2,027	3,133,319
Total External Trade	1,961	1,076,856	2,344	1,279,416	3,635	3,153,087	4,390	6,457,050	4,102	6,390,313

The tonnage to and from each of the divisions of the British Empire, as well as the leading foreign countries trading with Australasia, is set forth in the following statement—no country whose trade is of any magnitude has been omitted :—

Countries.	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British Empire—						
United Kingdom	1,259	1,651,228	1,720	3,348,400	1,538	3,191,816
India and Ceylon	167	272,199	142	286,319	162	334,005
Hong Kong	244	257,011	227	324,820	239	345,176
Cape Colony	133	54,949	72	66,211	66	75,571
Fiji	153	43,255	153	127,189	148	122,765
Other British Possessions	522	140,573	380	201,793	293	172,783
Total	2,478	2,410,215	2,694	4,354,741	2,446	4,242,116
Foreign Countries—						
France and New Caledonia	224	113,215	275	417,064	294	538,874
Germany	27	15,786	208	393,001	209	397,159
Netherlands and Java	67	35,719	51	74,843	53	76,641
Belgium	2	1,552	27	41,907	36	64,642
United States	294	301,246	484	597,210	377	488,030
China	81	53,996	34	33,135	24	24,227
Other Foreign Countries	462	212,358	617	545,149	663	558,624
Total	1,157	733,872	1,696	2,102,309	1,656	2,148,197

Some little difficulty is met with in distinguishing correctly the external tonnage for each Colony, owing to the circumstance that steam vessels from Europe call at various Colonial ports, and are credited to the first port of call, quite irrespective of the fact that little or none of the cargo may be destined for the Colony to which the port belongs. Thus, the returns of Western Australia for 1892 show external shipping entering inwards 264,408 tons, and 276,256 tons outwards, in all, 540,664 tons, a much larger total than that of Queensland, and not far short of four times that of Tasmania, though the present importance of both these Colonies is considerably greater than that of Western Australia. The following table gives the total of the other than Australasian tonnage arriving at and departing from the ports of each Colony; the figures, however, should be taken in conjunction with the import and export statistics given in the next chapter :—

Colony.	Inward and Outward.						Percentage of Tonnage to each Colony.		
	1881.		1891.		1892.		1881.	1891.	1892.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.			
New South Wales	1,120	1,080,446	1,600	2,271,960	1,554	2,336,576	34·3	35·2	36·6
Victoria	626	737,272	759	1,330,557	677	1,247,641	23·4	20·6	19·5
Queensland	461	282,439	342	393,255	285	359,349	8·9	6·1	5·6
South Australia	541	479,231	760	1,175,447	653	1,072,966	15·2	18·2	16·8
Western Australia	171	139,200	284	533,959	296	540,664	4·4	8·2	8·5
Tasmania	68	27,679	86	146,109	74	142,452	0·9	2·3	2·2
New Zealand	648	406,820	559	605,763	563	690,665	12·9	9·4	10·8
Australasia	3,635	3,153,087	4,890	6,457,050	4,102	6,390,313	100·0	100·0	100·0

TONNAGE IN BALLAST.

A peculiar feature of Australasian trade is the small though varying proportion of tonnage in ballast arriving from or departing to places outside Australasia. Thus, in 1881 this description of tonnage amounted to 4·3 per cent. of the whole; in 1891 the proportion was only 3·5 per cent.; and in 1892 6·4 per cent.; while in European and American countries of which there are available returns the proportion varies from 13 to 34 per cent. The total tonnage inward and outward in ballast only for each period was:—

Colony.	Inward and Outward in Ballast.			Percentage of Tonnage in Ballast to Total External Tonnage of each Colony.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.			
New South Wales	22,376	74,976	216,084	2·1	3·3	9·2
Victoria	12,841	27,417	33,203	1·7	2·1	2·7
Queensland	25,378	25,868	24,985	9·0	6·6	6·9
South Australia	28,590	40,907	50,080	6·0	3·5	4·7
Western Australia	10,399	14,030	30,761	7·5	2·6	5·7
Tasmania	4,553	11,816	8,779	16·4	8·1	6·2
New Zealand	30,622	30,650	45,093	7·5	5·1	6·5
Australasia	134,759	225,664	408,985	4·3	3·5	6·4

The reason why so small a proportion of the Australasian shipping leaves in ballast is principally to be found in the large and varied resources of the country, for when the staple produce—wool—is not available, cargoes of wheat, coal, and other commodities may generally be obtained. Besides, owing to the great distance of the Australasian ports from the commercial centres of the old world, vessels are not usually sent out without at least some prospect of a return cargo being secured. It would not pay to send vessels “seeking,” as it is called, which is commonly done with regard to European and American ports. The percentage of tonnage in ballast to total inward and outward tonnage during 1891 for some of the principal countries of the world is given herewith:—

Country.	Proportion of Tonnage in Ballast to total Tonnage.	Country.	Proportion of Tonnage in Ballast to total Tonnage.
United Kingdom	16·7	Belgium	25·4
France	20·5	Netherlands	23·9
Germany	20·3	Norway and Sweden ...	31·6
Spain	20·1	United States	12·6
Italy	20·9		
Russia	34·0	Australasia (1892)	6·4

INTERCOLONIAL SHIPPING.

The expansion of the intercolonial shipping has kept pace with the external trade of the Colonies. New Zealand forms an exception to the rule, a circumstance due to the development of its resources having now reached such a point that the Colony is in a position to trade directly with Great Britain, instead of, as formerly, indirectly by way of the ports of New South Wales and Victoria.

The following is a statement of the inward intercolonial tonnage :—

Colony.	Inward.					
	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
New South Wales	1,730	939,158	2,375	1,847,435	2,279	1,755,689
Victoria	1,733	780,633	2,067	1,542,369	1,864	1,516,866
Queensland	663	268,593	405	277,055	425	321,285
South Australia	837	412,493	778	690,488	693	639,825
Western Australia.....	95	74,020	155	242,004	208	307,682
Tasmania.....	654	175,439	724	409,147	766	468,778
New Zealand	457	227,284	475	351,227	420	350,193
Australasia	6,169	2,877,620	6,979	5,359,725	6,665	5,360,318

New South Wales, it will be seen, heads the list with very nearly one-third of the total intercolonial inward shipping—a position, doubtless in a large measure, due to the fact that many vessels which have discharged cargo in other Colonies come to New South Wales for cargoes for foreign ports. Victoria stands second to New South Wales for vessels inwards from other Colonies, but in regard to the outward intercolonial trade she stands first, as will be seen by the figures annexed :—

Colony.	Outward.					
	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
New South Wales	1,507	766,896	2,146	1,574,841	2,194	1,554,919
Victoria	1,889	894,629	2,265	1,842,183	1,980	1,691,747
Queensland	679	331,459	423	326,808	388	291,794
South Australia	871	467,867	891	872,654	824	832,285
Western Australia.....	102	71,826	159	269,592	172	276,219
Tasmania.....	661	180,644	768	489,350	805	525,910
New Zealand	422	199,517	447	287,332	392	290,465
Australasia	6,131	2,912,838	7,099	5,662,760	6,755	5,463,339

The position occupied by Victoria as compared with New South Wales in the table just given is peculiar, and arises from the necessity of many vessels arriving with cargoes being compelled to leave in ballast and seek outward freights in New South Wales, particularly at the port of Newcastle. A large proportion of the tonnage from Victoria to New South Wales is of ships in ballast requiring coal, not for Victoria only, but for places outside Australasia; these ships leaving Victorian ports are reckoned as intercolonial, but when entering outward at Newcastle they are of course cleared as engaged in foreign trade. The combined tonnage inward and outward will be found in the following table, with the percentage due to each Colony. The figures are the totals of the two preceding tables :—

Colony.	Inward and Outward.			Percentage of Tonnage to each Colony.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.			
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	1881.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales ..	1,706,054	3,422,276	3,310,608	29·5	31·0	30·6
Victoria	1,675,262	3,384,552	3,208,613	28·9	30·7	29·6
Queensland	600,052	603,863	613,079	10·4	5·5	5·7
South Australia ...	880,360	1,563,142	1,472,110	15·2	14·2	13·6
Western Australia..	145,846	511,596	583,901	2·5	4·6	5·4
Tasmania	356,083	898,497	994,688	6·2	8·2	9·2
New Zealand	426,801	638,559	640,658	7·3	5·8	5·9
Australasia	5,790,458	11,022,485	10,823,657	100·0	100·0	100·0

The general tendency to substitute steamers for sailing vessels is very marked in the Australasian trade. Unfortunately the records of Queensland and of the Northern Territory of South Australia do not admit of a distinction being made between the two classes of vessels, nor do those of South Australia and New Zealand, except of later years. The following table shows the steam tonnage of those Colonies of which the returns are available. The figures include the vessels bound for intercolonial ports, as well as those for ports outside Australasia :—

Colony.	Inward and Outward.			Percentage of Steam to Total Tonnage.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales...	1,758,304	4,299,791	4,329,634	63·1	75·5	76·7
Victoria	1,787,861	4,091,057	4,011,364	74·1	86·8	90·0
South Australia ...	*	2,007,775	1,906,733	*	73·3	78·0
Western Australia..	210,664	978,568	1,037,333	73·9	93·6	92·2
Tasmania	265,833	960,224	1,076,601	69·3	91·9	94·7
New Zealand	*	822,086	903,987	*...	66·1	67·9

* Not obtainable.

The subjoined figures give like information for the years 1881 and 1891 for some of the principal countries of the world :—

Country.	Percentage of Tonnage to Total Steam and Sailing.		Country.	Percentage of Tonnage to Total Steam and Sailing.	
	1881.	1891.		1881.	1891.
United Kingdom	67·7	84·2	Netherlands	74·4	92·5
France	69·5	87·0	Norway and Sweden	41·0	70·7
Germany	70·8	87·2	United States	55·5	72·3
Italy	72·8	88·3	Australasia	68·6	82·5
Belgium	81·3	94·0			

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF PORTS.

The relative importance of the various ports of Australasia may be ascertained from an inspection of the table hereunder. Melbourne takes first place, but the figures quoted comprise the great ocean steamers, whose terminal port is Sydney, and which are counted in the homeward and outward voyages as twice entering and twice clearing at Port Phillip. This remark applies equally to Port Adelaide and Albany. Next comes Sydney, Port Adelaide, and Newcastle. The total tonnage inwards and outwards for all the principal ports of Australasia for 1881, 1891, and 1892 is given :—

Colony.	Port.	1881.	1891.	1892.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
New South Wales ...	Sydney	1,610,692	3,291,188	3,490,785
	Newcastle	1,127,238	1,844,842	1,753,485
Victoria	Melbourne	2,144,949	4,362,138	4,158,773
	Geelong	93,347	190,932	153,044
Queensland	Brisbane	406,032	855,993	744,207
	Townsville	205,886	544,470	553,448
	Rockhampton	207,706	471,837	478,160
	Cooktown	217,144	469,577	365,894
South Australia ...	Port Adelaide	1,078,920	1,990,938	1,923,911
	Port Pirie	33,325	321,781	283,034
	Port Darwin	90,100	170,642	161,813
Western Australia ...	Albany	219,902	931,502	965,143
	Fremantle	42,618	63,068	94,104
Tasmania	Hobart	204,007	646,683	730,323
	Launceston	138,657	293,537	287,741
New Zealand.....	Auckland	238,886	345,183	410,487
	Wellington	119,243	293,451	273,488
	Bluff Harbour	91,592	196,540	200,472
	Lyttelton	167,151	161,387	195,182
	Dunedin.....	114,637	97,409	127,053

In connection with the figures shown for Queensland ports in the above table, it is necessary to point out that intercolonial and foreign-going steamers are entered and cleared at each Queensland port which they visit, and not merely at the first and last port of call.

The above figures, as already explained, only partially represent the relative importance of the various ports. A better idea of their actual positions will be gained from the following table, which shows the value of the total trade, and the value to every ton of shipping in 1892, for the principal ports of each Colony:—

Colony.	Ports.	Total Trade.	Trade to each ton of Shipping.
		£	£
New South Wales	Sydney	31,072,405	8·9
	Newcastle	2,612,012	1·5
Victoria	Melbourne	26,371,031	6·3
Queensland	Brisbane	4,615,756	6·2
South Australia	Port Adelaide	7,902,899	4·1
Western Australia	Fremantle	1,182,766	12·6
	Albany	236,667	0·2
Tasmania	Hobart	1,261,192	1·7
	Launceston	1,337,172	4·6
New Zealand	Wellington	2,844,068	10·4
	Auckland	2,857,564	7·0

The comparative importance of the shipping movements of Australasia may be seen from viewing them in connection with the tonnage annually visiting the chief ports of the United Kingdom. In absolute tonnage, it will be observed, Melbourne is exceeded only by London, Liverpool, Cardiff, and Newcastle. Hull comes next on the list, having a slight lead over Sydney, which in its turn exceeds Glasgow, Newport, Southampton, and all the other British ports. If the value of the trade only be considered, that of Sydney is exceeded only by the trade of London, Liverpool, and Hull. In the following

table the tonnage and trade for the British as well as Australasian Ports are for 1892 :—

Port.	Total.	
	Tons.	Trade.
England—		£
London	13,916,459	226,749,916
Liverpool	11,119,976	212,662,149
Cardiff	9,779,179	9,923,062
Newcastle.....	4,205,580	10,342,488
Hull	3,801,180	44,551,414
Newport	1,864,053	1,954,214
Southampton	1,735,535	15,939,456
Scotland—		
Glasgow	2,940,905	27,062,312
Leith	1,544,337	14,308,462
Grangemouth	1,340,928	3,352,171
Kirkcaldy.....	1,339,997	906,057
Ireland—		
Belfast	483,184	3,823,250
Dublin	373,559	3,157,009
Australasia—		
Melbourne	4,158,773	26,371,031
Sydney	3,490,785	31,072,405
Adelaide	1,923,911	7,902,899
Brisbane	744,207	4,615,756
Albany	965,143	236,667
Hobart	730,323	1,261,192
Auckland	410,487	2,857,564

MOVEMENTS OF TONNAGE.

The yearly movement of tonnage in the ports of Melbourne and Sydney far exceeds that of any other British possession, except Hongkong. Two other exceptions might be mentioned, those of Gibraltar and Malta, but as these are chiefly ports of call, and the trade is very limited compared with the tonnage, they can hardly be placed in the same category.

The shipping trade of Australasia is almost entirely in British hands, as will be seen from the subjoined table. Although in recent years direct communication with continental Europe has been established, and several splendid lines of steamers have entered on this trade, the proportion of the total shipping belonging to Great Britain and her dependencies has fallen only from 92·9 to 88·0 per cent. during the period covered. The nationality of the tonnage engaged in the total

trade was as shown below. Later figures with regard to shipping will be found on page :—

Nationality.	1881.		1891.		1892.		Percentage of Tonnage of each Nation to Total Tonnage.		
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	1881.	1891.	1892.
British.....	15,127	8,313,535	16,834	15,208,612	16,100	15,142,243	92·9	87·0	88·0
French	91	47,713	251	593,386	248	645,154	0·5	3·4	3·7
German	199	130,070	542	856,528	490	777,265	1·5	4·9	4·5
Scandinavian.....	133	66,566	336	304,977	304	267,964	0·7	1·7	1·5
United States.....	308	328,540	382	383,933	276	234,731	3·7	2·2	1·7
Other nationalities.	77	57,121	123	132,099	94	96,613	0·7	0·8	0·6
Total	15,935	8,943,545	18,468	17,479,535	17,512	17,213,970	100·0	100·0	100·0

Under the term "British," used in the foregoing table, are included vessels owned in Australasia. The returns published by the various Colonies are not in a form such as to admit of the purely local tonnage being distinguished from the other shipping of the Empire. In the following table the number and tonnage of vessels registered in each Colony are given; the statement, however, does not include the whole of the shipping. Few of the large class of vessels employed in the intercolonial trade have been built in Australasia, and consequently the registrations may not include the whole volume of the trade engaged in local waters. The number and tonnage of vessels on the registers in each Colony at the close of 1892 is given in the table herewith. The Queensland return is for steamers only :—

Colony.	Vessels on the Register.	
	Number.	Gross Tonnage.
New South Wales	992	112,568
Victoria.....	424	119,813
Queensland	106	14,199
South Australia	305	39,761
Western Australia	150	6,006
Tasmania	230	20,100
New Zealand	491	101,156
Australasia	2,698	413,603

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	152,014	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	14,214,546	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.

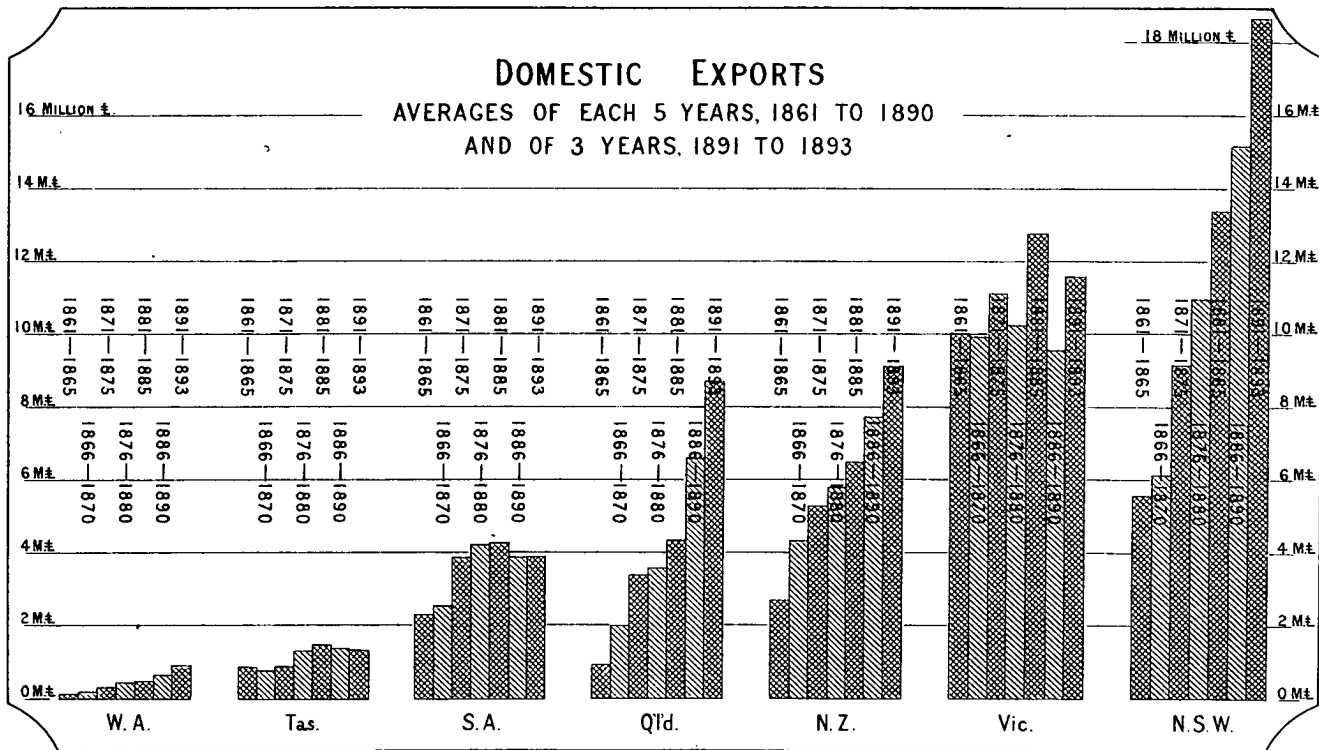
From the foregoing pages it will be readily seen that an excess in the value of imports over exports is a prominent feature of the trade of Australasia taken as a whole, although in some Colonies the reverse is the case. The surplus of imports is due to two causes: (1) the importation, by the Governments 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.
	£	£	per 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	1,816,406	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	545,709	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	7,899,869	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 :—

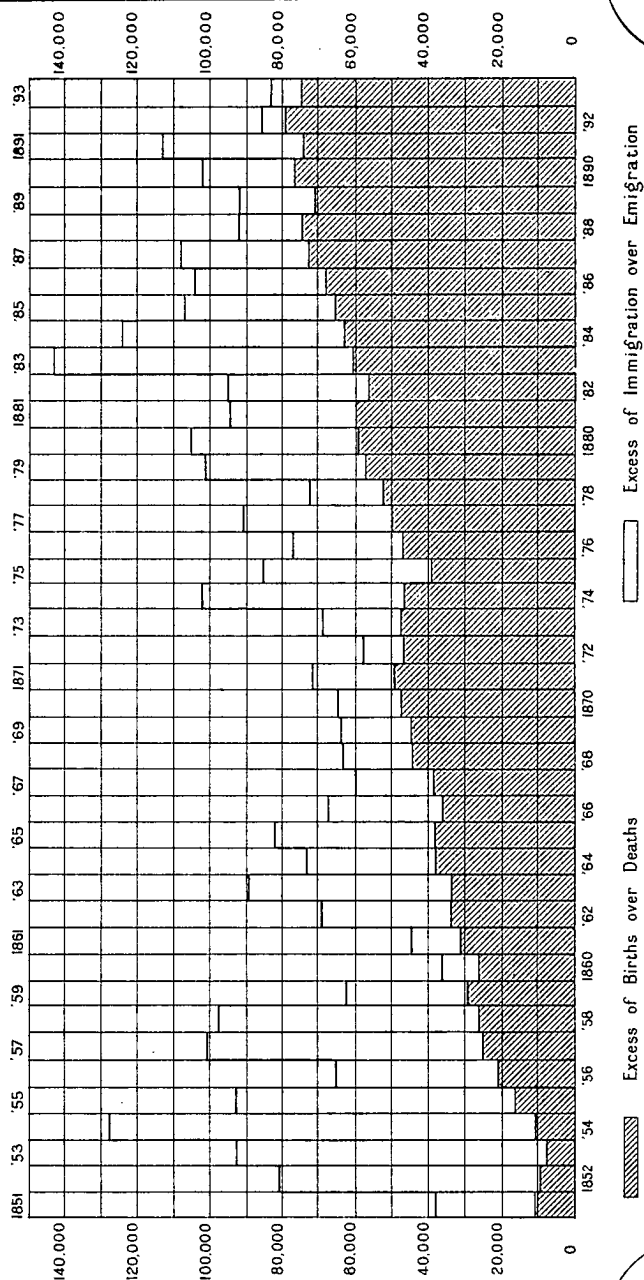
TONNAGE.

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

INCREASE OF POPULATION



POPULATION.

ON the 26th January, 1788, Captain Phillip arrived in Sydney Harbour, bringing with him an establishment of about 1,030 people, all told. Settlement soon spread from the parent colony, first to Tasmania in 1803, and afterwards to other parts of the Continent and New Zealand; so that at the end of 1893 the population of Australasia had grown to 4,068,318 persons, thus distributed:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	658,990	564,380	1,223,370
Victoria	608,065	565,957	1,174,022
Queensland	243,793	188,506	432,299
South Australia	181,752	165,122	346,874
Western Australia	41,014	24,050	65,064
Tasmania	81,978	72,446	154,424
New Zealand	357,635	314,630	672,265
Australasia.....	2,173,227	1,895,091	4,068,318

If to these numbers, which are principally those of the people of European descent, there be added an estimated population of 200,000 Australian aborigines in an uncivilised state in Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland, and the Maoris in New Zealand, who, according to the returns, numbered 41,993, the total population of Australasia at the end of 1893 was over 4,310,000.

The growth of the population of Australasia in different periods, commencing from the date of the first settlement, is shown in the following series, an enumeration of the people having been taken in most of the years quoted:—

Years.	Population of Australasia.	Annual rate of Increase per cent.
1788	1,030	.....
1801	6,508	15·13
1811	11,525	11·94
1821	35,610	5·88
1831	79,306	8·34
1841	211,095	10·28
1851	430,596	7·36
1861*	1,252,994	11·30
1871*	1,924,770	4·39
1881*	2,742,550	3·60
1891*	3,809,895	3·34
1892	3,985,273	2·60
1893	4,068,318	2·08

* Census populations.

It would be but a reasonable expectation that the ratio of increase should fall as the population advanced, and such has been the case since 1851. The high rate of 11·3 per cent. from 1851 to 1861 is, of course, due to the gold discovery, which was so strong an incentive to immigration. The high annual increase between 1831 and 1841 is owing to the policy of State-aided immigration, which was then in vogue. Prior to this period the high average arose from the small number operated on.

The following are the annual rates of increase over various periods in certain countries undergoing extensive settlement :—

Country.	Period.	Annual rate of Increase.
Argentine Republic	1869-87	4·62
Cape Colony (European or white races).....	1875-91	2·23
Brazil	1872-88	2·17
Canada	1881-91	1·12
Chili	1885-91	1·83

The population of Australasia, as shown by the Census of 1891, had increased threefold since 1861, and nearly twofold since 1871, while the annual rate of increase for the whole thirty years was 3·78 per cent. Taking the Colonies individually, the rate of increase for Queensland is the highest, a circumstance partly to be attributed to the large numbers introduced under the system of State-aided immigration which has prevailed in that Colony for many years, but the largest numerical increase was that of New South Wales. The population of each Colony (exclusive of Aborigines, a few in New South Wales and Victoria excepted) in Census periods is shown below, commencing with 1861 :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	Annual Increase per cent., 1861-1891.
New South Wales	350,860	503,981	751,468	1,132,234	3·98
Victoria	540,322	731,528	862,346	1,140,405	2·52
Queensland	30,059	120,104	213,525	393,718	8·95
South Australia	126,830	185,626	279,865	320,431	3·12
Western Australia	15,691	25,353	29,708	49,782	3·92
Tasmania	90,211	101,785	115,705	146,667	1·63
New Zealand.....	99,021	256,393	489,933	626,658	6·34
Australasia	1,252,994	1,924,770	2,742,550	3,809,895	3·78

The following table gives the total increase of each colony for the thirty-three years, 1861-93, and also distinguishes the natural increase arising through the excess of births over deaths from the increase caused by the excess of arrivals over departures :—

Colony.	Excess of		Total Increase.
	Births over Deaths.	Immigration over Emigration.	
New South Wales.....	527,215	347,609	874,824
Victoria	518,977	117,198	636,175
Queensland	149,220	255,023	404,243
South Australia	179,280	43,482	222,762
Western Australia.....	18,641	30,923	49,564
Tasmania.....	65,376	1,273	66,649
New Zealand	319,865	272,689	592,554
Australasia	1,778,574	1,068,197	2,846,771

The information conveyed by the above figures is important, as illustrating not only the movement of population but also the effect of local influences upon immigration ; as, for example, the attraction of liberal land laws, the fertility of the soil, the permanence of employment, and the policy of assisted immigration. The bare statement, however, of the gross increase of each colony due to immigration, if taken by itself, is apt to be misleading, since the original density of population must be deemed a factor affecting the current of immigration. The following figures show the density of population in each colony at the various dates corresponding with those given in a preceding table :—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
New South Wales	1·13	1·62	2·42	3·65
Victoria	6·15	8·32	9·81	12·98
Queensland	·04	·18	·32	·59
South Australia.....	·14	·20	·31	·35
Western Australia	·01	·02	·03	·05
Tasmania	3·44	3·88	4·41	5·59
New Zealand	·95	2·45	4·69	6·00
Australasia	·40	·61	·87	1·21

The population of Australasia, even including the native races, only reaches a density of 1·28 persons per square mile, which is far below that of any other civilised country. Excluding, however, Australian Aborigines and Maoris, the density is not more than 1·21 per square mile.

A comparison with the density of population in the older countries of the world is of little practical use, unless as giving some indication of the future of Australasia, when its population shall have reached the proportions found in the old world. The latest authoritative statements of the population of the countries of the world give the density of the populations of the great divisions of the Globe, as follows:—

Continent.	Area in square Miles.	Population.	Persons per square Mile.
Europe.....	3,555,000	362,590,000	101·99
Asia	14,710,000	873,850,000	59·41
Africa	11,514,000	129,160,000	11·22
America	13,283,000	122,620,000	9·23
Australasia and Pacific.....	3,300,000	4,940,000	1·50
Polar Regions.....	4,889,000	300,000	0·06
The World	51,251,000	1,493,460,000	29·14

There had always been, even in the earliest years of settlement, a steady if not a large stream of immigration to these colonies, but in 1851, memorable for the finding of gold, this condition of things showed a marked change. Thousands of men in the prime of life were attracted to the shores of Australia by the hope of speedily acquiring wealth from the rich gold-fields then recently discovered, and by far the greater number of these new arrivals settled in the new colony of Victoria, which had then just been separated from New South Wales. This rush continued for some years afterwards, causing an unprecedented increase in the population of the newly formed colony. In 1850, just previous to the gold rush, the population of the northern and southern portions of New South Wales was:—

New South Wales—

Port Phillip (now known as Victoria)..... 76,162

Remaining portion of the Colony..... 189,341

But five years afterwards the positions were reversed, for Port Phillip, then an independent Colony, had a population considerably larger than that of its parent, New South Wales:—

Victoria 364,324

New South Wales 277,579

Victoria enjoyed the advantage in population and increased the lead yearly until 1871, when its population exceeded that of New South Wales by no less than 228,230. That year marked the furthest period of separation; nearly every subsequent year showed a nearer approach in numbers, until at the census of 1891 the Southern Colony had only a lead of 8,171, but at the end of that year the positions were again reversed, and New South Wales had a larger population than Victoria by about 7,500. By the end of 1893 the parent Colony, it is estimated, had increased her lead to nearly 50,000.

Queensland and New Zealand, also, owe much of their remarkable progress to the discovery of gold. In New Zealand the gold fever broke out in 1861, when the population numbered only 99,021, and the period of its activity extended over many years. At the census taken in 1891, the population had reached 626,658 souls, exclusive of Maoris, or fully six times that of 1861. In Queensland the attractive force of the gold-fields came into active operation at a later date, and may still be considered a strong factor in stimulating the growth of population in that Colony.

Much of the increase, especially in New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, was due to assisted immigration. The following table shows the number of all immigrants introduced into the Colonies, either wholly or partly at the expense of the State, to the end of 1892 :—

Colony.	Prior to 1881.	1881 to 1892.	Total.
New South Wales	114,253	34,448	148,701
Victoria	140,102	.....	140,102
Queensland	52,399	106,462	158,861
South Australia	88,050	7,298	95,348
Western Australia.....	889	5,003	5,892
Tasmania.....	18,965	2,734	21,699
New Zealand	*100,920	14,658	*115,578
Australasia.....	515,578	170,603	686,181

* Exclusive of number prior to 1870, of which no record can be found.

The following tables shows the increase of population by excess of immigration over emigration for four decennial periods ending with 1890 and for the three years 1891 to 1893 :—

Colony.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales.....	123,097	45,539	109,341	164,205	28,524
Victoria	398,753	38,935	*12,672	112,093	*21,158
Queensland	†	68,191	73,849	101,530	11,453
South Australia	33,024	17,949	34,569	*17,000	7,964
Western Australia.....	6,870	5,319	*339	10,170	15,773
Tasmania	6,767	*3,228	*1,427	5,572	356
New Zealand.....	44,742	118,637	132,976	9,451	11,625
Australasia	613,253	291,342	336,297	386,021	54,537

* Denotes excess of emigrants.

† Included in New South Wales figures.

Taking the last thirteen years, which the following figures illustrate, it will be seen that no Colony exhibits uniformity in the immigration returns, while some show in several years an excess of departures:—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
1881	16,673	4,976	4,009*	12,055	401	1,166	1,970	33,232
1882	16,034	6,563	17,043	3,679*	94	587	2,375	39,017
1883	27,278	6,597	34,371	4,266	436	689	8,657	82,294
1884	23,944	8,525	18,620	275	871	816	7,724	60,775
1885	24,829	9,027	7,056	9,280*	1,628	388*	2,757	35,629
1886	18,073	15,436	7,695	8,819*	3,738	302*	199*	35,622
1887	7,202	15,445	11,527	3,008*	2,049	1,797	211	35,223
1888	6,633	25,757	5,651	8,325*	1,196*	383*	10,548*	17,589
1889	8,241	9,794	4,340	2,346*	578	1,172	701*	21,078
1890	15,298	9,973	764*	1,861	1,571	418	2,795*	25,562
1891	20,268	4,538	7,820	168*	6,078	4,592	3,745*	39,383
1892	6,719	12,285*	1,330	4,107	4,472	2,371*	4,958	6,930
1893	1,537	13,411*	2,303	4,025	5,223	1,865*	10,412	8,224

* Denotes excess of departures.

AGES OF THE PEOPLE.

The average age of the population of Australasia was 24·5 years; the average age of the males was 25·5 years, and that of the females was 23·3 years. Taking the colonies separately it will be seen from the following table that the oldest average population was that of Victoria 25·6 years, and the youngest that of Queensland, 23·7 years. The male population of Western Australia had the highest age average, 27·6 years, owing to the large influx of adult males some few years since, attracted thither by the discoveries of gold at Kimberley and elsewhere. The youngest male population was in New South Wales and South Australia, which averaged 25·1 and 24·7 years respectively. The youngest female population was found in Queensland, where the average was 21·5 years; the oldest was in Victoria, 24·6 years:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	25·1	22·5	23·9
Victoria	26·5	24·6	25·6
Queensland	25·2	21·5	23·7
South Australia	24·7	23·8	24·3
Western Australia.....	27·6	22·0	25·3
Tasmania	25·6	23·7	24·7
New Zealand	25·2	23·4	24·1
Australasia	25·5	23·3	24·4

In looking at these figures it must be remembered that the same average may be due to opposite causes ; for instance, a large middle-age population with a small proportion of children and old people, as in Queensland, gives much the same result as a large population at the dependent ages and a small proportion of those at the supporting ages, as in Tasmania. The following table shows, the number of males at the dependent ages from infancy to 15 years ; at the supporting ages from 15 to 65 ; and the old age group, or from 65 years upwards :—

Colony.	Dependent Ages up to 15 years.		Supporting Ages, 15 and under 65.		Old Ages, 65 and over.	
	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.	Number.	Percentage of Male Population.
New South Wales...	217,991	35·85	373,346	61·41	16,666	2·74
Victoria.....	199,599	33·37	374,871	62·68	23,619	3·95
Queensland	74,180	33·15	145,960	65·22	3,639	1·63
South Australia ...	64,004	38·37	97,293	58·33	5,504	3·30
Western Australia..	8,565	28·73	20,148	67·60	1,094	3·67
Tasmania	29,003	37·39	44,256	57·06	4,301	5·55
New Zealand... ..	126,531	38·01	197,979	59·48	8,367	2·51
Australasia ...	719,873	35·34	1,253,853	61·56	63,190	3·10

It will have been noticed in the table on the preceding page that during certain years, notably 1885 to 1891, there was an exodus of population from New Zealand, South Australia, and Tasmania. The persons who left were mainly able-bodied men in search of openings for their labour. It is to be expected that the number of males of the supporting ages in those Colonies is below the average. The reverse is the case in Western Australia, where the proportion of dependent males is smaller than that of any other Colony, while the proportion of men of the supporting ages is greater. These facts are to be accounted for by the immigration into Western Australia of large numbers of adult males, many of whom probably came from one of the three colonies first mentioned. The high birth-rate of New South Wales accounts for the larger proportion of those of dependent ages, as compared with those of Victoria, but at the supporting ages there is very little difference between them. With regard to the old age group the proportion in Queensland, 1·63 per cent., is undoubtedly low. Tasmania, with 5·55 per cent., has the largest proportion of aged inhabitants, and Victoria comes next with 3·95 per cent., while the proportion of inhabitants 65 years and over in New South Wales is only 2·74 per cent., or one-half the proportion shown by Tasmania.

The following table shows, in quinquennial periods, the ages of the people in each of the Australasian Colonies:—

Ages.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
MALES.							
Under 5 years	83,640	75,185	30,458	23,015	3,428	10,840	42,266
5 to 10 "	72,511	65,418	23,820	21,827	2,756	9,879	43,502
10 to 15 "	61,840	58,996	19,902	19,162	2,381	8,284	40,763
15 to 20 "	53,931	57,264	13,203	15,363	2,221	7,073	32,586
20 to 25 "	57,666	63,413	24,094	15,850	3,371	7,155	28,445
25 to 30 "	59,752	63,080	25,723	14,400	3,864	7,461	23,797
30 to 35 "	51,933	47,864	21,356	13,426	2,900	6,052	22,106
35 to 40 "	40,238	31,824	15,593	10,758	1,965	4,477	20,594
40 to 45 "	31,227	24,034	12,217	8,115	1,426	3,319	17,824
45 to 50 "	26,865	22,111	10,538	6,827	1,237	2,577	17,094
50 to 55 "	22,586	22,804	9,102	5,401	1,220	2,298	16,836
55 to 60 "	16,644	22,264	5,448	4,094	1,051	1,933	10,981
60 to 65 "	12,504	20,213	3,596	3,520	884	1,901	7,716
65 to 70 "	6,945	11,144	1,793	2,378	524	1,493	3,939
70 to 75 "	4,997	7,240	1,079	1,723	373	1,406	2,515
75 to 80 "	2,837	3,210	505	850	131	791	1,195
80 and upwards	1,837	2,025	262	553	66	611	718
Total Males	608,003	598,089	223,779	166,801	29,807	77,560	332,877
FEMALES.							
Under 5 years	81,354	73,471	29,874	22,266	3,381	10,628	40,955
5 to 10 "	70,977	63,966	23,275	21,267	2,597	9,521	42,596
10 to 15 "	60,867	57,878	19,258	18,641	2,376	8,178	40,338
15 to 20 "	54,160	57,859	17,131	15,617	2,071	6,818	32,665
20 to 25 "	53,133	61,655	18,718	14,923	2,181	6,582	29,855
25 to 30 "	46,673	55,220	15,964	12,937	1,892	6,066	22,416
30 to 35 "	36,424	39,840	12,161	10,690	1,416	4,936	17,923
35 to 40 "	27,110	26,508	8,548	8,290	970	3,443	15,133
40 to 45 "	22,003	21,430	6,869	6,339	774	2,753	13,459
45 to 50 "	18,491	19,747	6,108	5,517	645	2,538	11,854
50 to 55 "	14,662	19,290	4,690	4,931	559	2,143	9,940
55 to 60 "	10,721	16,220	2,983	3,837	444	1,784	6,161
60 to 65 "	7,677	12,915	1,991	3,251	281	1,488	4,475
65 to 70 "	4,865	7,181	1,145	2,169	161	969	2,568
70 to 75 "	3,653	4,803	727	1,534	126	766	1,878
75 to 80 "	1,903	2,267	301	830	52	401	936
80 and upwards	1,273	1,501	196	591	40	293	620
Total Females	515,951	541,751	169,939	153,630	19,975	69,107	293,781

The period in males from 20 to 40 years, is considered "the soldier's age," as it would be the first called upon for the defence of the country in case of war. Australasia has a force of nearly 700,000 men to draw upon for this purpose, of whom New South Wales would contribute 209,589, Victoria 206,181, Queensland 86,766, South Australia 53,964, Western Australia 12,109, Tasmania 25,155, and New Zealand, 94,942.

The female population of Australasia may be conveniently grouped into three divisions as follows:—Dependent ages, from infancy to 15 years; reproductive ages, from 15 to 45; and those over 45 years of

age. The numbers of each class in the several provinces are shown in the following figures:—

Colony.	Dependent ages, up to 15 years.		Reproductive ages, 15 and under 45.		Ages of 45 years and over.	
	Number.	Percentage to Female Population.	Number.	Percentage to Female Population.	Number.	Percentage to Female Population.
New South Wales.....	213,198	41·32	239,503	46·42	63,250	12·26
Victoria.....	195,315	36·05	262,512	48·46	83,924	15·49
Queensland	72,407	42·61	79,391	46·72	18,141	10·67
South Australia	62,174	40·47	68,796	44·78	22,660	14·75
Western Australia.....	8,354	41·82	9,313	46·62	2,308	11·56
Tasmania	28,327	40·99	30,598	44·28	10,182	14·73
New Zealand.....	123,889	42·17	131,451	44·74	38,441	13·09
Australasia.....	703,664	39·89	821,564	46·57	238,906	13·54

The female population, it will be seen, is distributed among the various colonies in much more even proportions than the males. Victoria has the least ratio of dependent females, the greatest proportion of those of reproductive ages, and the highest relative number of females over the reproductive age. The rates for the other provinces are remarkably even, New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia having almost an identical proportion of reproductive females, while South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand are nearly equal at a slightly lower rate.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births and the rate per thousand of mean population during the year 1893, for each Colony, is shown in the following table:—

Colony.	Births.	Birth-rate.
New South Wales	40,215	33·22
Victoria.....	36,572	31·24
Queensland	14,394	33·73
South Australia	10,706	31·32
Western Australia	2,112	34·14
Tasmania	5,216	33·92
New Zealand	18,187	27·50
Australasia	127,402	31·64

The number of births in each Colony and the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1890, and in the three years 1891, 1892, and 1893, was as follows :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales	79,958	92,643	106,543	127,572	158,965	188,300	119,714
Victoria	123,353	131,052	136,363	132,347	140,258	172,307	112,908
Queensland	11,761	22,622	29,279	37,535	48,979	70,150	44,012
South Australia	30,472	35,067	36,398	40,310	56,618	53,200	32,027
Western Australia	3,352	3,724	4,033	4,611	5,446	7,696	5,746
Tasmania	15,454	14,679	15,313	17,165	21,425	23,710	15,152
New Zealand	26,611	46,770	59,891	88,205	96,482	94,071	54,336
Australasia	290,961	346,557	387,820	453,745	523,173	600,434	383,895

The average birth-rate of each Colony for the periods shown in the preceding table was as follows :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales	42·54	40·57	38·75	37·53	37·73	36·40	33·87
Victoria	43·22	38·97	35·72	32·21	30·76	32·09	32·45
Queensland	43·24	43·98	40·96	36·73	34·47	37·66	35·31
South Australia	44·18	40·84	37·66	38·24	37·97	34·69	32·55
Western Australia	39·33	35·30	31·32	32·98	34·56	36·90	33·81
Tasmania	33·82	29·66	29·72	31·51	34·96	34·62	33·25
New Zealand	37·92	42·29	39·88	41·21	36·36	31·20	28·11
Australasia	41·91	39·88	37·28	35·67	35·20	34·40	32·43

DEATHS.

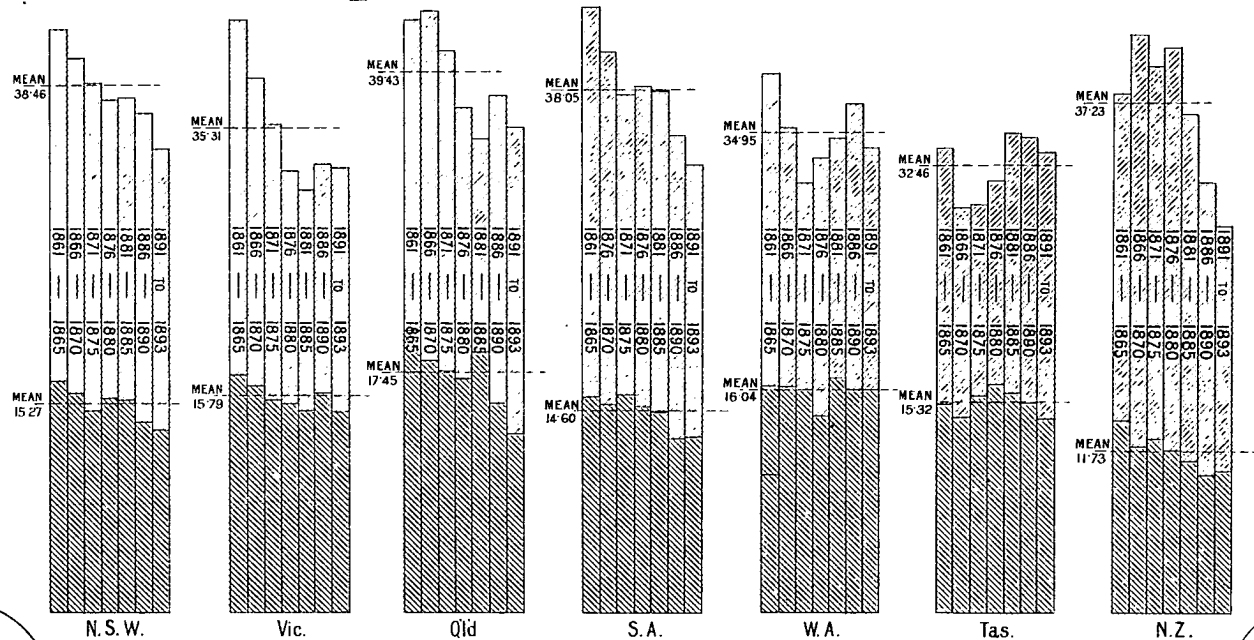
The following table shows the total number of deaths and the rate per thousand of mean population during the year 1893.

Colony.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
New South Wales ..	16,032	13·24
Victoria	16,512	14·10
Queensland	5,695	13·34
South Australia	4,559	13·34
Western Australia	945	15·27
Tasmania	2,071	13·47
New Zealand	6,767	10·23
Australasia	52,581	13·06

Birth-rate per 1000 shewn thus
Excess of Births over Deaths „

BIRTH & DEATH RATES

Death-rate per 1000 shewn thus



The number of deaths in each Colony and in the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1890, and in the three years 1891, 1892, and 1893, is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales	31,561	36,466	40,909	53,256	66,103	71,457	40,728
Victoria	49,452	55,136	59,759	62,811	66,811	84,648	50,994
Queensland	5,751	9,312	12,869	17,234	25,731	28,040	16,131
South Australia	10,840	12,963	15,475	18,026	21,616	19,361	12,531
Western Australia	1,399	1,711	2,068	2,003	2,709	3,332	2,745
Tasmania	6,953	6,962	8,060	8,994	9,790	10,389	6,874
New Zealand	10,001	13,328	19,354	25,254	29,074	29,746	19,744
Australasia	115,957	135,878	158,494	187,628	221,834	246,973	155,247

The average death-rate of each Colony for the periods shown in the above table is given in the following table ; but the statement, viewed in the light of a comparison between the Colonies, is not in every case just, as no account is taken of the ages of the people :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales	16.79	16.07	14.77	15.74	15.66	13.82	13.23
Victoria	17.36	16.46	15.60	15.80	14.65	16.05	14.66
Queensland	20.52	18.33	17.53	17.02	18.88	15.11	12.96
South Australia	15.70	15.11	15.86	14.03	14.51	12.62	12.63
Western Australia	16.36	16.25	16.02	14.33	17.10	16.13	16.12
Tasmania	15.22	14.14	15.62	16.56	15.98	15.17	14.00
New Zealand	13.89	12.09	12.67	11.80	10.95	9.87	10.21
Australasia	16.77	15.71	15.02	14.79	14.77	13.95	13.15

Compared with European countries the Colonies occupy a very favourable position in respect to both birth and death rates. The Australasian birth-rate is high, and in European countries where it is higher it will be seen, on reference to the subjoined table, that the death-rate is so considerably in excess that the difference between the two, representing the gain to each country by natural increase, is largely in favour of Australasia. The following are the average rates per 1,000 inhabitants

for the ten years ending 1890 for European countries, and for the ten years 1884-1893 for the Australasian Colonies :—

Country.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Excess of Births per 1,000 inhabitants.
New South Wales	35·99	14·14	21·85
Victoria.....	32·30	15·37	16·93
Queensland	36·66	15·70	20·96
South Australia	34·92	12·99	21·93
Western Australia.....	35·50	16·85	18·65
Tasmania	34·56	14·96	19·60
New Zealand.....	31·06	10·10	20·96
Australasia	34·01	13·95	20·06
England and Wales	32·49	19·14	13·35
Scotland	32·32	19·18	13·14
Ireland.....	23·39	17·94	5·45
United Kingdom.....	31·21	18·98	12·23
France ..	23·88	22·01	1·87
Germany	36·76	25·10	11·66
Belgium	29·98	20·31	9·67
Netherlands	34·20	20·97	13·23
Austria.....	37·95	29·51	8·44
Hungary	44·20	32·59	11·61
Switzerland.....	28·08	20·82	7·26
Italy	37·76	27·28	10·48
Denmark	32·07	18·61	13·46
Norway	30·63	16·94	13·69
Sweden	29·20	16·93	12·27

No better testimony to the salubrity of the climate of Australasia could be obtained than is afforded by these figures. There are, of course, various circumstances, other than climatic, which would tend to make the mortality lighter in these than older-settled countries ; but when all possible allowances are made for such circumstances, a comparison between these Colonies and the countries of Europe is still significantly favourable to Australasia.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages and the marriage-rate per thousand of mean population for each Colony during the year 1893 is shown below :—

Colony.	Marriages.	Marriage Rate.
New South Wales	7,744	6.40
Victoria	7,010	5.99
Queensland	2,524	5.91
South Australia	2,114	6.19
Western Australia	392	6.34
Tasmania	848	5.51
New Zealand	4,100	6.20
Australasia	24,732	6.14

The number of marriages in each Colony, and in the whole of Australasia, in quinquennial periods from 1861 to 1890, and in the three years 1891, 1892, and 1893, was as follows :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93
New South Wales	16,920	18,271	21,210	25,904	35,737	38,671	24,223
Victoria	22,237	22,902	24,368	25,416	33,589	42,832	23,513
Queensland	3,689	4,648	6,276	7,466	11,632	15,271	8,203
South Australia	6,226	6,435	7,472	10,682	12,379	10,334	6,548
Western Australia	765	828	835	975	1,115	1,495	1,217
Tasmania	3,340	3,143	3,290	4,087	5,002	4,796	2,831
New Zealand	7,240	9,955	12,050	16,220	18,102	18,097	11,907
Australasia	60,417	66,182	75,501	90,753	117,556	131,496	78,442

The average marriage-rate for each Colony during the same periods is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	1861-65.	1866-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-93.
New South Wales	9.01	8.00	7.71	7.63	8.49	7.48	6.86
Victoria	7.80	6.81	6.38	6.18	7.36	8.12	6.76
Queensland	13.28	9.11	8.73	7.32	8.61	8.22	6.58
South Australia	9.02	7.39	7.61	8.32	8.31	6.73	6.67
Western Australia	9.02	7.84	6.48	6.99	7.06	7.18	7.21
Tasmania	7.31	6.35	6.38	7.51	8.16	7.01	6.22
New Zealand	10.27	9.06	7.93	7.61	6.81	6.00	6.16
Australasia	8.73	7.63	7.20	7.14	7.83	7.42	6.65

During the last three years the marriage-rate has decreased to a considerable extent in all the Colonies, and, with the exception of New

Zealand, the marriage rate for 1893 was lower in every colony than during any year of the preceding decade. This is another proof of the truth of the often-repeated statement that times of commercial depression always exert an adverse influence on the marriage-rate.

It must be borne in mind that the above are the ratios of *marriages* to population. To ascertain the ratios of *persons* married it is therefore necessary to double the figures in each case.

A comparison of the marriage-rate of Australasia with that of other countries, where the social conditions are essentially different, is not of much value, and therefore is not given here.

Particulars relative to divorce in the Australasian Colonies will be found in the chapter headed "Social Condition."

NATIVE RACES.

At the census of 1891 only 38,879 aborigines were enumerated, of whom 8,280 were in New South Wales, 565 in Victoria, 23,789 in South Australia, and 6,245 in Western Australia. The figures relating to New South Wales and Victoria include all aborigines now living in those provinces, but the returns from the other Colonies are very imperfect. The aborigines of Tasmania are extinct, but the Tasmanian Census of 1891 enumerates 139 half-castes, which are included in the general population. It has been asserted that there are some 70,000 aborigines in Queensland. This is, however, a very crude estimate, and may be far wide of the truth. In the case of South Australia, a large number of the aborigines in the Northern Territory are entirely outside the bounds of settlement, and it seems probable that they are as numerous in that Colony as in Queensland. The census of Western Australia includes only those aboriginals in the employment of the colonists, and as large portions of this, the greatest in area of all the Australasian Colonies, are as yet unexplored, it may be presumed that the number of aborigines enumerated in the census is very far short of the total in the Colony. The aboriginal population of the entire Continent may be set down at something like 200,000.

The original inhabitants of New Zealand, or Maoris, as they are called, are quite a different race. They are gifted with a considerable amount of intelligence, quick at imitation, and brave even to rashness. According to the census of 1881 they numbered 44,097. Like the Australian aborigines they appear to be decreasing in number, the census of 1886 enumerating only 41,432, and that of 1891, 41,993 (22,861 males and 19,132 females). In these figures are included 2,681 half-castes (1,469 males and 1,212 females), and 40 Morioris at Chatham Islands (26 males and 14 females). It is said that at the time the colonists first landed the number of Maoris was fully 120,000, but this, like all other estimates of aboriginal population, is founded on very slight information.

ALIEN RACES.

At the census of 1891 the Chinese and half-caste Chinese in the whole group of Colonies numbered 42,521, distributed as follows :—

New South Wales	14,156
Victoria	9,377
Queensland	8,574
South Australia.....	3,997
Western Australia	917
Tasmania	1,056
New Zealand.....	4,444

Australasia.....	42,521
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Since 1880 it has been deemed expedient by the Governments of all the Colonies except Western Australia, and South Australia as far as her Northern Territory is concerned, to enact prohibitive laws against the immigration of Chinese, and their migration from one Colony to another. For several years a poll-tax of £10 was imposed, but now, in accordance with the most recent legislation on the subject, masters of vessels are forbidden under a heavy penalty to bring more than one Chinese to every 300 tons, and a poll-tax of £100 is charged on landing, except in Western Australia, where the tax is £10, and in the Northern Territory where no tax is imposed. These stringent regulations have had the effect of bringing about the almost entire cessation of this class of immigration.

The only other alien race present in large numbers in any of the Colonies are the Polynesians in Queensland, where they numbered 9,428 at the Census of 1891.

NATURALIZATION.

The number of persons naturalised in Australasia during 1892 was 787 ; of these over one-third belonged to Queensland, Victoria showing the next highest figures. The following are the returns for each Colony :—

Colony.	Germans and other German speaking nations.	Scandinavians.	Chinese.	Others.	Total
New South Wales	61	32	.....	50	143
Victoria	96	11	.....	93	200
Queensland	165	79	5	31	280
South Australia	20	17	.....	7	44
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tasmania	3	.....	53	1	57
New Zealand.....	19	26	3	15	63
Australasia	364	165	61	197	787

CITIES AND TOWNS.

The progress of the chief cities of Australasia has been no less remarkable than that of the Colonies themselves, and has no parallel among the cities of the old world ; even in America the rise of great cities has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the rural population, but in these Colonies, perhaps for the first time in history, is presented the spectacle of magnificent cities growing with marvellous rapidity, and embracing within their limits one-third of the population of the Colonies, of which they are the seat of Government. The abnormal aggregation of the population into their capital cities is a most unfortunate element in the progress of these Colonies, and is one which seems to become every year more marked.

The increase in the population of the chief cities of Australasia and the estimated numbers of their inhabitants at the various census periods, are given in the following table, which illustrates the remarkable progress referred to :—

	1841.	1851.	1861.	1871.	1881	1891.
Sydney	29,973	53,924	95,789	137,776	224,939	383,283
Melbourne	4,479	23,143	139,916	206,780	282,947	490,896
Brisbane	*829	2,543	6,051	15,029	31,109	93,657
Adelaide	†8,480	†14,577	18,303	42,744	103,864	133,252
Perth .....	.....	.....	.....	5,244	5,822	8,447
Hobart .....	.....	.. ..	19,449	19,092	21,118	33,450
Wellington.....	.....	.....	.....	7,908	20,563	33,224

* In 1846. † In 1840. ‡ In 1850.

The aggregation of population is most marked in the case of Melbourne, but Adelaide and Sydney are also conspicuous. The proportion of population in each capital compared with that of the whole Colony is set forth in the subjoined table, for the three years 1871, 1881 and 1891 :—

	1871.	1881.	1891.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sydney	27·34	29·93	33·86
Melbourne	28·27	32·81	43·05
Brisbane	12·51	14·57	23·79
Adelaide	23·03	37·11	41·59
Perth	20·68	19·60	16·97
Hobart	18·76	18·25	22·81
Wellington	3·08	4·20	5·30

The percentage of New Zealand population resident in Wellington is small, but, though it is the capital of the Colony, this city is greatly

exceeded in population by Auckland, as well as Dunedin and Christchurch; but even in the largest of these cities—Auckland—the population is not more than 8·18 per cent. of that of the whole Colony.

The following is a list of the cities and towns of Australasia with a population, at the Census of 1891, exceeding 5,000; in all cases the suburbs are included:—

City or Town.	Population.	City or Town.	Population.
New South Wales—		Queensland— <i>continued</i> —	
Sydney	383,283	Gympie	8,449
Newcastle	50,705	Ipswich	7,625
Broken Hill	19,789	Toowoomba	7,007
Parramatta	11,677	South Australia—	
Goulburn	10,916	Adelaide	133,252
Maitland	10,214	Port Adelaide	20,644
Bathurst	9,162	Western Australia—	
Albury	5,447	Perth	8,447
Orange	5,064	Fremantle	5,607
Victoria—		Tasmania—	
Melbourne	490,896	Hobart	33,450
Ballarat	46,033	Launceston	17,208
Bendigo	37,238	New Zealand—	
Geelong	24,233	Auckland	51,287
Warrnambool	6,582	Christchurch	47,846
Castlemaine	5,982	Dunedin	45,869
Stawell	5,183	Wellington	33,224
Queensland—		Invercargill	7,962
Brisbane	93,657	Napier	8,341
Rockhampton	13,380	Nelson	6,626
Maryborough	9,700	Oamaru	5,621
Townsville	8,564	Wanganui	5,011

The estimated populations of the capitals of the Australasian Colonies on 31st December, 1893, were as follows:—

Sydney	421,030
Melbourne	444,832
Brisbane	102,835
Adelaide	140,549
Perth	11,117
Hobart	34,926
Wellington	38,298

BIRTH-PLACES.

One of the subjects of inquiry at the Census of 1891, as at previous enumerations, related to the birthplaces of the population. The result of the tabulation shows that while there are differences in the component parts of the population in the several Colonies, these differences are slight, and the great bulk of the people, to the extent of fully 95 per

cent., is of British origin. Probably the population of Australasia is more homogeneous than that of most European countries, for even in Queensland, where people of foreign descent are proportionately more numerous than in any of the other Colonies, they do not amount to more than 10 per cent. of the total population. The subjoined table shows, in a condensed form, the results of the tabulation of the birthplaces in each Colony as well as the whole of Australasia, the figures being exclusive of aborigines, and inclusive, in the case of European countries, of their Colonies and possessions :—

Birthplaces.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
New South Wales	725,015	19,775	17,023	2,154	555	1,180	2,833	768,535
Victoria	40,768	713,074	7,462	6,009	1,036	4,205	8,941	732,095
Queensland	10,173	2,736	176,971	403	203	203	481	191,177
South Australia	17,716	25,309	1,449	217,730	1,161	674	983	265,022
Western Australia	464	753	63	583	27,825	69	76	29,838
Tasmania	5,851	16,397	1,004	722	108	107,901	2,629	134,612
New Zealand	9,015	12,026	1,117	567	182	963	366,716	390,536
Australasia	809,002	790,070	205,089	228,775	31,075	115,195	382,659	2,561,835
England and Wales	154,229	162,907	77,187	48,821	9,812	17,443	119,284	589,683
Scotland	36,821	50,667	22,400	8,874	1,211	3,845	51,916	175,734
Ireland	75,051	85,307	43,036	14,369	3,490	5,687	47,634	274,583
United Kingdom	266,101	298,881	142,623	72,064	14,522	26,975	218,834	1,040,000
British Possessions—								
In Europe	177	131	71	296	39	14	111	830
In Asia	2,105	1,853	1,129	602	459	389	1,168	7,705
In Africa	738	1,008	240	222	90	65	340	2,703
In America	1,611	1,860	614	384	169	180	1,685	6,503
In Polynesia	298	134	12	34	2	19	105	604
Other British Possessions	4,929	4,986	2,066	1,538	759	667	3,409	18,354
Austria-Hungary	588	586	247	185	29	20	564	2,219
Belgium	181	235	35	51	4	12	115	633
Denmark	1,488	1,399	3,072	276	41	137	2,053	8,466
France	2,270	1,307	411	400	72	77	711	5,248
Germany	9,565	10,775	14,924	8,553	290	918	4,663	49,688
Italy	1,477	1,717	439	186	36	36	397	4,238
Netherlands	234	366	67	82	19	12	143	973
Portugal	249	168	41	17	10	27	205	717
Russia	1,176	1,172	311	189	71	38	419	3,376
Spain	138	227	93	29	89	17	76	669
Sweden and Norway	3,397	3,214	1,956	1,157	204	194	2,702	12,824
Switzerland	594	1,317	469	142	15	18	362	2,917
United States of America	3,379	2,905	943	386	154	221	1,683	9,671
China	13,157	8,467	8,554	3,997	914	943	4,470	40,502
Specified foreign countries	37,943	33,855	31,562	15,650	1,948	2,670	18,563	142,191
At sea	1,960	1,973	832	601	114	170	1,295	6,945
All others and unspecified	4,019	10,075	11,546	1,803	1,364	990	1,898	31,695
Total	1,123,954	1,139,840	393,718	320,431	49,782	146,667	626,658	3,801,050

A glance at the preceding table shows at once that natives of the Australasian Colonies form fully two-thirds of the population, and that

the great majority of the Australasian-born population were natives of the particular Colony in which they were enumerated. The proportion per cent. of the people born in the Colony in which they were resident at the time of the census, of those born in any of the other six Australasian Colonies, and of the total Australasian-born population to the total population of each Colony are shown below :—

Colony.	Percentage to Total Population of—		
	Natives of Colony of Enumeration.	Natives of other Colonies.	Australasian-born Population.
New South Wales.....	64·51	7·47	71·98
Victoria	62·56	6·75	69·31
Queensland.....	44·95	7·14	52·09
South Australia.....	67·95	3·45	71·40
Western Australia.....	55·89	6·53	62·42
Tasmania.....	73·57	4·97	78·54
New Zealand	58·52	2·54	61·06
Average for Australasia	61·44	5·96	67·40

These figures show that proportionately the largest Australasian-born population is to be found in Tasmania, where more than 73 out of every 100 of the inhabitants were born in the Colony, and over 78 per cent. were Australasians. In Queensland, on the contrary, very nearly half the population were natives of countries outside of the Seven Colonies, and only 45 per cent. were Queenslanders by birth. The low proportion of native-born in the Colony in question is no doubt accounted for by the comparatively recent settlement of much of the territory, and the encouragement given to immigrants from the United Kingdom and the Continent of Europe. It will be noticed that New South Wales has proved the most attractive of all the Provinces to those born in other parts of Australasia, while New Zealand, from its isolated position and greater distance, has drawn to itself the least proportion of Australasian natives. The following figures set forth still more clearly the extent to which each Colony is indebted for population to its neighbours :—

Colony.	Number of Natives of other six Colonies enumerated.	Number of Natives enumerated in other six Colonies.	Gain to Colony.	Loss to Colony.
New South Wales.....	83,987	43,520	40,467	.....
Victoria	76,996	69,021	7,975	.....
Queensland.....	28,112	14,206	13,912	.....
South Australia.....	11,045	47,292	.....	36,247
Western Australia.....	3,250	2,013	1,237	.....
Tasmania	7,294	26,711	.....	19,417
New Zealand	15,943	23,870	.....	7,927

In New South Wales, it will be seen, there were 83,987 natives of the other Colonies, while only 43,520 natives of New South Wales had made their homes in other parts of Australasia, the result being a net gain of 40,467 persons, a very considerable proportion, seeing that several of the other provinces were originally colonised from New South Wales. On the other hand, South Australia showed a loss of 36,247 from intercolonial movements of population; Tasmania lost 19,417, and New Zealand 7,927. The natives of other parts of Australasia resident in Victoria very nearly balanced the number of Victorians resident in other provinces, the excess in favour of the Colony in question being under 8,000. Queensland gained 13,912 from the other colonies, and Western Australia 1,237 persons.

Next to the Australasian-born population, natives of the United Kingdom are by far the most numerous class in each Colony. The following table shows the percentages to the total population of each Colony of natives of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland:—

Colony.	Natives of—			
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Ireland.	United Kingdom.
New South Wales.....	13·71	3·28	6·68	23·67
Victoria	14·29	4·45	7·48	26·22
Queensland	19·60	5·69	10·93	36·22
South Australia.....	15·24	2·77	4·48	22·49
Western Australia	19·71	2·43	7·03	29·17
Tasmania	11·89	2·62	3·88	18·39
New Zealand	19·04	8·28	7·60	34·92
Australasia	15·51	4·62	7·23	27·36

It was to be expected that the percentage of natives of the United Kingdom would be highest in those Colonies which have introduced a large number of assisted immigrants during the last twenty years, as Queensland and New Zealand, in which Colonies the percentage of the native-born population is comparatively low. If the composition of the population of the United Kingdom be taken into consideration, it will be seen that Scotch and Irish colonists are much more numerous in proportion than those of English birth. The distribution of natives of the three kingdoms is very unequal in the different Colonies; while natives of England are more numerous in proportion to natives of Scotland and Ireland in South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. Scotchmen are proportionately most numerous in New Zealand, and Irishmen in Queensland.

The number of natives of parts of the British Empire other than the United Kingdom and the Australasian Colonies enumerated in the latter was very small, amounting only to the following percentages of the total population:—In New South Wales, 0·44; in Victoria, 0·44; in Queensland, 0·53; in South Australia, 0·48 in Western Australia, 1·53; in Tasmania, 0·45; and in New Zealand, 0·54; average in Australasia, 0·48. Natives of Canada, the West and East Indies, make up the bulk of this class, which numbered only 18,354 in the whole of Australasia. It is not possible to give a complete tabulation of natives of foreign countries, as in some of the Colonies no other country is mentioned but those shown in the table given, the rest of the foreign-born population being bracketed together as natives of other foreign countries. Immigrants from Germany appear to be most numerous, then follow natives of China, Sweden and Norway, the United States, Denmark, France, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Belgium. Of countries not shown in the table, Greece and Asiatic Turkey would appear to have contributed most, though Polynesians are numerous in Queensland. The percentage to the total population of each Colony of natives of Germany and of the Scandinavian Kingdoms (Sweden and Norway, and Denmark), as well as of the total foreign-born population, is shown in the subjoined table:—

Colony.	Percentage of—		
	Germans.	Scandinavians.	Total Foreign-born Population.
New South Wales	0·85	0·43	3·38
Victoria	0·95	0·40	2·98
Queensland	3·79	1·28	8·02
South Australia	2·67	0·45	4·88
Western Australia	0·58	0·49	3·91
Tasmania	0·63	0·23	1·82
New Zealand	0·74	0·76	2·97
Australasia	1·31	0·56	3·74

It will be seen that both Germans and Scandinavians are proportionately most numerous in Queensland, where together they amount to more than 5 per cent. of the population. Germans are also very numerous in South Australia, and Scandinavians in New Zealand.

The number of natives of China given in the table at page 72 does not agree with the number of Chinese shown in the table at page 69, where Chinese half-castes born in Australasia are included.

The remainder of the population is made up of those born at sea and those unspecified. The proportion of each class to the total population of each Colony is shown below :—

Colony.	Percentage of—	
	Born at Sea.	Unspecified.
New South Wales	0·17	0·36
Victoria	0·17	0·88
Queensland	0·21	2·93
South Australia	0·19	0·56
Western Australia	0·23	2·74
Tasmania	0·12	0·68
New Zealand	0·21	0·30
Australasia	0·18	0·84

From the returns of those Colonies where the people born at sea have been distinguished into those born of British and of foreign parentage respectively, it appears that the great bulk of them were of British parentage.

The column headed “unspecified” comprises, in addition to those given as unspecified in the tabulations of the different Colonies, the natives of such foreign countries as were not specified in the table previously given. The proportions shown for Queensland and Western Australia are considerably larger than those of the other Colonies, owing to the fact that in Queensland the large number of Polynesians mentioned in a previous paragraph, is included ; while in Western Australia, people engaged in the pearl fisheries, who were returned as natives of Malaysia, have been reckoned. The small number of persons who in some of the Colonies were returned as natives of “Australasia” (Colony unspecified), is also enumerated under this head.

CONJUGAL CONDITION.

At the Hobart Census Conference it had been decided to tabulate the conjugal condition of the people under the heads of “Never married,” “Married,” “Widowed,” and “Divorced.” This decision was, however, not adhered to by South Australia and New Zealand, where the divorced were, no doubt, included under the heading of unmarried. For the sake of comparison a similar classification has, therefore, been made in the tabulation of the other colonies. The people who returned themselves as “divorced” on the census schedules of New South Wales, numbered 178 males and 126 females—total, 304 ; in Victoria 110 males and 86 females—total, 196 ; in Queensland 16 males and 7 females—total, 23 ; in Western Australia 3 males and 3 females—total, 6 ; and in Tasmania

25 males and 6 females—total, 31. Considering that during the five years preceding the taking of the Census, 171 decrees for the dissolution of marriage had been granted in New South Wales, it is reasonable to assume that the figures quoted for that colony understate the truth, no doubt owing to the reluctance on the part of many people living in a state of divorce to return themselves as “divorced” in the census schedules, and the same remark applies to the other colonies.

The following table shows the number of unmarried, married, and widowed people in each Colony, those whose conjugal condition was unspecified on the schedules having been proportionately distributed :—

Conjugal Condition.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
MALES—								
Unmarried	424,404	408,566	161,308	114,066	21,648	52,630	234,315	1,416,997
Married	166,634	170,954	57,963	48,932	7,266	22,488	90,754	564,991
Widowed	16,905	18,569	4,508	3,803	893	2,442	7,808	54,928
Total	608,003	598,089	223,779	166,801	29,807	77,560	332,877	2,036,916
FEMALES—								
Unmarried	324,504	335,098	105,632	96,891	12,706	43,755	190,758	1,109,344
Married	165,648	173,749	57,610	48,295	6,383	21,406	90,919	564,010
Widowed	25,799	32,904	6,697	8,444	886	3,946	12,104	90,780
Total	515,951	541,751	169,939	153,630	19,975	69,107	293,781	1,764,134
MALES AND FEMALES—								
Unmarried	748,968	743,664	266,940	210,957	34,354	96,385	425,073	2,526,341
Married	332,282	344,703	115,573	97,227	13,649	43,894	181,673	1,129,001
Widowed	42,704	51,473	11,205	12,247	1,779	6,388	19,912	145,708
Total	1,123,954	1,139,840	393,718	320,431	49,782	146,667	626,658	3,801,050

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that unmarried males are largely in excess of unmarried females in each Colony. The numbers for each Colony and the percentages of unmarried females to unmarried males in each Colony are shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Excess of Unmarried Males over Unmarried Females.	Percentage of Unmarried Females to Unmarried Males.
New South Wales	99,960	76·45
Victoria	73,468	82·02
Queensland	55,676	65·48
South Australia	17,175	84·94
Western Australia	8,942	58·69
Tasmania	8,875	83·14
New Zealand	43,557	81·41
Australasia	307,653	78·29

The percentage is particularly low in those Colonies which have attracted much population from the other Colonies, as New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia; while it is near the average in Victoria and New Zealand, which have neither gained nor lost population to any great extent; and it is considerably above the average in South Australia and Tasmania, whence a great amount of emigration to the other Colonies has taken place. This fact favours the supposition that the emigrants have chiefly been young unmarried males attracted to the other Colonies by the hope of bettering their condition.

The numbers of married males and females are fairly equal in all the Colonies, the males preponderating everywhere, except in Victoria and New Zealand; there must, therefore, have been an emigration of married males from those two provinces.

Amongst the widowed, females largely outnumber males, as was to be expected from the higher death-rate and the proportionately larger number of males re-married. Western Australia, however, shows a slight excess of widowers over widows. The following table shows for each Colony the proportion of unmarried, married, and widowed males to total males, of unmarried, married, and widowed females to total females, and of unmarried, married, and widowed persons to total population:—

Percentage of—		New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
MALES....	{ Unmarried	69.81	68.31	72.08	68.38	72.63	67.86	70.39	69.57
	{ Married	27.41	28.58	25.90	29.34	24.38	28.99	27.26	27.74
	{ Widowed	2.78	3.11	2.02	2.28	2.99	3.15	2.35	2.69
FEMALES...	{ Unmarried	62.89	61.86	62.16	63.07	63.61	63.31	64.93	62.88
	{ Married	32.11	32.07	33.90	31.44	31.95	30.98	30.95	31.97
	{ Widowed	5.00	6.07	3.94	5.49	4.44	5.71	4.12	5.15
MALES AND FEMALES.	{ Unmarried	66.64	65.24	67.80	65.84	69.01	65.72	67.83	66.40
	{ Married	29.56	30.24	29.35	30.34	27.42	29.93	28.99	29.70
	{ Widowed	3.80	4.52	2.85	3.82	3.57	4.35	3.18	3.84

SICKNESS AND INFIRMITY.

Inquiries were made in the census schedules respecting the number of persons suffering from sickness and infirmity, but there is reason to believe that in at least some of the Colonies the way in which the column was filled in was unsatisfactory. The figures for New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia may be compared throughout, as the classification adopted was practically the same, and to a certain extent this holds also good of the Western Australian and Tasmanian figures. The returns for Queensland are made in a somewhat indefinite way, and in New Zealand half the number of persons returned as sick and infirm includes all ages; while the other half only includes the population

of 15 years and over. The following table shows the results of the tabulation for each of the colonies :—

Sickness and Infirmary.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand
Sickness—							
Paralysis	851	1,097	*	300	*	*	468
Epilepsy	339	420	*	138	18	37	232
Leprosy	15	3	*	3	*	*	*
Other and undefined	10,117	13,127	*	3,620	487	2,579	14,404
Total	11,322	14,647	2,969	4,061	505	2,616	5,104
Accidents	1,459	1,668	777	432	62	152	1,679
Deaf and dumb	383	364	154	234	11	54	166
Dumb only	9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Deaf only	1,348	627	*	101	*	*	268
Blindness	741	995	199	247	54	165	274
Lunacy	3,129	3,770	1,104	852	129	383	1,798
Idiocy	286	355	*	84	7	46	123
Crippled	1,775	346	*	186	*	*	979
Lost a limb	635	754	*	251	35	*	*
Lost sight of an eye	1,164	1,157	*	339	79	*	*
Total	22,251	24,683	5,203	6,787	882	3,416	9,396

* Included under more general heading. † Of this figure, 4,130 persons refer to the population over 15 years only, while 274 persons refer to the whole population. ‡ Population over 15 years only.

HABITATIONS.

At the Census of 1891, inquiry was made on the householders' schedules respecting the dwellings of the population. The questions to be answered were whether a building was occupied, unoccupied, or in course of construction, the material of which it was built, and the number of rooms it contained. The tabulation has not been made with the same degree of completeness in all the Colonies; but as far as comparative figures can be given they are shown below. The number of occupied and unoccupied houses, &c., was as follows :—

Number of Dwellings.	New South Wales.	Victoria	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
Occupied	197,408	217,895	78,429	69,834	10,221	26,585	119,766
Unoccupied	16,166	15,846	2,224	3,818	236	1,583	9,553
Being built	1,255	1,093	44	235	73	119	425
Stores, offices, and public buildings ..	8,368	264	*	*	*	244	*
Inhabited huts and dwellings with canvas roofs	18,794	5,862	*	*	*	1,195	4,085
Total number of dwellings	241,991	241,560	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	133,834

* Included under more general heading.

The materials of which the dwellings were constructed in each Colony is shown in the following table, as far as the particulars are available :—

Material.	New South Wales.	Victoria	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
Brick or stone	90,456	69,545	....	50,723	6,087	8,452	5,697
Wood, iron, or lath and plaster	130,363	154,343	....	11,519	2,388	19,231	116,801
Slabs, bark, mud, &c.....	*	4,841	....	*	306	595	4,236
Canvas, linen, calico, &c.....	18,794	5,858	....	889	1,552	1,214	4,085
Other materials .....	....	....	....	*	3	....	1,551
Unspecified materials	2,378	6,473	....	756	194	309	1,414
Total	241,991	241,650	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	133,834

* Included in previous line.

The number of rooms is given for all houses, whether occupied or unoccupied, except in the case of New South Wales and New Zealand, where the figures given refer only to occupied dwellings :—

Dwellings, with—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand
One room	24,876	23,497	....	1,948	2,075	2,469	11,523
Two rooms.....	16,137		....	7,397	1,612	4,092	11,030
Three and four rooms	65,920	156,976	....	23,256	2,855	11,627	41,934
Five and six rooms	64,342		....	15,911	1,440	5,880	32,868
Seven to ten rooms.....	32,275	36,944	....	9,614	1,856	5,413	24,068
Eleven to fifteen rooms.....	7,371	7,061	....		318		
Sixteen to twenty rooms.....	1,912	1,673	....		92		
More than twenty rooms.....	1,160	1,226	....	....	47	....	....
Number of rooms unspecified	1,953	9,183	....	761	235	320	1,523
Total No. of dwellings.....	213,993	241,560	80,697	63,887	10,530	29,801	123,851

In Queensland the habitations were enumerated under the Quinquennial Census Act, which does not provide for a statement either of the materials from which houses are constructed or of the number of rooms they contain. From the foregoing figures it will be seen that in Australasia there are nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ persons to every occupied house.

RELIGION.

THE progress of all matters relating to denominational Religion since the early years of Australasian settlement has been steady and remarkable. For the first fifteen years after the foundation of the Colony of New South Wales only a single denomination was recognized by Government, or possessed either minister or organization—the Established Church of England. In those days the whole of Australasia was ecclesiastically within the Diocese of the Bishop of Calcutta, of which it formed an Archdeaconry; this continued until 1836, when the Bishopric of Australia was constituted, and the Rev. William Grant Broughton, D.D. (formerly Archdeacon), was consecrated the first Bishop. There are now twenty Bishoprics in the Colonies, including the Sees in New Zealand. Each Colony preserves its autonomy in church matters, but the Bishop of Sydney is nominal head or Primate within the boundaries of Australia and Tasmania. In 1872 the ties between the church and the various Colonies under the jurisdiction of the Primacy were strengthened by the adoption of one common constitution. A general assembly of representatives of each of these Colonies meets in Sydney every five years to discuss church affairs in general. New Zealand is excluded from this amalgamation, and possesses a Primacy of its own. The Synodical system of Church Government, by means of a legislative body, consisting of the clergy and representatives of the laity, prevails throughout Australasia, whether as individual Colonies or collectively as a group.

In 1803 a grudging recognition was extended to Roman Catholics, one of whose chaplains was then placed on the Government establishment; but it was not until 1820 that any regular provision was made for an adequate staff of clergy. Until 1834 the Roman Catholics of Australia and Tasmania were under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mauritius, but in that year Sydney was constituted a see, and the Rev. John Bede Polding, D.D., was consecrated Bishop, with jurisdiction over the whole of the Continent and Tasmania. Some eight years later this Episcopate was raised to the rank of an Archiepiscopal See. The present Archbishop of Sydney, who was created a Cardinal in 1885, is the head of the Roman Catholic Church throughout Australasia, and to assist him in the church administration there are five Archbishops, fifteen Bishops, and four Titular Bishops throughout the Colonies.

Amongst the earliest free colonists who settled in the Hawkesbury district was a small party of Presbyterians, and one of the first places of worship erected in the Colony was put up in 1810 by their voluntary exertions. Services were conducted there for years before any ordained minister of the denomination reached New South Wales; indeed it was not until 1823 that the Rev. Dr. Lang, the first Presbyterian minister in Australia, arrived in Sydney. The Presbyterian Church is united in

a federated union, but the church in each Colony acts independently as regards local ecclesiastical administration, and preserves its autonomy in respect to funds and property. A Moderator is elected annually as a representative head in each Colony, but he cannot exercise independent jurisdiction.

The first Wesleyan minister came to New South Wales in 1815, but it was not until 1821 that a Wesleyan place of worship was erected in Sydney, and it was even later before the denomination was allowed to share in the Government provision for religion. Till 1873 the church in Australasia was affiliated with the British Wesleyan Conference, but in that year it was constituted an independent and separate conference. The church in each Colony holds annual sessions, and at triennial periods a general conference is convened for the whole body in Australasia.

RELIGIOUS EQUALITY.

In the eyes of the State all religions are equal in Australasia. State aid to all denominations has been for many years practically abolished in all the Colonies except Western Australia. South Australia, in 1851, was the first Colony to withdraw such aid after it had been in force only three years, and Queensland, in 1860, shortly after the assembling of the first Parliament, passed an Act abolishing any future maintenance to religion, and limited future payments to the clergy then actually in receipt of State aid. Only one of these now survives, who is in receipt of £100 per annum. New South Wales passed a similar Act in 1862, and the expenditure on this account, which in that year was over £32,000, had fallen in 1893 to £7,411. The other Colonies of the group subsequently abolished State aid with the exception previously mentioned, Victoria being the last to withdraw in 1875.

No other denominations beyond the four mentioned above were ever officially recognized, nor was any State contribution ever made towards the support of any other. This was no doubt owing to the fact that the greater portion of the inhabitants belonged to these persuasions. Nor has the enormous increase of population since then in any considerable degree altered this condition of things, though in different Colonies different bodies of Christians have represented a larger proportion of the people than in others. Thus, in New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria the proportion of Roman Catholics has been, and still is, larger than in the other Colonies, while in New Zealand it has been much smaller. Presbyterians bear a greater proportion to the population in New Zealand than in any other Colony, while Wesleyans and Lutherans are more numerous in South Australia than elsewhere. The adherents of the Church of England predominate numerically in all the Colonies.

The following tables show the number of adherents of the principal denominations in each colony at the census enumerations of 1871, 1881, and 1891 :—

Religious Denominations, 1871, 1881, and 1891.

Colony.	Year.	Church of England.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyan and other Methodists.	Congregationalists.	Baptists.	Lutherans.	Salvation Army.	Hebrews.	Mahometans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c.	All other Religions.	Object to state Religion and Unspecified.	Total.
New South Wales	1871	229,243	147,627	49,122	39,566	9,253	4,151	†....	†....	2,395	7,455	9,223	5,946	503,981
	1881	342,359	207,606	72,545	64,352	14,328	7,307	4,836	†....	3,266	9,345	11,827	13,697	751,463
	1891	502,983	286,915	109,383	110,110	24,112	13,102	7,940	10,312	5,484	10,790	28,730	14,093	1,123,954
Victoria	1871	251,838	170,620	112,983	90,026	18,191	16,311	†....	†....	3,571	17,775	34,688	15,525	731,528
	1881	299,652	203,480	132,591	108,393	19,878	20,373	11,153	†....	4,330	11,292	36,149	15,055	862,346
	1891	401,375	243,585	166,911	148,429	22,099	27,878	15,535	13,519	6,459	6,987	59,249	22,814	1,139,840
Queensland	1871	43,764	31,822	15,373	7,206	2,647	2,897	†....	†....	291	3,188	10,215	2,701	120,104
	1881	73,920	54,376	22,609	14,351	4,764	5,583	16,889	†....	457	16,871	2,347	1,358	213,525
	1891	142,555	92,765	45,639	30,868	8,571	10,256	23,383	4,021	809	17,434	12,906	4,511	393,718
South Australia	1871	50,286	28,271	11,880	35,009	6,571	9,263	†....	†....	501	2,747	31,645	9,453	185,626
	1881	75,812	42,028	17,917	52,788	9,908	13,979	19,617	†....	762	4,151	28,061	14,242	279,865
	1891	89,271	47,179	18,206	60,857	11,882	17,647	23,328	4,356	840	4,255	27,724	14,986	320,431
Western Australia	1871	14,955	7,282	541	1,405	902	55	†....	†....	63	†....	150	†....	25,353
	1881	16,263	8,413	1,004	2,084	1,262	†....	†....	†....	†....	145	184	353	29,708
	1891	24,768	12,602	1,997	4,595	1,573	283	216	4	129	1,804	1,215	596	49,732
Tasmania	1871	54,404	22,657	9,296	7,371	4,031	955	†....	†....	238	4	2,829	†....	101,785
	1881	59,785	23,055	9,133	10,955	4,066	1,836	†....	†....	†....	†....	6,875	†....	115,705
	1891	73,169	25,800	9,756	17,150	4,501	3,285	421	1,216	84	968	5,143	5,174	146,667
New Zealand.....	1871	107,241	35,608	63,624	22,004	3,941	4,732	†....	†....	1,262	2,612	5,877	9,492	256,393
	1881	203,333	68,984	113,108	46,282	6,699	11,476	5,773	†....	1,536	4,936	12,499	15,307	489,933
	1891	250,945	87,272	141,477	62,346	6,685	14,825	5,616	9,383	1,463	3,928	26,088	16,630	626,658
Australasia	1871	751,731	443,887	262,819	202,587	45,536	38,364	†....	†....	8,321	33,781	94,627	43,117	1,924,770
	1881	1,071,124	608,542	368,907	299,205	60,905	60,554	58,263	†....	10,351	46,740	97,942	60,012	2,742,550
	1891	1,485,066	801,118	493,369	434,355	79,423	87,176	76,439	42,811	15,268	46,166	161,055	78,804	3,801,050

* Estimated; religions were not enumerated at the Tasmanian Census of 1881.

† Included in "All other Religions."

ADHERENTS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

The figures for 1891, in the table just given, are exclusive of aborigines, while in those for 1871 and 1881 a few civilized aborigines were included in the returns for New South Wales and Victoria.

The following table shows the percentage of the principal denominations to the total population of each Colony at the enumerations of 1871, 1881, and 1891:—

Colony.		Church of England.	Roman Catholics.	Presbyterians.	Wesleyan and other Methodists.	Congregationalists.	Baptists.	All Others.
		per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1871	New South Wales.....	45·5	29·3	9·7	7·9	1·8	0·8	5·0
	Victoria	34·4	23·3	15·5	12·3	2·5	2·2	9·8
	Queensland	36·5	26·5	12·8	6·0	2·2	2·4	13·6
	South Australia	27·1	15·2	6·4	18·9	3·5	5·0	23·9
	Western Australia	59·0	28·7	2·1	5·6	3·6	0·2	0·8
	Tasmania	53·5	22·3	9·1	7·2	4·0	0·9	3·0
	New Zealand	41·8	13·9	24·8	8·6	1·5	1·9	7·5
Australasia		39·1	23·1	13·6	10·5	2·4	2·0	9·3
1881	New South Wales.....	45·6	27·6	9·6	8·6	1·9	1·0	5·7
	Victoria	34·7	23·6	15·4	12·6	2·3	2·4	9·0
	Queensland	34·6	25·5	10·6	6·7	2·2	2·6	17·8
	South Australia	27·1	15·2	6·4	18·9	3·5	5·0	23·9
	Western Australia	54·7	28·3	3·4	7·0	4·3	...	2·3
	Tasmania	51·7	19·9	7·9	9·5	3·5	1·6	5·9
	New Zealand	41·5	14·1	23·1	9·4	1·4	2·3	8·2
Australasia		39·1	22·2	13·4	10·9	2·2	2·2	10·0
1891	New South Wales.....	44·8	25·5	9·7	9·8	2·1	1·2	6·9
	Victoria	35·2	21·8	14·7	13·0	1·9	2·5	10·9
	Queensland	36·2	23·6	11·6	7·8	2·2	2·6	16·0
	South Australia	27·9	14·7	5·7	19·0	3·7	5·5	23·5
	Western Australia	49·7	25·3	4·0	9·2	3·2	0·6	8·0
	Tasmania	49·9	17·6	6·6	11·7	3·1	2·2	8·9
	New Zealand	40·0	13·9	22·6	9·9	1·1	2·4	10·1
Australasia		39·1	21·1	13·0	11·4	2·1	2·3	11·0

From the foregoing tables it will be seen that, while there have been fluctuations in individual colonies, the relative strength of the principal denominations in the whole of Australasia has practically remained unaltered during the last twenty years. The Church of England at each

Census numbered 39·1 per cent. of the population, while the Roman Catholic Church receded from 23·1 per cent. in 1871 to 22·2 per cent. in 1881, and still further to 21·1 per cent. in 1891. The Presbyterian Church also receded from 13·6 per cent. in 1871 to 13·4 per cent. in 1881, and to 13·0 in 1891, while the various Methodist bodies which have been classed together, increased from 10·5 per cent. in 1871 to 10·9 per cent. in 1881, and 11·4 per cent. in 1891. Congregationalists and Baptists taken together were equal at the three enumerations, but the former show a slight decrease during the twenty years, while the latter show a corresponding increase. The column headed "All others" also shows an increase from 9·3 per cent. to 11·0 per cent. during the period. This column contains all the minor denominations—the only ones amongst which that are at all numerous being Lutherans in Queensland and South Australia—those whose denomination could hardly be classed as a religion, and all those who, from conscientious scruples, took advantage of the clauses of the Census Acts by which the filling in of the column "Religious Denomination" was left optional.

While in 1871 the relative strength of the Church of England was greatest in the colonies in the following order:—Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia; the order in 1891 had changed to Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia.

The Roman Catholic Church in 1871 was relatively strongest in New South Wales, in 1881 in Western Australia, and in 1891 again in New South Wales, with Queensland and Victoria following closely and South Australia and New Zealand last on the list.

The Presbyterian Church has always been most numerous in New Zealand and Victoria, and weakest in Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania.

The various Methodists Denominations were at each enumeration strongest in South Australia, where they numbered close upon one-fifth of the total population. They were also considerably above the average strength in Victoria, while the only Colony in which they fell much below the average was Queensland. Congregationalists and Baptists were also relatively most powerful in the Southern Colonies. The percentages shown in the column "All others" are unduly swollen in the case of Queensland and South Australia by the inclusion of Lutherans; were these omitted the numbers for 1891 would be fairly equal for all Colonies.

In the table showing the actual numbers of adherents of each of the principal denominations for 1891, the Salvation Army is a new element. Any adherents of this persuasion that may have existed in 1881 were grouped with "All other Religions."

THE DENOMINATIONS IN 1893.

At the end of 1893 the population of Australasia was estimated to amount to 4,068,318 persons, distributed amongst the various religious denominations as follows:—First in numerical order stood the Church of England, with 1,592,663 adherents, viz., in New South Wales, 547,473; in Victoria, 413,411; in New Zealand, 269,208; in Queensland, 156,524; in South Australia, 96,638; in Tasmania, 77,039; and in Western Australia, 32,370. The Roman Catholic Church took the second place with 858,520 members, viz., New South Wales, 312,294; Victoria, 256,040; Queensland, 101,855; New Zealand, 93,623; South Australia, 51,072; Tasmania, 27,165; and Western Australia, 16,471. Next came the Presbyterian Church, with 525,449 adherents, viz., Victoria, 171,916; New Zealand, 151,773; New South Wales, 119,058; Queensland, 50,112; South Australia, 19,708; Tasmania, 10,272; and Western Australia, 2,610. The Wesleyan and other Methodist Churches occupied the fourth place with 463,448 members, viz., Victoria, 152,880; New South Wales, 119,849; New Zealand, 66,883; South Australia, 65,880; Queensland, 33,893; Tasmania, 18,057; and Western Australia, 6,006. The four Churches mentioned above comprised together nearly 85 per cent. of the total population, the weakest amongst them about $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The three Churches following next in order, Baptists, Congregationalists, and Lutherans, comprised together less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population; the strongest amongst them, the Baptist Church, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The number of Baptists was estimated at 92,964, viz., Victoria, 28,714; South Australia, 18,995; New Zealand, 15,904; New South Wales, 14,261; Queensland, 11,261; Tasmania, 3,459; and Western Australia, 370. Congregationalists numbered 85,248, viz., New South Wales, 26,245; Victoria, 22,762; South Australia, 12,863; Queensland, 9,411; New Zealand, 7,172; Tasmania, 4,739; and Western Australia, 2,056. The Lutheran Church had 82,319 adherents, viz., Queensland, 25,674; South Australia, 25,253; Victoria, 16,000; New South Wales, 8,642; New Zealand, 6,025; Tasmania, 443; and Western Australia, 282. Next in order of numbers came the Salvation Army with 45,630 members, viz., Victoria, 13,925; New South Wales, 11,224; New Zealand, 10,066; South Australia, 4,715; Queensland, 4,415; Tasmania, 1,280; and Western Australia, 5. The number of Hebrews was 16,246, viz., Victoria, 6,653; New South Wales, 5,969; New Zealand, 1,570; South Australia, 909; Queensland, 888; Western Australia, 169; and Tasmania, 88.

The denominations so far enumerated amounted together to 3,762,487 persons; the remaining 305,831 of the population were grouped under three headings—Mahometans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c., all other religions, and unspecified or ill-defined religions. There were 50,280 Mahometans, Buddhists, Confucians, &c., viz., Queensland, 19,142; New

South Wales, 11,744 ; Victoria, 7,197 ; South Australia, 4,606 ; New Zealand, 4,214 ; Western Australia, 2,358 ; and Tasmania, 1,019. The heading "All other religions" comprised from 250 to 300 denominations, varying in number of adherents from a few thousands down to one. The total number of people included under this heading was 171,470, viz., Victoria, 61,026 ; New South Wales, 31,271 ; South Australia, 30,012 ; New Zealand, 27,987 ; Queensland, 14,171 ; Tasmania, 5,415 ; and Western Australia, 1,588. People of unspecified or ill-defined religions numbered 84,081, viz., Victoria, 23,498 ; New Zealand, 17,840 ; South Australia, 16,223 ; New South Wales, 15,340 ; Tasmania, 5,448 ; Queensland, 4,953 ; and Western Australia, 779.

RAILWAYS.

IN a country like Australasia, ill-supplied with navigable rivers, railway construction is absolutely necessary to its proper development. This was recognized from an early period, but the difficulty of obtaining money at anything but a prohibitory interest long stood in the way of the construction of railways. Nevertheless, as will be seen, very considerable progress has been made, especially of late years ; indeed, by far the greater portion of the Public Debt of Australasia has been contracted for railway purposes. As the extent of territory in Australasia almost equals that of Europe or the United States of America, while the population numbers less than four millions, it is almost needless to say that many of the lines run through districts very sparsely peopled. This is particularly the case with Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, where there are vast tracts of territory in which little in the nature of permanent settlement has yet been accomplished ; and in none of the Colonies can it be said that the railway lines traverse thickly-settled areas. Notwithstanding these drawbacks the Railways of Australasia collectively yield a net return equal to 2·97 per cent. on the outlay.

The colonies of Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales, and Queensland have found it expedient to place the management and maintenance of railways under the control of Commissioners. Victoria, in 1883, was the first colony to adopt this system ; four years later South Australia and New Zealand saw the wisdom of the change, while New South Wales and Queensland followed in 1888. Each of these colonies has appointed three officials as Commissioners, and has conferred upon them by law large executive powers, amounting to almost independent control, the object aimed at being to obtain economic management free from political interference.

In New South Wales and Victoria an additional safeguard in railway construction prevails. All proposed new lines before being sanctioned are submitted to a committee selected from Members of both Houses of Parliament. These committees take evidence as to the suitability of the route proposed, the probable cost of construction, the prospect of the line paying, and the grades to be adopted. Upon the evidence taken they draw up reports for or against the schemes proposed. This careful supervision of railway development has already been attended with success, and it is a matter of regret that such committees were not earlier constituted, as probably the Colonies would have been saved much useless railway construction and unnecessary expense.

The question of establishing railway communication with the interior from Sydney was agitated as far back as 1846, but it was not until the enormous accession to the population of these lands, which followed upon the discoveries of gold, that the matter was carried to a successful issue. The earliest railways were begun almost at the same time in New South Wales and Victoria. The works were, indeed, actually first commenced in New South Wales, but the first railway line opened for traffic was the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay line in 1854, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length. No further extensions were opened in Victoria until 1857. In the first instance in both colonies the construction of the lines was undertaken by private enterprise; but the companies that pioneered the way in regard to railway construction soon found the magnitude of the undertaking beyond the scope of their funds, and it was apparent that only the Government could hope to keep pace with the needs of the country in this direction. The private works already begun in New South Wales were, therefore, bought up by the Government in 1854, and all such lines fell into Government hands in Victoria one year later, with the exception of the Hobson's Bay railway, which was not acquired till 1878. From 1855 the Governments of the two colonies undertook and carried on the work of railway extension.

In New South Wales 14 miles of railway were placed under traffic in 1855. This was the line from Sydney to Parramatta, and a further length of 9 miles was added in the following year. The first State railway-works in South Australia were undertaken in 1857; they were begun in New Zealand in 1860; in Queensland in 1864; in Tasmania in 1868; and in Western Australia in 1874.

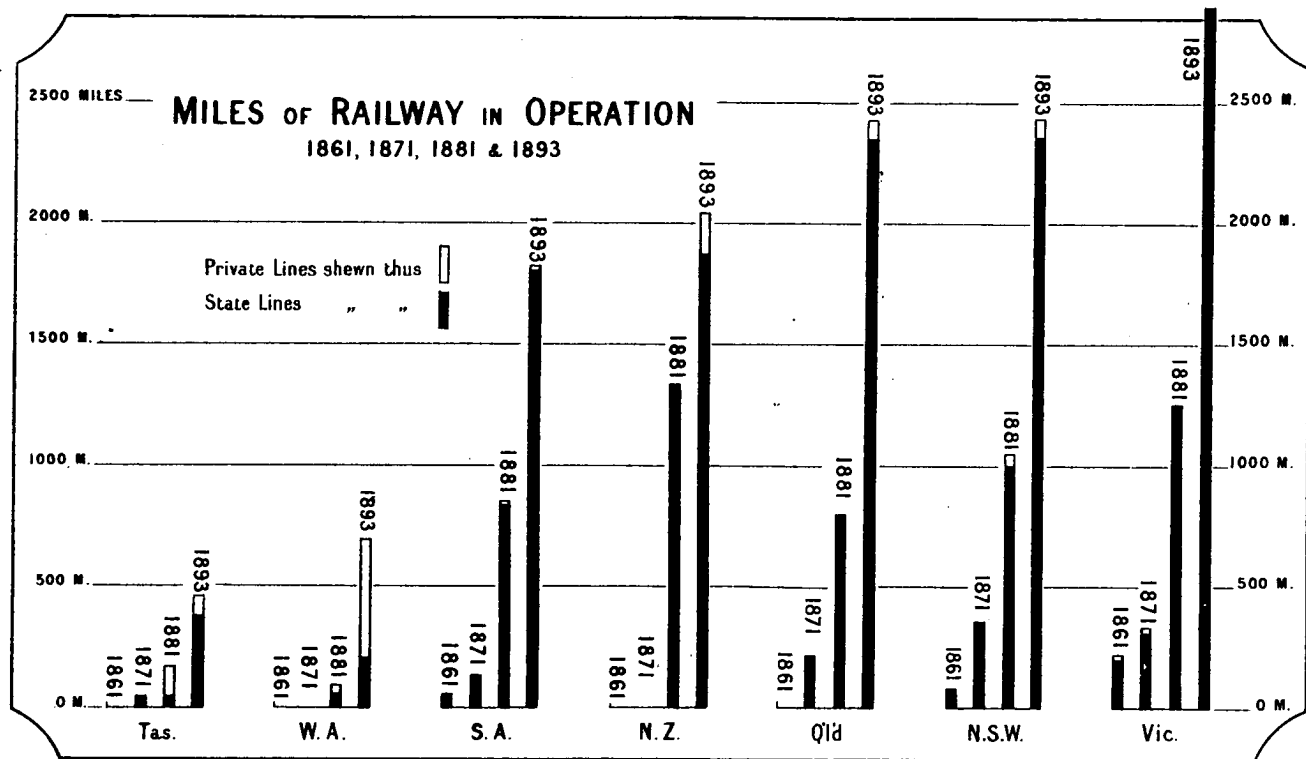
From the humble beginnings mentioned above the mileage of the various systems throughout Australasia had increased to 12,756 in 1892, of which 11,962 miles belong to the State, and 794 miles are under private control. From 1854 to 1863 the mileage opened yearly averaged 40; for the succeeding ten years the average was 110 miles; from 1874 to 1883 it averaged 509 miles; and for the eleven years ended with 1893 the average yearly addition was 601 miles. The total mileage

opened in Australasia, and the extensions during each year since railways were first undertaken, will be found below :—

Year.	Miles opened.		Year.	Miles opened.	
	Total.	During each year.		Total.	During each year.
1854	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1874	1,700	202
1855	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	1875	2,144	444
1856	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	1876	2,678	535
1857	117	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	1877	3,447	769
1858	132	15	1878	3,976	529
1859	171	39	1879	4,393	417
1860	215	44	1880	4,933	540
1861	242	28	1881	5,526	593
1862	372	130	1882	6,169	643
1863	399	27	1883	6,587	418
1864	474	74	1884	7,425	838
1865	494	21	1885	7,881	456
1866	524	29	1886	8,669	788
1867	718	194	1887	9,498	829
1868	789	71	1888	10,230	732
1869	918	129	1889	11,074	844
1870	1,040	122	1890	11,713	639
1871	1,135	95	1891	12,174	461
1872	1,273	138	1892	12,405	231
1873	1,498	225	1893	12,756	351

In 1883 a junction was effected between the New South Wales and Victorian lines at the river Murray ; three years later direct communication was established between Victoria and South Australia ; and in 1888 the last mile of line connecting Sydney with the northern colony was completed, thus placing the four Capitals, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide in direct communication with each other. Proposals have been made to the Government of Western Australia to construct a railway upon the land-grant system, connecting the eastern districts of the colony with South Australia. It is proposed to extend the lines to Eucla, close to the South Australian Border, and when that colony has extended her railways to the same point, Perth will be connected with all the capitals of the Australian Colonies. Should this be carried out, the European mails will, in all likelihood, be landed at Fremantle, and sent overland to the various destinations throughout the continent.

Unfortunately no agreement was carried out between the Colonies as to the adoption of an uniform gauge. As far back as 1846 the 4-ft. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. gauge was recommended by Mr. Gladstone for any railways



that might be constructed in New South Wales, and this recommendation was confirmed two years afterwards by the English Railway Commissioners. But in 1850 the Sydney Railway Company decided upon adopting the 5-ft. 3-in. gauge, and in 1852 an Act was passed which provided that the gauge of all railways in the Colony should be 5 ft. 3 in. In 1853, however, the Sydney Railway Company, having changed their engineer, altered their views with regard to the question of gauge, and applied to have the 4-ft. 8½-in. gauge substituted for the 5ft. 3 in., and succeeded in repealing their Act, and in passing another which made the narrower gauge imperative. This step was taken without the concurrence of the other colonies, and feeling ran very high in Victoria in consequence, as two of the railway companies in that Colony had already given large orders for rolling-stock on the 5-ft. 3-in. gauge. Until the lines of the two colonies met on the boundary no discomfort was, of course, experienced; but since then the break of gauge, and the consequent change of trains, has been a source of irritation and inconvenience. The South Australian Government adopted at the outset the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge of Victoria; but finding that the construction of lines of this gauge involved a heavier expense than they were prepared to face, the more recent lines were built on a gauge of 3 ft. 6 in. In that colony there are 511 miles laid with the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, and 1,320 with that of 3 ft. 6 in. The line joining Adelaide with the Victorian Border, as well as several of the other trunk-lines, have been constructed on the wide gauge, so that the line from Melbourne to Adelaide is uniform. The private line, which prolongs the South Australian system into New South Wales as far as Broken Hill, is on the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. All the Queensland lines are built on the gauge of 3 ft. 6 in., so that transshipment is necessary on the boundary between that colony and New South Wales. The difficulty caused by this diversity of gauge is already found to be troublesome. It is admitted on all hands that the trouble can be got over only by establishing uniformity of gauge, and every year in which action is delayed will make the establishment of that uniformity more costly. Tasmania, Western Australia, and New Zealand have adopted the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. The first line laid down in Tasmania was on the 5 ft. 3 in. gauge, but it was soon altered to 3 ft. 6 in. The total length of line in Australasia laid down to a gauge of 5 ft. 3 in. is 3,489 miles; there are 2,355 miles of the 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge, and 6,912 miles of the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. By the purchase of the Main Line Company's property in 1890, and by taking over other private lines since, the Tasmanian Government now controls a system of 420 miles of railway open for traffic.

The population and area of territory per mile of line open varies considerably. As regards population per mile of line open, Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland—the most extensive colonies—show most favourably; but, in comparison per mile of line open to the area of the territory, Victoria, New Zealand, and Tasmania take

the lead. The annexed table shows the relation of the railway mileage to population and to the area of each colony for the year 1892-93 :—

Colony.	Per mile of line open.	
	Population.	Square miles of Territory.
New South Wales	492	128
Victoria	399	30
Queensland	179	284
South Australia	189	494
Western Australia	80	1,516
Tasmania	326	56
New Zealand	315	51
Australasia	316	248

In the following table are shown the population and area of territory per mile of line open in other countries. Of course a comparison can only be made fairly between Australasia and other young countries in process of development :—

Countries.	Length of Railway.	Population per Mile of Line.	Area per Mile of Line.
	miles.		sq. miles.
United Kingdom	20,325	1,875	6
France	21,605	1,775	9
Germany	26,971	1,833	8
Austria-Hungary	17,993	2,374	15
Belgium	2,810	2,160	4
Netherlands	1,630	2,865	8
Switzerland	2,082	1,401	8
Sweden and Norway	6,225	1,094	47
Spain	6,708	2,618	29
Italy	8,686	3,516	13
India (British)	18,042	15,920	86
Canada (Dominion of)	14,588	331	227
Cape Colony	2,444	625	91
Argentine Republic	8,023	531	140
Brazil	6,651	2,105	483
Chili	1,735	1,653	169
Mexico	6,900	1,687	111
United States of America	171,000	368	20
Australasia	12,756	316	248

The progress of railway construction, except, perhaps, in the case of Victoria, was anything but rapid during the earlier years. This was in a great measure owing to the sparseness of the population, and the

natural fear that the income would not justify the expense of widely-extended lines. It was also due in some degree to the low estimation in which Australasian securities were held in London, and the consequent high rate of interest at which money for railway construction had to be borrowed. The initial difficulties attendant on railway construction may be said to have ended about 1871, for since that year progress has been made by all the Colonies. The mileage under State and private control for each colony during each period shown was :—

Colony.	1861.	1866.	1871.	1876.	1881.	1886.	1891-92.	1892-93.
New South Wales	73	143	358	554	1,040	1,941	2,266	2,436
Victoria	114	275	276	718	1,247	1,754	2,903	2,933
Queensland	*	50	218	298	800	1,433	2,320	2,353
South Australia	56	56	133	308	845	1,226	1,823	1,831
Western Australia	*	*	*	38	92	202	657	699
Tasmania	*	*	45	45	168	303	425	468
New Zealand	*	*	105	718	1,334	1,810	2,011	2,036
Australasia	243	524	1,135	2,679	5,526	8,669	12,405	12,756

* Railways not in existence.

The following table shows the length of Government Railways under construction during 1893 :—

	Miles.		Miles.
New South Wales	179	Tasmania	*
Victoria	107	New Zealand	188
Queensland	59		
South Australia	59	Total	804
Western Australia	292		

Notwithstanding the energetic expansion of the railway systems throughout Australasia since 1881, there is still room for considerable extension. In South Australia railway construction is entirely confined to the south-eastern corner and to the extension of the Northern Line, which has its present terminus at Oodnadatta, 686 miles from Adelaide. It is proposed to eventually extend this line as far north as Pine Creek, the southern terminus of the Port Darwin line. When this railway is completed direct overland communication will be established between the northern and southern portions of the continent. The length of the gap between the terminus at Oodnadatta and that at Pine Creek is 1,140 miles on the telegraph route. An English syndicate offered to complete this railway on the land-grant system, but so far no decision has been arrived at. In New South Wales the railway extensions will be chiefly confined to perfecting the various systems already constructed. In Queensland, with its vast expanse of partly-settled territory and extensive seaboard, the railways are being constructed in separate systems. The

lines commence from each of the principal ports and run inland, but there is no doubt that not many years will elapse before these systems will become branches of a main trunk-line which in all likelihood will be the Brisbane-Charleville line extended as far as Normanton at the Gulf of Carpentaria. A motion has been carried in the Queensland Parliament affirming the desirability of allowing private enterprise to construct in the South, Central, and Northern Divisions of the Colony eleven railway lines under the provisions of the Railway Construction Land Subsidy Act.

In Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand the railways are well developed, compared with size of territory, and any future extensions in these colonies will hardly be on as large a scale as those of the other colonies. It is the established policy of each colony to keep the railways under State control, and only in extreme circumstances is that policy departed from. In two of the colonies—Victoria and Queensland—the lines are entirely in the hands of the Government, although such was not the case always in the former colony, and in none of the Colonies except Western Australia is the extent of private lines considerable when compared with that administered by the State. The following statement shows the gauge and length of the private railways of Australasia :—

Colony.	Line of Railway.	Gauge.	Length.
		ft. in.	ms. ch.
New South Wales...	{ Deniliquin-Moama	5 3	45 0
	{ Cockburn-Broken Hill	3 6	35 54
	{ Clyde-Rosehill	4 8½	3 0
	{ Warwick Farm	4 8½	0 60
South Australia ...	{ Woodville-Grange	5 3	3 40
	{ Adelaide-Glenelg (two routes).....	3 6	13 0
	{ Albany-Beverley	3 6	244 0
	{ Guildford-Walkaway	3 6	129 0
Western Australia..	{ Great Southern Railway-Torbay.....	3 6	12 0
	{ Guildford-Darling Range.....	3 6	19 62
	{ Rockingham-Jarrahdale and Inland	3 6	33 0
	{ Flinders Bay-Inland	3 6	26 0
	{ Quindalup-Forest	3 6	13 40
	{ Locheville-Timber Station	3 6	18 0
Tasmania	{ Emu Bay-Waratah	3 6	48 0
New Zealand.....	{ Wellington-Manawatu	3 6	84 0
	{ Kaitangata-Stirling	3 6	4 0
	{ Midland Railway	3 6	62 0
	Total.....	.....	794 16

A proviso has been inserted in the charters of the companies owning the private lines in New South Wales, whereby, after a certain date, the

Government can, if disposed, acquire the lines at a valuation. Similar conditions are found in most of the charters granted by the other colonies permitting the construction of private lines.

The length of lines under the control of the Governments of Australasia is 11,811 miles, exclusive of 151 miles in the Northern Territory, constructed and equipped at a cost of £119,835,742, or an average of £10,146 per mile. The cheapest constructed lines were those of Western Australia, where the average rate has not exceeded £4,441 per mile. In Victoria the figures stand at £12,665, and in New South Wales at £14,743 per mile. The following are the details of the Government railways in Australasia, the Northern Territory of South Australia being excluded:—

Colony.	Length of line open.	Gauge.	Total cost of Construction and Equipment.	Average cost per mile.
	miles.	ft. in.	£	£
New South Wales	2,351	4 8½	34,657,571	14,743
Victoria	2,933	5 3	37,462,372	12,665
Queensland	2,353	3 6	16,746,195	7,117
South Australia	1,664	{ 5 3 } { 3 6 }	11,830,590	7,109
Western Australia	204	3 6	905,974	4,441
Tasmania	420	3 6	3,499,920	8,338
New Zealand	1,886	3 6	14,733,120	7,822
Australasia	11,811	.....	119,835,742	10,146

It would hardly be fair to institute comparisons between the cost of construction per mile in Australasia and in the densely-populated countries of Europe, for while in Europe the resumption of valuable ground is, perhaps, the heaviest expense in connection with the building of railways, in the Colonies this item of expenditure is not of leading importance. The cost per mile in certain sparsely-settled countries is given thus:—

Canada	£11,904
Cape Colony	8,580
United States	13,027
Argentina.....	9,702
Mexico	9,417
Chili	6,358
Brazil	8,104

while for Australasia it is £10,146.

Every colony shows a surplus of revenue over working expenditure, notwithstanding that the avowed object of railway construction in the

Colonies has been to promote settlement, apart from considerations of profitably working the lines. At the same time the principle has been kept in view that in the main the railways should be self-supporting.

The gross and net revenue for 1892-93, with the working expenses, were as follow :—

Colony.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,927,056	1,738,516	1,188,540
Victoria	2,925,948	1,850,291	1,075,657
Queensland	1,041,222	632,321	408,901
South Australia	1,068,503	655,570	412,933
Western Australia	94,201	90,654	3,547
Tasmania	176,926	161,586	15,340
New Zealand	1,181,522	732,142	449,380
Australasia	9,415,378	5,861,080	3,554,298

The returns for the first four colonies are for the year ending 30th June, 1893; New Zealand for 31st March, 1893; and Western Australia and Tasmania for 31st December, 1892.

The following table shows the proportion of working expenses to gross revenue for each colony in 1892-3. In four colonies the proportion of the working expenses to gross revenue was below the average for Australasia. These were New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand. Victoria was a trifle over the average, but Tasmania and Western Australia were largely in excess. The best position for the year in question was occupied by New South Wales, where 40·6 of the total takings remained to the good after the working expenses were paid; while in Tasmania over £91 and in Western Australia more than £96 out of every £100 received went to defray the cost of working the lines.

Colony.	Working Expenses— Proportion to Gross Revenue. 1892-93.
	per cent.
New South Wales	59·4
Victoria	63·2
Queensland	60·7
South Australia	61·3
Western Australia	96·2
Tasmania	91·3
New Zealand	61·9
Australasia	62·3

The average interest payable on all Australasian loans is 3·96 per cent., and the returns yielded by the railways is 2·97 per cent., showing a loss in working of 0·99 per cent., equivalent to £1,186,400. The figures are :—

Colony.	Interest returned on Capital.	Average Interest payable on Capital Expenditure.	Average Loss.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	3·48	3·82	0·34
Victoria	2·87	3·99	1·12
Queensland	2·44	3·93	1·49
South Australia*	3·49	4·08	0·59
Western Australia	0·39	4·09	3·70
Tasmania	0·43	4·19	3·76
New Zealand	3·05	4·05	1·00
Australasia.....	2·97	3·96	0·99

* Northern Territory not included.

The rate of return on capital which is shown in the foregoing table represents the interest on the gross cost of the lines. In some cases the nominal amount of outstanding debentures is less than the actual expenditure on construction and equipment, owing to the fact that in these cases some loans have been redeemed, but as the redemption has been effected by means of fresh loans charged to general services, or by payments from the general revenue, and not out of railway earnings, no allowance on this account can reasonably be made.

The subjoined table shows the rate per cent. realized on capital expenditure for the last five years for those colonies where the management is under the administration of Commissioners :—

Colony.	1888-9.	1889-90.	1890-1.	1891-2.	1892-3.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	3·14	3·18	3·60	3·58	3·48
Victoria	3·73	2·91	2·72	2·58	2·87
Queensland	0·84	1·70	1·74	2·57	2·44
South Australia	4·05	5·03	5·32	4·38	3·49
New Zealand	2·60	2·97	2·95	2·79	3·05

The following table shows the gross earnings, expenditure, and net profit per average mile open. In 1881 the New South Wales railways yielded 5·31 per cent.—a higher rate of interest on the capital cost than was ever reached before or since. In the same year the Victorian lines yielded a return of 4·04 per cent., which is the highest on record with the exception of 4·18 in the year 1886. The decline in the net profits

is largely due to the extension of the lines in sparsely-populated districts. There is no doubt that with more limited extensions of this class, before long the Colonies will equalise the difference between net revenue and the interest on capital cost. The returns per average mile open were :—

Colony.	Gross Earnings.		Expenditure.		Net Profit per Average Mile open.	
	1891-2.	1892-3.	1891-2.	1892-3.	1891-2.	1892-3.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,423	1,264	877	750	546	514
Victoria	1,094	1,055	756	631	338	424
Queensland	458	422	278	269	180	173
South Australia	679	642	368	394	311	248
Western Australia	334	461	315	444	19	17
Tasmania	458	424	401	385	57	36
New Zealand	598	626	379	388	219	238
Australasia.....	851	797	543	496	308	301

The following is a co-relative table showing the returns per train mile :—

Colony.	Gross Earnings.		Expenditure.		Net Profit per Train Mile.	
	1891-2.	1892-3.	1891-2.	1892-3.	1891-2.	1892-3.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
New South Wales	89·3	93·5	54·9	55·5	34·3	38·0
Victoria	62·9	65·0	43·5	41·0	19·5	24·0
Queensland	63·8	60·1	38·8	36·5	25·0	23·6
South Australia	70·0	66·3	37·8	40·7	32·3	25·5
Western Australia	48·5	53·8	45·7	51·8	2·8	2·0
Tasmania	44·6	47·7	39·1	36·6	5·6	11·1
New Zealand.....	88·9	73·0	56·3	45·3	32·6	27·7
Australasia	72·4	74·4	46·2	45·9	26·2	28·5

In some of the colonies the railways pass through heavy and mountainous country, involving steep gradients. This is particularly the case in New South Wales, where the lines are most exceptional in their character, having been constructed with an unusual proportion of steep gradients, the worst being on the trunk-lines, and so situated that the whole of the traffic has to pass over them. In the Southern system the line at Cooma reaches an altitude of 2,659 feet above the sea-level ; on the Western, at the Clarence station, Blue Mountains, a height of 3,658 feet is attained ; while on the Northern line the highest point,

RAILWAYS, 1893-4

Statistics relating to the New South Wales Railways for the year ended 30th June, 1894, were published while this volume was being printed. The figures show a gross revenue of £2,813,541, and working expenses £1,591,842, leaving a net profit of £1,221,699. This is the largest contribution to the general revenue yet made by the railways, and must be looked upon as a notable achievement, as the year was one of intense business trouble throughout Australasia. The satisfactory result indicated was brought about by a reduction in working expenses, which amounted to only 56·58 per cent. of revenue, as compared with 59·39 in 1893, 61·60 in 1892, and 66·69 in 1888. The gross earnings per train mile for the year 1894 were 7s. 10½d., while the working expenses amounted to 4s. 5½d., leaving a net profit of 3s. 5d. Both the gross and the net earnings were largely in excess of the results obtained when the Commissioners took office, the increase in the former being equal to 15 per cent., while the net earnings showed an increase of about 50 per cent. A comparison of the working of the railways of all the Colonies for the year ended June, 1894, would have been specially interesting, in view of the successful results shown by the New South Wales Railways. Unfortunately, such a comparison cannot be made, as the detailed reports of the other Colonies have not yet been published.

4,471 feet, is reached at Ben Lomond. In no other colony of the group do the lines attain such an altitude. In Queensland the maximum height is 3,008 feet; in Victoria, 2,452 feet; in South Australia, 1,970 feet; and in New Zealand, 1,252 feet. In the colonies where heavy gradients prevail the working expenditure must necessarily be heavier than in the colonies where the surface configuration is more level.

The interest on capital cost, the proportion of working expenses to the gross revenue, and the returns per train mile for some of the principal countries, is given below. The figures refer either to the years 1890 or 1891:—

Country.	Capital Cost.			Working Expenses : Proportion to Gross Revenue.	Per Train Mile.		
	Total.	Per Mile Open.	Return Per Cent.		Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
	£	£	p. cent.	per cent.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
United Kingdom	919,425,421	45,536	4.0	55.0	5 0½	2 9½	2 3½
France	569,080,000	27,375	3.9	52.5	6 0	3 2	2 10
Germany	512,951,000	20,201	5.6	55.3	6 6½	3 6½	3 0½
Austria-Hungary	305,042,000	19,516	3.4	53.1	6 2½	3 3½	2 11½
Belgium	57,157,721	23,271	4.0	59.2	4 7	2 8½	1 10½
United States	1,831,088,000	11,205	3.9	68.5	5 8½	3 10½	1 10
Canada	168,034,518	11,483	1.6	73.0	4 6½	3 3½	1 3
Cape Colony	16,949,722	8,968	4.6	58.9	6 6	3 10	2 8
Australasia	117,968,937	10,113	3.0	63.8	6 0½	3 10½	2 2½

The number of passengers carried on the Victorian lines is greatly in excess of that of New South Wales, due in a large measure to the complete suburban system prevailing in the former colony, which places the principal suburbs in direct communication with the metropolis.

The following table shows the number of passengers carried on the Government lines of each of the Colonies in 1881, in 1891-92, and 1892-93, and are quoted from the official returns of the various Railway Departments:—

Colony.	Passengers carried.		
	1881.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	number.	number.	number.
New South Wales	6,907,312	19,918,916	19,932,703
Victoria	18,973,070	69,546,921	58,445,075
Queensland	247,284	2,370,219	2,247,029
South Australia	3,032,714	5,749,028	5,744,487
Western Australia	67,144	508,304	464,348
Tasmania	102,495	725,724	704,531
New Zealand	2,911,477	3,555,764	3,759,044
Australasia	32,241,496	102,374,876	91,297,217

The Queensland and New Zealand returns do not include passengers with season tickets.

The amount of goods tonnage is shown in the subjoined table. In the period from 1881 to 1891 there was an increase of about 156 per cent., varying from 71 per cent. in South Australia to 377 per cent. in Queensland. The tonnage for 1892-3 shows on the whole a slight decrease upon the figures for the previous year :—

Colony.	1881.	1891-2.	1892-3.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales	2,033,850	4,296,713	3,623,728
Victoria	1,249,049	3,431,578	3,386,888
Queensland	161,009	768,527	762,938
South Australia	646,625	1,106,839	1,337,859
Western Australia	27,816	94,476	138,910
Tasmania	44,396	161,141	178,224
New Zealand	523,099	2,122,987	2,193,330
Australasia	4,685,844	11,982,261	11,621,877

The percentage of receipts from coaching traffic to the total receipts is about the same in the Australasian Colonies as in Europe. The proportion in the United Kingdom for 1892 was 43·44 per cent. for coaching traffic to 52·22 per cent. for goods traffic, besides which there was 4·34 per cent for miscellaneous receipts, which could not properly be classed under either of the above heads; so that the proportion of receipts from coaching traffic to goods traffic was 45·41 per cent. against 54·59 per cent. The figures for the various colonies are given below :—

Colony.	Coaching Traffic.	Goods Traffic.
	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales.....	38·1	61·9
Victoria	51·5	48·5
Queensland.....	22·3	77·7
South Australia.....	30·0	70·0
Western Australia	36·8	63·2
Tasmania	49·5	50·5
New Zealand.....	36·9	63·1
Australasia.....	38·9	61·1

The following table gives the different classes of rolling-stock in the possession of the several Australasian Governments during 1892-93; and, considerable as are the numbers of each class, they could with advantage be largely increased :—

Colony.	Locomotives.	Passenger Carriages.	Goods Waggon.
New South Wales	515	1,053	10,551
Victoria	499	1,107	8,530
Queensland	273	329	3,906
South Australia	247	326	5,620
Western Australia	28	53	442
Tasmania	62	172	1,034
New Zealand	269	491	8,357
Australasia	1,893	3,531	38,440

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

The persons meeting with accidents on railway lines may be grouped under three heads—passengers, servants of the railways, and trespassers; and the accidents themselves may be classified into those arising from causes beyond the control of the person injured, and those due to misconduct or want of caution. Adopting this classification, the accidents during 1892-93 in those colonies for which returns are available are enumerated below :—

Colony.	Passengers.		Railway Employés.		Trespassers, &c.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
New South Wales	7	47	10	87	11	5	28	139
Victoria .....	...	134	6	144	23	48	29	326
South Australia	1	.....	7	31	3	8	11	39
Tasmania .....	...	.....	...	20	1	1	1	21
New Zealand	3	9	2	120	5	41	10	170

The railways of Australasia have been as free from accidents of a serious character as the lines of most other countries. In order to obtain a common basis of comparison it is usual to find the proportion which the number of persons killed or injured bears to the total passengers

carried. There is, however, no necessary connection between the two, for it is obvious that accidents may occur on lines chiefly devoted to goods traffic; and a more reasonable basis would be the accidents to passengers only compared with the number of passengers carried. The data from which such a comparison could be made are wanting for some countries; as far as the figures can be given they are shown in the following table, which exhibits the number of passengers killed and injured per million passengers carried. The figures are calculated over a series of years and brought down to the latest available dates:—

Country.	Number of Years.	Number of Passengers.		Average per million passengers carried.	
		Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Germany.....	6	187	781	0·1	0·4
Austria-Hungary	5	50	403	0·1	1·1
Belgium	5	55	463	0·1	1·2
Sweden	5	9	9	0·2	0·2
France.....	5	262	1,309	0·2	1·1
Italy	5	45	395	0·2	1·8
Norway	5	2	1	0·1	0·1
Holland	4	6	17	0·1	0·2
Switzerland	6	33	109	0·2	0·7
Russia	6	181	544	0·8	2·5
United Kingdom	3	350	4,321	0·2	1·8
Portugal	5	6	66	0·4	4·1
Spain	6	113	477	0·9	3·8
Canada	6	92	397	1·3	5·5
New South Wales.....	10½	68	433	0·4	2·5
Victoria	10½	32	1,168	0·1	1·8

TRAMWAYS.

In all the Australasian Colonies tramways are in operation, but it is chiefly in Sydney and Melbourne, the inhabitants of which numbered at the latest date 421,030 and 444,832 respectively, that the density of settlement has necessitated the general adoption of this mode of transit. In New South Wales steam-motors are mostly used, though there is a length of 1½ miles of cable tram at North Shore, and another cable-line is being constructed from King-street, Sydney, to Ocean-street, Woollahra. The length of Government tram-lines open on the 30th June, 1893, was 49 miles, which had cost for construction the sum of £1,118,471. The receipts for the year ended on the same date were £295,367, and the working expenses £233,808, leaving a profit of £61,559, or 5·51 per cent.

In Victoria the cable system is in operation in the metropolitan area, the lines having been constructed by a municipal trust at a cost of £1,671,966. The tramways are leased to a company, and the receipts for the year ending 31st December, 1893, were £375,192. The number of passengers carried during the year was 35,096,240. In addition to these lines, there are over 20 miles of horse tramway in Victoria.

In Queensland there is a system of horse trams, controlled by a private company. The liabilities at the 30th September, 1892, were £152,379, and the assets £147,164; the receipts for the year ending in the same date were £31,189, and the expenses £35,048. The number of horses owned by the company was 387, and cars 51. There were 2,564,304 passengers carried during the year.

In South Australia there are no Government tramways, but horse trams are run in the principal streets of Adelaide by private companies. No particulars have been collected respecting the length of these lines, nor of the returns therefrom.

The Western Australian Government owns a line of horse tramway on a 2-ft. gauge between Roeburne and Cossack, a length of 8 miles.

In Tasmania a private company maintains a line of horse tramway, 11 miles in length, between Don and Barrington, on the north-west coast. The cost was £9,926, the receipts in 1891 came to £1,169, and the expenditure £1,194. Passengers are carried free of charge on this line. The average number of horses employed was 10 and vehicles 9.

There are also tramways in existence in New Zealand under private management, but no particulars are at present available.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

POSTAL SERVICE.

THE first Australasian post-office was established by Governor Macquarie in the year 1810, Mr. Isaac Nichols being appointed Postmaster. The office was in High-street (now known as George-street), Sydney, at the residence of Mr. Nichols, who was, "in consideration of the trouble and expense attendant upon this duty," allowed to charge on delivery to parties addressed, 8d. for every English or foreign letter of whatever weight, and for every parcel weighing not more than 20 lb., 1s. 6d. ; but exceeding that weight, 3s. The charge on Colonial letters was 4d., irrespective of weight ; and soldiers' letters, or those addressed to their wives, were charged 1d. Very little improvement in regard to postal matters took place for some years. In 1825 an Act was passed by Sir Thomas Brisbane, with the advice of the Council, "to regulate the postage of letters in New South Wales," giving power for the establishment of post-offices, and to fix the rates of postage.

It was, however, not until 1828 that the provisions of the Act were put into full force. The rates of postage appear to have depended upon the distance and the difficulty of transmission. The lowest single inland rate was 3d., and the highest 12d., the postage on a letter increasing according to its weight, which was fixed for a single letter at $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce. Letters between New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were charged 3d. each (ship rate), and newspapers 1d. Other ship letters were charged 4d. single rate, and 6d. for any weight in excess. The privilege of franking was allowed to the Governor and a number of the chief public officials, and letters to and from convicts passed free under certain regulations.

In 1831 a twopenny post was established in Sydney, and in 1835, under Sir Richard Bourke, the Act of 1825 was repealed and another Act was passed, which fixed the charge on a single letter at 4d. for 15 miles, 5d. for 20 miles, 6d. for 30 miles, and so on up to 1s. for 300 miles. In 1837 a post-office was established in Melbourne, which was then of course a part of New South Wales. Stamps were introduced in the same year in the shape of stamped covers or envelopes, which are believed to have been the first postage-stamps ever issued.

Regular steam mail communication with England was first established in 1852 ; prior to that time the Colony had to depend upon the irregular

arrival and despatch of sailing vessels, but in that year the steamships "Australia," "Chusan," and "Great Britain" were despatched from England, making the voyage in 60 days, causing a strong desire in the minds of the Colonists for a more frequent and steady system of steam communication with the Old World. The outbreak of the Crimean War in 1854 hindered for a while the accomplishment of this object, but in 1856 a line of steamers was again laid on, and the service was carried on by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and the Royal Mail Company for some years, without giving so much satisfaction to the public as might have been expected.

As far back as 1854 a proposal was made for the establishment of a line of mail packets *via* Panama, and negotiations on the subject were carried on for several years between the Government of the United Kingdom and those of New South Wales and New Zealand. The result was that in 1866 the line was started, and continued in operation until the end of 1868, when it was terminated through the failure of the company by which it had been carried out. In the following year New South Wales, in conjunction with New Zealand, inaugurated a mail service *via* San Francisco, which, with a few interruptions and under various conditions, has been continued up to the present time. The contract expired in November, 1890, but has since been renewed from time to time, and the steamers still make Sydney their terminus, New South Wales paying a subsidy of £4,000.

The establishment of a mail route *via* America had the effect of stimulating the steamship-owners who were engaged in the service *via* Suez, and from that time there was a marked improvement in the steamers employed, as well as in the punctuality and speed with which the mails were delivered. The Peninsular and Oriental Company have carried mails for the Colonies almost from the inception of the ocean steam service, with very few interruptions. Towards the end of 1878 the Orient Company commenced carrying mails between Australia and the United Kingdom, and has continued to do so ever since. In the year 1883 the five steamers of the Messageries Maritimes of France entered the service, to be followed in 1887 by the North German Lloyd's, so that there are now sometimes two or even three mails received and despatched every week, and a voyage to Europe, which was formerly a formidable undertaking, involving great loss of time and much discomfort, is regarded as a mere pleasure trip to fill up a holiday.

In the year 1893 another mail service was established, by a line of steamers running from Sydney to Vancouver Island, in British Columbia. This line seems likely to open up a valuable trade between the Australian Colonies and those of British North America. The New South Wales Government has engaged to pay an annual subsidy of £10,000 for three years towards the maintenance of this service.

The following statement gives the number of letters and newspapers passing in 1861 through the post-offices of the various Colonies. It

will be seen on comparing these figures with those in the next table that the number of letters for all Australasia in 1861 was less than is now transacted by any individual colony, Tasmania and Western Australia excepted. It should be explained that, while the figures quoted show correctly the postal business of each individual colony, the total number of letters and newspapers for Australasia as returned is too large, the intercolonial mails being counted twice over—that is, both at the colony they are sent from and at the colony they are delivered at. In this table, as well as in the following one, a second total has been given, from which this Intercolonial excess is excluded, so as to represent the amount of postage business actually transacted in the year 1861 :—

Colony.	No. of Post Offices.	Letters.	Newspapers.
New South Wales	340	4,369,463	3,384,245
Victoria	369	6,109,929	4,277,179
Queensland	24	515,211	427,489
South Australia	160	1,540,472	1,089,424
Western Australia .....	...	193,317	137,476
Tasmania	100	835,873	895,656
New Zealand .....	...	1,236,768	1,428,351
Australasia .....	...	14,801,033	11,639,820
Australasia (Intercolonial excess excluded) .....	...	14,061,000	10,941,400

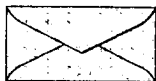
The following shows the postal business of each of the Colonies during 1892, the number of letters, &c., being obtained by adding inland letters passing through the office, and thus counted once, to Intercolonial and Foreign letters, &c., received and despatched ; with a similar correction to that made in the previous table :—

Colony.	Post Offices.	Letters and Post Cards.	Books, Parcels, and Packages.	Newspapers.	Revenue.
New South Wales	1,800	77,402,760	12,380,200	45,520,500	£ 467,255
Victoria	1,766	62,526,448	7,491,316	22,729,005	365,605
Queensland	951	15,779,569	2,975,434	11,405,904	135,723
South Australia	541	17,409,769	1,297,327	8,773,718	118,227
Western Australia	188	4,214,550	657,135	3,061,431	20,575
Tasmania	345	6,063,548	1,212,122	4,692,076	54,736
New Zealand	1,263	28,571,844	8,604,208	12,027,582	214,002
Australasia	6,854	211,968,488	34,617,742	108,210,816	1,376,123
Australasia (Intercolonial excess excluded) .....	....	198,202,400	32,055,300	98,102,500	.....

LETTERS CARRIED

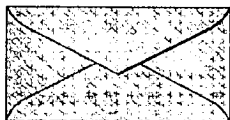
POST-CARDS INCLUDED

1861



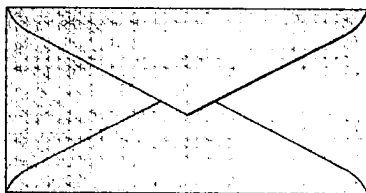
Nº 14,061,000

1871



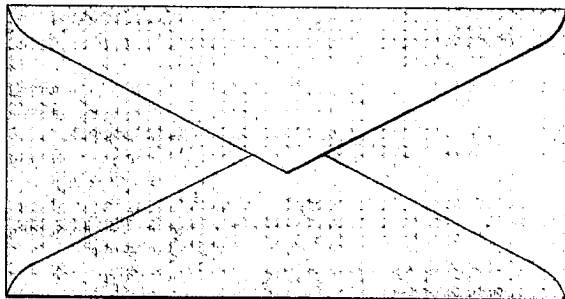
Nº 30,435,300

1881



Nº 80,791,700

1892



Nº 198,202,400

The official returns of Victoria afford no information with regard to the number of letters, packets, and newspapers dealt with since the year 1890, such particulars being no longer compiled; the figures for 1890 have, therefore, been repeated in this table and some succeeding ones.

In New South Wales and Tasmania newspapers were carried free within the colony during 1892, which largely extended their circulation through the post, but in all the other colonies a small fee was charged. The following table shows the number of letters and post-cards, books, &c., and newspapers per head during 1892. Western Australia and New South Wales take the lead in respect to letters as well as newspapers, but New Zealand stands first as far as parcels and books are concerned :--

Colony.	Number per Inhabitant.		
	Letters, &c.	Books, Parcels, &c.	Newspapers.
New South Wales	66	10	39
Victoria	56	7	20
Queensland	38	7	27
South Australia	53	4	26
Western Australia	75	12	55
Tasmania	40	8	31
New Zealand	44	13	19
Australasia	50	8	25

The following table shows the number of letters and post-cards per head in some of the principal countries of the world. With the exception of the United Kingdom, the extent of the correspondence in Australasia largely exceeds that of any of the countries named. In this table also the total for Australasia has been corrected by the elimination of the Intercolonial excess :—

Country.	Number of Letters and Post-cards per head of Population.	Country.	Number of Letters and Post-cards per head of Population.
United Kingdom	53	Switzerland	35
France	21	Italy	7
Belgium	26	Spain	7
Netherlands	22	Portugal	6
Germany	33	Canada	26
Denmark	23	Cape Colony	9
Norway	18		
Russia	2	Australasia	50
Austria	24		

The following table illustrates the extent of the postal facilities in regard to the number of inhabitants, and the square miles of territory to each post-office for the year 1892. It will be seen that New South Wales and Victoria provide practically the same amount of postal facilities to their inhabitants, while Western Australia, from its enormous extent and scanty population, naturally furnishes the least. Western Australia has the least number of offices when compared with territory, and Victoria the most:—

Colony.	Number of Inhabitants to each Post Office.	Number of Square Miles of Territory to each Office.
	Number.	Square Miles.
New South Wales	656	173
Victoria.....	658	49
Queensland	437	703
South Australia	612	1,670
Western Australia	297	6,538
Tasmania	443	76
New Zealand	509	83
Australasia	575	461

All the Colonies, with the exception of New Zealand, have, in conjunction with the Imperial Government, entered into an agreement with the Peninsular and Oriental, and the Orient Steam Navigation Companies. Under this contract, which will expire on the 31st January, 1895, the two companies have undertaken a weekly mail service for a yearly subsidy of £170,000. This subsidy is made up by a contribution of £95,000 from the Imperial Government, and of £75,000 from the six contracting colonies, distributed on the basis of population as follows:—

Colony.	Amount of Subsidy, 1892.
	£
New South Wales	26,760
Victoria	26,576
Queensland	9,449
South Australia	7,491
Tasmania	3,514
Western Australia	1,210
Total	75,000

The estimated net cost to be made good from revenue in New South Wales was £13,274, against £13,729 in 1891, and £564 in 1890.

Victoria, after paying her share of the subsidy, had a deficit of £7,221. New Zealand paid £884 for the carriage of her mails by this route. Returns for the other colonies are unfortunately not available.

The mail service has been performed with great regularity and expedition. The average time of both homeward and outward services in 1892 was:—

	Days.
London to Sydney	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sydney to London	33 $\frac{1}{2}$

In addition to the federal ocean mail service *via* Suez, New South Wales and New Zealand, until November, 1890, subsidised the Union Steamship Company for a four-weekly service, *via* San Francisco, to the amount of £37,000, of which New South Wales paid £25,750, and New Zealand £11,250. The cost of this service during 1892 was £125 to New South Wales, £749 to Victoria, and £7,486 to New Zealand. The New Zealand Shipping Company is also under contract to carry mails from New Zealand to the United Kingdom. The average time during the same year by the San Francisco route was:—

	Days.
London to Sydney	39 $\frac{1}{3}$
Sydney to London	37 $\frac{1}{3}$

The British India Steam Navigation Company, sailing from Brisbane, *via* Torres Straits, carry mails under contract with the Queensland Government. This route is from four to ten days longer than those previously mentioned, mails in 1891 having occupied about 44 days in transit. Queensland, under the former contract, paid the company an annual subsidy of £55,000. This contract ceased in January, 1890, and under a new contract the Colony agreed to pay the company an annual subsidy of £19,800 for a four-weekly, or £32,500 for a fortnightly service. The latter service was commenced on 1st July, 1890, the monthly service having lasted nearly six months; but in November, 1891, the contractors, on account of the heavy losses under the fortnightly system, were allowed to revert to the four-weekly service for twelve months from 22nd December, 1891, the subsidy being reduced to the smaller amount mentioned above, *viz.*, £19,800. The amount of mail matter despatched by this route from the other colonies is very small, the cost to Victoria during 1892 being stated at £24.

Besides those mentioned, the other steamship companies trading with the Australasian Colonies carry mails, notably the Messageries Maritimes Company and the North German Lloyd, sailing from Sydney, and the Shaw, Saville, and Albion Company, sailing from Lyttelton, *via* Magellan Straits. The companies are paid by the Colonies in proportion to the weight of mail matter carried, but the Messageries Maritimes Company and the North German Lloyd are in receipt of large subsidies from the French and German Governments respectively. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a Japan Mail Steamship Company, purposes shortly running a

line of fast steamers between Japan, China, and the Colonies. It is understood that the enterprise will be subsidized by the Japanese Government.

The postage to the United Kingdom was reduced in January, 1891, from 6d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. *via* Italy, and 4d. *via* the long sea route, to the uniform rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. In 1891 the Colonies were represented at the Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Vienna, and on July 4th a convention was signed on their behalf, by which they joined the Union from October 1st, 1891. From that date the rate of postage to all British Colonies and possessions and foreign countries included in the Union was reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. As was to be expected, the immediate result of the alteration was a reduction in revenue, but it is confidently anticipated that so far as these Colonies are concerned the time is not far distant when the revenue from this branch of postal service will reach its original volume.

A common scale of postage on newspapers has been adopted by New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand, and it is considered probable that before long the two remaining colonies of Australasia will join in the arrangement. It has been provided that newspapers for the United Kingdom shall be subject to a charge of 1d. for the first 4 oz., with an additional charge of 1d. for every 4 oz. or fraction of 4 oz. over that weight; and to all places beyond Australasia, except the United Kingdom, the same rate for every 4 oz., with an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every 2 oz. over that weight. By a recent change in the postal laws of Queensland, newspapers, which previously were transmitted from New South Wales and Tasmania to that colony free of charge, were subjected to a charge of 1d. for every 10 oz. on delivery in Queensland, unless prepaid at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for 10 oz. in the country of origin.

The number of registered letters passing through the post offices of the Australasian Colonies has largely increased of late years, and in New South Wales the number in 1891 was no less than 1,047,080, an increase of 266,878 over the total in 1890. This large increase was not a natural growth, but arose chiefly from correspondence relating to so-called "consultations" or lottery sweeps connected with horse-racing, which were established in Sydney, and to support which large sums of money were sent to that city from all parts of Australasia, and also from other countries. Probably not less than 600,000 of the total for 1891 in New South Wales were associated with these "sweeps." The Government of New South Wales has dealt with this evil in an amending Postal Bill, and this illicit branch of the postal traffic has been removed to other colonies to a great extent. It has been estimated by the late Postmaster-General of Victoria that nearly £100,000 of the colony's money was sent to New South Wales annually to be distributed in these sweeps.

All the Colonies have systems of intercolonial parcels post in operation.

An Intercolonial Postal Conference was held in Brisbane in March, 1893, at which matters of detail, both ministerial and departmental, in connection with postal and telegraph business were considered. The whole of the seven Australasian Colonies were represented, and agreement was arrived at with regard to several matters of detail. Another Intercolonial Conference on postal and telegraphic matters was held at Wellington, N.Z., early in 1894. Matters of general interest were discussed, and united action was agreed to with regard to several subjects in which discrepancies had hitherto prevailed.

TELEGRAPHS.

In no country in the world has the development of telegraphic communication been so rapid as in Australasia, and in none has it been taken advantage of by the public to anything like the same extent. Taking Australasia as a whole, there are only four countries in the world that possess a greater extent of telegraph lines, and only seven in which a larger number of messages are actually sent. In no other country, however, does the number of messages bear anything approaching the same ratio to the population. The following table illustrates these remarks:—

Country.	Length of Telegraph Lines (poles).	Messages.	Messages per head of popu- lation.
	Miles.	No.	No.
United Kingdom	34,056	69,907,800	1·8
France*	59,693	45,328,900	1·2
Belgium*	4,617	8,445,600	1·4
Netherlands.....	3,398	4,303,000	0·9
Germany	73,198	31,175,100	0·6
Denmark	3,674	1,673,000	0·8
Sweden.....	5,477	1,849,500	0·4
Norway.....	5,872	1,726,200	0·9
Russia.....	88,280	10,103,800	0·1
Austria-Hungary	31,862	16,932,600	0·4
Switzerland	4,515	3,630,600	1·2
Italy	23,665	9,002,400	0·3
Spain.....	15,988	4,766,200	0·3
Portugal	3,985	1,354,800	0·3
United States.....	189,576	62,387,300	1·0
Canada	31,841	4,614,900	1·0
Cape Colony	5,482	1,424,400	0·9
Australasia (Intercolonial excess ex- cluded.)	45,496	8,869,200	2·2

* Government lines only.

The totals of the telegrams of the Australasian Colonies amount to 10,136,200; from this number has been deducted 1,267,000, to avoid

the counting of Intercolonial telegrams, both in the despatching and the receiving colonies. From the above table it appears that the population of Australasia sent over two messages through the telegraph in the year for each inhabitant. In the United Kingdom the number was about one and three-quarters to each inhabitant; in the United States of America about one message for every inhabitant. The return for the United States includes only the lines of the Western Union Company, who own the principal part of the United States telegraph system. In France and Belgium, one message and a quarter nearly, and one message and a half, was sent respectively for every person; in Germany, one message for every two persons; in Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Spain, about one message for every three persons. In Canada one message, and in the Cape Colony rather less than one message, is sent for every inhabitant in each year.

The electric telegraph was introduced into these Colonies almost at the time of the earliest railway construction. The first telegraph messages were sent in New South Wales in 1851. In Victoria the telegraph line from Melbourne to Williamstown was opened in 1854. The first line in South Australia, from Adelaide to Port Adelaide, was opened in 1856; and the first Tasmanian line was completed in 1857. In New Zealand the first telegraph office was opened in 1862; and the line from Brisbane to Rockhampton, the first in Queensland, was opened in 1864. Telegraphic communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide in 1858. The first telegraph in Western Australia was opened in 1869, and communication between that colony and all the others of the group was completed in 1877.

Australasia is connected with Europe and the rest of the world by means of cables connecting with the various Asiatic continental lines. There are two cables—the older one opened in October, 1872—joining Port Darwin to Banjowangie, in Java, whence communication is provided with Europe by way of Batavia, Singapore, Madras, and Bombay. The cable from Port Darwin to Banjowangie is unfortunately liable to damage through volcanic eruptions, and the question is, therefore, being considered whether a point more to the east should not be substituted for Banjowangie. The length of line between Adelaide and London is 12,570 miles—9,146 cable, and 3,424 miles overland wire. Of the land portion, 1,971 miles are between Adelaide and Port Darwin. A second cable was laid in 1888 from Broome, on Roebuck Bay, in Western Australia, to Banjowangie. The length of line by this route from Perth to London is 12,296 miles, 10,811 being cable and 1,485 land wire. The eastern colonies are connected with Broome by a line running from Adelaide, *via* Port Augusta, Eucla, and Albany, to Perth. The cable joining Tasmania to the continent of Australia was laid in 1869, the length being about 170 miles. It starts from the township of Flinders, near Cape Schanck, in Victoria, and terminates at Low Head, at the mouth of the Tamar, in Tasmania. New Zealand was joined to the

continent by a cable laid in 1876, the length being about 1,191 miles. It has its Australian terminus within sight of the spot where Captain Cook landed on the shores of Botany Bay, and within a stone's throw of the monument of La Perouse. The New Zealand terminus of the cable is at Wakapuaka, near Nelson, on the Middle or South Island, whence another cable, 109 miles in length, is laid to Wanganui, in the North Island, with an alternate line from White's Bay across Cook Strait to Wellington.

At a conference of the postal and telegraphic authorities, held in Sydney in February, 1891, the question of cable rates came under discussion, and a proposal of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company was agreed to, by which the Colonies, with the exception of New Zealand and Queensland, undertook to make good half the loss which the company would sustain by a reduction in the schedule of cable charges. The amended tariff came into force in May, 1891, and the amount to be guaranteed to the company for the portion of the year during which the contract was in existence was £158,941. The sum earned by the company for the same period was £120,141, so that the deficiency on the eight months' business was £38,350, one-half of which was made good by the contributing colonies *pro rata* according to population. From 1st January, 1893, the rates were again slightly raised, and stand now at 4s. 9d. per word from Sydney to London for ordinary messages.

An agreement has been entered into between the representative of a French company and the Queensland Government for the construction of a cable service between Queensland and New Caledonia, a distance of 900 miles. The French Government is to guarantee £8,000, and the Governments of New South Wales and Queensland £2,000 each, as a subsidy to the line; and in consideration of this sum the two Australian Governments mentioned are entitled to the use of the wire for transmission of Government messages free of cost, up to the extent of the guarantee. The Queensland terminus of the cable has been fixed at Burnett Heads, that locality having been selected as being more suitable than either Gladstone, Sandy Cape, or Cape Moreton, which had been mentioned as probable landing-places for the cable. This service, when completed, may be the first portion of the proposed main Pacific cable, connecting Australia with Vancouver, San Francisco, or such other place as may be determined, but various other routes have also been proposed.

All the Colonies show very rapid progress in regard to telegraphic matters during the period from 1871 to 1881. In the case of Queensland this increase is largely due to the construction of the line to the Gulf of Carpentaria; and in the case of South Australia, to the construction of the lines to Port Darwin and to Eucla, on the boundary of Western Australia.

The following table shows the length of telegraphic lines for each colony at the four last census periods, as well as for the year 1892, as far as the returns are available :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales	1,616	*4,674	8,515	11,697	11,905
Victoria .....	.....	*2,295	3,350	7,170	7,089
Queensland	169	2,525	6,280	9,996	10,019
South Australia	597	1,183	4,946	5,640	5,493
Western Australia .....	.....	*750	1,585	2,921	3,289
Tasmania .....	.....	*291	928	2,082	2,222
New Zealand.....	.....	2,015	3,824	5,349	5,479
Australasia .....	.....	13,733	29,428	44,855	45,496

* In 1873.

The next table gives similar particulars, only the amounts are expressed as miles of wire instead of length in poles :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales.....	1,981	5,579	14,278	24,780	26,443
Victoria .....	.....	3,472	6,626	13,989	14,015
Queensland	169	2,614	8,585	17,646	18,141
South Australia.....	915	1,718	7,228	12,707	12,911
Western Australia .....	.....	*750	1,593	3,546	4,014
Tasmania .....	.....	241	1,157	3,178	3,383
New Zealand .....	.....	3,287	9,653	13,235	13,459
Australasia .....	.....	17,661	49,120	89,081	92,366

* In 1873.

The number of telegrams passing along the wires of each colony, and the revenue received by the respective Telegraph Departments for the year 1892, were as follow. In the total for Australasia a correction has been made for Intercolonial telegrams recorded in both the despatching and the receiving colony :—

Colony.	Number of Telegrams.	Revenue Received.
New South Wales	2,976,109	£ 185,014
Victoria	2,725,860	116,066
Queensland	1,095,407	82,952
South Australia	853,273	68,630
Western Australia	252,110	14,337
Tasmania	329,334	25,769
New Zealand	1,904,143	85,601
Australasia	10,136,236	578,369
Australasia (Intercolonial excess excluded.)	8,869,000	.....

In connection with the Telegraph Departments of the various colonies, Telephone Exchanges have during recent years been established in the capitals and other important centres of population. The returns relating to Telephones are, however, difficult to separate from those relating to Telegraphs, particularly with regard to the distinct wires in use. Information regarding Telephones in the different colonies, as far as can be ascertained, will be found in the following table :—

Colony.	Number of Telephones.	Miles of Wire (distinct from Telegraph Wires.)	Revenue.
			£
New South Wales	2,354	.....*	18,667
Victoria	2,414	9,460	39,591
Queensland	705	.....*	4,530
South Australia	758	2,275	12,348
Western Australia	197	642	1,210
Tasmania	711	555	3,599
New Zealand	3,811	3,160	19,155
Australasia	10,950	.....	99,100

*Not furnished.

. In addition to the branches of the postal and telegraphic business dealt with in this chapter, Money Order Offices and Savings Banks are in operation in all the Colonies, particulars regarding which will be found in the chapter dealing with Finance.

EDUCATION.

IT would have been indeed strange if communities so prosperous as the Australasian Colonies had neglected the important matter of Education, and in every province of the group it will be found that the State has taken the subject in hand—to an extent, in some instances, far beyond what has been done in most of the countries of the Old World. In each colony provision is made for primary education, and in all of them there are grammar and high schools, by means of which those who have the desire may qualify themselves for the higher studies of the University. So bountiful has been the provision made by the State that in most cases the cost of education is merely nominal, and the poverty of the parents ceases to be an excuse for the ignorance of the children. No doubt in the very early days of colonization there was but little attention paid to education; but as soon as the sharp struggle for bare existence was over, attempts were made to provide in some degree the means of instruction for the rising generation, and the foundations were laid of an educational system that is in the highest degree creditable to these young communities. The denominations were naturally the first to build schools and provide teachers, but there was always a large proportion of persons who objected to denominationalism, especially those who belonged to denominations not subsidized by the State; and hence there arose a National or non-sectarian system, which has in the course of time almost monopolized the educational field.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In all the Australasian Colonies the State system of education is secular, and Western Australia is the only one where denominational education is at all subsidised. The Education Acts of each colony contain compulsory clauses, but the enforcement of these is not everywhere equally strict. In Victoria, for instance, compulsory attendance at school has been insisted upon with great rigour, while in Queensland the principle of compulsion has been allowed to remain almost in

abeyance, and in the other colonies it has been enforced with varying degrees of strictness. In Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand, and South Australia the education provided by the State is entirely free of charge to the parents; in New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania, small fees are charged, but are not enforced where the parents can reasonably plead poverty.

The statutory school-age of each colony is as follows :—

New South Wales	6 to 14 years.
Victoria	6 to 13 „
Queensland	6 to 12 „
South Australia ..	7 to 13 „
Western Australia ..	6 to 14 „
Tasmania	7 to 14 „
New Zealand.....	7 to 13 ,

In New South Wales there was for many years a dual system in existence. The four State-aided denominations—the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan bodies—had schools supported by annual votes from Parliament, administered under the control of the head of each denomination for the time being. There were also National schools, equally supported by the State, but under the control of a Board appointed by the Government. This plan was found to be costly and wasteful in the extreme, for in many of the country towns there were several small and inefficient competing schools, where the total number of children was not more than sufficient for one well-conducted establishment. So strongly was this evil felt that changes in the law relating to education were made from time to time, until at length the denominational system was abolished altogether, and one general and comprehensive plan of Public Instruction adopted in its place. This was not brought about without much agitation, lasting over a considerable period. A league was formed, having for its object the establishment of education, secular, compulsory, and free, and in 1880, under the auspices of Sir Henry Parkes, the measure establishing the present system became law. In New South Wales education is non-sectarian, though facilities are afforded to clergymen to give religious instruction within specified school-hours to those children whose parents desire it. It is compulsory, and free to all who cannot afford to pay, while a merely nominal fee is charged to those who are in a position to contribute towards the cost of the teaching of their children. In New South Wales in 1892 there were 2,502 public schools, with an average attendance of 132,580 children, out of a mean quarterly enrolment of 186,207, a net enrolment of 210,641, or a gross enrolment of 239,364. For secondary education there are a number of superior and high schools entirely supported by the State, besides numerous colleges, grammar schools, and denominational schools, which obtain no assistance from the

Government, except in the case of the Sydney Grammar School, which receives an annual subsidy, amounting in 1892 to £2,800. Scholarships and bursaries have been founded in connection with many of these schools. Educational affairs are in New South Wales under the direction of the Minister for Public Instruction.

In Victoria, under an Act passed in 1872, a system of free, compulsory, and secular primary education is in force, under a Minister for Education, who is responsible to Parliament. The compulsory clause is very strictly enforced, especially in the large towns, and education is entirely free as regards the ordinary subjects of primary instruction, while the teachers are allowed to impart additional subjects, for which a small fee has to be paid. At the end of 1892, Victoria had 2,140 State schools, with an average attendance of 141,864 scholars, out of a net enrolment of 215,020, or a gross enrolment of 249,786. Religion is strictly forbidden to be taught during school-hours, and not at any time must a State teacher impart it. Secondary education is principally in the hands of private or denominational establishments. The higher education is supplied by the University, with its affiliated colleges.

The Education Department in Queensland is administered by the Secretary for Public Instruction. The Act now in force was passed in 1875, and is of a tolerably liberal character, primary education being secular and free. The compulsory clause has not been put into operation, as it would be a very difficult thing to enforce its provisions in the scattered and sparsely-populated districts of the interior. A recent departmental report, however, hints that the compulsory provision will soon have to be applied. The primary schools at the end of 1892 were 657 in number, with a gross enrolment of 77,889 pupils, a net enrolment of 67,926, a mean quarterly enrolment of 62,663, and an average daily attendance of 45,975. Secondary education is provided for by means of grammar schools, which are liberally assisted by the State. Queensland, as yet, has no University of her own, but sends a fair proportion of students to the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne.

The South Australian system of primary education, which was introduced in its present form in 1878, is very similar to those already described; it is presided over by a responsible Minister, with an Inspector-General and other officials. Education is compulsory, secular, and free. To the end of 1891 a small weekly fee had to be paid by all parents able to do so, but at the beginning of 1892 education in South Australia became entirely free. At the end of 1892 there were 579 primary schools, with a gross enrolment of 60,139 children, a net enrolment of 53,457, and an average attendance of 35,371. Children who have attained a certain standard of instruction are exempt from compulsory attendance. Religious instruction is not allowed to be given except out of ordinary school-hours. Secondary education is in the

hands of private and denominational establishments, and the University at Adelaide, though small, is efficient.

Quite a different system of education prevails in Western Australia. Under the Elementary Education Act of 1871, primary education is imparted in Government schools, which are entirely supported by the State. Private schools are also assisted from the public purse, on condition of submitting to Government inspection on secular subjects. There is a high school at Perth, and a grammar school at Freemantle, and further encouragement is given to secondary instruction by the institution of scholarships which are open for competition. At the end of 1892 there were 96 Government and 21 assisted schools in the colony, with an enrolment of 4,032 and 1,941, and an average attendance of 2,902 and 1,422 respectively. The local boards have power to enforce compulsory attendance.

In Tasmania there is no separate Minister for Education, but the department is under the control of the Treasurer, who has especial charge over matters relating to primary instruction. There are public schools in every country town throughout the colony, and several in Hobart and Launceston. At the end of 1892 they numbered 251 in all, the average attendance being 10,654, out of a gross enrolment of 20,659 children, and an average monthly number on the rolls of 14,549. The principle of compulsion is nominally in force. Secondary education is encouraged by means of superior schools and a system of scholarships; and annual examinations are held at which successful candidates may gain the degree of Associate of Arts. There is no University in Tasmania.

New Zealand has an educational system which is entirely secular and free. There is a separate department of education, presided over by one of the responsible Ministers of the Crown, as in most of the other Colonies. The whole colony has been divided into school districts, each presided over by a local board, and a capitation grant of £3 15s. per head is paid by the State for every child in average attendance, and in addition 1s. 6d. per child for the support of scholarships, with other grants for school-buildings, training of teachers, &c. At the close of 1892 there were 1,302 public schools thus supported by the State, with an average attendance of 99,070 scholars out of a total enrolment of 122,860. High schools, colleges, and grammar schools provide the means for acquiring secondary education, and there is an University, which, like those of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, is empowered to confer the same degrees as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, except as regards Divinity.

In addition to the ordinary primary schools, the New Zealand Government maintain schools for Maori children in localities where there are few or no Europeans. The number of schools in 1892 was 67, of scholars 2,218, the average attendance 1,634, and the teaching staff numbered 88. The net expenditure for 1892 was £14,290.

The following table gives the number of State schools in each of the Colonies during 1892, together with the number of teachers and the average attendance of scholars. In addition to the number of teachers stated, there were 73 sewing-mistresses in New South Wales, 504 in Victoria, 166 in South Australia, and 160 in New Zealand :—

Colony.	Number			Scholars in average attendance.		Percentage of scholars in average attendance to mean population.
	of State Schools.	of Teachers.	of Scholars in average attendance.	To each School.	To each Teacher.	
New South Wales.....	2,502	4,563	132,580	53	29	11·2
Victoria	2,140	4,473	141,864	66	32	12·2
Queensland	657	1,498	45,975	70	31	11·1
South Australia	579	1,056	35,371	61	34	10·7
Western Australia	96	143	2,902	30	20	5·2
Tasmania	251	508	10,654	43	21	7·0
New Zealand.....	1,302	3,180	99,070	76	31	15·4
Australasia.....	7,527	15,411	468,416	62	30	11·9

The percentage to the total population of the enrolment at State schools, after deducting multiple enrolments, is shown in the following table :—

	Per cent.
New South Wales.....	17·8
Victoria	18·5
Queensland.....	16·3
South Australia.....	16·1
Western Australia ..	6·4
Tasmania.....	11·9
New Zealand	16·8
Australasia	17·2

Victoria and New South Wales occupy the first position, and are above the average for Australasia, while New Zealand, Queensland, and South Australia are slightly below the average. Western Australia stands lowest on the list, owing, no doubt, to the sparseness of its population. The comparison, however, does not mean much, as the populations of the Colonies are very variously constituted as regards ages. For instance, in New Zealand children of school-age constitute nearly 27 per cent. of the population, as against 21 per cent. in Victoria and 24 per cent. in New South Wales.

The number of children of "school-age" in all the Colonies at the census of 1891 was 890,932. As almost the whole of the children enrolled at the different schools are over 5 or under 15 years of age, that

period has been adopted as "school-age" for purposes of computation in the following table :—

New South Wales	266,195
Victoria	244,436
Queensland	86,239
South Australia	80,897
Western Australia	10,191
Tasmania	35,810
New Zealand.....	167,164
Australasia	890,932

Against the above total the gross enrolment of scholars, after deducting multiple enrolments, at both State and private schools at the same period, was :—

New South Wales	252,415
Victoria.....	265,826
Queensland	78,443
South Australia	60,184
Western Australia	5,345
Tasmania	23,825
New Zealand	133,665
Australasia	819,703

A comparison of the two tables above shows that while in Victoria the number of scholars enrolled actually exceeded the number of children from 5 to 15 years of age by 21,390, and while in Queensland there was a deficiency of only 7,796, there was room for improvement in the other colonies. In New South Wales the number of children not enrolled at any school was 13,780, in South Australia 20,713, in Western Australia 4,846, in Tasmania 11,985, and in New Zealand 33,499. For the whole of Australasia there was thus a number of 71,229 children between 5 and 15, amounting to 8.0 per cent. of the total population of that age, which were either taught at home or received no education at all. There is, however, ample evidence, as the following pages show, that a steady improvement is taking place in all the colonies.

Out of the total gross enrolment of 910,377 children in the year 1892, 774,729 were enrolled in schools under the control of the Governments of the various colonies, and 135,648 were on the rolls of private and denominational schools. Allowing, however, for multiple enrolments at State schools, the 910,377 children have to be reduced to 812,567, and the 774,729 at State schools to 676,919.

The average daily attendance at the State schools of all the colonies was 468,416, or 60.5 per cent. of the gross enrolment. Calculated on the same percentage, the average attendance at the various private schools would amount to 82,067, and that of all schools to 550,083.

Compared with the total population of each colony, the proportion of children enrolled was as follows :—

Colony.	Enrolment per cent. of population.	
	Gross.	Net.
New South Wales	24·3	21·8
Victoria.....	25·3	22·3
Queensland	21·0	18·6
South Australia	21·7	19·7
Western Australia	10·7	9·9
Tasmania	17·6	16·0
New Zealand ..	21·4	19·1
Australasia	23·1	20·6

This shows a gross school enrolment in Australasia of three to every thirteen inhabitants, and a net enrolment of more than one in every five inhabitants—a proportion as favourable as that of any European country.

The number of children attending school has increased at a far greater rate than the population, as will be seen by the following table, showing that the advantages of education have been of late years more within the reach of the masses than formerly :—

1861	130,060
1871	312,130
1881	670,776
1891	803,800
1892	812,567

Population from 1861 to 1892 trebled itself, but the number of school children in 1892 was nearly six and a half times as great as in 1861.

In the State schools of New South Wales the cost per child was until 1888 higher than in the other Australian Colonies; the figures for the last few years, however, show that that colony has now reduced its expenditure per child below that of Victoria and Queensland. The following figures, which show the net expenditure to the State, do not include cost of buildings :—

	Total cost per child in average attendance.		
	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	4	0	5
Victoria	4	10	8
Queensland	4	1	9
South Australia	3	6	4
Western Australia.....	2	16	5
Tasmania	3	8	1
New Zealand	3	17	1

Including the grant to assisted schools in Western Australia, the expenditure is reduced to £2 6s. 4d. per child in average attendance.

The cost per child in average attendance at State Schools in Australasia therefore averaged £4 1s. 6d. for the year 1892, or including the assisted schools in Western Australia, to £4 1s. 4d.

The following table shows the State expenditure on primary education for 1892, fees and rents received, and cost of buildings. In Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand, it will be remembered, primary education was free. In Victoria and Tasmania the fees collected by teachers were retained by them, and are, therefore, not taken into account in calculating the net expenditure. In South Australia and New Zealand the Education Departments are endowed with considerable areas of Crown lands, and the rents received therefrom have been deducted from the total expenditure by Government. A similar allowance has been made in the case of New Zealand for subscriptions collected for local school boards :—

Colony.	Administration and Maintenance of Schools.	Rent, Fees, &c., received.	Net Expenditure, exclusive of Buildings, &c.	Expenditure on Buildings, &c.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	610,716	77,524	533,192	157,679
Victoria (30 June, 1893) ...	643,301	2,216	643,301	11,474
Queensland.....	187,964	.....	187,964	11,226
South Australia.....	131,615	14,374	117,241	20,987
Western Australia.....	12,036	2,022	10,014	3,836
Tasmania.....	36,273	10,981	36,273	10,981
New Zealand	422,885	40,983	381,902	31,602
Australasia.....	2,044,790	148,100	1,909,887	247,785

The number of private schools and of scholars enrolled in them in 1892 were as follows. No particulars are to hand respecting the number of teachers in private schools in Tasmania. That colony is, therefore, excluded from the total number given :—

Colony.	Number of Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Enrolment of Scholars.	
			Number.	Percentage to Population.
New South Wales.....	729	2,762	47,343	4·0
Victoria	745	1,973	44,721	3·8
Queensland.....	135	444	9,275	2·3
South Australia.....	254	695	11,647	3·6
Western Australia	21	63	1,941	3·5
Tasmania.....	135	.....	6,265	4·1
New Zealand	274	683	14,456	2·3
Australasia	2,293	6,620	135,648	3·4

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Technical instruction is given in nearly all the capital cities of each of the Australian Colonies, and there is every probability that instruction in such matters will before long be very much extended. So far the expenditure on this important branch of education can only be got for the colonies enumerated below, which was in 1892 as follows. In addition to the amount stated for New South Wales, the sum of £4,389 was collected in the shape of fees from the students, and retained by the lecturers :—

	£
New South Wales	27,800
Victoria.....	17,065
Queensland	1,366
Tasmania	3,426

In New South Wales, during the year 1878, a sum of £2,000 was granted by Parliament towards the organization of a Technical College, and for five years the work of the institution was carried on in connection with the School of Arts. In 1883, however, a board was appointed by the Government to take over its management, and the Technical College became thenceforth a State institution. Towards the end of 1889 the Board was dissolved, and the Technical College came under the direct control of the Minister of Public Instruction.

The college is open to both male and female students, and of the latter the attendance in some terms has been as high as 400. In 1892 there were 3,858 individual students ; the average enrolment per term was 1,929.

Branch Technical Schools have been established in the suburbs, and in the northern, southern, and western districts of the Colony. In 1892 these suburban and country classes had a total of 4,902 students enrolled. Technical classes are also held in connection with a number of public schools. The total enrolment in these classes during 1892 was 1,329.

The Government have erected a new building for the Technical College and Technological Museum at Ultimo, in the western portion of the metropolis.

In 1892 the expenditure of the Government on Technical Education, including the Technological Museum, amounted to £34,924, and, in addition to this, the sum of £4,389 was contributed by the students as fees. The Parliamentary vote for the year was £49,800.

Technical Education in Victoria is extending rapidly, but while the Government of New South Wales has wholly borne the cost of this class of education, that of Victoria has received great assistance from private munificence, the Hon. F. Ormond, M.L.C., having given £15,500 to assist in the establishment of a Working Men's College. There were in 1892 1,961 students on the rolls of this institution. There are besides this college, the Schools of Mines and Design, wholly supported

by the Government, and other Technical Schools in the various important centres of the colony. These schools, in 1892, had a total enrolment of 7,436 students.

Technical Education has well advanced in South Australia. The School of Painting and Design had, in Adelaide, during 1892, 253 students on the roll, and branch schools, with an enrolment of 57 students during 1892, have been established at Port Adelaide and Gawler. The School of Mines and Industries, founded in 1889, and worked to some extent in connection with the School of Painting and Design, had an enrolment of 620 students in 1892. Also in Queensland technical education is active; the classes are worked in conjunction with the Metropolitan School of Arts, and with the Schools of Art at Toowamba, Gympie, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, and Townsville.

In Tasmania the foundations of new Technical Schools were laid in 1889 in Hobart, but there are branch schools in Launceston, Latrobe, and Devonport. The schools are under the direction of local Boards of Advice, the members of whom act directly under the Minister in charge of Education. The number of students in 1892 was 524, and the Government subsidy £3,426.

Western Australia and New Zealand have not extended their educational operations so as to embrace Technical Education.

GENERAL EDUCATION.

Striking evidence of the rapid progress made by these Colonies in regard to education is afforded by a comparison of the educational status of the people as disclosed by the four census enumerations of 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891. In those years the numbers who could read and write, read only, and who were unable to read, were as follow :—

Degree of Education.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
1861.								
Read and write	188,543	327,800	17,181	72,207	8,446	48,281	67,998	730,456
Read only	46,024	56,945	3,714	18,629	1,559	13,137	8,922	148,930
Cannot read	116,293	155,577	9,164	35,994	5,585	28,559	22,101	373,273
1871.								
Read and write	296,741	478,572	74,940	115,246	18,703	55,939	177,419	1,217,560
Read only	56,391	70,990	12,030	21,123	2,614	13,945	19,240	196,392
Cannot read	150,349	181,957	33,084	49,257	4,036	29,444	59,734	508,361
1881.								
Read and write	507,067	651,567	136,718	200,057	19,697	74,967	346,228	1,936,301
Read only	49,372	49,535	13,631	15,267	2,429	9,605	27,323	167,162
Cannot read	195,029	161,244	63,176	64,541	7,582	31,133	116,352	639,087
1891.								
Read and write	835,570	908,767	276,381	236,514	34,254	103,138	484,198	2,378,822
Read only	43,536	32,817	14,618	9,571	2,061	6,287	24,902	133,792
Cannot read	244,848	198,821	102,719	74,346	13,467	37,242	117,558	789,001

The figures in the preceding table refer to the total population, and the number of illiterates is, therefore, unduly swelled by those under school-going age. If the population over 5 years of age be considered in comparison with the total population, the following table shows the results for the whole of Australasia:—

Degree of Education.	Whole Population.				Population over 5 years of age.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Read and write	730,456	1,217,560	1,936,301	2,878,822	730,339	1,130,145	1,936,111	2,879,081
Read only	148,930	196,392	167,162	133,792	143,908	190,545	161,295	128,445
Cannot read	373,273	508,361	639,087	789,001	168,929	285,286	243,683	262,515
Total	1,252,659	1,922,313	2,742,550	3,801,615	1,043,176	1,605,976	2,340,989	3,270,041

The following table affords a comparison of the number of each class in every 10,000 of the population for the same periods:—

Degree of Education.	Whole Population.				Population over 5 years of age.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Read and write	5,831	6,334	7,060	7,573	7,001	7,038	8,270	8,804
Read only	1,189	1,022	610	352	1,380	1,186	689	393
Cannot read	2,980	2,644	2,330	2,075	1,619	1,776	1,041	803
Total	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

It will be seen, therefore, that while in 1861 of every 10,000 people over 5 years of age there were only 7,001 who could read and write, the number in 1891 had increased to 8,804, while those who were totally illiterate had, in the same period, decreased from 1,619 to 803.

Looking at the matter still more closely with reference to age, it will be seen that the improvement in education is most marked in the case of the rising generation. The following table shows the degree of education of all children between the ages of 5 and 15 years in 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891, numerically and per 10,000:—

Degree of Education.	Total Numbers.				Per 10,000.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
Read and write	114,353	288,154	482,719	674,012	4,637	5,911	7,058	7,565
Read only	68,038	102,316	86,574	69,040	2,759	2,099	1,206	782
Cannot read	64,237	96,986	114,654	147,280	2,604	1,990	1,676	1,653
Total	246,628	487,456	683,947	890,932	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

The proportion of those able to read and write has therefore grown from 4,637 to 7,565 in every 10,000 during the 30 years which the table covers, while the number of those able to read only was not much over one-fourth of what it had been in 1861, and the wholly illiterate had decreased by more than one-third.

The Marriage Register affords further proof of the advance of education, and it has the further advantage of giving annual data, while the Census figures are only available for decennial periods. The numbers of those who signed the Marriage Register by marks were as shown herewith. The blanks indicate the cases where the information was not available :—

	1861.			1871.			1881.			1891.			1892.		
	Marriages.		Marks.	Marriages.		Marks.	Marriages.		Marks.	Marriages.		Marks.	Marriages.		Marks.
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
New South Wales..	3,222	590	989	3,953	573	768	6,284	347	525	8,457	273	248	8,022	263	228
Victoria	4,434	..	..	4,693	342	650	5,896	171	245	8,780	110	133	7,723	74	92
Queensland	320	..	..	970	..	..	1,703	84	169	2,905	88	109	2,774	77	88
South Australia ..	1,153	..	..	1,250	..	..	2,308	100	159	2,315	40	49	2,119	42	51
Western Australia.	149	..	..	159	..	..	197	..	..	413	..	..	412	..	..
Tasmania	717	..	..	598	..	..	856	..	..	988	..	..	995	..	..
New Zealand	878	..	..	1,864	..	..	3,279	105	190	3,805	53	64	4,002	54	68
	10,878	..	..	13,487	..	..	20,523	807	1288	27,663	558	595	26,047	..	..

The percentages for those colonies where the necessary information is available is worked out in the following table :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1861	18·50	30·69	24·60
1871	10·58	16·40	13·49
1881	4·14	6·61	5·38
1891	2·12	2·27	2·20
1892	2·07	2·14	2·10

The percentage in 1892 was therefore less than one-tenth of that in 1861, and there is every reason to expect that in the course of another few years the proportion will be still further diminished.

LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS.

The Post Office returns of the various colonies point indirectly to the spread of education, through showing the wonderful increase in the distribution of letters and newspapers that has taken place. The following table shows that while in 1851 only 2,165,000 letters and 2,150,000 newspapers passed through the Australasian Post Offices, these numbers had in 1892 increased to 198,202,400 and 98,102,500

respectively. Allowance has been made for intercolonial postage counted by both the receiving and the despatching colonies, and the 1890 figures have been repeated for Victoria, where more recent returns have not been compiled :—

	Letters.	Newspapers.
1851	2,165,000	2,150,000
1861	14,061,000	10,941,400
1871	30,435,300	17,252,700
1881	80,791,700	43,802,000
1891	183,694,900	95,879,760
1892	198,202,400	98,102,500

The following are the numbers of letters and newspapers per head of population in each of the years above mentioned :—

	Letters per Inhabitant.	Newspapers per Inhabitant.
1851	4·7	4·7
1861	11·3	8·8
1871	15·7	8·9
1881	29·1	15·8
1891	47·8	24·9
1892	50·3	24·9

In 1892 the number of letters per inhabitant was, therefore, fully ten times, and that of newspapers nearly five and a half times, larger than in 1851.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

In all the Colonies, Public Libraries have been established, those in the capital cities generally going by the name of "The Public Library," while those in the country towns are known as Schools of Art, Mechanics' Institutes, &c. The Free Public Libraries in Melbourne and Sydney are splendid institutions, the former comparing favourably with many of the libraries in European capitals. The following table shows the number of libraries which furnished returns, and the number of books belonging to them in the latest years for which returns have been furnished :—

	No. of Libraries.	No. of Books.
New South Wales.....	199	331,920
Victoria	421	894,107
Queensland.....	82	116,174
South Australia.....	140	187,333
Tasmania.....	40	65,787
New Zealand	298	330,770
Total of six Colonies.....	1,180	1,926,091

In Western Australia, Mechanics' Institutes are to be found in most places of any importance, but no numerical returns are available.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

The advance of education is hardly more clearly indicated by the institution and success of Colleges and Universities than is the progress of wealth or the attainment of leisure. In Australia the earliest attempts to provide for what may be termed the luxuries of education were made in New South Wales in 1852, and in Victoria in 1855, when the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne, respectively, were established. No other colony of Australasia was at that time sufficiently advanced in wealth and population to follow the example thus set, but New Zealand in 1870, and South Australia in 1874, each founded an University. In all cases the Universities are in part supported by grants from the public funds, and in part by private endowments and the fees paid by students.

The Government endowment, lecture fees, and income from other sources, received by the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Universities in 1892, were as follow :—

	Government Endowment.	Lecture Fees.	Other Sources.	Total.
Sydney.....	£18,100	£7,647	£11,843	£37,590
Melbourne	17,000	16,991	982	34,973
Adelaide	3,201	3,259	5,694	12,154

In addition to the above annual endowment, the Adelaide University has received a perpetual endowment of 50,000 acres of land from Government. The University of New Zealand has a statutory grant of £3,000 a year from Government, and an additional income of about £2,000 from degree and examination fees. Of the affiliated colleges, Auckland University College is in receipt of a statutory grant of £4,000 a year from Government.

The number of students attending lectures in 1892 is shown in the figures herewith :—

University.	Students attending Lectures.		
	Matriculated.	Not Matriculated.	Total.
Sydney	540	586	1,126
Melbourne	639	17	656
Adelaide	87	117	204
New Zealand (Affiliated Colleges).....	419	276	695
Total	1,685	996	2,681

Attached to the University there are in Sydney three colleges, connected with different religious bodies, for male students, and a fourth, undenominational in its character, for female students. In Melbourne

there are three affiliated colleges, which are also connected with different religious bodies, and one of these contains a hall for the accommodation of female students. In New Zealand there are three affiliated colleges—at Dunedin, Christchurch, and Auckland—but, except in Christchurch, which is the seat of the Senate, these are wholly undenominational in character. In Adelaide there are no affiliated colleges attached to the University; and in New Zealand the University itself is an examining and not a teaching body, founded mainly on the principles of the London University.

The Australasian Universities are empowered to grant the same degrees as the British Universities, with the exception of degrees in Divinity. In all the Universities women have now been admitted to the corporate privileges extended to male students; and at the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Universities this includes qualifying for degrees in medicine.

The number of degrees, including *ad eundem* degrees, except in the case of the Adelaide University, conferred by the four Universities as follows:—

Sydney.....	1,006
Melbourne	1,951
Adelaide	130
New Zealand	499

and there are nearly 1,700 students qualifying for degrees at the present time.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

ALMOST all the principal metals of economic value are found in Australasia, and many are common to several Colonies. In dealing with the occurrence and value of mineral deposits, the classification into noble metals, metallic minerals, carbon minerals, soluble and insoluble salts, diamonds and other gem stones, has been adopted.

NOBLE METALS.

Gold, the most valuable of noble metals, is found throughout Australasia, and the present prosperity of the Colonies is largely due to gold discoveries, the development of other industries being, in a country of varied resources, a natural sequence to the acquisition of mineral treasure.

Settlement in Australia was still young when many-tongued rumour spoke of the existence of gold, but it was not until the 16th February, 1823, that the Government was officially apprised of a discovery destined to be the precursor of a prosperity seldom surpassed in the history of nations. On the date mentioned Mr. Assistant-Surveyor M'Brien reported that, at a spot on the Fish River, about 15 miles east of Bathurst, he had discovered gold. Mention is made, in the early records of New South Wales, of several other finds, but it remained for Count Strzlecki and the Rev. W. B. Clarke to demonstrate the existence of the precious metal in payable quantities, and to assert their belief in its abundance, an opinion strongly supported in England by several eminent authorities, and substantiated by Hargraves' discovery in the year 1851. The gold-fields of Lewis Ponds and Summer Hill Creek had hardly been opened up when on the day that

witnessed the severance of the Port Phillip district from the mother Colony of New South Wales, Mr. J. M. Esmond discovered gold in Victoria. Shortly afterwards, a rush set in for Ballarat, and the gold fever took possession of Australia. The following year (1852) saw gold found in South Australia and Tasmania; the rush to Canoona, in what is now Queensland, took place in 1858; and gold was also discovered in New Zealand in the same year, though it was not until 1861 that a large population was, by the prospect of rapidly obtained wealth, attracted to the last-mentioned Colony.

In Western Australia gold was first found in 1868, although it was not until 1887 that any diggings of importance were discovered. One of the richest fields is at the Yilgarn Hills, 200 miles east of Perth, which has yielded to the end of 1892 33,562 oz., valued at £121,267. Some remarkably rich discoveries have been made during the last two years at Southern Cross, near Lake Seabrook, and at Coolgardie, near Lake Lefroy. To the latter field a rush, almost resembling those of the early gold-digging days, set in during the first few months of 1894, although the scarcity of water, owing to the very limited rainfall in the locality, causes serious difficulty to those engaged in the search for the precious metal. Until quite recently this Colony was considered to be destitute of mineral deposits of any value, but now it is known that a rich belt of mineral country extends from north to south. The Kimberley gold-field, in the north-eastern portion of the Colony, is considered likely to become an important reefing district, as the lodes are rich and easily worked.

The following table gives the value of gold raised from the commencement of mining in the various Colonies to the beginning of the year 1893, and the proportion due to each:—

Colony.	Value.	Proportion of value raised by each Colony.
	£	Per cent.
New South Wales.....	39,202,666	11·1
Victoria	232,280,860	65·4
Queensland	30,206,652	8·5
South Australia	1,430,622	0·4
Western Australia	947,001	0·3
Tasmania	2,562,569	0·7
New Zealand	48,385,080	13·6
Australasia	355,015,450	100·0

During the year 1893 179,288, oz. of gold, valued at £651,286, were won from the New South Wales mines, and no doubt the yield for 1894 will largely exceed this, as some new gold-fields have been opened since

the beginning of the year, notably one at Wyalong, in the Lachlan District. The output of Victoria during 1893 was 671,126 oz., valued at £2,684,500; that of Queensland was 600,327 oz., valued at £2,101,145; of South Australia, 33,820 oz., of which 31,277 oz., valued at £108,110 came from the Northern Territory; of Western Australia, 110,890 oz.; of Tasmania, 37,687 oz.; and of New Zealand, 226,811 oz. The total production of Australasia for the year was, therefore, 1,859,949 oz., an increase of 52,736 oz. over the figures for 1892.

It will be readily understood from the foregoing figures how Victoria, although in area the smallest of the group, with the exception of Tasmania, achieved the foremost position amongst the Colonies, and retained that place so long as the powerful attraction of gold continued. But although the discovery of such extraordinary deposits as those of Mount Morgan, in Queensland, may astonish the world, and give princely dividends to shareholders, the thirst for gold—so powerful in the past—cannot now entice any considerable proportion of the population from other pursuits, and this, notwithstanding that only a small portion of the auriferous area of the continent has been explored, and a still smaller portion fully developed.

The production of gold, which had been declining steadily for many years, reached the lowest point in 1886. Since then there has been a marked revival, owing chiefly to the increased production of Queensland. It will be seen from the following figures, showing the quantity and value of gold obtained during the year 1892, that the annual production of Queensland is now almost equal in value to that of Victoria. The returns from South Australia include 31,708 oz., the production of the Northern Territory :—

Colony.	Weight.			Value.	Proportion of value raised by each Colony.
	Alluvial.	Quartz.	Total.		
	oz.	oz.	oz.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales	35,025	121,845	156,870	569,178	8·3
Victoria	201,959	452,498	654,457	2,617,824	38·3
Queensland	17,039	598,519	615,558	2,154,453	31·6
South Australia .....	.....	.....	38,277	135,325	2·0
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	59,548	226,284	3·3
Tasmania	10,896	34,214	45,110	174,070	2·6
New Zealand ..	156,679	80,714	237,393	951,963	13·9
Australasia .....	.....	.....	1,807,213	6,829,097	100·0

The average value of gold to each miner is given below, but, as the conditions under which mining is carried on are by no means the same in every Colony, the figures, which vary considerably, may be somewhat

misleading. In those Colonies where a revival of mining has lately been experienced, it is natural to expect a fall in the average yield per miner, for mining, as now carried out, is not an industry from which immediate returns can be expected. It is probable that the number of gold-miners in New South Wales is largely overstated, otherwise the industry must be carried on at a great loss. Most likely many of the men employ themselves in mining for only a portion of their time, and devote the rest to more remunerative pursuits. But when full allowance is made on this score it will be evident that in some Colonies, at least, the search for gold is not a profitable occupation. The following shows the number of miners at work in 1892, with the quantity and value of gold won per man, for those Colonies for which returns are available:—

Colony.	No. of Miners.	Amount won per Miner.	Value per Miner.
		oz.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	9,049	17·33	62 18 0
Victoria	23,518	27·83	111 6 3
Queensland	8,716	70·62	247 3 8
Tasmania	1,241	36·35	140 5 0
New Zealand	12,197	19·46	78 1 0

Attempts have been made to ascertain the average yield from quartz, but the number of tests made and the quantity of stone treated are inconsiderable; furthermore, it has not been found possible to obtain returns from all the principal mining centres. The results obtained for the five years ending 1892 were as follow. The high average yield for Queensland is due to the Mount Morgan mines, which, for some years, yielded one-third of the total gold production of the Colony, and even in 1892, when the furnaces were stopped for a considerable time for repairs, nearly one-fifth:—

	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	Tasmania.
	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.	oz. dwt. gr.
1888	1 0 18	0 9 18	1 14 11	1 5 2
1889	1 0 2	0 9 19	1 17 20	0 17 16
1890	0 15 8	0 9 4	1 7 15	0 16 12
1891	0 18 13	0 9 4	1 3 21	1 0 23
1892	0 19 19	0 9 23	1 6 20	0 14 19

It is not pretended that the above figures have any great statistical value, but they may, nevertheless, be accepted as giving an approxi-

mate idea of the average yield of quartz-reefs. Alluvial deposits are generally richer than those in reefs; but the precious metal is so unevenly distributed that any attempt to obtain a reliable average would be futile.

The greatest development of quartz-reefing is found in Victoria, some of the mines being of a great depth. The ten deepest mines at the close of 1892 were as follows:—Lansell's 180 mine, 2,846 feet; New Chum and Victoria Company, 2,611 feet; New Chum Consolidated, 2,435 feet; Lazarus Company, 2,414 feet; Magdala, 2,409 feet; New Chum Railway Company, 2,401 feet; Old Chum Company, 2,337 feet; North Old Chum Company, 2,310 feet; Victoria Reef Quartz, 2,302 feet; Victory and Pandora, 2,300 feet. Of these mines, the Magdala is situated at Pleasant Creek, Stawell, while all the others are in the vicinity of Bendigo.

The value of machinery on the gold-fields of those colonies from which returns were obtainable, was during 1892 as given below. For 1893 the value of machinery on the gold-fields of New South Wales was returned at £475,465:—

Colony.	Value.
	£
New South Wales	570,143
Victoria	1,772,524
Queensland	1,136,740
Tasmania	221,085
New Zealand	708,730

A notice of gold-mining would be incomplete without some reference to the remarkably large finds made at various times. Information on this point is meagre, and not altogether reliable, as doubtless many nuggets were unearthed the weight and value of which were never published. Victoria's record is the best, and includes the following nuggets:—

	lb.	oz.	dwt.
"The Welcome Stranger," found 9th February, 1869.....	190	0	0
"The Welcome," found 9th June, 1853	184	9	16
One found at Canadian Gully, 31st January, 1853	134	11	0
	98	1	17
	93	1	11
	84	3	15
And others of the following weights	69	6	0
	52	1	0
	30	11	8
	30	11	2

New South Wales can boast of having produced some splendid specimens. In 1851 a mass of gold was found on the Turon, weighing 106 lb.; another, from Burrandong, near Orange, produced, when melted

at the Sydney Mint, 1,182 oz. 6 dwt. of pure gold; and a third, the "Brennan," was sold in Sydney, in 1851, for £1,156. During 1880-82 several nuggets were discovered at Temora, weighing from 59 to 1,393 oz., and others, of 357, 347 (the "Jubilee"), 200, 47, and 32 oz. respectively, were found during the year 1887 in various parts of the Colony. Veins of gold of extraordinary richness have been worked in New South Wales. In January, 1873, at Beyers and Holtermann's claim, at Hill End, 1·02 cwt. of gold was obtained from 10 tons of quartz, and a mass of ore, weighing 630 lb., and estimated to contain £2,000 worth of gold, was exhibited. The Mint returns during the year 1873, for this mine, were 16,279·63 oz., valued at £63,234 12s., obtained from 415 tons of stone. From Krohman's claim, at Hill End; gold, to the value of £93,616 11s. 9d., was obtained during the same year. The foregoing figures are, however, insignificant when compared with the enormous yield of the Mount Morgan Mine, in Queensland, which has already paid nearly £2,800,000 in dividends, and may be designated one of the wonders of the world. It is a huge mound of ore, highly ferruginous, and contains gold to the extent of several ounces to the ton, the peculiar formation, in the opinion of the Government Geologist of Queensland, being due to the action of thermal springs.

Platinum and *iridosmine*, though not specially sought for by miners, have been found in New South Wales and New Zealand, but few efforts have been made to ascertain whether either mineral can be extracted with satisfactory commercial results. The same remarks apply to the noble metal *tellurium* which is found in New Zealand, associated with gold and silver (*petzite*) and with silver only (*hessite*).

Silver has been discovered in all the Colonies, either alone or in the form of sulphides, antimonial, and arsenical ores; chloride, bromide, iodide, and chloro-bromide of silver, or argentiferous lead ores, the largest deposits of the metal being found in the last-mentioned form.

The leading silver mines are in New South Wales, the returns from the other Colonies being comparatively insignificant. Up to the year 1882 the quantity of silver raised in New South Wales was very small, but in that and the following years extensive discoveries of this metal, associated principally with lead and copper ore, were made in various parts of the Colony, notably at Boorook, in the New England district, and, later on, at Sunny Corner, near Bathurst, also at Silverton, and Broken Hill at the Barrier Ranges in the Western district. The Sunny Corner Silver mines in 1886 paid handsome dividends, and produced £160,000 worth of silver, but since that period the yield has largely fallen off. During the year 1892 operations at this mine were suspended, but during 1893 it was let on tribute, and a small quantity of silver was produced. The Company possesses smelting plant to the value of £16,024, and formerly gave employment to about 350 men.

The fields of the Western district have proved to be of immense value. Discoveries have been made along the Barrier Range at Broken

Hill, Umberumberka, The Pinnacle, and many other points. The yield of silver in the Broken Hill and Silverton districts during 1892 was £2,479,692, a falling off of £1,480,985, as compared with 1891; while the machinery employed is valued at £784,420. The aggregate output of the mines in the Barrier country to the end of 1892 was valued at £12,559,549. This rich silver-field, which was discovered in 1883 by Charles Rasp, a boundary rider on Mount Gipps Run, extends over 2,500 square miles of country, and has developed into one of the principal mining centres of the world. It is situated beyond the river Darling, and close to the boundary between New South Wales and South Australia. In the Barrier Range district the lodes occur in Silurian metamorphic micaceous schists, intruded by granite, porphyry, and diorite, and traversed by numerous quartz reefs, some of which are gold bearing. The Broken Hill lode is the largest as yet discovered. It varies in width from 10 feet to 200 feet, and may be traced for several miles, the country having been taken up all along the line of the lode, and subdivided into numerous leases, held by mining companies and syndicates.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company hold the premier position. They have erected on their lease a complete smelting plant on the latest and most approved principles, and have enlisted the services of competent managers, whose experience has been gained in the celebrated silver-mining centres of the United States. From the commencement of mining operations in 1885 to the beginning of December, 1893, the Company treated 1,548,832 tons of silver and silver-lead ores, producing 51,328,079 oz. of silver, and 208,944 tons of lead, of a net value of £10,929,732. They have paid dividends to the amount of £4,648,000, and bonuses amounting to £592,000, besides the nominal value of shares from the several "Blocks" sold to other Companies, amounting to about £1,744,000, or a total return from the mine of £6,984,000. The sum spent in the erection and construction of plant, from the opening of the property, was £588,864. The average number of men employed is about 3,000, of whom more than one-half are working under ground. The net profit for the half-year ending November 30th, 1893, was £872,840. The nominal value of this mine at the end of May, 1894, had declined to £2,520,000, as against six and a half millions at the end of 1890.

To prove that the Broken Hill Proprietary is in all probability the richest mine in the world the following figures showing the result of operations during the last week of May, 1894, are given:—The silver yield from all sources was 675,913 oz.; the lead, 1,822 tons; and there were besides 1,347 tons of matte, containing 595 tons of copper. The total values of these products may be set down as—silver, £84,375; lead, £16,398; and copper, £6,000; or a total monetary value of £106,773.

The quantity and value of silver and silver-lead ore exported to the end of 1893 from New South Wales is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Silver.		Silver Lead.			Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.		Value.	
			Ore.	Metal.		
Up to	oz.	£	Tons cwt.	Tons cwt.	£	£
1882 ...	765,397	187,429	203 12	.....	5,385	192,814
1883 ...	77,066	16,488	105 17	.....	1,625	18,113
1884 ...	93,660	19,780	4,668 1	.....	123,174	142,954
1885 ...	794,174	159,187	2,095 16	190 8	107,626	266,813
1886 ...	1,015,434	197,544	4,802 2	.....	294,485	492,029
1887 ...	177,308	32,458	12,530 3	.....	541,952	574,410
1888 ...	375,064	66,668	11,739 7	18,102 5	1,075,737	1,142,405
1889 ...	416,895	72,001	46,965 9	34,579 17	1,899,197	1,971,198
1890 ...	496,552	95,410	89,719 15	41,319 18	2,667,144	2,762,554
1891 ...	729,590	134,850	92,383 11	55,396 3	3,484,739	3,619,589
1892 ...	350,661	56,884	87,504 15	45,850 4	2,420,952	2,477,836
1893 ...	531,972	78,131	155,859 1	58,401 3	2,953,589	3,031,720
Total	5,823,773	1,116,830	508,577 9	253,839 18	15,575,605	16,692,435

It will be seen that the production of silver in New South Wales has, during the past few years, considerably increased, until that of 1891 exceeded the largest annual production of gold, even in the palmiest days of the diggings. The number of miners engaged in silver and lead mines in 1893 was 4,709, and the average value of mineral won, per miner engaged, amounted to £643 16s. 3d., compared with £420 15s. 2d. in 1892 and £473 9s. 2d. in 1891. The lower results shown by the figures for 1892 are due to the stoppage of work for some three months by reason of a general strike amongst the mining hands of the Broken Hill district.

Although indications of silver abound in all the other Colonies, no fields of great importance have yet been discovered. The value of the yield of Australasia to the end of 1892, exclusive of that of New South Wales, was only £1,019,180, of which amount Queensland contributed more than one-half. The leading silver mines of Queensland are south-west of Cairns, in the Herberton district, and it is from these fields that the largest proportion of the total production was raised.

In New Zealand silver is found in various localities throughout the Colony, principally in the Te Aroha, Thames, and Coromandel fields, but it is generally worked for in conjunction with gold-mining. The production during the year 1892 was 22,053 ounces valued at £3,996.

The silver-mining industry in Tasmania is steadily developing, principally in the Mount Zeehan and Dundas districts, from which almost the

whole quantity produced in the Colony is obtained. In the first-named district, argentiferous lead ore has been found over 30 square miles of country, and the Mount Dundas field, almost adjoining, extends north as far as the Pieman River. The total area leased for silver-mining in Tasmania at the close of 1892 was 40,846 acres.

There are no silver mines in Victoria or Western Australia, the small amount of silver produced by the former Colony being found associated with gold. The quantity of silver extracted from gold during the year at the Melbourne Branch of the Royal Mint was 35,857 ounces.

The production of silver in South Australia is very limited, and it is remarkable that the argentiferous lead-ore fields of Broken Hill and Silverton, which are almost on the border of the two colonies, are exclusively confined within the boundaries of the mother Colony.

Up to the end of 1892 New South Wales had produced over 93 per cent. of the total value of silver raised in Australasia, Queensland followed, with 3·6 per cent., the remaining small proportion being distributed among the other colonies, New Zealand claiming the largest share. The total production of silver in Australasia, during 1892, and up to the end of that year, was :—

Colony.	During 1892.		Total production to 31st December, 1892.	
	Value.	Proportion due to each Colony.	Value.	Proportion due to each Colony.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales.....	2,477,836	96·4	11,660,715	93·1
Victoria.....	5,948	0·2	800,878	0·7
Queensland.....	36,436	1·4	535,026	3·6
South Australia.....	.....	.....	101,727	0·7
Western Australia.....	.....	.....	250	0·0
Tasmania.....	45,502	1·8	137,155	0·9
New Zealand.....	3,996	0·2	144,144	1·0
Australasia.....	2,569,718	100·0	14,679,895	100·0

The figures for 1892 show a decrease of £1,135,443 as compared with the figures for 1891. This was entirely due to the fact that the Broken Hill mines lay idle for three months on account of a strike, as already mentioned.

METALLIC MINERALS.

Lead is found in each of the Australasian Colonies, but is worked only when associated with silver. In Western Australia the lead occurs in the form of sulphides and carbonates of great richness, but the quantity

of silver mixed with it is very small. The lodes are most frequently of great size, containing huge masses of galena, and contain so little gangue that the ore can be very easily dressed to 83 or 84 per cent. The Government offered £10,000 for the first 10,000 tons of lead smelted in the Colony. Works were erected, but up to the present without success. Western Australia has, since 1845, exported 34,155 tons of lead ore, valued at about £169,400. The chief mining centres for this mineral are in the Northampton district, between Geraldton and Murchison.

Mercury, in the form of sulphides or cinnabar, is found in New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand. Few attempts, however, have been made to ascertain whether the deposits are of sufficient value to warrant the expenditure of capital in this direction.

Copper is known to exist in all the Colonies, but has been mined for most extensively in South Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland. The discovery of copper had a marked effect upon the fortunes of South Australia at a time when the young and struggling Colony was surrounded by difficulties. The Kapunda Mine, opened up in 1842, is the oldest copper-mine in South Australia. Unfortunately information regarding the total quantity of ore raised is not available, but the average yearly output has been estimated at 2,000 tons. Three years later than Kapunda the celebrated Burra Burra Mine was discovered. This mine proved to be very rich, and paid about £800,000 in dividends to the original owners. For a number of years the mine has been suffered to remain unworked, partly in consequence of the low price of copper, but principally because the deposits originally worked were found to be depleted. For many years the average yield was from 10,000 to 13,000 tons of ore, yielding from 22 to 23 per cent. of copper. During the twenty-nine and a half years that the mine was worked, the output of ore amounted to 234,648 tons, equal to 51,622 tons of copper, valued at £4,749,224. The Wallaroo and Moonta mines were discovered in 1860 and 1861. Up to the year 1886 these two mines had put out 927,196 tons of ore, valued at £6,609,240. The yield of copper ranged from 10 to 20 per cent. The Moonta Mine at one time employed upwards of 1,600 hands, and up till 1891 employed fully 1,100 men; but shortly after that date the industrial operations were disturbed, owing to labour and other difficulties, which were only terminated during the opening month of 1892. Early in 1894 the number of men employed at the Moonta and Wallaroo mines was stated to be 1,813.

The principal mines in New South Wales are those of Cobar and Nymagee, situated in the centre of the Colony, and within 80 miles of each other. The former at one time employed over 500 men and boys, but is now idle; the deepest shaft is 566 feet, and the width of the lode from 2 to 50 feet. From the date of the commencement of operations in 1876, that company treated 213,182 tons of ore, giving a return equal to 23,611 tons of refined metal, an average production of 11·07 per cent. of copper per ton of ore, and the sum of £154,000 has been paid in

dividends to the shareholders. Nymagee employed a complement of 250 persons, and its ores contain an average proportion of copper equal to 11.42 per cent. Since its formation in 1883, to the end of 1891, this mine has paid in dividends £94,000. The yield for 1891 was 9,355 tons of sulphide ore, which when melted produced 901 tons of copper, valued at £45,050. The production for 1892 was returned as 6,238 tons of ore, valued at £31,360. The mine was closed during 1893. The refined Nymagee copper is superior to that of Cobar, and commands a higher price in the market. A depth of 734 feet has been reached in sinking through the lode, which varies from 8 to 20 feet. The New Mount Hope and the Great Central copper-mines are also said to be rich in payable ores. The first mentioned employed ever 40 men in 1893, and produced copper to the value of £6,501. The Burrage Mine yielded during 1889, 476 tons of copper, valued at £36,625; and during 1890, 420 tons, worth £24,150. Owing to the low price of copper this mine was closed during 1891, but the furnaces were still at work upon 2,000 tons of ore at grass. The deepest shaft is 300 feet, and the lode is said to be 15 feet wide. The output for 1892 was only 800 tons of ore. The mine lay idle until November, 1893, when work was again commenced with 150 men, and copper of the value of £1,800 produced to the end of the year.

Cupriferos deposits abound in Queensland, and at one time there was considerable speculation in copper-mining stock. Peak Downs and Mount Perry acquired great celebrity in the Australian mining market, but afterwards suffered reactionary depression, and were ultimately abandoned, the result, in a large measure, of over speculation. In Northern Queensland copper is found throughout the Cloncurry district, in the upper basin of the Star River, and the Herberton district. The returns of the copper-fields in this Colony are at present small, owing to the lack of suitable fuel for smelting purposes, which renders the economic treatment of the ore difficult; and the development is greatly retarded for the want of easy and cheaper communication with the coast, but it is expected that these disabilities will be overcome at no distant date, and a revival of the industry is hoped for, as some of the abandoned fields contain very extensive deposits of copper-ore.

In Western Australia copper deposits have been worked for some years, and form with lead the principal elements of the mineral production of that Colony. Very rich lodes of both metals have been found in the Northampton, Murchison, and Champion Bay districts, and also in the country to the south of these districts on the Irwin River. The copper industry, however, is almost at a standstill, at present, through the low ruling price of copper, and the heavy expense of cartage, but it is anticipated that the cost of carriage will be reduced, and then several of these mines may be worked at a profit. The total export of copper ore from 1845 to the close of 1892 was 9,088 tons, valued at £153,158.

Copper mining has not attained any great proportions in Victoria, although deposits have been found in several parts of the Colony, particularly in the Beechworth district, where they have been traced over an area of some 50 square miles. The production during 1891 was 60 tons of ore, valued at £216, but for the year 1892 no production of copper is returned.

The copper deposits of New Zealand and Tasmania have been worked to a small extent only.

The metal is sometimes found in the Australasian mines in a virgin state, of which beautiful specimens have been exhibited at different times, but occurs generally in the form of oxidised copper ores, carbonates, sulphates, phosphates, and silicates of copper. The museums of South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales contain striking samples of azurite and malachite, magnificent blocks of which have been shown from time to time at exhibitions, not only in the Colonies, but also in Europe and America.

Copper sulphides and arsenides of copper are generally found in deep sinkings. The metal has also been found associated with tin in the form of *stannine*.

The number of men employed in copper-mining in New South Wales during 1891 was 481, during 1892, 500 men, and during 1893, 283 men, whilst but a few hands were employed in Queensland and Tasmania.

The total value of copper produced in Australasia during and up to the end of 1892, and the proportion furnished by each Colony are given below. The value of copper produced in New South Wales during 1893 was £73,287 :—

Colony.	During 1892.		Total Production to 31st December, 1892.	
	Value.	Percentage of each Colony.	Value.	Percentage of each Colony.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales	114,559	38·0	3,596,482	13·8
Victoria .....	.....	.....	191,423	0·7
Queensland	2,461	0·8	1,960,573	7·5
South Australia ..	175,525	58·2	20,162,292	77·3
Western Australia.....	8,696	2·9	153,158	0·6
Tasmania .....	.....	.....	617	.....
New Zealand	148	0·1	18,014	0·1
Australasia..... £	301,389	100·0	26,082,559	100·0

In June, 1872, copper realised as much as £112 per ton, whilst in April, 1889, the lowest price on record was touched, and only £43 could be obtained for South Australian copper. At the end of 1887 the price had risen to £70 per ton, and in September, 1888, to £93. In January, 1893, the quotation had fallen to £46 per ton.

Tin was known to exist in Australasia almost from the first years of colonisation, the earliest mention of the mineral appearing in a report of a discovery by Surgeon Bass on the north coast of Tasmania. In the form of *cassiterite* (oxide of tin) it occurs in all the Colonies, but the richest deposits have been found in Tasmania—the Mount Bischoff being the most celebrated tin-mine in Australasia. The wealth of Queensland and the Northern Territory of South Australia in this mineral, according to the reports of Mr. Jack, the Government Geologist of the former colony, and the late Rev. Tenison Woods, appears to be very great.

In New South Wales this mineral occurs principally in the granite and basaltic country in the extreme north of the Colony, near Tenterfield and Vegetable Creek, now called Emmaville, Tingha, and in other districts of New England. Tin has also been discovered in the Barrier Ranges, at Poolamacca; near Bombala, in the Monaro district, and in the Valley of the Lachlan, but none of these deposits have as yet been utilised to any extent. The deposits occur in the shape of stream and lode tin, and are worked by European and Chinese miners. Although this mineral was discovered by the Rev. W. B. Clarke as far back as the year 1853 the opening of the tin-fields of New South Wales only took place in the year 1872, and since that date the output from the mines has been considerable. The chief tin-mining centres are at Emmaville and Tingha in the northern portion of the Colony. The production of these fields has been until lately from alluvial deposits which are now said to be practically exhausted.

In Tasmania, as in New South Wales, nearly all the tin hitherto produced has been from alluvial deposits, while the lodes in the vicinity of Mount Heemskirk, Mount Bischoff, and Ben Lomond have remained almost untouched. Considerable areas of alluvial tin ground in the eastern and north-eastern divisions are now worked out, and the miners have been obliged to turn their attention to the development of the other branch of tin-mining. Considerable energy is now being thrown into lode tin-mining in the Blue Tier district, where there are deposits containing a payable percentage of tin. The present difficulty is to provide suitable appliances for saving the metal, but no doubt a means will be found to work the deposits profitably. The Mount Bischoff Mine and the Ringarooma mines in the north-eastern and north-western divisions respectively yielded more than three-fourths of the annual tin production of Tasmania.

The most important tin-mines in Queensland are in the Herberton district, south-west of Cairns, at Cooktown on the Annan and Bloomfield Rivers, and at Stanthorpe on the borders of New South Wales. The Herberton is the chief tin-mining centre of Queensland, and the output for 1892 was valued at £69,450; the tin in this district being chiefly obtained from lodes. Herberton and Stanthorpe have produced more than three-fourths the total production of Queensland to the end of 1892.

The yield of tin in Victoria is very small, and until lately no fields of importance had been discovered, but towards the latter end of 1890 extensive deposits were reported to exist in the Gippsland district at Omeo and Tarwin; 140 men were engaged mining on these fields; small deposits have likewise been found in the Beechworth district at Indigo and Mitta Mitta, where 23 miners were employed. The total yield for these fields during 1892 was 408 tons of tin-ore, valued at £1,039.

In South Australia and Western Australia tin-mining is unimportant, the yields up to date being slight, while in New Zealand no production is officially recorded. During 1890 some small fields were reported to have been found in Stewart Island, but there is no record that they were worked during 1891 or 1892.

During 1892 39 tons of tin ore, valued at £2,433, were exported from Port Darwin.

The tin-mining industry has been subject to frequent fluctuations, especially of late years. The value of the metal in the European market was £159 per ton in 1872, £52 in 1878, £114 in 1880, and 1882, and fell to £72 in 1884. The highest price—£168 per ton—was attained in the year 1887 owing to the operations of French syndicates. In 1893 prices in London ranged from £89 in February to £104 in June.

The value of the production of tin during 1892, and up to the end of that year, was as given below. During 1893 tin to the value of £126,114 was produced in New South Wales :—

Colony.	During 1892.		Total Production to 31st December, 1892.	
	Value.	Percentage of each Colony.	Value.	Percentage of each Colony.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales.....	152,994	27·9	5,828,657	36·1
Victoria	1,039	0·2	680,150	4·2
Queensland	123,098	22·4	4,048,408	25·0
South Australia.....	2,433	0·4	20,821	0·1
Western Australia	13,843	2·5	29,743	0·2
Tasmania	256,083	46·6	5,557,438	34·4
Australasia	549,490	100·0	16,165,217	100·0

The number of persons engaged in tin-mining in 1892, was as follows:—In New South Wales, 1,657; Tasmania, 1,650; Queensland, 1,005; and Victoria, 104.

Titanium, of the varieties known as octahedrite and brookite, is found in New South Wales, with diamonds, in alluvial deposits.

Wolfram (tungstate of iron and manganese) occurs in some colonies, notably New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand. Scheelite,

another variety of tungsten, is also found in the last mentioned Colony. *Molybdenum*, in the form of molybdenite (sulphide of molybdenum), is found in New South Wales and Victoria, associated in the former Colony with tin or bismuth in quartz-reefs. None of these minerals—titanium, tungsten, and molybdenum—have been systematically mined for.

Zinc ores, in the several varieties of carbonates, silicates, oxide, sulphide, and sulphate of zinc, have been found in several of the Australasian colonies, but have attracted little attention.

Iron is distributed throughout Australasia, but for want of capital in developing the fields this industry has not progressed. In New South Wales there are important deposits of rich iron-ores, together with coal and limestone in unlimited supply, suitable for smelting purposes, and for the manufacture of steel of certain descriptions abundance of manganese, chrome, and tungsten ores are available. The most extensive fields are in the Mittagong, Wallerawang, and Rylstone districts, which are roughly estimated to contain in the aggregate 12,944,000 tons of ore, containing 5,853,000 tons of metallic iron. During 1890 a mining expert from England was sent out in the interest of English capitalists to inspect the iron, coal, and limestone deposits of New South Wales, and to report upon the probable cost of manufacturing iron in the Colony.

The only works for the manufacture of iron from the ore are situated at Eskbank, near Lithgow, where the metal treated is red siliceous ore, averaging 22 per cent., and brown hematite, yielding 50 per cent. metallic iron. Abundance of coal and limestone are found in the neighbourhood. This establishment, however, has for some time abandoned the manufacture of pig-iron, for which it was originally built. The principal work now carried on is the re-rolling of old rails, the manufacture of iron bars, rods, and nails, and of ordinary castings. During 1893 the Parliament of New South Wales agreed to a resolution for the manufacture of 30,000 tons of iron pipes in the Colony, and part of the work has since then been let by tender.

Magnetite, or magnetic iron, the richest of all iron ores, is found in abundance near Wallerawang in New South Wales. The proximity of coal-beds now being worked should accelerate the development of the iron deposits, which contain 41 per cent. of metal. Magnetite occurs in great abundance in Western Australia, together with hematite, which would be of enormous value if cheap labour were abundant.

Works for the treatment of local titaniferous iron ore were erected some years ago at Taranaki, on the west coast of New Zealand, but it was found that the cost of smelting left no margin for profit, and the works were consequently abandoned.

Goethite, *limonite*, and *hematite* are found in New South Wales, at the junction of the Hawkesbury sandstone formation and the Wianamatta shale, near Nattai, and are enhanced in value through being in

proximity to coal beds. Near Lithgow extensive deposits of limonite or clay-band ore are interbedded with coal. *Siderite* or *spathic* iron (carbonate of iron) and *vivianite* (phosphate of iron) are found in New Zealand. The latter also occurs in New South Wales, intermingled with copper and tin ores.

Sulphuretted iron ores (*pyrites*) are of little intrinsic value, but are often of considerable worth on account of the other minerals with which they are associated, common pyrites being often auriferous. *Mispickel* differs from other pyrites inasmuch as it contains arsenic, sometimes gold and silver, and is frequently associated with tin and copper ores; but the extraction of gold is rendered difficult on account of the presence of the arsenic. These minerals (*pyrites*) are common to all the Colonies.

Nickel, so abundant in the island of New Caledonia, has, up to the present, been found in none of the Australasian Colonies except Queensland; but no attempt has been made to prospect systematically for this valuable mineral.

Cobalt occurs in New South Wales and Victoria, and efforts have been made in the former Colony to treat the ore, the metal having a high commercial value; but the results have not been of an encouraging nature, and the development of this industry is in abeyance. The manganese ores of the Bathurst district often contain a small percentage of cobalt, sufficient, indeed, to warrant further attempts in this direction.

Manganese probably exists in all the Colonies, deposits having been found in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, New Zealand, and Western Australia, the richest specimens being in New South Wales and New Zealand. Little, however, has been done to utilise the deposits, the demands of the colonial markets being extremely limited, but in event of the extensive iron ores of New South Wales being worked on a large scale the manganese, plentiful as it is in that Colony, will become of commercial importance. The ore generally occurs in the form of oxides, *manganite*, and *pyrolusite*, and contains a high percentage of sesquioxide of manganese. The production of manganese in New Zealand during 1892 was valued at £1,239, and the total yield up to the end of that year £55,164. New South Wales is the only other Colony producing even a small quantity of this mineral.

Chrome Iron or chrome ore has been found in New Zealand and Tasmania, but the only attempt to work this mineral in this part of the world is that made at New Caledonia.

Sulphur exists in large quantities in the volcanic regions of New Zealand, where it will doubtless some day become an article of commerce. Professor Liversidge, in his work on the minerals of New South Wales, states that sulphur occurs in small quantities at Mount Wingen, in the Upper Hunter district of that Colony, and also at Tarcutta, near Wagga Wagga, and on Louisa Creek, near Mudgee.

Arsenic, in its well known and beautiful forms, orpiment and realgar, is found in New South Wales and Victoria. It usually occurs in association with other minerals, in veins.

Antimony is widely diffused throughout Australasia, and is sometimes found associated with gold. Extensive fields have been discovered in the northern table-lands of New South Wales, especially at Hillgrove, in the vicinity of Uralla. In Victoria the production for the last few years was small compared to former periods; only 27 men were engaged mining for this metal during 1892, as against 35 in 1891, and 238 in 1890. The fluctuation in the price of this mineral on the London market is the cause of this great falling-off in the number of miners. The principal mine is at Castlemaine, but several fields are being explored in the Sandhurst and Beechworth districts. In Queensland the fields were all showing development in 1891, when the output showed a considerable increase compared with that of former years. The output of 1892 was barely one-eighth of that of the preceding year. In New Zealand very little antimony ore was obtained during the year. The quantity of ore exported from that Colony in 1892 was 364 tons, valued at £4,900. Good lodes of *stibnite* (sulphide of antimony) have been found near Roebourne, in Western Australia.

The following table shows the value of antimony produced in Australasia up to the end of 1892 :—

Colony.	Value.	Percentage produced.
	£	
New South Wales	130,478	33·7
Victoria.....	176,038	45·5
Queensland	34,390	8·9
New Zealand	46,040	11·9
Australasia	386,946	100·0

The antimony produced by New South Wales in 1892 was valued at £14,680; that produced by New Zealand was worth £4,900; Queensland, £278; and Victoria, £2,278. In 1893, New South Wales produced antimony to the value of £25,092.

Bismuth is known to exist in all the Australian Colonies, but up to the present time has been mined for in New South Wales and Queensland alone. It is usually found in association with tin and other minerals, but in one instance a mass of native bismuth, weighing 30 lb., was found in the Colony first mentioned. The principal mine is situated at Kingsgate, in the New England district, where the mineral is generally associated with molybdenum and gold; this mine, however, is at present closed. The value of bismuth produced up to the end of

1892, in New South Wales and Queensland, was £37,722 and £37,331 respectively. The value of bismuth produced during 1892 was £1,080 in New South Wales, and £16,000 in Queensland. No production of bismuth is reported for New South Wales during 1893.

Of all the mineral forms of carbon the diamond is the purest, but as it is usual to class this precious substance under the head of gems that custom will be followed in the present instance.

Graphite, or plumbago, which stands second to the diamond in point of purity, has been discovered in New Zealand, in the form of detached boulders of pure mineral. It also occurs in impure masses where it comes into contact with the coal measures. This mineral, up to the present time, has not been found in any of the other Colonies except New South Wales, where in 1889 a lode 6 feet wide was discovered near Undercliff, in the New England district, and Western Australia, where, however, owing principally to difficulties of transit, very little of it has been worked.

The Australasian Colonies have been bountifully supplied by Nature with mineral fuel. Five distinct varieties of black coal, forming well characterised types, may be distinguished, which form, with the two extremes of brown coal, or lignite, and anthracite, a perfectly continuous series. For statistical purposes, however, they are all included under the generic name of "coal," and therefore these minerals will be considered here under the three main heads—lignite, coal, and anthracite only.

Brown coal or *lignite* occurs principally in the Colonies of New Zealand and Victoria. Attempts have frequently been made to use this mineral for ordinary fuel purposes, but its inferior quality has prevented its use extending very largely. In Victoria, during 1892, 6,600 tons were raised, valued at £3,725. The fields of lignite in New Zealand are roughly estimated to contain about 500 million tons.

Black coal forms one of the principal mineral resources of New South Wales, and in New Zealand the rich deposits of this valuable substance are rapidly being developed. That they will form an important source of commercial prosperity cannot be doubted, as the known areas of the coal-fields of this class have been roughly estimated to contain about 500 million tons of coal in New Zealand, and 78,198 million tons in New South Wales. New Zealand also possesses a superior quality of bituminous coal, which is found on the west coast of the Middle Island. An estimate of the probable contents of these coal-fields is given as 200 million tons. Coal has been discovered in Victoria, and raised in small quantities for some years past, the production of the year 1892 being 23,363 tons, valued at £20,044; but the industry is still in its experimental stage. Excellent steam coal has been found in Tasmania, and coal-mining in that Colony is becoming a well established industry. From time to time reports have been

raised of the discovery of coal in South Australia, but no very definite or satisfactory information on the subject has been brought forward, such as would warrant the employment of capital, except in the direction of prospecting researches. Coal of a very fair description was discovered in the basin of the Irwin River, in Western Australia, as far back as the year 1846. It has been ascertained from recent explorations that the area of carboniferous formation in that Colony extends from the Irwin northwards to the Gascoyne River, about 300 miles distant, and probably all the way to the Kimberley district. Brown coal, of a somewhat poor quality, has been discovered on the south-eastern coast of the Colony, but black coal, of fairly good quality, has been found on the Fly Brook, near Cape Leeuwin, and in the bed of the Collie River, near Bunbury, to the south of Perth. Mr. Jack, the Government Geologist of Queensland, considers the extent of the coal-fields of that Colony practically unlimited, and is of opinion that the carboniferous formations extend to a considerable distance under the Great Western Plains. It is roughly estimated that the coal measures at present practically explored extend over an area of about 24,000 square miles. Coal-mining has been an established industry in Queensland for some years, and is progressing satisfactorily.

Coal was first discovered in New South Wales in the year 1797, near Mount Keira, by a man named Clark, the supercargo of a vessel called the "Sydney Cove," which had been wrecked in Bass's Straits. Later in the same year Lieutenant Shortland discovered the river Hunter with the coal-beds situated at its mouth. Little or no use, however, was made of the discovery, and in 1826 the Australian Agricultural Company obtained a grant of 1,000,000 acres of land, together with the sole right, conferred upon them by charter, of working the coal-seams that were known to exist in the Hunter River district. Although the Company held this valuable privilege for twenty years, very little enterprise was exhibited by them in the direction of winning coal, and it was not until the year 1847, when the Company's monopoly ceased, and public competition stepped in, that the coal-mining industry began to show signs of progress and prosperity. From the 40,732 tons extracted in 1847 under the monopoly of this Company, the quantity raised had in 1891 expanded to the large figure of 4,037,929 tons, valued at £1,742,796. In 1892, however, the output was only 3,780,968 tons, valued at £1,462,388, and in 1893 there was a further decrease to 3,278,328 tons, valued at £1,171,722.

The coal-fields of New South Wales are situated in three distinct regions—the Northern, Southern, and Western districts. The first of these comprises chiefly the mines of the Hunter River districts; the second includes the Illawarra district and, generally, the coastal regions to the south of Sydney together with Berrima, on the table-land; the third consists of the mountainous regions on the Great Western Railway, and extends as far as Dubbo. The total area of the carboniferous strata

of New South Wales is estimated at 23,950 square miles. The seams vary in thickness. One of the richest has been found at Greta, in the Hunter River district; it contains an average thickness of 41 feet of clean coal, and the quantity of coal underlying each acre of ground has been computed to be 63,700 tons.

The number of coal-mines registered in New South Wales during 1893 was 97, as compared with 101 in the previous year. These gave employment to 10,028 persons, of whom 8,267 were employed under ground, and 1,761 above ground. The average quantity of coal extracted per miner was 327 tons, as against an average of 360 tons for the previous year, and 463 tons for 1891. In 1882 the weight per miner stood at 578 tons; but the yield has since gradually declined, and the average for 1890 was less than that of any of the preceding ten years, owing to the collieries standing idle for several months during the year on account of the general strike; however, the average for 1891 was the highest since 1885. The average quantity of coal extracted per miner, calculated upon the basis of the output for the ten years ending 1893, was 358 tons, which, at the mean price of coal at the pit's mouth, was equivalent to £154 19s. 5d. For comparison, the average of the five years ending 1883 is also shown in the two following tables. This production is certainly large, and compares favourably with the results exhibited by the principal coal-raising countries of the world, as will be evident from the following figures given by Mulhall:—

Country.	Tons of coal raised per miner.	Value at the pit's mouth per ton.	Total value of coal raised per miner.
		s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales { 1879-83	392	9 2	179 3 1
{ 1884-93	358	8 8	154 19 5
Great Britain	330	6 0	111 0 0
United States	347	8 4	139 0 0
Germany	336	5 3	78 0 0
France	196	9 0	88 0 0
Belgium	168	7 6	63 0 0
Austria	270	5 0	57 0 0

In the absence of information as to the average amount of wages paid to coal-miners in other countries an exact comparison is not possible, but it is abundantly clear, that in spite of the acknowledged drawbacks

to a miner's lot in the Australian Colonies, in no other country is it so satisfactory. The foregoing table proves this, for on the improbable supposition that the miner everywhere receives in wages the same proportion of the value of the coal as in New South Wales, that is, about 40 per cent of the selling price at the pit's mouth, the average earnings in each country would be:—

Country.	Coal per miner.	Wages per ton of coal.	Earnings of miner per annum.
	Tons.	s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales { 1879-83	392	3 8	71 13 7
{ 1884-93	358	3 6	61 19 9
Great Britain	330	2 5	39 17 6
United States	347	3 4	57 16 8
Germany	336	2 1	35 0 0
France	196	3 7	35 2 4
Belgium	168	3 0	25 4 0
Austria	270	2 0	27 0 0

New South Wales was its own chief customer during the last three years. In 1891, out of a total production of 4,037,929 tons, the consumption amounted to 1,793,200 tons, or over 44 per cent. Victoria came next, with 954,277 tons, or 38 per cent. of a total export of 2,514,368 tons. In 1892, when the total production amounted to 3,780,968 tons, the home consumption was 1,589,263 tons, or about 42 per cent. Victoria took 879,068 tons, or 40 per cent. of a total export of 2,191,705 tons. In 1893, out of a total production of 3,278,328 tons, the home consumption amounted to 1,443,238 tons, or 44 per cent. Victoria took 731,304 tons, or 40 per cent. out of a total export of 1,835,090 tons. The quantity of coal required for local consumption denotes a satisfactory increase during most years.

The annual consumption per head increased from 15 cwt. in 1876 to 24½ cwt. in 1888; it was 31 cwt. in 1891, 27 cwt. in 1892, and rather less than 24 cwt. in 1893. The larger use of steam for railway locomotives, for manufacturing, and other purposes, as well as the multiplication of gas-works, accounts for a great portion of the increase, but it must also be borne in mind that there is a large and increasing demand for bunker coal for ocean-going steamers, which appears not as an export, but as required for home consumption. The amount of coal taken by the steamers during 1893 was little short of 300,000 tons.

152 PROGRESS OF THE EXPORT TRADE IN COAL.

The progress of the export trade, from 1881 to 1893, is shown in the following tables, also the direction of the trade at those periods :—

Exported from New South Wales to—	Quantity.			
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Other Australasian Colonies ...	657,135	1,510,976	1,318,008	1,160,238
India, Ceylon, and China	136,511	188,000	177,387	125,528
Mauritius	6,249	19,760	8,204	5,841
Pacific Islands	19,526	141,055	136,023	99,982
United States.....	150,002	365,623	279,499	231,593
South America	8,017	221,700	243,089	167,228
Other Countries.....	52,404	67,254	28,895	44,680
Total	1,029,844	2,514,368	2,191,705	1,835,090

Exported from New South Wales to—	Value.			
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	£	£	£	£
Other Australasian Colonies ...	255,572	755,509	587,016	493,372
India, Ceylon, and China	59,944	105,208	93,384	59,015
Mauritius	2,414	10,813	4,558	2,921
Pacific Islands	8,011	75,803	65,746	46,371
United States.....	68,172	200,851	142,270	111,240
South America	3,243	123,136	121,087	80,586
Other Countries.....	20,174	35,310	14,384	19,484
Total	417,530	1,306,630	1,028,395	814,929

New Zealand is the only other Australasian Colony in a position to export coal to any large extent. The export trade of that Colony for 1881, 1891, and 1892 was :—

Exported from New Zealand to—	Quantity.			Value.		
	1881.	1891.	1892.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£
Other Australasian Colonies....	6,049	14,277	9,709	5,022	8,488	7,075
United Kingdom .....	.....	68,871	56,157	.....	76,027	61,290
Fiji and Norfolk Island ...	21	3,282	5,882	25	2,469	4,466
Pacific Islands, &c.	551	5,234	7,163	563	4,189	7,394
Total.....	6,621	91,664	78,911	5,610	91,173	80,225

The exports to the United Kingdom, both from New South Wales, and from New Zealand, consisted entirely of bunker coal, for the steamers.

Most of the coal-beds of New Zealand are on the West coast of the South Island. The chief mines are at Westport, Greymouth, and Otago. The total quantity of coal produced in 1892 was 673,315 tons, for the whole Colony, of which Westport contributed 208,076 tons, Greymouth 178,244 tons, and Otago 157,610 tons. The only important coal-measures of the North Island are those of the Waikato, which produced 57,894 tons.

The total production of coal in Queensland for 1892, was, 265,086 tons, valued at £123,308, most of which came from the mines at Ipswich and at Burrum, in the Maryborough district. Queensland exported in 1881, 2,742 tons, valued at £1,783; in 1891, 9,635 tons, valued at £9,043; and in 1892, 1,552 tons, valued at £880.

While Victoria in 1892 produced but 23,363 tons, valued at £20,044; the output in 1893 was 91,726 tons, valued at £49,167.

Tasmania produced during 1892, 35,689 tons, valued at £18,022.

The quantity of coal extracted annually in Australasia averages close upon 5,000,000 tons, valued at about £2,000,000. The proportion due to each Colony for the year 1892 was as follows:—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.	Proportion of value raised by each Colony.
	Tons.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales	3,780,968	1,462,388	74·6
Victoria	23,363	20,044	1·0
Queensland	265,086	123,308	6·3
Tasmania	35,669	18,022	0·9
New Zealand.....	673,315	336,658	17·2
Australasia.....	4,778,401	1,960,420	100·0

The total value of coal produced in the Australasian Colonies up to the end of 1892 is shown in the following table:—

Colony.	Quantity.	Total value.	Proportion of value raised by each Colony.
	Tons.	£	Per cent.
New South Wales	57,683,756	27,271,429	82·2
Victoria	126,783	99,235	·3
Queensland	3,169,003	1,464,860	4·4
Tasmania	448,000	268,752	·8
New Zealand.....	7,805,301	4,077,616	12·3
Australasia.....	69,232,843	33,181,892	100·0

During the year 1892 this industry gave direct employment, in and about the mines, to the following number of persons in the several Colonies in which the returns were available :—

	Miners.
New South Wales	10,514
Victoria	103
Queensland	952
Tasmania	170
New Zealand	1,681

The average price of coal per ton varies in the Colonies very considerably. In New South Wales, from 1847, the year when the Australian Agricultural Company's monopoly ceased, to 1893, the average price obtained was 9s. 3d., but the mean of the last ten years was not more than 8s. 9d. In 1892 the average price per ton of coal delivered at the mines in the Australasian Colonies was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	0	7	8
Victoria	0	17	2
Queensland	0	9	4
Tasmania	0	10	1
New Zealand	0	10	0
Australasia	0	8	2

The price in New South Wales during 1893 fell to 7s. 3d.

Anthracite is found on the island of Tasmania. It is a hard and heavy mineral, burning with difficulty, and it possesses very little commercial value in countries where ordinary coal abounds.

The following table shows the annual coal production by the principal countries of the world to the latest date obtainable :—

Country.	Quantity.
	Tons of 2,240 lb.
Great Britain (1892)	181,786,871
United States (1892)	131,732,488
Germany (1891)	92,737,531
France (1891)	25,606,741
Austria (1892)	25,022,680
Belgium (1892)	19,268,273
Canada (1892)	2,938,301
Australasia (1892)	4,778,401

Kerosene Shale (torbanite) is found in several parts of the Colony of New South Wales. It is a species of cannel-coal, somewhat similar to the Boghead mineral of Scotland, but it yields a much larger percentage of volatile hydrocarbons than can be obtained from the Scottish mineral. The richest quality of Australian kerosene shale yields upwards of 150 gallons of crude oil per ton, or 18,000 cubic feet of gas, with an illumin-

ating power of 38 to 48 sperm candles. The New South Wales Shale and Oil Company, at Hartley Vale, and the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company, at Joadja Creek and Katoomba, not only raise kerosene shale for export, but also manufacture from it petroleum oil and other products. Since the year 1865, when the mines were first opened, to the end of 1893, the quantity of kerosene shale raised amounted to 782,898 tons, worth £1,654,012. The average price realised during that interval was £2 2s. 3d. per ton. The prices ruling in 1893, when 55,660 tons were extracted, averaged £1 16s. 4d. per ton, representing a total value of £101,221, for the production of that year. The export of shale from New South Wales for 1892 and 1893 was:—

Exported to.	1892.		1893.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Victoria	3,559	9,940	2,997	8,646
United Kingdom	7,717	22,879	6,236	18,034
Netherlands	18,578	54,301	8,064	22,714
Italy	1,045	3,330	4,064	11,497
United States	1,210	3,354	603	1,752
Spain	3,438	10,528	1,735	5,292
Brazil	4,180	12,285	.....	.....
Chili	1,950	5,616	2,328	6,888
Other Countries	3,119	9,540	1,718	5,096
Total	44,796	131,773	27,745	79,919

Extensive formations of oil shale have been found in Otago, and at Orepuki, in Southland. Attempts have been made to develop the oil resources of Waipaoa, but, so far, unsuccessfully. The oil produced does not possess the properties required in illuminating oils, but it is valuable for lubricating purposes.

The net import of kerosene into Australasia in 1892 was as follows. The figures for Western Australia include a small quantity of turpentine:—

Colony.	Quantity.	Value.
	Gallons.	£
New South Wales	1,595,102	48,664
Victoria	2,662,617	86,101
Queensland	1,172,522	28,165
South Australia	848,656	17,024
Western Australia	239,336	11,964
Tasmania	185,359	6,308
New Zealand	1,377,964	49,192
Australasia	8,081,556	247,421

Ozokerite, or mineral wax, is reported to have been found at Coolah, in New South Wales.

Elaeterite, mineral caoutchouc, or elastic bitumen, is said to have been discovered in New South Wales and South Australia. In the last-named Colony a substance very similar to elaterite has been discovered in the Coorong Lagoons, and it has received the name of Coorongite. Up to the present time neither the extent of these finds nor their commercial value has been ascertained.

Bitumen, is known to exist in Victoria, and it is reported to have been found near the township of Coonabarabran, in New South Wales.

Kauri Gum, a resinous substance somewhat resembling amber in appearance, and like that production an exudation from trees, is found only in the Auckland province of New Zealand, where it is included under the head of minerals, although more logically entitled to be considered as a vegetable product. The best sort is dug out of the ground, but considerable quantities of inferior grades are taken from branches of standing trees. In that Colony kauri gum forms the object of an extensive and lucrative commerce. It is computed that the total value of this product obtained from 1853 to the end of 1892, was £6,349,421. In the year 1892 the quantity obtained represented a value of £517,678. It is estimated that about 4,000 white people and 1,000 Maoris were engaged in digging for gum during 1892. Kauri gum is not included in the figures given in this chapter.

SALTS.

Common *Rock Salt* has been found in New South Wales in rock crevices in several parts of the Colony, but it is not known to exist in large deposits so as to be of commercial importance.

Natron is said to occur in the neighbourhood of the Namoi River, in New South Wales. It appears as a deposit from the mud-wells of that region.

Epsomite, or epsom salt (sulphate of magnesia), is seen as an efflorescence in caves and overhanging rocks of the Hawkesbury sandstone formation, and is found in various parts of New South Wales.

Large deposits of *Alum* occur close to the village of Bulladelah, 30 miles from Port Stephens. Up to the end of the year 1893, 2,566 tons of alumite had been raised, most of which had been sent to England for treatment. It is said to have yielded well, and a quantity of the manufactured alum has been sent to Sydney for local consumption. During 1893 the Bulladelah mine yielded 821 tons of stone, valued at £3,284. In the course of the same year, 260 cwt. of locally manufactured alum, valued at £79, were exported to Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand.

EARTHY MINERALS.

Marble is found in many parts of New South Wales, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania. In New South Wales marble quarries have been opened in several districts, and some very fine specimens of the stone have been obtained.

Lithographic stone has been found in New Zealand, where another beautiful species of limestone known as the *Oamaru stone* is also procured. This stone has a fine, smooth grain, and is of a beautiful creamy tint. It is in great demand for public buildings, not only in the Colony where it is found, but in the great cities of continental Australia, which import large quantities of this stone for the embellishment of their public edifices.

Limestone is being worked on the Myall Lakes, near Bungwall, and small quantities have been forwarded from this district to Sydney.

Gypsum is found crystallised in clay-beds in New South Wales, and in isolated crystals in the Salt Lakes of South Australia, where a small proportion of sulphate of lime is present in the water. It is also found in portions of Victoria. This mineral is of commercial value for the manufacture of cement and plaster of Paris. It is found in the form of an insoluble salt in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand.

Apatite, another mineral of considerable commercial importance, and very valuable as a manure, occurs in several districts of New South Wales, principally on the Lachlan River, at the head of the Abercrombie, and in the Clarence River district.

QUARTZ AND SILICA.

Quartz is of common occurrence in all parts of Australasia. Rock crystal, white, tinted, and smoky quartz are frequently met with, as well as varieties of crystalline quartz, such as amethyst, jasper, and agate, which possess some commercial value.

Common *Opals* are frequently found in the basaltic formations of Australasia. The precious, or noble opal, which might be included under the head of precious stones, has been found 60 miles north-west from Wilcannia, at a few feet from the surface, in layers between hard silicious sandstone. As much as £5 per oz. has been offered for good specimens. During 1892 the quantity of noble opal won from these mines was 42 lb., valued at £2,000, and during 1893, 449 lb., valued at £12,315. The total production to the end of 1893 was 686 lb., valued at £29,915. This gem has also been found in basalt, near the Abercrombie River, and in sandstone, near Lismore. In Queensland, opals are found in the Thargomindah district, where the labour of 110 men, in 1892, produced opals valued at £10,000. Opal-bearing stone is known to exist in the ranges between Adavale and Cooper's Creek, in the Charleville district, Queensland, and the northern portions of New South Wales.

Chalcedony, *carnelian*, *onyx*, and *cat's eye* are found in New South Wales; probably also in the other Colonies, particularly Queensland.

Tripoli, or rotten stone, an infusorial earth, consisting of hydrous silica, which has some value for commercial purposes, has been found in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand.

Meerschaum is reported to have been discovered near Tamworth and in the Richmond River district, in New South Wales.

Mica is also found in granitic country, chiefly in the New England and Barrier districts. In Western Australia very good mica has been found at Bindoon, and also on the Blackwood River, near Cape Leeuwin. Some promising discoveries of mica have been made near Herberton, in Northern Queensland, and quite recently some mica of excellent quality was brought to Adelaide from the Macdonnell Ranges, in Central Australia.

CLAYS.

Kaolin, *fire-clays*, and *brick-clays* are common to all the Colonies. Except in the vicinity of cities and townships, however, little use has been made of the abundant deposits of clay. Kaolin, or porcelain clay, although capable of application to commercial purposes, has not as yet been utilised to any extent.

Asbestos has been found in New South Wales in the Gundagai, Bathurst, and Broken Hill districts—in the latter in considerable quantities. Several specimens of very fair quality have been met with in Western Australia.

GEMS AND GEMSTONES.

Many descriptions of gems and gemstones have been discovered in various parts of the Australasian Colonies, but systematic search has been made principally for the diamond.

Diamonds are found in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, but only in the first-named Colony have any attempts been made to work the diamond drifts. The principal diamond-fields are situated in the Bingara and Inverell districts, on the New England tableland, and Cudgegong, in the Wellington district. The Government of New South Wales has, on various occasions, obtained the services of experts to report upon the fields, as well as the gems which have been from time to time extracted from them, and these reports have generally been of an encouraging nature.

The number of diamonds found in the Colony is estimated to be 170,000, weighing 43,946 carats, the largest one being of $5\frac{1}{2}$ carats, or

16.2 grains. The diamonds occur in old Tertiary river drifts, and in the more recent drifts derived from them. The deposits are extensive, and have not yet been thoroughly prospected. The New South Wales diamonds are harder and much whiter than the South African diamonds, and are classified on a par with the best Brazilian gems. During the year 1887 the diamond companies at Cope's Creek, near Bingara, produced about 23,000 diamonds, weighing 5,151 carats; but in 1888, owing to the severe drought which occurred, the search for diamonds had to be temporarily abandoned. In 1889 finds are reported to the extent of 2,196 carats, valued at £878. In 1891 and 1892 12,000 and 2,250 carats of diamonds respectively were won in the Tingha and Inverell districts, but no value is given. The yield for 1893 is stated at 15,000 carats, valued at £15,375. With efficient methods of working, this industry bids fair to become a profitable one.

Under the generic name of *Corundum* are included the most valuable gems known to commerce, next to the diamond. The *sapphire*, which is the most common of these gems, is found in all the Colonies, principally in the neighbourhood of Beechworth, Victoria.

Oriental *emeralds* are found in New South Wales, and in Gippsland in Victoria. An emerald mine, in which the gem occurs in granitic lode, was opened near Emmaville, in the Glen Innes district, during 1890; 225 carats of emeralds were won from the mine during that year and forwarded to London. During 1891 and 1892 the Emerald Proprietary Company obtained some 50,000 carats, the value of which, when cut and finished, was expected to attain about £2 per carat. Returns for 1893 are not given.

The yellow corundum, or Oriental *topaz*, has been found in New South Wales. Oriental *amethysts* also have been found in that Colony, and the red corundum, or *ruby*, the most valuable of all these gems, has been found in Queensland, as well as in New South Wales.

According to an authority on the subject of gemstones, rubies, Oriental amethysts, emeralds, and topaz have been chiefly obtained from alluvial deposits, but have rarely been met with in a matrix from which it would pay to extract them.

Turquoises have lately been found near Wangaratta, in Victoria, and mining operations are to be commenced shortly.

Chrysoberyls have been found in New South Wales; spinel rubies, in New South Wales and Victoria; white topaz, in all the Colonies; and yellow topaz, in Tasmania. *Zircon*, *tourmaline*, *garnet*, and other gemstones of little commercial value are found throughout Australasia.

In South Australia some very fine specimens of garnet were found, which caused some excitement at the time, as the gems were mistaken for rubies. The stones were submitted to the examination of experts, whose reports disclosed the true nature of the gems, and dispelled the hopes of those who had invested in the supposed ruby-mines of South Australia.

MINERAL WEALTH OF AUSTRALASIA.

Australasia possesses invaluable mineral resources, and though enormous quantities of minerals of all kinds have been won since their first discovery, the deposits, with the exception, perhaps, of gold, have only reached the first period of their exploitation. Vast beds of silver, tin, and copper ore and coal are known to exist, but their development has not reached a sufficiently advanced stage to enable an exact opinion to be expressed regarding their commercial value, though it is confidently held by mining experts that this must be enormous.

In the year 1892 the total value of minerals raised, and the proportion due to each Colony, also the value per inhabitant, were as follows:—

Colony.	Total production.	Percentage each Colony.	Per Inhabitant.
	£		£ s. d.
New South Wales	4,946,842	39·8	4 3 9
Victoria	2,650,858	21·3	2 5 7
Queensland	2,470,471	19·9	5 18 10
South Australia	316,079	2·5	0 19 1
Western Australia	248,973	2·0	4 8 11
Tasmania	493,677	4·0	3 4 7
New Zealand	1,305,226	10·5	2 0 8
Australasia	12,432,126	100·0	3 3 1

The total value of minerals raised in 1892 exceeded by about £1,508,070 the average annual amount since 1852. It will, however, be easily understood that the proportion of mineral wealth extracted per head of the population is much less than it was during the prevalence of the gold fever. In comparison with that of the years 1851 to 1871 the production of the precious metals is considerably reduced. Nevertheless the search for gold led to the expansion of the mining industry into other channels, and although the gold-mining population has decreased, the number of miners engaged in the extraction of other minerals has largely increased, and it is a question whether the total number of persons who gain their livelihood by mining pursuits at the present time is not equal to the number who were so engaged at the time when gold and coal alone were the great elements of the mineral wealth of the Australasian Colonies. The resources known to exist, and yet to be developed in these Colonies, are likely to maintain, for many generations to come, a large and prosperous mining population.

The following table shows the value of the mineral production of each Colony during the three years 1871, 1881, and 1891, as well as the value per inhabitant in the whole of Australasia :—

Colony.	1871.	1881.	1891.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,650,000	2,121,000	6,395,560
Victoria	5,400,000	3,467,000	2,339,510
Queensland	806,000	3,165,000	2,299,560
South Australia	725,000	421,000	365,950
Western Australia	5,000	11,000	130,090
Tasmania	25,000	604,000	516,390
New Zealand	2,932,000	1,274,000	1,403,630
Total.....	11,543,000	11,063,000	13,450,690
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per inhabitant	5 19 4	3 19 8	3 10 0

A comparison of the figures for 1891 with those for 1892 shown in the two preceding tables reveals the fact that the mineral production of 1892 was over £1,000,000 less than that of 1891. There were increases in Victoria, Queensland, and notably in Western Australia, and slight decreases in South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, but in New South Wales the decrease amounted to £1,450,000, chiefly owing to the smaller production of silver. There is, however, every reason to believe, from the returns that are already known, that the total production of 1893 will not be less than that of 1891.

Comparing the value of mineral production in 1892 with the population, the largest share is obtained by Queensland, with £5 18s. 10d. per inhabitant; Western Australia ranks second with £4 8s. 11d. per inhabitant; and New South Wales comes third with £4 3s. 9d. The high averages of Queensland and Western Australia are due to the gold mines, while in New South Wales more than half the year's wealth was contributed by the silver fields. The average per inhabitant for Australasia was £3 3s. 1d.

The following table shows the value of minerals raised in each of the Colonies during 1892, distinguishing the principal minerals. With regard to some of the Colonies the data are defective in respect to "other minerals," but not to so great an extent as to seriously affect the gross total. The column "other minerals" includes kerosene shale in New South Wales. Coal was the only mineral raised in New South Wales prior to 1852, and its production up to that date was valued at £279,923. Deducting that amount from the total value of Australasian minerals raised up to the end of 1892, the remainder, £447,886,441,

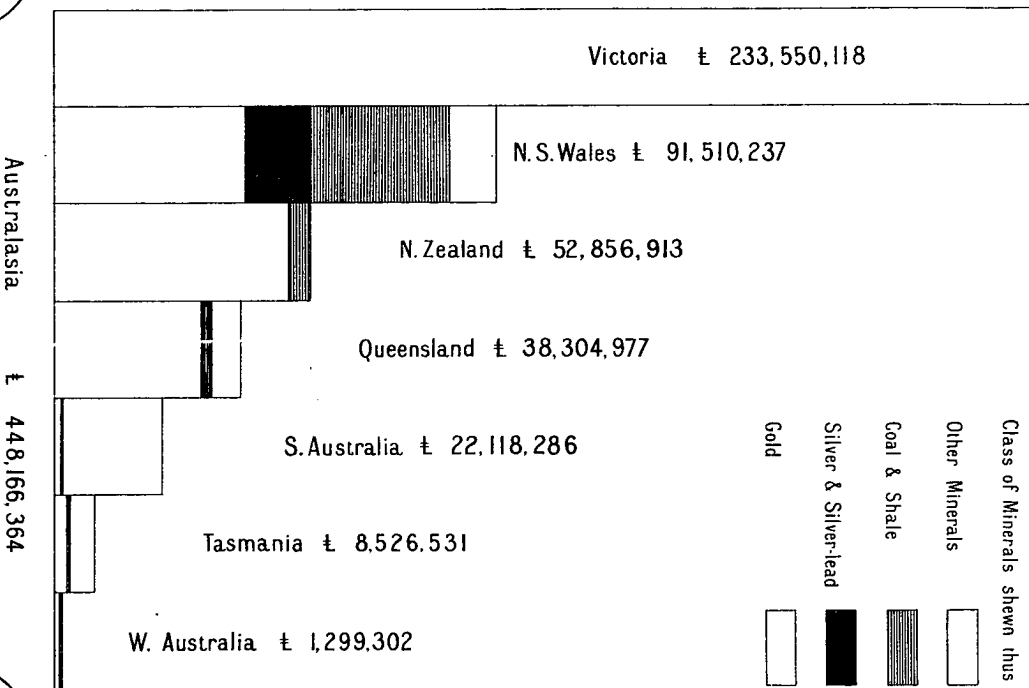
represents the value of mineral production from 1852, equal to an average of £10,924,060 per annum for the forty-one years.

Colony.	Gold.	Silver and Silver-lead.	Copper.	Tin.	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	569,178	2,477,836	114,559	152,994	1,462,388	169,887	4,946,842
Victoria	2,617,824	5,948	.....	1,039	20,044	6,003	2,650,858
Queensland	2,154,453	36,436	2,461	123,008	123,308	30,715	2,470,471
South Australia	135,325	.....	175,525	2,433	.....	2,796	316,079
Western Australia	226,284	.....	8,696	13,843	.....	150	243,973
Tasmania	174,070	45,502	.....	250,083	18,022	.....	493,677
New Zealand	951,963	3,996	148	.....	336,653	12,461	1,305,226
Australasia	6,829,097	2,569,718	301,389	549,490	1,960,420	222,012	12,432,126

The total mineral production to the end of 1892 is shown in the following table, in which the column "Other Minerals" again includes kerosene shale :—

Colony.	Gold.	Silver and Silver-lead.	Copper.	Tin.	Coal.	Other Minerals.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	39,202,666	13,660,715	3,596,482	5,823,657	27,271,429	1,950,288	91,510,237
Victoria	232,280,660	100,878	191,423	680,150	99,235	197,572	233,550,118
Queensland	30,206,652	535,026	1,960,573	4,048,408	1,464,860	89,458	38,304,977
South Australia	1,430,622	101,727	20,162,292	20,821	.....	402,824	22,113,286
Western Australia ..	947,001	250	153,158	29,743	.....	169,150	1,299,302
Tasmania	2,562,569	137,155	617	5,557,438	268,752	.....	8,526,531
New Zealand	48,355,080	144,144	18,014	.....	4,077,616	232,050	52,856,913
Australasia	355,015,450	14,679,895	26,082,559	16,165,217	33,181,892	3,041,351	448,166,364

TOTAL VALUE OF MINERALS WON, TO 31ST DEC. 1892



SOCIAL CONDITION.

SAVINGS OF THE PEOPLE.

THE Colonies of Australasia have from very early days been regarded in the light of a working-man's paradise. The high rates of wages which have generally prevailed, and the cheapness with which food could be purchased, have tended to make the position of the wage-earners superior to that occupied by the same class in any other portion of the globe. These advantages have induced in Australasia a greater degree of comfort, if not luxury, amongst a class which, in other parts of the world, has little of comfort and knows nothing of luxury. Although a high standard of living is not conducive to thrift, the progress of saving has gone on with great rapidity, notwithstanding the periodic occurrence of seasons of depression, such as that from which Australasia has suffered during the last year or two.

Some idea, both of the celerity and extent of this accumulation, may be gathered from the increase of deposits in the Banks carrying on business in the Colonies, and tables fully illustrating this branch of the subject will be found in this volume in the chapter relating to "Accumulation," together with a full consideration of the economic aspect of banking.

INSOLVENCY.

The view presented in the last section, of the accumulation of wealth, would be incomplete without a glance at the other side of the picture. The Bankruptcy laws of the different Colonies are even more dissimilar than the laws on most other questions of importance; they have also been fluctuating, and the subject of many experiments and amendments. This renders any work of comparison difficult and unsatisfactory. The information here given is imperfect in relation to Western Australia, from which no reliable particulars have been obtainable, and also in reference to New Zealand, the returns from which are incomplete. In other respects the figures give a comparative view of insolvencies at three decennial periods and in 1892.

It must be pointed out that some caution should be exercised in dealing with figures representing the liabilities and assets of insolvents, because in the present state of the law there is no means of compelling those who seek the relief of the Courts to give an accurate statement of their affairs. The natural tendency is to understate the liabilities, and to over-estimate the assets, so as to make the estate look as favourable as possible. It is very seldom indeed, when a bankrupt estate is finally wound-up, that the creditors find themselves in so satisfactory a position as the schedule originally filed by the insolvent would lead them to expect.

Colony.	1871.		1881.		1891.		1892.	
	No.	Liabilities.	No.	Liabilities.	No.	Liabilities.	No.	Liabilities.
		£		£		£		£
New South Wales.....	544	325,941	724	379,290	1,189	989,778	1,506	2,033,316
Victoria	631	444,117	620	303,892	807	1,824,595	1,125	2,463,936
Queensland.....	73	411,835	153	73,602	300	197,078	326	235,441
South Australia	247	246,713	215	123,629	67	33,100	80	36,004
Tasmania.....	25	62,560	33	†13,770	110	117,575	216	134,256
New Zealand	737	*	1,406	823,018	605	499,650	507	236,429
	2,257	1,491,166	3,151	1,717,201	3,078	3,661,776	3,760	5,189,382

* No Return.

† Returns not complete.

From the above table it would appear that the number of insolvencies was greater in New South Wales in 1892 than in any other year under notice, though the amount of liabilities returned was considerably less than the amount shown for Victoria in the same year, the average liability per insolvent in Victoria being £2,190, as against £1,350 for each bankrupt in New South Wales. The serious commercial depression which set in during 1892, no doubt, caused the large excess in the number of insolvents in Australasia, as well as in the estimated amount of liabilities over the figures of 1891. Still it is an important and gratifying feature that, notwithstanding the great increase of population and consequent extension of trade, the number of insolvencies has not increased in the same proportion. In the year 1861 there were 16·1 insolvents to every 10,000 inhabitants, but in 1871 it had dropped to 11·5; and although in 1881 a slight increase to 12·9 took place, yet in 1891 the proportion had fallen to 8 insolvents per 10,000 people. And in 1892, even in spite of the bad times already alluded to, the ratio had only advanced to 9·5 per 10,000 inhabitants.

NEWSPAPERS AND LETTERS.

There is hardly anything more indicative of the social superiority of a civilized people than the prevalence of correspondence and a large distribution of newspapers. In these respects all the Colonies of Australasia have for many years been remarkable. In proportion to population, it is doubtful whether any country in the world can boast of a larger number or a better class of newspapers than these Colonies. Great advances have been made in this respect since 1871, and the rate of progress, both in number and excellence, has been even more rapid between 1881 and the present time. There is no means of correctly estimating the number of newspapers actually printed and distributed in the Colonies, because the Post Office returns indicate but a small proportion of the actual production. Some idea, however, may be gathered for purposes of comparison with other countries, by noting the distribution of newspapers through the agency of the Post Office. The return for 1892, which comprises all the Colonies, shows that no less than 98,000,000 newspapers passed through the Post Offices, being an average of 25 to every inhabitant. Allowance has been made, as before, for newspapers entered in both the sending and the receiving Colony.

In the same year there were 198,000,000 letters delivered through the post in the seven colonies, being more than 50 letters for every man, woman, and child in those provinces. Allowance has been made in this figure for intercolonial letters counted both in the receiving and despatching colonies. An examination of the statistics of other countries shows that the people of these Colonies stand absolutely at the head of the world's populations in this respect. The inhabitants of Great Britain have nearly but not quite so large a correspondence per head, but the people of no other nation can even approach it.

PARKS, MUSEUMS, &c.

All the Australasian capitals are liberally supplied with parks and recreation-grounds. In Sydney and the suburbs there are parks, squares, and public gardens comprising an area of 3,761 acres, including 780 acres which form the Centennial Park. Then there is also the picturesque National Park, of 36,320 acres, situated about 16 miles from the centre of the metropolis; and, in addition to this, an area of almost equal extent, in the valley of the Hawkesbury, has been recently reserved for public recreation under the name of Kuringgai Chase. Thus Sydney has two extensive and picturesque domains for the enjoyment of the people at almost equal distances north and south from the city, and both accessible by railway. Melbourne has no less than 5,293 acres of recreation grounds, of which 1,723 acres are within the city

boundaries, 2,788 acres in the suburban municipalities, and 782 acres outside those municipalities. Adelaide is surrounded by a broad belt of park lands, and also contains a number of squares within the city boundaries, covering altogether an area of 2,300 acres. Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, and the chief cities of New Zealand are also well provided for in this respect. In all the Colonies large areas of land have been dedicated as public parks. The Botanic Gardens of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Adelaide are included in the areas above referred to. Each of these gardens has a special attraction of its own. They are all well kept, and reflect great credit upon the communities to which they belong.

The various capitals of the Colonies, and also some of the prominent inland towns, are provided with museums for the purposes of instruction as well as recreation, and, in addition, there are in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Hobart art galleries, containing excellent collections of paintings and statuary. All these institutions are open to the public free of charge.

PUBLIC CHARITIES—PAUPERISM.

As shown in previous chapters, wealth in Australasia is widely distributed, and the contrast between rich and poor, which seems so peculiar a phase of old-world civilisations, finds no parallel in these southern lands. That there is poverty in the Colonies is undeniable, but no one in Australasia is born to poverty; and that hereditary pauper class which forms so grave a menace to the freedom of many States has, therefore, no existence here.

It is estimated that in the United Kingdom six persons in every hundred possess property to the amount of £100; whereas in the Colonies the proportion is not less than 12·3 per cent. This bare statement shows the vast difference in the conditions of life in Australasia and in the richest country of Europe. This question, however, will be found debated at greater length in the chapter on "Private Wealth" in this volume. No poor rate is levied in the Colonies, nor is such needed; for although it may happen that from time to time the assistance of the State is claimed by, and granted to, able-bodied men who are unable to find employment, that assistance takes the form of wages paid for work specially provided by the State to meet an abnormal condition of the labour market.

The chief efforts of the authorities, as regards charity, are directed towards the rescue of the young from criminal companionship and temptation to crime, the support of the aged and infirm, the care of the imbecile or insane, and the subsidising of private charity for the cure of the sick and injured, and the amelioration of want.

Even where the Government grants aid for philanthropic purposes, the management of the institutions supervising the expenditure is in

private hands; and in addition to State-aided institutions there are numerous private charities, whose efforts for the relief of those whom penury, sickness, or misfortune has afflicted are beyond all praise.

The rescue of the young from crime is attempted in two ways—first, by means of Orphanages, Industrial Schools, and Reformatories, which take care of children who have been abandoned by their natural guardians, or who are likely, from the poverty or incapacity of their parents, to be so neglected as to render them liable to lapse into crime; and secondly, by sequestering children who have already committed crime, or whose parents or guardians find themselves unable to control them.

It will be noticed that the number of deaths from accident in the Australasian Colonies is very great. This arises from the peculiar nature of the occupations in which a large proportion of the adult male population is employed. Although a century has elapsed since settlement commenced in Australasia, its resources are by no means developed, and very many men are at work far away from the home comforts of everyday life, and from home attendance in case of sickness or injury. Hospitals are therefore absolutely essential under the conditions of life in the country districts of the Colonies, and they are accordingly found in every important country town.

The following table shows the total expenditure and the number of persons admitted to the hospitals during the year 1892, as far as information can be obtained. The figures for South Australia refer to the Adelaide Hospital only :—

Colony.	No. of persons admitted during the year.	Expenditure.
		£
New South Wales	17,859	137,238
Victoria	16,868	153,109
Queensland	11,512	87,742
South Australia	2,251	14,012
Western Australia	791	11,706
Tasmania	2,152	17,715
New Zealand	7,587	77,463

All the Colonies possess institutions for the care of the insane, which are under Government control. The treatment meted out to the inmates is that dictated by the greatest humanity, and the hospitals are fitted with all the conveniences and appliances which modern science points out as most calculated to mitigate or remove the affliction from which these unfortunate people suffer.

The following table shows the number of insane patients remaining on 31st December, and expenditure for the year 1892 as far as can be ascertained :—

Colony.	No. of Patients.	Expenditure.
		£
New South Wales	3,312	102,520
Victoria	3,954	104,795
Queensland	1,253	33,000
South Australia	822	24,248
Western Australia	135	1,215
Tasmania	357	14,456
New Zealand	1,917	37,717
Australasia	11,750	317,951

The amounts expended on Destitute Asylums and Benevolent Societies cannot be separated from other items of expenditure in some of the Colonies. As far as they can be ascertained they are given in the following table, together with the number of inmates of the various asylums at the end of 1892, with the exception of Victoria, for which province the returns are made out to the 30th June of that year :—

Colony.	No. of Inmates.	Expenditure.
		£
New South Wales	5,757	144,196
Victoria	3,308	66,661
Queensland	1,881	40,753
South Australia	1,320	29,437
Western Australia	186	8,450
Tasmania	732	11,546
New Zealand	847	76,493
Australasia	14,031	377,536

A liberal amount of out-door relief is given in all the Australasian Colonies, the expenditure on which is included in the amounts given for Destitute Asylums and Benevolent Societies. The expenditure of the Governments of the Australasian Colonies in connection with all forms of relief and in aid of hospitals and other charitable institutions, so far as shown by the imperfect returns, amounted in 1892 to about £600,000 ; adding to this the amount of private subscriptions, &c., the poor and the unfortunate have benefited during the year to the extent of over £1,000,000. This sum, though not excessive in proportion to the population, may yet appear large in view of the general wealth of the Colonies, which should preclude the necessity of so many seeking assistance ; and there is the risk that the charitable institutions may encourage the growth of the pauper element, for while free quarters and free food are so accessible those who are disinclined to work are tempted to live at the public expense.

LAW AND CRIME.

Proceedings against a person accused of an offence may be initiated, by the laws of all the provinces, either by formal arrest or by summons. Serious offences are not often dealt with by process of summons, though on the contrary, in some of the colonies, it is not unusual even in trivial cases for the offender to be arrested. These circumstances should be taken into consideration when dealing with apprehensions by the police, which are unusually numerous in some of the Australasian Colonies. It is, however, not easy to make a comparison of the practice of the several colonies in this respect, inasmuch as the records, except in the case of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, merely show the total number of cases that come before the Magistrates' Courts, without distinguishing the proceedings arising from summons from those wherein the person charged was arrested by the police. Another circumstance which operates against a clear comparison of the criminal condition of the different colonies is the fact that there are considerable divergences in the criminal codes, as well as in the classification of offences; besides which the laws are administered with greater strictness in some of the provinces than in others. In almost all cases the first hearing of a criminal charge takes place before a Magistrate's Court, whether composed of Stipendiaries or of unpaid local Justices of the Peace. These Courts have power of jurisdiction as regards minor cases; but in reference to the more serious charges, should a *prima facie* case be made out, they can commit the accused person to take his trial before a higher Court. The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with in the Magistrates' Courts of the several colonies in the year 1892, classified as far as the nature of the returns furnished will permit:—

Colony.	Offenders against —			Total.
	The Person.	Property.	Good Order, &c.	
New South Wales	7,256	3,508	61,985	77,749
Victoria	2,238	4,646	26,399	33,283
Queensland	2,307	2,134	13,094	17,535
South Australia	92	529	7,260	7,881
Western Australia	478	808	4,228	5,574
Tasmania	460	803	5,015	6,278
New Zealand	1,551	2,386	14,080	18,017
Australasia	14,382	19,814	132,121	166,317

There were, therefore, 166,317 cases altogether dealt with by the Magistrates, in 43,334 of which the persons concerned were discharged, either as guiltless or because sufficient evidence to establish their guilt was not forthcoming; 122,983 were summarily convicted, and condemned either to fine or imprisonment; while 3,781 were committed to

take their trial before a jury. These last-mentioned cases are included principally among the offences enumerated in the first two columns, which comprise what may be properly called crime, such as murder, manslaughter, offences against females, assaults, larceny, burglary, horse and cattle stealing, arson, forgery and other offences against the currency, conspiracy, &c. The remaining column relates to drunkenness and its concomitant disorderly conduct and foul language, and to breaches of municipal and other by-laws, and of various Acts of Parliament involving good order more or less. The number of serious charges dealt with by Magistrates' Courts in each province is shown in the following table, together with the number of cases in which the accused was committed for trial by a higher Court. The proportion per cent. of serious charges to the mean population is also given :—

Colony.	Serious Charges dealt with.	Committals for Trial.	Percentage of Serious Charges to Mean Population.
New South Wales	12,174	1,411	1·0
Victoria	6,348	1,201	0·5
Queensland	4,441	459	1·1
South Australia	551	153	0·2
Western Australia	1,279	93	2·3
Tasmania	1,343	107	0·9
New Zealand	3,937	366	0·6
Australasia	30,073	3,781	0·8

The number of convictions by Magistrates during 1892 is set forth in the following table. It will be observed that as regards South Australia the totals only are given, as the returns published by that colony do not show the classification of the offences for which summary punishments were inflicted. The table also gives the proportion borne by the numbers convicted to the total population of each colony and of Australasia :—

Colony.	Offences against—			Total.	Percentage of Summary Convictions to Population.
	The Person.	Property.	Good Order, &c.		
New South Wales.....	3,264	4,125	48,961	56,350	4·9
Victoria	1,475	2,426	17,723	21,624	1·9
Queensland.....	1,291	1,113	11,259	13,663	3·3
South Australia.....	.....	.....	.....	6,884	2·1
Western Australia	251	556	2,770	3,577	6·4
Tasmania	220	508	4,094	4,822	3·2
New Zealand	806	1,352	10,124	12,282	1·9
Australasia.....	.....	.....	.....	119,202	3·0

More than half the cases heard in the Magistrates' Courts, and nearly half the summary convictions, are for drunkenness. The figures for each province, except Western Australia, for the year 1892, are given in the following statement, which also gives the number of arrests and convictions for this offence to every hundred of the population. The records of Western Australia do not distinguish the arrests and convictions for drunkenness from those for other offences against good order generally. The work of the police in arresting drunken persons seems to be about the same in New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, but while convictions seem to be the lot of the person arrested in the two colonies first named, in Victoria so rigid a practice does not obtain, for 37 out of every 100 arrested escape without being punished by the Bench, many probably preferring to estreat a small amount of bail rather than face exposure in the Court :—

Colony.	Charges of Drunkenness.	Summary Convictions.	Percentage to Population.	
			Of Apprehensions.	Of Convictions.
New South Wales	20,665	18,553	1·7	1·6
Victoria	15,891	10,008	1·4	0·9
Queensland	4,916	4,810	1·2	1·2
South Australia	2,714	2,587	0·8	0·8
Tasmania	921	892	0·6	0·6
New Zealand	5,348	5,157	0·8	0·8
Australasia*	50,455	42,007	1·3	1·1

* Western Australia not included.

A return showing only the number of arrests for drunkenness is not a safe index as to the abuse of alcoholic liquors, for a great deal depends on the state of the law and the manner in which it is administered, and it is evident that the maintenance of the law intended to preserve public decency will always be less strict in sparsely-settled country districts than in larger centres of population where the police are comparatively more numerous, if not in proportion to the population, at least in proportion to the area they have under their supervision. The quantity of intoxicants consumed per head is perhaps a safer index to the habits of communities living under like conditions; but comparisons so based should not be pushed to extremes, for, as it has often been pointed out, the larger part of the alcohol which enters into consumption is that consumed by the population who are not drunkards. Information as to the quantity of intoxicants used per inhabitant in each province during

1892 is given below, wines and beers being reduced to their equivalent of proof spirit :—

Colony.	Proof Gallons of Alcohol per head of population.
New South Wales	2·67
Victoria	3·24
Queensland	2·46
South Australia	2·53
Western Australia	3·68
Tasmania	2·00
New Zealand	1·77
Australasia	2·65

The consumption of various classes of intoxicants in the several colonies is shown in the chapter on "Food Supply and Cost of Living."

The following table shows the number of police, the number of inhabitants to each police constable, and the average area which each constable had under his supervision during the year 1892 ; it is obvious that in nearly every colony the police force requires strengthening :—

Colony.	Number of Police.			Number of Inhabitants to each Police Constable.			Area under supervision of each Police Constable in Country Districts.
	Metro-politan Area.	Country Districts.	Whole Colony.	Metro-politan Area.	Country Districts.	Whole Colony.	
New South Wales	629	1,127	1,756	645	683	673	Square miles 276
Victoria	748	740	1,488	644	929	803	118
Queensland	200	711	911	470	444	456	940
South Australia	173	266	439	788	717	767	3,396
Western Australia	46	219	265	230	256	211	4,840
Tasmania	49	254	303	703	464	504	103
New Zealand	40	441	481	884	1,372	1,135	237

The record of cases heard before a Court of Magistrates cannot be regarded as altogether a trustworthy indication of the social progress of Australasia, because it includes many kinds of offences which cannot fairly be classed as criminal, and the number of these has a tendency to increase with the increase of local enactments. The record of committals for trial for the more serious offences coming before the Courts, taken in conjunction with the convictions for crime in the Superior Courts, may be regarded as much more conclusive on the question of the progress of society or the reverse. In some respects even this evidence is misleading, for in the less populous provinces there

are no Courts intermediary between the Magistrates and the Supreme Courts, so that many offences which, in New South Wales and Victoria for example, are tried by a jury are in some of the other provinces dealt with by the Magistrates.

The following table shows the proportion of committals by Magistrates, and of convictions in the Superior Courts of all the Colonies, per 1,000 of the population for the last four decennial census periods and for 1892. It will be seen that the committals have decreased from 2·2 in 1861 to 1·0 in 1892, and the convictions by jury during the same period have decreased from 1·3 to 0·5, or about one-third :—

Year.	Per 1,000 of Population.	
	Committals.	Convictions in Superior Courts.
1861	2·2	1·3
1871	1·4	0·8
1881	1·2	0·7
1891	1·1	0·6
1892	1·0	0·5

In noting these facts and comparing results with that obtained in Great Britain during the same period, it must not be forgotten that some of the provinces of Australasia have been compelled gradually to reform a portion of their original population, and that in the case of colonies such as Victoria and Queensland, not originally peopled in any degree by convicts, the attractions of the gold-fields have drawn within their borders a population by no means free from criminal instincts and antecedents. Viewed in this light, the steady progress made cannot but be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory, and the expectation may be not unreasonably entertained that the same improvement will be continued until the ratio of crime to population will compare favourably with that of any part of the world.

It is a peculiar circumstance that, though the people of Australasia are of one blood, and the laws against crime are practically the same in each colony, some of the colonies show a far greater ratio of conviction for serious crime than do the others. A crude theory has been put forward that this pre-eminence in crime is due to a convict taint in the colonies possessing a comparatively high record. The incorrectness of this presumption will be manifest, since Tasmania—a province now in one of the most favourable positions in regard to serious crime—is the one which suffered most from the transportation system. Whatever be the explanation, the fact, however, remains that New South Wales and Western Australia have a higher rate of criminal convictions than the other provinces, and that South Australia shows a marked contrast in its freedom from serious crime. The following

table shows the convictions in the Superior Courts of the different colonies, at decennial periods, from 1861 to 1891, and also those for 1892 :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales	437	628	1,066	964	896
Victoria	846	511	332	729	759
Queensland	24	91	92	232	203
South Australia	62	91	213	90	90
Western Australia	35	65	61	44	83
Tasmania	127	74	51	63	43
New Zealand	100	162	270	276	180
Australasia	1,631	1,622	2,085	2,398	2,254

The committals by magistrates, and the convictions in the Superior Courts of each province per 1,000 of population during 1892, were as follows :—

Colony.	Per 1,000 of Population.	
	Committals.	Convictions.
New South Wales	1·2	0·8
Victoria	1·0	0·7
Queensland	1·1	0·5
South Australia	0·5	0·3
Western Australia	1·7	1·5
Tasmania	0·7	0·3
New Zealand	0·6	0·3
Australasia	1·0	0·5

A classification of the offences for which the convictions in Superior Courts in 1892 took place is given in the subjoined table :—

Colony.	Offences against			Total.
	The Person.	Property.	Good Order, &c.	
New South Wales	213	588	95	896
Victoria	100	610	49	759
Queensland	50	137	16	203
South Australia	4	60	26	90
Western Australia	25	52	6	83
Tasmania	11	1	31	43
New Zealand	29	127	24	180
Australasia	432	1,575	247	2,254

The large number of convictions in New South Wales may perhaps be accounted for to some extent by a more rigorous administration of the law than obtains in other provinces; partly, also, to the fact of there being no law to prevent the influx of criminals, such as exists, and is strictly enforced, in some of the other Colonies. New South Wales is in fact the happy hunting ground for the criminals of all the Colonies.

The punishment of death is very seldom resorted to except in cases of murder, though formerly such was not the case. Thus, in 1861, the executions in the whole of the Colonies amounted to 20; they had fallen to 8 in 1871, to 5 in 1881, and to 2 in 1890. In 1891, however, the number mounted up to 14, of which 7 were in Victoria, and 3 in New South Wales. In South Australia the extreme penalty has been most sparingly inflicted, there having been only 9 in the 22 years which closed with 1892. The following table shows the number of executions in each province in each decade of the 50 years which ended with 1890, also those which took place in 1891 and 1892. Queensland was incorporated with New South Wales until the end of 1859, though Victoria became a separate Colony in 1851. It will be noticed that the returns are defective so far as Western Australia is concerned:—

Colony.	1841-50.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891.	1892.
New South Wales..	68	{ 38	34	27	23	3	1
Queensland		47	14	18	15	1	4
Victoria		7	41	19	13	7	1
South Australia ..		.....	12	6	2	1	...
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4
Tasmania	83	32	15	3	5	1	...
New Zealand .....	.....	.....	.....	12	8	.....	...
Total.....	151	124	116	85	66	14	10

The returns relating to the prisons of the Colonies are in some cases very incomplete. The prisoners in confinement at any specified time may be divided into those who have been tried and sentenced, those who are awaiting their trial, and debtors. The returns of five of the Colonies allow of this distinction being made. The number and classification of prisoners in confinement on 31st December, 1892, were as follows:—

Colony.	Tried and Sentenced.	Awaiting Trial.	Debtors.	Total.
New South Wales	2,484	129	9	2,622
Victoria	1,641	84	.....	1,725
Queensland	560	30	2	592
South Australia	249	7	.....	256
New Zealand	433	38	2	473
Total	5,367	288	13	5,668

The returns of Tasmania give the total number of prisoners in confinement on 31st December, 1892, as 172, while Western Australia records a daily average of 349. Taking this figure just mentioned to be correct for 31st December, there would have been a prison population for Australasia of 6,189, or about 1·6 in every 1,000 of the population.

SUICIDES.

Suicides would unfortunately appear to be increasing in number, as well as in proportion to population. The following table indicates a portion of the past history and present position of the Colonies in this respect :—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.	Average of 10 years. 1883-1892.
New South Wales	45	30	83	119	127	105
Victoria	64	90	102	119	134	117
Queensland	*	8	30	73	73	56
South Australia	13	11	34	31	27	30
Western Australia	1	*	4	6	11	5
Tasmania	7	4	6	9	9	8
New Zealand.....	*	*	42	56	59	55
Total	130	143	301	413	440	376
Per 100,000 of population	13·0	8·4	10·9	10·6	11·2	9·5

* Information not available.

Compared with the total number of deaths, suicides in the Australasian colonies during the last twenty years (1873-92) show the following proportion per 100,000 :—

Colony.	Per 100,000 Deaths.	Per 100,000 Inhabitants.
New South Wales	666	9·9
Victoria	745	11·6
Queensland	899	14·9
South Australia	648	9·0
Western Australia	579	9·4
Tasmania	369	5·8
New Zealand	817	8·9
Australasia	720	10·5

Tasmania, therefore, stands in a more favourable position than any of the other Colonies, and is the only Colony in which the rate is less than in the United Kingdom, where deaths by suicides average only 7 per 100,000 of population. Compared with the rates of some European countries that of Australasia is however, small, for during the years 1885-87 there were no less than 13·0 suicides in Belgium, 15·9 in Austria, 20·5 in France, and 20·8 in Germany per 100,000 inhabitants.

ILLEGITIMACY.

The following figures show the number of births of illegitimate children and the total births for the years 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1892, respectively :—

	1871.		1881.		1891.		1892.	
	Illegiti- mates.	Total Births.	Illegiti- mates.	Total Births.	Illegiti- mates.	Total Births.	Illegiti- mates.	Total Births.
New South Wales...	782	20,143	1,263	28,993	2,115	39,458	2,289	40,041
Victoria	747	27,382	1,382	27,145	2,064	38,505	2,116	37,831
Queensland	156	5,205	345	8,220	684	14,715	752	14,903
South Australia	*	7,082	*	10,708	315	10,737	303	10,544
Western Australia...	*	760	*	1,005	*	1,786	109	1,848
Tasmania.....	*	3,053	*	3,918	185	4,971	236	4,965
New Zealand	*	10,592	534	18,732	638	18,273	593	17,876
	1,685	74,217	3,524	98,721	6,001	128,445	6,398	128,008
Per cent. of Births...	3·19	.....	4·24	.....	4·74	.....	5·0	.....

* Information not available.

Illegitimacy also is increasing upon the whole in Australasia, as shown by the table just given. The ratio, indeed, compared with the total births is still rather better than in England; but while the percentage of illegitimate births has steadily declined during the last fifty years in England, it has advanced in Australasia during the period included in the table. The following are the average annual percentages of illegitimate births to total births, calculated over a series of years for each of the Colonies and the United Kingdom :—

	Illegitimate Births per cent.
New South Wales.....	4·4
Victoria	4·5
Queensland.....	4·3
South Australia.....	2·2
Western Australia	4·2
Tasmania.....	4·2
New Zealand	2·7
England	5·4
Ireland	2·3
Scotland	9·3

DIVORCE.

The question of divorce, which has assumed considerable importance owing to recent legislation on the subject, is one of much interest, the more so because for some years past all the Colonies of Australasia have

offered large facilities for divorce in all cases coming within the law. The prevailing opinion has been that such facilities were calculated to increase divorce to an extent that would prove hurtful to public morals. So far as the experience of these colonies goes, at present the fear would seem to be groundless, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable any definite opinion to be hazarded.

In New South Wales the chief grounds on which divorce was granted, under the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1873, were adultery since marriage on the part of the wife, and adultery with cruelty on the part of the husband. A measure, however, passed through both Houses of the Legislature, and came into force during 1892, which in the main assimilates the law to that of Victoria, where in addition to the grounds mentioned above divorces may be granted on both sides for desertion for over three years, habitual drunkenness, habitual cruelty and neglect, imprisonment for over three years and still in prison on commuted capital sentence, or under penal servitude for seven years, conviction within one year previously of attempt to murder, or assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm, assault or cruel beating, and, in the case of the husband, five years frequent convictions for crime, and habitually leaving wife without support. In the colonies of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, divorces are granted principally for adultery on the part of the wife, and adultery coupled with desertion for over two years on the part of the husband.

The following table shows the number of decrees for dissolution of marriage, and for judicial separation granted in each Colony in quinquennial periods since 1867, as far as it is possible to procure the information :—

Colony.	1867-70.		1871-75.		1876-80.		1881-85.		1886-90.		1891-92.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.
New South Wales .....	...	...	10	...	81	2	98	13	171	29	121	23
Victoria	31	8	33	6	41	2	74	8	124	9	190	1
Queensland .....	...	...	4	1	14	...	5	2	26	3	11	1
South Australia	7	1	22	3	35	2	31	10	23	2	12	...
Western Australia	6	2	...	...	1	1	5	...	8	...	5	...
Tasmania	1	1	9	...	9	...	9	...	15	2	6	1
New Zealand	* ..	* ..	* ..	* ..	* ..	* ..	* ..	* ..	110	5	38	4
Australasia	45	12	78	10	181	7	222	33	477	50	383	30

* Information not available.

Divorce was legalised in New South Wales in 1873, and in Queensland in 1870, so that no figures appear for those colonies in the first quinquennial period. The totals for all except the last two periods are exclusive of New Zealand.

Sufficient data are not to hand to admit of a comparison of divorces and marriages, except on the basis of the number of each in any year. Taking the figures in the foregoing table, the following shows the number of divorces in each province per 10,000 marriages :—

Colony.	1867-70.	1871-75.	1876-80.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-92.
New South Wales .....	...	+11.2	32.0	31.1	51.7	85.7
Victoria	20.9	16.0	16.9	24.4	31.1	115.7
Queensland .....	...	8.0	18.7	6.0	19.0	21.1
South Australia	15.6	33.5	34.6	33.1	24.3	27.0
Western Australia	117.8	...	20.5	44.8	53.5	60.5
Tasmania	7.8	27.4	22.0	18.0	35.4	35.3
New Zealand	*...	*...	*...	*...	63.5	53.8

* Information not available. † 1874 and 1875 only.

In the subjoined table will be found the figures for each of the years 1886-92, from which it will be seen that, taking the colonies as a whole, divorce is decidedly increasing :—

Colony.	1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.		1892.	
	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.	Divorces.	Judicial Separation.
New South Wales	32	4	25	3	28	5	44	8	42	9	50	17	71	6
Victoria	16	..	18	5	28	1	22	3	40	..	99	..	91	1
Queensland	1	..	..	1	6	..	11	..	8	2	5	1	6	..
South Australia	10	1	3	1	2	..	6	..	2	..	5	..	7	..
Western Australia	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	1	..
Tasmania	6	1	..	..	4	..	3	1	2	..	3	..	3	1
New Zealand	24	..	16	1	32	..	17	1	21	3	20	3	18	1
Australasia	91	6	62	11	102	6	104	13	118	14	186	21	197	9
Totals	97		73		108		117		132		207		206	
Number of marriages	25,079		25,067		27,000		26,810		27,525		27,663		26,051	
Divorces and separations per 10,000 marriages	38.7		29.1		40.0		43.6		48.0		74.8		79.1	

The proportion of divorces to 10,000 marriages is much higher in the colonies than in the United Kingdom ; but, at the same time, very much lower than in most of the other European countries or the United States, as will be seen by the following statement :—

Country.	Divorces per 10,000 Marriages.	Country.	Divorces per 10,000 Marriages.
Ireland	2	Hungary	64
Austria	10	Belgium	69
Canada	12	Sweden	73
United Kingdom	18	Holland	91
England	19	Roumania.....	106
Russia	22	France	127
Italy.....	24	Germany	152
Scotland	29	Denmark	406
Norway	30	United States	444
Poland	55	Switzerland	468

INSANITY.

The number of insane persons under official cognizance throughout Australasia on the 31st December, 1892, was 11,750. This represents 2·9 per 1,000 of the population. The rates in the United Kingdom for the last recorded period were—England, 3·0; Scotland, 3·1; and Ireland, 3·5. The amount of insanity in Australasia and in England, compared with their respective populations, is, therefore, about the same, though there appears to be a tendency in the latter country for the rate to increase. The ratios, both in Scotland and Ireland, are higher than in the rest of Great Britain or in Australasia. The following table shows the proportion of lunacy in each of the Colonies at the end of 1892, from which it will appear that the greatest proportion is to be found in Victoria, and the smallest in Tasmania, Western Australia, and South Australia :—

	Insane persons per 1,000 of population.
New South Wales	2·7
Victoria	3·4
Queensland	3·0
South Australia	2·4
Western Australia.....	2·3
Tasmania	2·3
New Zealand	3·0
Australasia	2·9

The following figures are given by Mulhall for a series of years, in most cases from 1884 to 1888; they show the number of insane per 1,000 inhabitants in various countries :—

Country.	Number of Insane.	Country.	Number of Insane.
Ireland	3·7	Austria	2·0
United States	3·3	Canada	1·8
England	3·2	Italy	1·7
Scotland	3·2	Belgium and Holland.....	1·2
Scandinavia	2·9	Russia	1·1
France	2·5	Switzerland	1·1
Germany.....	2·4	Spain and Portugal.....	0·7

AGRICULTURE.

AUSTRALASIA may, as a whole, be considered as in the first phase of agricultural settlement, indeed several colonies have not yet emerged from the pastoral stage. Nevertheless, the value of agricultural produce, estimated at farm prices, is considerable, and amounts to about two-thirds the value of the pastoral produce. The return from agriculture in each colony for the season 1892-93 was, approximately :—

	Total value of Crops.	Average value of produce per acre under Crop.	Percentage of value to total value of Australasia.
	£	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	3,961,367	3 18 5	18·4
Victoria	6,665,955	2 19 6	31·0
Queensland	1,412,860	5 14 1	6·6
South Australia	3,327,286	1 12 8	15·4
Western Australia	278,140	3 9 11	1·3
Tasmania	1,032,620	5 15 1	4·8
New Zealand	4,837,079	3 9 8	22·5
Australasia	21,515,307	2 19 11	100·0

From this estimate it would seem that the value of crops, per acre cultivated, is much larger in Queensland and Tasmania than in the other colonies, which, in the case of Queensland, is due to the proportionately large area under sugar-cane, while in Tasmania the area devoted to fruit and hops, and the higher returns of cereals, account for the average per acre which the province shows. In point of gross value Victoria occupies a position much in advance of the other members of the group, the produce of that province having a value little short of one-third of that of all Australasia. The value of the principal crops,

and the percentage of each to the total production, are given in the following statement :—

Name of Crop.	Value.	Percentage to Total.
	£	
Wheat	6,273,455	29·2
Maize.....	1,312,747	6·1
Barley	311,839	1·4
Oats	1,472,237	6·8
Other grain crops	35,210	0·2
Pease, beans, &c.....	195,646	0·9
Hay	4,778,286	22·2
Potatoes	1,244,070	5·8
Other root-crops	1,103,362	5·1
Sugar-cane	493,537	2·3
Tobacco.....	22,114	0·1
Grapes for wine, table, and other purposes	571,479	2·7
Green forage.....	595,557	2·8
Grass seed.....	157,238	0·7
Hops	72,451	0·3
Orchards and market-gardens	2,636,484	12·3
Other crops	234,595	1·1
Total	21,515,307	100·0

The average value of agricultural produce per head of the population in each of the Australasian Colonies during the season 1892-3 is represented by the figures below, which also illustrate the fact that in the colonies of South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Victoria the development of agricultural resources is attracting the attention of the colonists to a greater extent than is the case in the other provinces of Australasia.

Colony.	Average value per head of population.
	£ s. d.
New South Wales	3 6 2
Victoria	5 14 2
Queensland	3 7 1
South Australia	9 17 9
Western Australia	4 14 10
Tasmania	6 14 10
New Zealand.....	7 8 9
Australasia	5 8 0

The value of the agricultural production of the Australasian Colonies in the years 1871, 1881, and 1891 will be found in the following table, which shows that, although the total value of the production is now just twice that of 1871, the value per inhabitant is rather smaller than it

was twenty years ago, and that all the progress the Colonies have made in agriculture falls into the period from 1871 to 1881 :—

Colony.	1871	1881.	1891.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,220,000	3,830,000	3,584,500
Victoria	3,300,000	5,894,000	7,009,100
Queensland	650,000	1,283,000	1,414,000
South Australia	1,789,000	3,283,000	3,045,000
Western Australia	258,000	248,000	380,900
Tasmania	724,000	981,000	1,046,300
New Zealand	1,955,000	4,650,000	5,518,000
Australasia	10,896,000	20,169,000	21,998,000
Per inhabitant	£ s. d. 5 12 8	£ s. d. 7 5 3	£ s. d. 5 14 6

Compared with the principal countries of the world, Australasia does not take a high position in regard to the gross value of the produce of its tillage, but in value per inhabitant it compares fairly well; indeed, some of the Colonies, such as South Australia and New Zealand, show an average equalling that of Denmark and France. The following figures, designed to illustrate this, are taken from various places in Mulhall's latest issue of the *Dictionary of Statistics* :—

Countries.	Value.	Per head.	Countries.	Value.	Per head.
	Million	£		Million	£
United Kingdom	141	3·3	Holland	20	4·3
France	322	8·3	Belgium	41	6·7
Germany	262	5·4	Switzerland	9	3·0
Russia	373	4·0	United States	467	7·5
Austria	225	5·6	Canada	35	7·0
Italy	153	5·0	Cape Colony	2	1·3
Spain	126	7·1	Argentina	18	5·8
Portugal	23	4·9	Uruguay	2	3·3
Sweden	31	6·5			
Norway	9	4·5			
Denmark	20	9·5	Australasia (1892) ...	22	5·4

The following figures, giving the areas under the principal grain and other crops, and the total extent of land under cultivation in each of the Colonies at different epochs since the year 1861, will serve to illustrate the progress agriculture has made. In this table, as well as throughout the whole of the chapter, the years 1861, '71, '81, '91, and '92 embrace the periods from 1st April in those years to the 31st March in the following year.

AREA UNDER CROP

AUSTRALASIA

7,185,849

Vic. 2,241,634 ac.

S.A. 2,037,653 "

N.Z. 1,389,105 "

N.S.W. 1,010,727 "

Qld. 247,731 "

Tas. 179,396 "

W.A. 79,603 "

1892

AUSTRALASIA

5,551,513 ac.

S.A. 2,156,407 ac.

Vic. 1,435,446 "

N.Z. 1,070,906 "

N.S.W. 569,243 "

Tas. 148,494 "

Qld. 117,664 "

W.A. 53,353 "

1881

AUSTRALASIA

2,686,518 ac.

Vic. 851,354 ac.

S.A. 837,730 "

N.S.W. 393,413 "

N.Z. 337,282 "

Tas. 155,046 "

Qld. 59,969 "

W.A. 51,724 "

1871

AUSTRALASIA

1,368,076 ac.

Vic. 410,406 ac.

S.A. 400,717 "

N.S.W. 295,917 "

Tas. 163,385 "

N.Z. 68,506 "

W.A. 24,705 "

Qld. 4,440 "

1861

Colony.	Year.	Area under—								Total Area under Crops.	Land under Permanent Artificial Grasses.
		For Grain.				Potatoes.	Vines.	Hay.	Other Crops.		
		Wheat.	Oats.	Maize.	Barley.						
		acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales ...	1861	123,468	7,224	57,959	2,924	10,040	1,692	45,175	47,435	295,917	1,658
	1871	154,030	13,795	119,956	3,461	14,770	6,618	51,805	28,978	393,413	24,388
	1881	221,888	16,348	117,478	6,427	15,943	6,624	146,610	37,925	569,243	75,825
	1891	356,666	12,958	174,577	4,459	22,560	8,281	163,863	103,019	846,383	333,238
	1892	452,921	20,890	167,549	4,618	18,502	8,264	214,468	123,515	1,010,727	361,280
Victoria.....	1861	196,922	91,061	1,714	3,419	27,174	1,464	74,681	13,971	410,406	12,654
	1871	334,609	175,944	1,709	16,772	39,064	5,523	103,206	174,527	851,354	6,282
	1881	926,729	146,995	1,783	48,652	39,129	4,923	212,150	55,085	1,435,446	241,947
	1891	1,332,683	190,157	8,230	45,021	57,334	24,483	369,498	89,248	2,116,654	174,982
	1892	1,342,504	177,645	6,667	37,533	40,594	26,443	512,648	97,600	2,241,634	233,114
Queensland ..	1861	392	69	1,914	13	512	40	280	1,220	4,440	.....
	1871	3,024	131	20,329	971	3,121	568	3,828	27,997	59,969	838
	1881	10,958	88	46,480	256	5,086	1,212	16,926	36,658	117,664	8,565
	1891	19,306	715	101,598	739	9,173	1,988	30,655	78,455	242,629	20,921
	1892	31,742	591	92,172	385	11,457	1,908	25,665	83,811	247,731	22,486
South Australia..	1861	310,636	1,638	18	10,637	2,612	3,918	62,874	8,384	400,717	838
	1871	692,508	3,586	.....	17,225	3,156	5,455	97,812	17,988	837,730	5,213
	1881	1,768,781	3,023	.....	11,953	6,136	4,202	333,467	28,845	2,156,407	16,438
	1891	1,552,423	12,637	.....	11,461	6,892	12,314	304,171	27,791	1,927,689	17,519
	1892	1,520,580	15,745	.....	13,285	6,014	15,418	434,116	32,495	2,037,653	20,210

Colony.	Year.	Area under—								Total Area under Crops.	Land under Permanent Artificial Grasses.
		For Grain.				Potatoes.	Vines.	Hay.	Other Crops.		
		Wheat.	Oats.	Maize.	Barley.						
Western Australia		acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
	1861	13,584	507	73	2,412	277	457	6,676	719	24,705	.....
	1871	25,697	1,474	113	5,083	494	692	.....	18,171	51,724	.....
	1881	21,951	827	36	3,679	278	527	24,445	1,610	53,353	.....
	1891	26,866	1,301	23	3,738	532	1,004	28,534	2,211	64,209	.....
1892	35,061	1,694	33	3,666	528	1,218	35,124	2,279	79,603	.....
Tasmania	1861	58,823	29,022	.....	7,279	9,349	.....	31,803	27,109	163,385	.....
	1871	63,332	29,631	.....	4,275	8,154	....	31,578	18,076	155,046	90,247
	1881	51,757	27,535	.....	4,597	9,670	.....	34,790	20,145	148,494	136,321
	1891	47,584	28,360	.....	2,650	16,393	.....	45,445	27,689	168,121	208,596
	1892	58,897	22,976	.....	3,929	16,535	.....	46,070	30,989	179,396	217,905
New Zealand	1861	29,531	15,872	770	3,457	7,292	.....	.....	11,584	68,506	157,994
	1871	108,720	139,185	.....	13,305	11,933	.....	30,717	33,422	337,282	792,529
	1881	365,715	243,387	3,177	29,808	22,540	.....	68,423	337,856	1,070,906	3,369,646
	1891	402,273	323,508	5,447	24,268	27,266	.....	46,652	595,363	1,424,777	7,357,229
	1892	381,245	326,531	4,491	24,906	18,338	.....	61,811	571,783	1,389,105	8,200,234
Australasia ..	1861	733,356	145,393	62,448	30,141	57,256	7,571	221,489	110,422	1,368,076	173,144
	1871	1,381,920	363,746	142,107	61,092	80,692	18,856	318,946	319,159	2,686,518	929,497
	1881	3,367,779	438,203	168,954	105,372	98,782	17,488	836,811	518,124	5,551,513	4,348,742
	1891	3,737,801	569,636	289,875	92,336	140,150	48,070	988,818	923,776	6,790,462	8,112,485
	1892	3,822,950	566,072	270,912	88,322	111,968	53,251	1,329,902	942,472	7,185,849	9,055,229

The following table indicates the increase in area and the proportional yearly increase of cultivation in each colony during the period of 31 years under review :—

Colony.	Increase in acreage from 1861 to 1892.	Rates of increase in acreage per annum.
	acres.	per cent.
New South Wales	714,810	4·0
Victoria	1,831,228	5·6
Queensland	243,291	13·9
South Australia	1,636,936	5·4
Western Australia	54,898	3·8
Tasmania	16,011	0·3
New Zealand	1,320,599	10·2
Australasia	5,817,773	5·6

Thus, although the provinces of Victoria, South Australia, New Zealand, and New South Wales have during this period provided the largest increase in the area of land cultivated, Queensland shows a much greater proportional increase, whilst agriculture in Tasmania has remained almost stationary. Considering the Colonies as a whole, it will be seen that the area under crop in Australasia is now than more five times as large as it was in 1861. If, however, the land artificially grassed be included, as is done sometimes, though incorrectly, the total is 16,241,078 acres, or more than ten and a half times the area under cultivation in 1861. A comparison with the increase of population may perhaps best serve to give an idea of the progress of agriculture. The following table gives the acreage under crop per inhabitant :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales.....	0·8	0·8	0·7	0·7	0·8
Victoria	0·8	1·1	1·7	1·8	1·9
Queensland.....	0·1	0·5	0·5	0·6	0·6
South Australia.....	3·2	4·5	7·5	5·9	6·1
Western Australia	1·6	2·0	1·8	1·2	1·4
Tasmania	1·8	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·2
New Zealand	0·7	1·3	2·1	2·2	2·1
Australasia.....	1·1	1·4	2·0	1·7	1·8

The increase of agriculture, for the whole of Australasia, as compared with that of population, will be clearly seen in the following table, which shows their relative growth for each period :—

	1861-71.	1871-81.	1881-91.	1891-92.	Whole period 1861-1892.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Increase of acreage under crop	96·4	106·6	22·3	5·8	425·3
Increase of population	55·6	43·2	38·1	2·2	214·8

During the period covered by the table the population of Australasia was more than trebled, but the breadth of land devoted to agriculture increased more than fivefold, so that the rate of increase of agriculture was almost twice that of the population. This improvement took place entirely during the period from 1861 to 1881, and chiefly during the latter portion of that time; while in the years from 1881 to 1892 the rate of increase in the acreage under crops fell far short of the increase of the population, although from 1891 to 1892 the opposite occurred. This is what naturally might be expected, as the gold fever had altogether subsided about the end of the first period, 1861-71, and a large portion of the population was seeking employment of a more settled nature than was afforded by the gold-fields. The comparative decrease noticeable in the latter period, 1881-91, is owing to various causes, such as the general tendency, elsewhere alluded to, of the population to congregate in the several metropolitan centres; the difficulty of taking up good land within easy access to markets; and also to the fact that there have been large accessions to the numbers of those engaged in other callings, without a corresponding increase in the agricultural classes. Under any circumstances the area of land devoted to agriculture cannot be increased illimitably, and although enormous tracts of land adapted for tillage still remain untouched by the plough, it is not likely their cultivation will be attempted until a more certain market is assured for the produce.

As will be seen on reference to a subsequent chapter dealing with "Employment and Production," the total number of persons engaged in agricultural pursuits in the Australasian colonies at the time of the Census of 1891 was 310,642, of whom 286,272 were males, and 24,370 females.

In the following table will be found the proportion of land under crop in each colony to the total area, and the same with regard to Australasia as a whole. In instituting comparisons between the several colonies, however, it must be borne in mind that other circumstances than the mere area under cultivation require to be taken into consideration. It would not be fair, for instance, to compare Tasmania, with 5·6 persons per square mile, to Western Australia, which has only 0·05 inhabitant to the square mile. The table has a value chiefly

because it shows how each province has progressed in regard to cultivation during the periods named :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	0·15	0·20	0·29	0·44	0·51
Victoria	0·73	1·51	2·55	3·76	3·99
Queensland	0·001	0·01	0·03	0·06	0·06
South Australia.....	0·07	0·15	0·37	0·33	0·35
Western Australia	0·004	0·008	0·009	0·01	0·01
Tasmania	0·97	0·92	0·88	0·99	1·07
New Zealand.....	0·10	0·50	1·60	2·13	2·08
Australasia.....	0·07	0·13	0·27	0·34	0·36

The subjoined table shows the proportion of cultivated area devoted to the principal crops in each province, as well as in the whole taken together. It will be seen that with two exceptions wheat and hay form the greater proportion of their tillage. This is especially the case in regard to South Australia, where little else is grown; and in Victoria the proportion of wheat amounts to 60 per cent. of the total area cultivated, while there is almost 23 per cent. under hay crops.

[illegible]

The relative position of each of the principal agricultural products, in proportion to the total area under crop in Australasia since the year 1861, may be ascertained from the following table. The figures should, however, be used with the table on page 185, which gives the actual areas operated upon, since a decline in the proportion of land under any particular form of cultivation does not necessarily mean a falling off in the area devoted to it; on the contrary, in few instances has there been any actual retrogression. It will be satisfactory to observe that the proportion of cultivation of the more valuable crops is gradually increasing. Thus, in 1892, the percentage devoted to vines, sugar-cane, and "other crops," under which are included gardens and orchards, was 13·8, as against 12·9 in 1891, 9·6 in 1881, and 8·6 in 1861.

Product.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Wheat	53·6	51·4	60·7	55·0	53·2
Oats	10·6	13·5	7·9	8·4	7·9
Maize	4·6	5·3	3·0	4·3	3·8
Barley	2·2	2·3	1·9	1·4	1·2
Potatoes	4·2	3·0	1·8	2·0	1·6
Hay	16·2	11·9	15·1	16·0	18·5
Vines	0·5	0·7	0·3	0·7	0·7
Sugar-cane .....	.....	0·5	0·7	1·1	1·1
Other crops	8·1	11·4	8·6	11·1	12·0
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

WHEAT.

Only three of the seven Colonies of Australasia—Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand—produce sufficient wheat for their own requirements; but after the deficiencies of the rest of Australasia are supplied by them, there is, in most seasons, a large balance for export, which finds a ready market in Great Britain, where Australian wheat is well and favourably known.

The amount of wheat and flour exported, expressed in terms of wheat, the produce of each of these colonies, to countries outside Australasia, during 1892, was 7,849,019 bushels, valued at £1,284,721, of which 6,068,859 bushels, or over 77 per cent., were despatched to Great Britain.

As far as the figures for 1893 are available, they show that New South Wales exported wheat of the value of £216, and flour, £13,358—total, £13,574; Victoria, wheat, £717,087, flour, £330,470—total, £1,047,557; South Australia, wheat, £732,218, flour, £331,542—total, £1,063,760.

The subjoined table shows the progress of wheat-growing for 32 years :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	123,468	154,030	221,888	356,666	452,921
Victoria	196,922	334,609	926,729	1,332,683	1,342,504
Queensland	392	3,024	10,958	19,306	31,742
South Australia	310,636	692,508	1,768,781	1,552,423	1,520,580
Western Australia	13,584	25,697	21,951	26,866	35,061
Tasmania	58,923	63,332	51,757	47,584	58,897
New Zealand	29,531	108,720	365,715	402,273	381,245
Australasia	733,356	1,381,920	3,367,779	3,737,801	3,822,950

The production during the same period was :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	1,606,034	2,229,642	3,405,966	3,963,668	6,817,457
Victoria	3,607,727	4,500,795	8,714,377	13,629,370	14,814,645
Queensland	5,880	36,288	39,612	392,309	462,583
South Australia	3,410,756	3,967,079	8,087,032	6,436,488	9,240,108
Western Australia	160,155	345,368	153,657	288,810	429,497
Tasmania	1,380,913	847,962	977,365	930,841	1,018,550
New Zealand	772,531	2,448,203	8,297,890	10,257,738	8,378,217
Australasia	10,943,996	14,375,337	29,675,899	35,899,224	41,161,057

The production of wheat per acre during 1892-3 varied from 6·1 bushels in South Australia to 22·0 bushels in New Zealand, the average for the whole of Australasia being 10·8 bushels. In the following statement is given the average yield for each province during the 10 years which closed with 1892 :—

Colony.	Average for the ten years, 1883-92.
	bushels.
New South Wales	12·2
Victoria	10·4
Queensland	13·4
South Australia	7·1
Western Australia	12·2
Tasmania	18·0
New Zealand	24·3
Australasia	10·3

A yield of 10 bushels per acre is certainly small compared with the average obtained in European countries, but a bare statement of averages may mislead. Thus, in South Australia it is found that, owing to favourable conditions of culture, a yield of 7 bushels is financially as satisfactory a crop as one of 15 bushels in New South Wales, or 20 bushels in New Zealand. These averages, however, are susceptible of being much increased if cultivation of a more scientific character were to be adopted in the Colonies. As a rule, the seed is simply put into the ground, and little is done to assist the natural growth of the crops.

The proportion of wheat produced by each province, compared with the total Australasian production in 1881, 1891, and 1892, is exemplified in the following figures :—

Colony.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	11·5	11·0	16·6
Victoria	29·4	38·0	36·0
Queensland	0·1	1·1	1·1
South Australia	27·2	17·9	22·4
Western Australia.....	0·5	0·8	1·0
Tasmania	3·3	2·6	2·5
New Zealand	28·0	28·6	20·4
Australasia	100·0	100·0	100·0

Victoria takes the lead among the seven colonies with regard to the production of wheat, having to its credit 36·0 per cent. of the total yield ; South Australia comes next with 22·4 per cent. of the total production ; and New Zealand, though in 1881 it provided 28·0 per cent., and in 1891, 28·6 per cent., of the wheat grown in Australasia, shows a decline in the percentage to 20·4 ; while New South Wales, which was about stationary from 1881 to 1891, increased to 16·6 per cent. in 1892. Tasmania, in 1881, produced wheat to the extent of 3·3 of the total Australasian production, and was able to export a trifling quantity, but in 1892 that colony only produced 2·5 per cent., and had to import wheat and flour to the amount of 175,106 bushels.

Compared with most European countries, and with North America, the yield of wheat in Australasia is inconsiderable, both in regard to the total quantity obtained and the produce per acre. Thus, in the United Kingdom the average yield for the three years 1890-92 was 29·5. In the United States the average was 13·3 bushels ; the average for Manitoba during the same time was 20·6 bushels, and for Ontario 19·4 bushels, as against the Australasian yield of 9·9 bushels. With regard to other European countries, the averages for period 1890-92

are—Germany, 21·3 bushels; France, 17·3 bushels; Hungary, 18·6 bushels; Austria, 15·7 bushels; Roumania, 13·7 bushels; Italy, 11·3 bushels; and Russia (excluding Poland), 7·4 bushels.

The following table shows the net imports or exports of wheat and flour of each of the colonies during 1892, flour being stated in terms of wheat, on the assumption of 1 ton of flour being equal to 48 bushels:—

Colony.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	3,112,468	5,707,060
Victoria		
Queensland	2,005,323	3,923,012
South Australia		
Western Australia	324,626	
Tasmania	175,106	
New Zealand		2,678,975
Net exports		6,786,524

According to a statement made under the authority of the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A., Australasia ranks fifth on the list of the wheat-exporting countries. Nevertheless, the present contribution to the markets of Europe does not amount to more than one-twentieth of the demand, so that these Colonies cannot be said to form, as yet, a factor of any consequence in the wheat trade of the world.

The figures contained in the statement herewith represent for the most part an average for several years:—

Importing Countries.	Net Imports.	Exporting Countries.	Net Exports.
	bushels.		bushels.
Belgium.....	19,170,059	Austria-Hungary	5,846,800
France	37,426,407	Bulgaria	5,690,996
Germany	18,767,319	Roumania	19,200,979
Greece	8,975,790	Russia	83,170,011
Italy	19,931,234	Servia	2,236,912
Norway and Sweden	1,909,362	India	30,946,842
Netherlands	8,591,639	United States.....	83,343,864
Portugal	3,663,852	Argentine Republic	3,747,733
Spain	6,111,449	Canada	2,416,821
Switzerland	10,867,766	Chili	3,924,346
United Kingdom.....	105,527,648	Australasia.....	9,197,913
Total	240,942,525	Total	249,723,217

The following table shows the average annual yield and consumption of each colony for the ten years ending with 1892, with the surplus or deficiency in each case :—

Colony.	Yield, less required for Seed.	Consumption.	Surplus available for Export.	Deficiency Imported.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	3,918,000	6,849,000	.....	2,931,000
Victoria	10,440,000	6,387,000	4,053,000	.....
Queensland	148,000	2,107,000	.....	1,959,000
South Australia	10,431,000	2,735,000	7,696,000	.....
Western Australia	322,000	491,000	.....	169,000
Tasmania	681,000	883,000	.....	202,000
New Zealand	7,354,000	4,644,000	2,710,000	.....
Australasia	33,294,000	24,096,000	9,198,000	.....

The acreage under wheat in 1892 in the various Colonies is compared below with that of 1881 :—

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tas- mania.	New Zealand.	Austra- lasia.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
1892	452,921	1,342,504	31,742	1,520,580	35,061	58,897	381,245	3,822,950
1881	221,888	926,729	10,958	1,768,781	21,951	51,757	365,715	3,367,779
Increase ..	231,033	415,775	20,784	*248,201	13,110	7,140	15,530	455,171

* Decrease.

From the above table it will be found that the extension of this cultivation has not been uniform, for, while South Australia has decreased her acreage, there has been a tendency in the other provinces to increase the area devoted to this cereal. Taking Australasia as a whole, however, the area under wheat in 1892 was only 455,171 acres in excess of that of 1881, notwithstanding that in Victoria and New South Wales 646,808 acres were added to the breadth of land previously under this grain crop. As already pointed out, the greater portion of the area devoted to

agriculture is laid under wheat, and in an ordinary season the produce of 900,000 acres is available for export to Europe. Whether the extension of wheat-growing for export, after supplying local demands, will be profitable is for the present a matter determined by the prices obtained in the London markets. But as far as present indications can be followed, it is hardly possible that any large expansion of this industry can be expected, unless perhaps in New South Wales, the only colony of importance which, though adapted for wheat-growing, produces less than the requirements of its population. During the season 1893-94 the area under wheat had increased to 593,810 acres in New South Wales and to 1,456,647 acres in Victoria, while the area in New Zealand had decreased to 242,737 acres, or by 36·3 per cent., as compared with the preceding year.

In the subjoined table is given the value of the yield per acre for three of the colonies estimated on the market rates ruling in February and March of each year. It will be seen that a considerable decline has taken place since 1883, due for the most part to the fall in prices rather than to any decrease of production.

In regard to the value per acre the fall has been most marked in New South Wales :—

Year. ending March.	Average.					
	Yield in Bushels per acre.			Value of Yield per acre.		
	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1883	16·3	9·0	4·2	4 4 3	2 2 9	1 1 6
1884	15·0	14·1	7·8	3 3 9	2 11 8	1 11 3
1885	15·5	9·5	7·5	2 18 2	1 11 8	1 5 4
1886	10·4	9·0	*	2 5 1	1 14 6	*
1887	17·4	11·5	*	3 8 2	2 3 2	*
1888	12·1	10·8	*	2 2 10	1 16 0	*
1889	4·8	7·1	*	1 2 10	1 12 6	*
1890	15·6	9·7	7·8	2 14 7	1 15 7	1 8 0
1891	10·9	11·1	5·6	2 0 10	1 19 9	0 19 7
1892	11·1	10·3	4·3	2 2 6	2 2 3	0 17 11
1893	15·1	11·0	6·1	2 5 2	1 14 0	0 19 3

* No returns.

The United Kingdom is the largest importer of wheat, and the British demand largely influences the price throughout the world. The average rate per bushel in London for the season extending from September 1, 1892, to August 31, 1893, was 3s. 4d. In the latter months of 1893 the price of wheat ranged from 3s. 2d. to 3s. 6d. per bushel. The prices at the beginning of 1894 showed a further downward tendency, the price at the beginning of March being 3s. 0½d.; so the Australian wheat crop of 1893-4, plentiful as it is, may not represent a total value much in advance of that realised in the season of 1892-3, which is shown below :—

Colony.	Value.
	£
New South Wales	1,022,620
Victoria	2,283,924
Queensland	87,706
South Australia	1,463,017
Western Australia	68,004
Tasmania	161,270
New Zealand	1,186,914
Australasia	6,273,455

So far as the returns for the season 1893-4 are to hand, they were as follows :—The wheat crop in New South Wales, 6,502,715 bushels; in Victoria, 15,045,520 bushels; in Tasmania, 833,771 bushels; and in New Zealand, 4,891,695 bushels.

The average London prices during the last decennial period were the following, the years extending from September 1 to August 31 :—

Year.	Price per bushel.	Year.	Price per bushel.
	s. d.		s. d.
1884-5	4 1½	1889-90	3 10½
1885-6	3 9½	1890- 1	4 5½
1886-7	4 1½	1891- 2	4 2
1887-8	3 10½	1892- 3	3 4
1888-9	3 10		

The importance of Australasia as a producer of wheat is but small when compared with the great wheat-producing centres of the world. Out of 2,313,161,000 bushels produced in 1893, only 41,161,000 bushels, or 1·8 per cent., were of Australasian growth. The subjoined statement, based on the returns of the United States Department of Agriculture,

except as regards Australasia, gives the approximate crop of the world for the year 1893 :—

Countries.	Bushels.	Countries.	Bushels.
Europe—		Africa—	
Austria-Hungary	203,450,000	Algeria	18,415,000
Belgium	16,961,000	Cape Colony.....	3,890,000
Bulgaria	26,111,000	Egypt	9,692,000
Denmark.....	4,846,000	Tunis.....	2,423,000
France.....	269,299,000		
Germany.....	116,060,000	Total	34,420,000
Greece.....	6,300,000		
Italy	116,008,000	America—	
Netherlands	5,331,090	Argentine Republic..	55,002,000
Portugal	4,846,000	Canada	40,074,000
Roumania	57,753,000	Chili	18,609,000
Russia	390,637,000	Mexico	9,692,000
Servia	5,815,000	United States	383,931,000
Spain	83,351,000	Uruguay	5,519,000
Sweden and Norway..	4,270,000		
Switzerland	2,423,000	Total	512,827,000
Turkey in Europe.....	23,261,000		
United Kingdom	50,850,000	Australasia—	
Total	1,387,572,000	New South Wales ...	6,817,000
		Victoria	14,815,000
Asia—		Queensland	463,000
Cyprus	1,938,000	South Australia	9,240,000
India	258,676,000	Western Australia ...	429,000
Japan	14,538,000	Tasmania	1,019,000
Persia	18,415,000	New Zealand	8,378,000
Turkey in Asia	43,614,000		
Total	337,181,000	Total	41,161,000
		Grand Total.....	2,313,161,000

The following figures show that the average consumption for Australasia is higher than that of any other part of the world for which records are available, with the exception of France :—

	Consumption per Head. (Bushels.)
United Kingdom.....	5·9
France	8·1
Germany	3·0
Russia	2·1
Austria	2·9
Italy	5·4
Spain and Portugal.....	6·4
Belgium and Holland.....	5·0
Scandinavia	1·4
Turkey	6·1
United States	5·0
Canada	6·5
Australasia	6·5

That of the Australasian Colonies will be found below :—

New South Wales	6·5
Victoria.....	6·0
Queensland	6·1
South Australia	6·5
Western Australia	9·3
Tasmania	6·7
New Zealand	7·5

The figures for Western Australia may appear abnormal, but are the result of a careful computation from the official returns for the last seven years.

OATS.

The cultivation of oats, coming next in importance to wheat as a grain crop, is increasing, as the following figures show :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales.....	7,224	13,795	16,348	12,958	20,890
Victoria	91,061	175,944	146,995	190,157	177,645
Queensland	69	131	88	715	591
South Australia	1,638	3,586	3,023	12,637	15,745
Western Australia	507	1,474	827	1,301	1,694
Tasmania	29,022	29,631	27,535	28,360	22,976
New Zealand.....	15,872	139,185	243,387	323,508	326,531
Australasia.....	145,393	363,746	438,203	569,636	566,072

The production for the same periods was as follows :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales ...	152,426	280,887	356,566	276,259	466,603
Victoria	2,136,430	3,299,889	3,612,111	4,412,730	4,574,816
Queensland .....	.....	.....	1,121	16,669	12,965
South Australia	33,160	38,894	32,219	80,876	166,489
Western Australia...	8,162	28,330	8,270	18,539	29,645
Tasmania	751,475	593,477	783,129	873,173	631,746
New Zealand	512,665	3,726,810	6,924,848	11,009,020	9,893,989
Australasia	3,594,318	7,968,287	11,718,264	16,687,266	15,776,253

The average yield per acre in each province for the ten years which closed with 1892 was:—

Colony.	Bushels
New South Wales	21·6
Victoria	22·5
Queensland	17·8
South Australia	11·0
Western Australia	17·7
Tasmania	27·1
New Zealand	31·3
Australasia	27·5

The average yield of oats for the group was therefore 27·5 bushels per acre, New Zealand, with its high average yield, furnishing during 1892 nearly 63 per cent. of the total production. The cultivation of this cereal is comparatively neglected in New South Wales; in Victoria, however, it is next in importance to wheat, whilst in Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, the yield being small and the climate ill-adapted, oats count for very little in the total grain production.

The average yield of oats in the United Kingdom for the years 1890–92 was 29·7 bushels; the average for the United States was 24·3 bushels; for Ontario, 34·5 bushels; for Manitoba, 41·1 bushels; France, 26·7 bushels; Hungary, 23·6 bushels; Austria, 22·7 bushels; Germany, 27·7 bushels; Russia in Europe, 14·5 bushels; while the Australasian average was 27·5 bushels.

The total value of the oats crop and the return per acre in each of the Australasian Colonies for the season 1892–3 will be found below:—

Colony.	Value.	Value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	46,660	2 4 7
Victoria	400,296	2 5 1
Queensland	2,047	3 9 3
South Australia	24,973	1 11 9
Western Australia	4,447	2 12 6
Tasmania	86,865	3 15 7
New Zealand	906,949	2 15 7
Australasia	1,472,237	2 12 0

The net import or export of oats for each of the Colonies is given below. New Zealand was the only province which exported to any considerable extent; 2,136,536 bushels, or more than one half of her export, were forwarded to the United Kingdom:—

Colony.	Oats.	
	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	1,324,276	.....
Victoria.....	26,318	.....
Queensland	114,071	.....
South Australia	65,508	.....
Western Australia	227,244	.....
Tasmania .....	.....	247,453
New Zealand .....	.....	3,830,334
Net Exports.....	.....	2,320,370

According to a carefully-compiled estimate of the average production of oats throughout the world, recently issued by the United States Agricultural Department, the commercial supply of this grain is represented by the following condensed results:—

	Bushels.
Europe (official estimates)	1,592,114,138
„ (unofficial estimates)	34,050,000
United States	594,961,401
Australasia.....	15,776,253
Canada	117,772,147
Total	2,354,673,939

MAIZE.

Maize is the principal crop grown in Queensland, and is one of the most important products of New South Wales; in the other colonies the climate is little adapted to its growth, and the cultivation of this cereal extends to little more than 11,000 acres.

The following figures show that fair progress has been made in the cultivation of maize since 1861. The first table shows the area under

maize for grain in four decennial periods, and in 1892 ; the second gives the quantities produced :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	57,959	119,956	117,478	174,577	167,549
Victoria	1,714	1,709	1,783	8,230	6,667
Queensland	1,914	20,329	46,480	101,598	92,172
New Zealand	770	.....	3,177	5,447	4,491
Other Colonies ...	91	113	36	23	33
Australasia ...	62,448	142,107	168,954	289,875	270,912

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	1,727,434	4,015,973	4,330,956	5,721,706	5,037,256
Victoria	20,788	30,833	81,007	461,447	373,183
Queensland	42,100	508,000	1,313,655	3,077,915	2,333,553
New Zealand	31,570	.....	127,257	238,746	171,661
Other Colonies ...	367	2,000	648	483	776
Australasia ...	1,822,259	4,556,806	5,853,523	9,500,297	7,916,429

The following is the average rate of production of each colony, and of the whole group, for the ten years ending with 1892 :—

Colony.	Bushels.
New South Wales	30·6
Victoria.....	49·7
Queensland	24·0
Western Australia	18·5
New Zealand	*41·6
Australasia	29·0

* Last six years only.

The figures for Victoria and New Zealand are worth little, as the land under maize is small in area, and very favourably situated, while Western Australia had but 33 acres under cultivation, producing 776 bushels. The average yield of maize in the United States for the years 1890-92 was 23·7 bushels ; while for Austria the average was 20·3 bushels ; for Hungary, 22·9 bushels ; for France, 18·2 bushels ; for

Italy, 14·3 bushels ; and for Roumania, 13·8 bushels. The Australasian average for the same period was 30·3 bushels. Little good, however, is to be gained by comparing these figures with the Australasian averages, as the acreage devoted to maize in Australasia is too small to make any such comparison useful.

The total value of the maize crop of 1892-3, and the average return per acre of the maize-growing colonies of Australasia, will be found below :—

Colony.	Total value of Crop.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	858,255	5 2 5
Victoria	69,972	10 9 11
Queensland	350,033	3 15 11
New Zealand	34,332	7 12 11
Other Colonies.....	155	4 13 11
Australasia	1,312,747	4 16 11

The high average value of production of maize per acre in Victoria and New Zealand is due to the fact that the area operated upon is small, and the local average prices are relatively higher than in New South Wales and Queensland, where large areas are devoted to the cultivation of this cereal.

The net import or export of maize for each Colony during 1892 was:—

Colony.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	305,623	.....
Victoria .....	.....	98,177
Queensland .....	.....	108,269
South Australia	5,840	.....
Western Australia.....	7,700	.....
Tasmania	1,415	.....
New Zealand .....	.....	96,616
Net imports.....	17,510	.....

New South Wales is the only colony importing maize to any extent from abroad, chiefly from United States and New Caledonia. Australasia practically consumes the whole of its production of maize, and excesses of imports or exports, as the case may be, during any individual year, are of little importance. In this part of the world, however, corn does not enter into consumption as an article of food, as

it does in other countries, and particularly in America, which produces and consumes nearly 80 per cent. of the whole maize crop of the world, as the following figures—compiled on the authority of the Department of Agriculture in the United States—will show :—

	bushels.
Europe (official)	311,820,759
„ (unofficial)	54,196,250
Asia (official)	823,868
Africa „	2,904,979
„ (unofficial)	13,620,000
United States (official)	1,680,696,600
America (unofficial)	229,109,606
Australasia	7,916,429
Various Islands (unofficial)	30,147
Total	2,301,118,638

BARLEY.

Of the cereal productions of Australasia, barley is grown on the smallest acreage. The area and production for each period under review were as follow :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales.....	2,024	3,461	6,427	4,459	4,618
Victoria	3,419	16,772	48,652	45,021	37,533
Queensland.....	13	971	256	739	385
South Australia.....	10,637	17,225	11,953	11,461	13,285
Western Australia	2,412	5,083	3,679	3,738	3,666
Tasmania	7,279	4,275	4,597	2,644	3,929
New Zealand	3,457	13,305	29,808	24,268	24,906
Australasia.....	30,141	61,092	105,372	92,330	88,322

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales.....	41,054	55,284	135,218	93,446	91,701
Victoria	68,118	335,506	927,566	830,741	774,207
Queensland.....	158	11,836	3,207	21,302	6,969
South Australia.....	168,137	164,161	137,165	107,183	175,468
Western Australia	2,412	5,083	36,790	48,594	56,823
Tasmania	169,381	76,812	102,475	71,400	80,205
New Zealand	96,658	287,646	664,093	688,683	654,231
Australasia.....	545,918	936,328	2,006,514	1,861,349	1,839,604

204 IMPORT AND EXPORT OF BARLEY AND MALT.

The average production of barley per acre for each colony is given in the following table for the ten-years period 1883-92.

Colony.	Bushels.
New South Wales	19·2
Victoria	18·8
Queensland	23·7
South Australia	12·9
Western Australia	15·2
Tasmania	23·8
New Zealand	28·3
Australasia	20·7

The trade in barley and malt for each colony in 1892 was:—

Colony.	Barley.		Malt.	
	Net Imports.	Net Exports.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
New South Wales	48,641	.....	359,466	.....
Victoria .. .....	.....	61,024	.....	136,817
Queensland	2,627	.....	55,477	.....
South Australia	67,608	.....	42,169	.....
Western Australia	14,461	.....	6,853	.....
Tasmania .....	.....	6,568	1,153	.....
New Zealand .....	.....	43,560	.....	88,339
	22,185	.....	239,912	.....

Barley is not cultivated to the extent it deserves. In fruitful seasons, Australasia produces sufficient barley, exclusive of that required for malt, for home requirements, and a small surplus for export; but if the combined trade in barley and malt be considered, all the colonies, with the exception of Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand, are dependent upon external sources. The high import duties in Victoria on both these articles practically prohibit importations.

The total value of the barley crop and the average return of this cereal per acre during the season 1892-3 in each of the provinces of Australasia will be found below :—

Colony.	Total value of Barley Crop.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	11,460	2 9 8
Victoria	127,456	2 7 11
Queensland	374	0 19 5
South Australia	26,320	1 19 8
Western Australia	8,523	2 6 6
Tasmania	15,038	3 16 7
New Zealand.....	122,668	4 18 6
Australasia	311,839	3 10 7

POTATOES.

The cultivation of the potato is not confined to any particular colony, but Victoria and New Zealand are the leading growers, as will be seen from the subjoined table :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	10,040	14,770	15,943	22,560	18,502
Victoria	27,174	39,064	39,129	57,334	40,594
Queensland.....	512	3,121	5,086	9,173	11,457
South Australia	2,612	3,156	6,136	6,892	6,014
Western Australia	277	494	278	532	528
Tasmania	9,349	8,154	9,670	16,368	16,535
New Zealand.....	7,292	11,933	22,540	27,266	18,338
Australasia	57,256	80,692	98,782	140,125	111,968

The production for the same periods was :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales	30,942	44,758	44,323	62,283	52,105
Victoria	59,364	125,841	134,290	109,786	142,623
Queensland	1,080	6,585	11,984	25,018	36,666
South Australia	7,726	10,989	18,154	27,824	20,057
Western Australia	817	1,457	556	1,596	1,584
Tasmania	47,428	22,608	33,565	62,995	60,245
New Zealand.....	37,554	42,130	121,890	162,046	104,173
Australasia	184,911	254,368	364,762	451,548	417,453

The average production of potatoes per acre, expressed in tons, for Australasia and for each of the separate colonies is next given, for the ten years which ended with 1892. New Zealand, it will be seen, shows a considerably larger return per acre than any of the other provinces :—

Colony.	Per acre.
	tons.
New South Wales	2·7
Victoria.....	3·7
Queensland	3·2
South Australia	3·9
Western Australia	3·0
Tasmania	4·0
New Zealand	5·3
Australasia	3·9

Only three of the colonies are in a position to export potatoes in any quantity—Tasmania, New Zealand, and Victoria. The apparent excess in the case of South Australia arises chiefly from re-exports. The surplus in Victoria, though at one time considerable, has now very much decreased.

The following were the imports and exports of potatoes :—

Colony.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	tons.	tons.
New South Wales	54,551	.....
Victoria .....	.....	10,461
Queensland	9,532	.....
South Australia .....	.....	1,855
Western Australia	2,068	.....
Tasmania .....	.....	24,267
New Zealand .....	.....	28,948
Net Export.....	620	.....

The total value of the potato crop and the average return per acre for 1892-3, in the Australasian Colonies, will be found below :—

Colony.	Total Value of Crop.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	208,420	11 5 4
Victoria	374,385	9 4 5
Queensland	108,407	9 9 3
South Australia	60,171	10 0 1
Western Australia	6,336	12 0 0
Tasmania	225,919	13 13 3
New Zealand	260,432	14 4 0
Australasia.....	1,244,070	11 2 3

HAY.

Considerable quantities of wheat, oats, and barley are grown for the purpose of being converted into hay. This crop in point of value is second in importance of the agricultural production. The area under

crop for hay has since 1881 steadily and largely increased, as will be seen from the table herewith.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	45,175	51,805	146,610	163,863	214,468
Victoria	74,681	103,206	212,150	369,498	512,648
Queensland	280	3,828	16,926	30,655	25,665
South Australia	62,874	97,812	333,467	304,171	434,116
Western Australia	6,676	*14,342	24,445	28,534	35,124
Tasmania	31,803	31,578	34,790	45,445	46,070
New Zealand	†27,160	30,717	68,423	46,652	61,811
Australasia.....	248,649	333,288	836,811	988,818	1,329,902

* In 1869.

† In 1867.

The production for the same periods was :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales.....	57,363	77,460	198,532	209,417	302,134
Victoria	92,497	144,637	238,793	505,246	740,049
Queensland	459	6,278	19,640	58,842	53,933
South Australia.....	78,886	98,266	240,827	193,317	389,277
Western Australia	6,609	14,288	24,445	28,534	43,905
Tasmania	59,851	30,891	44,957	66,996	53,544
New Zealand.....	36,666	35,674	89,081	67,361	92,293
Australasia.....	332,331	407,494	856,275	1,129,713	1,675,135

The average production of hay per acre for each colony will be found in the next table, the period embraced by the average being the ten years which closed with 1892 :—

Colony.	Per Acre.
	tons.
New South Wales	1·3
Victoria	1·3
Queensland	1·7
South Australia	0·9
Western Australia	1·0
Tasmania	1·2
New Zealand	1·4
Australasia	1·2

The greater portion of the hay is made from wheat, though large quantities of oaten and lucerne hay are produced in Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand. Hay is, for the most part, grown in each province in quantities sufficient for its own requirements, New South Wales being the only one which imports to any extent.

The net import or export of hay and chaff for each colony for the year 1892 was :—

Colony.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.
	tons.	tons.
New South Wales	56,921	.....
Victoria .....	.....	33,411
Queensland	1,992	.....
South Australia .....	.....	4,167
Western Australia	3,938	.....
Tasmania .....	.....	9,274
New Zealand .....	.....	556
Net imports	10,443	.....

The total value of the hay crop, and the average return per acre for the season 1892-3, in the Australasian Colonies, will be found below :—

Colony.	Total Value of Hay Crop.	Average Value per Acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	755,335	3 10 5
Victoria	2,035,135	3 19 5
Queensland	137,580	5 7 3
South Australia	1,216,490	2 16 1
Western Australia	142,691	4 1 3
Tasmania	214,176	4 13 0
New Zealand	276,879	4 9 7
Australasia	4,778,286	3 11 10

GREEN FORAGE AND SOWN GRASSES.

The cultivation of maize, sorghum, barley, oats, and other cereals for the purpose of green food, and the laying down of lands under lucerne and grass, engage attention in the districts where dairy-farming is carried on. The agricultural returns of some of the colonies do not admit of a distribution being made between these forms of cultivation prior to 1887. The following table shows the area under such green food for 1887, 1891, and 1892, and it will be seen that there have been

large developments in most of the colonies, chiefly in New Zealand. After a consideration of the figures relating to the last-mentioned province, little difficulty will be experienced in accounting for its superiority in the dairy-farming industry :—

	Green Food.			Sown Grasses.		
	1887.	1891.	1892.	1887.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales..	20,403	32,138	44,424	192,678	333,238	361,280
Victoria	6,036	9,202	16,605	154,612	174,982	233,114
Queensland	9,582	10,727	14,690	13,619	20,921	22,486
South Australia ..	10,079	6,416	7,789	23,217	17,519	20,210
Western Australia..	...	238	214	.....	.....	.....
Tasmania	1,246	1,101	1,518	184,653	203,596	217,905
New Zealand.....	98,029	118,484	132,140	5,869,247	7,357,229	8,200,234
Australasia ...	145,375	178,306	217,380	6,438,026	8,112,485	9,055,229

In Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand large quantities of grass-seeds, chiefly rye-grass and cocksfoot, are produced, the quantities in 1892 being given as 30,430, 38,491, and 928,731 bushels, respectively, valued at £5,075 in Victoria, £5,774 in Tasmania, and £146,389 in New Zealand, or a total of £157,238.

THE VINE.

The history of the vine in Australia dates from the year 1828, when cuttings from the celebrated vineyards of France, Spain, and the Rhine Valley were planted in the Hunter River District of New South Wales, and formed the nursery for the principal vineyards of that colony. Years afterwards the vine was planted in the Murray River District and other parts of New South Wales, and was afterwards introduced into Victoria and South Australia, and is now cultivated in all the provinces of the Australian continent. In South Australia a large proportion of Germans are employed in the industry of wine-making.

The climate and soil of Australia are peculiarly adapted to the successful cultivation of the vine, and with an increasing local demand, and the opening up of a market in England, where Australian wines have obtained due appreciation, the future expansion of wine-growing appears fairly assured. The depreciation which French and other foreign wines have suffered, both in quantity and quality, owing to the devastation of the vineyards by phylloxera is an additional reason for the vine-growers of this continent looking forward to largely-increased operations for their industry.

The progress of vine cultivation since the year 1861 is illustrated by the table subjoined. The areas given include the vines grown for table use, as well as for wine-making; also the young vines not yet in bearing :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	1,692	6,618	6,624	8,281	8,264
Victoria	1,464	5,523	4,923	24,483	26,443
Queensland	40	568	1,212	1,988	1,908
South Australia.....	3,918	5,455	4,202	12,314	15,418
Western Australia	457	692	527	1,004	1,218
Australia	7,571	18,856	17,488	48,070	53,251

Until the year 1881 New South Wales contained the principal wine-growing districts, but at present the area devoted to vines is much larger in Victoria and South Australia. Of recent years great attention has been paid to the industry in Victoria, and that province now produces nearly half the wine made in Australia. The following tables show the progress made in wine-growing during thirty-two years :—

Colony.	1861.	1871. *	1881.	1891.	1892.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons
New South Wales.....	85,328	413,321	513,688	913,107	931,542
Victoria	47,568	713,589	539,191	1,554,130	1,694,745
Queensland.....	.....	.....	72,121	168,526	193,357
South Australia.....	312,021	852,315	313,060	861,835	594,038
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	99,600	166,664	160,776
Australia	444,917	1,979,225	1,537,660	3,604,262	3,574,438

The production of table-grapes during the same period is shown below :—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales.....	224	508	1,103	3,694	5,916
Victoria	849	1,545	740	2,791	3,877
Queensland.....	.....	.....	255	1,169	1,012
South Australia.....	1,161	1,692	1,498	4,590	3,640
Australia... ..	2,234	3,745	3,596	12,244	14,445

It is impossible to tabulate the averages of all the colonies, as in many instances the acreage under cultivation for wine-making purposes cannot be separated from young unproductive vineyards or areas cultivated for table varieties of grape only. Making, however, due allowance for this fact, it would appear that the average production for the season 1892-93 was about 132 gallons in Western Australia, 80 gallons in South Australia, 105 gallons in Victoria, 225 gallons in New South Wales, and 225 gallons in Queensland. Taking an average year, the production for Australia may be set down at 190 gallons. The average production in gallons per acre for other countries is shown by the following figures, those marked by an asterisk being for the three years 1890-92, while the others are for the latest available periods:—

Country.	Gallons per acre.	Country.	Gallons per acre.
Algeria	300	Spain	130
Cape Colony	220	Russia	130
Switzerland	210	Austria*	129
Roumania*	194	Chili	100
Portugal	175	Argentine Republic	100
Servia	150	Italy*	87
France*	143	Hungary*	51
United States	140		
Germany*	134	Australia	190

Compared with the wine production of other countries, as given hereunder, that of Australia is certainly trifling, but the prospects of this industry are sufficiently promising to encourage a hope that the coming years will witness important developments:—

Country.	Production in million gallons.	Country.	Production in million gallons.
Italy*	732	Hungary*	34
France* ..	634	Turkey and Cyprus	20
Spain	550	Chili	20
Portugal	90	United States	18
Austria*	74	Switzerland	15
Roumania*	73	Argentine Republic	6
Servia	45	Cape Colony	6
Germany*	40	Australia	4
Russia	40		
Algeria	40		
Greece	34	Total	2,479

NOTE.—The figures in the above table marked with an asterisk are the averages of the three years 1890-92, while the others are the latest available.

The following table illustrates the progress of the Australian wine trade with Europe since 1881. The total value of this trade in 1892, it

will be noticed, had grown to thirteen times what it was in 1881, while the number of gallons exported to Europe had increased twenty-two fold :—

Colony.	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	gallons.	£	gallons.	£	gallons.	£
New South Wales..	13,271	3,520	9,451	2,255	23,573	5,362
Victoria	5,588	2,341	136,213	24,727	208,734	34,533
South Australia	2,859	580	226,587	38,630	267,023	45,082
Australia ...	21,718	6,441	372,251	65,612	499,330	84,977

Including the trade of one province with another, as well as the foreign trade, the exports of each during the same years is shown as under :—

Colony.	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	gallons.	£	gallons.	£	gallons.	£
New South Wales..	22,377	7,233	54,143	11,644	27,857	7,081
Victoria	12,544	5,388	160,982	32,516	225,517	40,066
South Australia	57,812	12,879	286,188	58,684	325,039	64,783
Australia ...	92,733	25,500	501,313	102,844	578,413	111,930

The total value of the grape crop and the average return per acre for the year 1892 in the Australian Colonies will be found below :—

Colony.	Total value of Crop.	Average value per acre—	
		Of total area under Vines.	Of productive Vines.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	163,771	19 16 4	25 15 3
Victoria	249,160	9 8 5	15 8 6
Queensland	32,266	16 18 3	18 11 4
South Australia	106,185	6 17 9	14 6 7
Western Australia	20,097	16 10 0	18 9 5
Australia	571,479	10 14 8	17 9 0

SUGAR-CANE.

The growth of the cane and manufacture of sugar are important features in the industry of Queensland and New South Wales, but whilst the climate of the former colony renders the employment of white labour in the field almost impossible, the plantations of the latter are worked without the assistance of coloured labour. The owners of Queensland plantations usually combine the functions of cane-growers and sugar-manufacturers, but in New South Wales, where the numerous holdings are, as a rule, small in area, the cane is purchased from the planters, principally by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, whose various crushing-mills and refinery are fitted with machinery of the most modern character. The importation of coloured labour into Queensland has been renewed under stringent regulations to protect the Kanakas. The attempt made in 1891 by the planters to solve the difficult problem as to whether successful sugar-growing is compatible with the employment of white labour, by the introduction of Italian farm-labourers under contract to work in the sugar-plantations for a number of years, was a failure. Japanese immigrants are now being introduced.

The area under cane for the years specified below was :—

	1864.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales.....	22	4,394	12,167	22,262	26,751	28,112
Queensland.....	94	9,581	28,026	50,948	55,815	59,250
Total	116	13,975	40,193	73,210	82,566	87,362

The progress of this industry has been very rapid, especially in Queensland, the area of suitable land being very large in that colony. Some years ago sugar-growing was started on the Daly River, in the Northern Territory of South Australia, but no statistics are available regarding acreage or production.

The area given includes all the cane planted, whether cut during the year or not. The following table shows the acreage actually cut during the last six years :—

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	8,380	4,997	7,348	8,344	8,623	11,560	11,755
Queensland	36,806	32,375	29,438	40,208	36,821	40,572	43,668
Total	45,186	37,372	36,786	48,522	45,444	52,132	55,423

The returns of the sugar industry, both for Queensland and New South Wales, are incomplete. In those of the former colony the yield of cane per acre is not stated; and in the latter the production of sugar per ton of cane crushed cannot be given. As regards the latter, it varies, of course, with the density of the juice, but in ordinary seasons it may be set down at something over 9 per cent.

The production of sugar from cane crushed for the last seven years was as follows :—

	1887. tons.	1888. tons.	1889. tons.	1890. tons.	1891. tons.	1892. tons.	1893. tons.
New South Wales	22,500	11,279	19,016	26,533	25,245	24,289	23,930
Queensland	57,960	34,022	44,411	68,924	51,219	61,368	76,147
Total	80,460	45,301	63,427	95,457	76,464	85,657	100,077

The figures in the foregoing are from the returns made by the millowners, and, possibly, as regards Queensland, somewhat understate the truth.

The net imports of sugar by each colony for 1892 are shown in the subjoined table. Queensland was the only colony that was able to supply sugar enough for its own requirements, and spare some for export. The surplus amounted to 38,485 tons, valued at £588,822, which was mostly exported to the other colonies, only 1,231 tons having been for foreign export. The following figures include the 37,254 tons from Queensland :—

	Quantity.	Value.
	tons.	£
New South Wales	29,273	435,736
Victoria	50,954	750,887
South Australia	13,295	181,181
Western Australia	2,260	56,491
Tasmania	5,484	105,529
New Zealand	27,485	391,267
Australasia	128,751	1,921,091

The imports, therefore, amounted to 90,266 tons, valued at £1,332,269, of which only 89,630 tons, of the value of £1,235,220, can be traced to the original country of shipment, viz. :—

Country.	Quantity.	Value.
	tons.	£
Mauritius	9,744	196,288
Fiji	17,258	185,161
Java	56,877	742,458
Hong Kong	4,690	91,100
Other countries	1,061	20,213
Total	89,630	1,235,220

The total value of the sugar crop, and the average return per acre, for the year 1892, in the sugar-growing colonies of Australia, will be found below :—

Colony.	Value of Cane grown.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	139,037	5 3 11
Queensland	354,500	6 7 1

TOBACCO.

The cultivation of the tobacco-plant has received attention in the three eastern colonies. The following table shows the area and production of tobacco at various periods :—

Year.	New South Wales.		Victoria.		Queensland.		Australasia.	
	acres.	cwt. of leaf.	acres.	cwt. of leaf.	acres.	cwt. of leaf.	acres.	cwt. of leaf.
1861	224	2,647	220	2,552	..	.....	444	5,199
1871	567	4,475	299	2,307	44	.....	910	6,782
1881	1,625	13,311	1,461	12,876	68	521	3,154	31,708
1888 *....	4,833	55,478	1,685	13,355	123	1,418	6,641	70,251
1891	886	9,314	545	2,579	790	7,704	2,221	19,597
1892	848	8,344	477	658	318	3,808	1,643	12,810

The figures for 1892 are exclusive of 4 acres in New Zealand, producing 20 cwt. of leaf, and of a small area in the Northern Territory in South Australia, for which returns are not available.

Owing to over-production and the want of a foreign market, the area devoted to tobacco-culture has greatly declined since 1888, when 6,641 acres were devoted to this industry, and 70,251 cwt. of leaf was grown. The Australasian tobacco-leaf has not yet been prepared in such a way as to find acceptance abroad, and until such is accomplished it will be useless to expect the cultivation of the plant to become a settled industry. The soil and climate of Australia appear to be suitable for the growth of the plant, but sufficient care and skill have not been expended upon the preparation of the leaf. The quantity just mentioned as having been produced in 1888 was so greatly in excess of local requirements that very low prices only could be obtained, and a large portion of the crop was left upon the growers' hands. The result was that many farmers abandoned the cultivation of tobacco, so that the area under this crop during 1889 was only 3,239 acres in New

South Wales, and 955 acres in Victoria, producing respectively 27,724 cwt. and 4,123 cwt. of leaf—less than half the crop of the previous year. In 1891 the acreage showed a further decline to 886 acres in New South Wales, and 545 acres in Victoria, with a yield of 9,314 cwt. and 2,579 cwt. respectively. In Queensland, on the other hand, the acreage increased from 123 acres in 1888 to 540 acres in 1890 and 790 in 1891. In 1892 the acreage decreased in New South Wales to 848 acres, in Victoria to 477 acres, and in Queensland to 318 acres, and the production to 8,344 cwt., 658 cwt., and 3,808 cwt. respectively. In Victoria the crop on two-thirds of the acreage was destroyed by a fungoid disease.

The average production of tobacco per acre for the ten years ended on 31st December, 1892, was :—

Colony.	Cwt.
New South Wales	10·8
Victoria	5·9
Queensland	8·6
Total	8·8

The following table shows the production per acre in foreign countries, in those marked with an asterisk and in Australia for the three years 1890-92, in the others for the latest available period ; but the comparison with Australia is not of much value, as the acreage under tobacco is so very restricted :—

Country.	Cwt. per acre.	Country.	Cwt. per acre.
Holland*	16·1	Japan	8·0
Germany*	15·8	Turkey.....	7·8
Russia	13·6	Manilla, &c.	7·4
Austria*	12·5	United States*	6·3
France*	11·5	Brazil.....	7·0
Hungary	10·4	India	5·9
Italy	9·5	Roumania*	5·0
West Indies	8·8		
Java.....	8·4	Australia	8·0

The Agricultural Department of Queensland is endeavouring to assist the tobacco-growers by the importation of American seed of first quality, suitable to the Queensland climate. New Zealand also has commenced the cultivation of tobacco, but it is only so far in the condition of an experiment, and a small area has also been planted in the Northern Territory of South Australia.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes into Australasia during 1892 :—

Colony.	Quantity.
	lb.
New South Wales	1,940,472
Victoria.....	2,287,318
Queensland	913,279
South Australia	689,664
Western Australia	202,251
Tasmania	296,793
New Zealand ...	1,379,069
Australasia	7,708,846

The total value of the tobacco crop and the average gross return per acre for the year 1892 in the Australasian Colonies are given below :—

Colony.	Total value of Crop.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	15,575	18 6 11
Victoria.....	1,316	2 15 2
Queensland	5,203	16 7 3
New Zealand	20	5 0 0
Australasia	22,114	13 8 6

As will be seen from the above table, in Queensland and New South Wales the returns are fairly comparative, but in Victoria they are very small, whilst the experimental stage of the industry in New Zealand gives no test of its possible value.

GARDENS AND ORCHARDS.

The cultivation of fruit does not attract anything like the attention it deserves, although the soil and climate of large areas in all the provinces are well adapted to fruit-growing. Nevertheless, some progress has been made, especially of recent years. In 1891 and 1892 the proportion of the total cultivation allotted to fruit was 2·1 per cent., while in 1881 the proportion was 1·5; the area per 1,000 persons in 1892 was 38·4 acres; in 1891, 36 acres; in 1881 it was 29·4 acres. Grapes, oranges, apples, pears, and peaches are the principal fruits grown, but with an unlimited area suitable for this class of cultivation, and the climatic conditions so varied, varying from comparative cold

in New Zealand and the high lands of New South Wales and Victoria to tropical heat in Queensland, a large variety of fruits could be cultivated, and the industry only languishes for want of sustained demand for fruit products. The area under orchards and gardens in 1881, 1891, and 1892 was :—

Colony.	1881.		1891.		1892.	
	Area.	Percentage to total area under Crops.	Area.	Percentage to total area under Crops.	Area.	Percentage to total area under Crops.
	acres.		acres.		acres.	
New South Wales	24,565	4·3	40,116	4·7	45,646	4·5
Victoria	20,630	1·4	37,435	1·8	39,926	1·8
Queensland	3,262	2·8	9,758	4·0	9,177	3·7
South Australia	9,864	0·4	14,422	0·7	15,771	0·8
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,611	2·0
Tasmania	6,717	4·5	10,696	6·4	10,881	6·1
New Zealand	16,360	1·5	29,235	2·0	29,848	2·1
Australasia	81,398	1·5	141,662	2·1	152,860	2·1

With the extension of artificial irrigation and the increased facilities of export by the adoption of the cool chambers for the preservation of fruit for long voyages, the fruit-growers of Australasia are now enabled to compete with foreign States in the fruit supply for the English market, which during each of the last three years was valued at nearly £8,000,000. The Tasmanian fruit trade with England has passed the experimental stage, and every season large steamers visit Hobart to receive fruit for the home market.

The following table shows the import and export trade of each colony in green fruit and pulp for 1892, from which it will be seen that with the exception of Tasmania all the other colonies import considerably more than is exported :—

Colony.	Imports.	Exports of Domestic Produce.
	£	£
New South Wales	206,440	111,241
Victoria	234,753	14,106
Queensland	63,020	41,334
South Australia	21,339	19,212
Western Australia	2,229	1
Tasmania	12,811	138,891
New Zealand	67,743	3,813
Australasia	608,335	328,598

The total value of the gardens and orchards crop, and the average returns per acre of this branch of agriculture in 1892 in each colony, save Western Australia, were :—

Colony.	Total value of Crop.	Average value per acre.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	522,387	11 8 11
Victoria	811,290	20 6 5
Queensland	223,923	24 8 0
South Australia	328,930	20 17 2
Western Australia	25,776	16 0 0
Tasmania	141,453	13 0 0
New Zealand	582,725	19 10 6
Australasia.....	2,636,484	17 4 11

The average returns per acre of gardens and orchards in each colony have but little value for purposes of comparison, as much depends on the proportion of the areas under certain kinds of fruit, and under vegetable gardens, which would tend to raise or decrease, as the case may be, the general average returns per acre in certain provinces. In New South Wales, the smallness of the average is explained by the fact that in a great number of instances, owing to a lack of facilities for disposing of the fruit crops, which is a source of complaint from the growers, the produce of the orchards did not reach the markets, and in some cases was not even gathered. In Tasmania and New Zealand stone fruits are principally grown, the gross returns from which are much smaller than those obtained from the cultivation of sub-tropical fruits such as the orange and citron, &c., which tend to increase the average returns in the continental and northern provinces.

MINOR CROPS.

Besides the crops already specifically noticed there are small areas on which are grown a variety of products, chiefly rye, bere, onions, beans, peas, turnips, rape, mangold wurzel, and hops, but none of these crops are sufficiently important to warrant a special notice, except turnips and rape in New Zealand, where no less an area than 379,447

LIVE-STOCK—SHEEP

AUSTRALASIA
23,741,706

Vic.	6,239,258
N.S.W.	5,615,054
Q'td.	4,093,381
S. A.	3,038,356
N. Z.	2,761,583
Tas.	1,714,498
W. A.	279,576

1861

AUSTRALASIA
49,773,584

N.S.W.	16,278,697
Vic.	10,002,381
N. Z.	9,700,629
Q'td.	7,403,334
S. A.	4,412,055
Tas.	1,305,489
W. A.	670,999

1871

AUSTRALASIA
78,063,426

N.S.W.	36,591,946
N. Z.	12,985,085
Vic.	10,267,265
Q'td.	8,292,883
S. A.	6,810,856
Tas.	1,847,479
W. A.	1,267,912

1881

AUSTRALASIA
121,939,965

N.S.W.	58,080,114
Q'td.	21,708,310
N. Z.	18,680,448
Vic.	12,965,306
S. A.	7,197,949
W. A.	1,685,500
Tas.	1,622,338

1892

acres was planted with them. The area under such crops for each province in 1892 was :—

Colony.	Area.
	acres.
New South Wales	5,846
Victoria	38,342
Queensland	4,106
South Australia	8,935
Western Australia	454
Tasmania	15,877
New Zealand	409,791
Australasia	483,341

Although considerable progress has of late years been made in some directions, it must be admitted generally, that agriculture in the Australasian Colonies has scarcely passed the tentative stage. The typical Australian agriculturist, relying largely on a bountiful nature, does not exercise upon crops anything approaching the same patience, care, and labour that are bestowed by the European cultivator ; nor, as a rule, does he avail himself of the benefits of scientific farming and improved implements to the extent that prevails in America and Europe. It may be expected that improvements will take place in this respect, and that the efforts made by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia for the promotion of scientific farming will bear good fruit. Agricultural colleges and model farms have been established in the three colonies, and travelling lecturers are sent to agricultural centres.

IRRIGATION.

Originally cultivation in Australia was confined to the banks of the coastal rivers and the country near the sea, and within the influence of regular rainfall. Now, however, that cultivation has spread beyond the coastal districts and the adjacent tablelands, into the interior of the continent, where the irregular character of the rainfall makes harvesting uncertain, irrigation has become necessary to ensure successful husbandry. For some years past small areas have been irrigated by private enterprise ; 29,342 acres were returned as irrigated in New South Wales, and about 5,000 acres in Queensland, during 1892, and in 1889 there were 24,574 acres irrigated in Victoria. In 1892 the number of acres capable of being irrigated annually from the irrigation works then constructed or in course of construction in Victoria was returned as 353,662.

A few years ago a special Act was passed by the Victorian Legislature, enabling the Government to hand over to the firm of Chaffey Brothers an area of 250,000 acres of mallee scrub, situated at Mildura, in the Swan Hill district, about 340 miles north-west of Melbourne. The land was then uninhabited and practically valueless. Now it has grown into a flourishing colony, with about 4,000 inhabitants. The Act obliged the promoters to spend £35,000 on the land within the first five years, but they actually expended £275,000 within less than four years, and have thus become entitled to the freehold of 50,000 acres, holding the balance of the 250,000 acres on lease. In addition to the sum mentioned, it is estimated that the settlers have spent at least £100,000 in improving the land.

The raisin industry is so far the leading one at Mildura, but all kinds of fruit grow to perfection, and out of 7,494 acres cultivated in 1892, 2,900 acres are orchards and gardens, and 2,784 acres are vineyards.

A number of irrigation trusts have been formed in Victoria, and extensive works constructed in various districts, chiefly on the Goulburn, Loddon, Wimmera, and Avoca Rivers.

In New South Wales matters are in a more backward state. The Water Conservation Branch attached to the Department of Works is at present engaged in obtaining sufficient hydrographical data to form the basis of a scheme of irrigation for vast areas in the vicinity of the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, Macquarie, and Darling Rivers.

A company of capitalists had also commenced operations a few years ago under what appeared to be great promise of success, and had secured an area of about 20,000 acres in the Mulgoa district, within a distance of 30 miles of the metropolitan market. The soil consists chiefly of a rich friable loam, but the district suffers from an unequal rainfall. An Act, passed by the New South Wales Legislature in 1890, gives the right to tap the Nepean, and if necessary the Warragamba River, for the purpose of irrigating this area, and it is proposed to devote the land chiefly to the cultivation of vines and fruit-trees. Up to the present matters have, however, remained at a standstill.

In October, 1888, the firm of Chaffey Brothers commenced operations in South Australia, at a place called Renmark, situated on the river Murray, close to the boundary of New South Wales, and about 70 miles below Mildura, where an area of 250,000 has been set apart for irrigation purposes, and although Renmark has not progressed so rapidly as Mildura, it promises in time to become an important settlement.

ARTESIAN WELLS.

The necessity of providing water for stock in the dry portions of the interior of the Australian Continent, induced the various Governments to devote certain funds for the purpose of sinking for water and bringing to the surface such supplies as might be obtained from the

underground sources which geologists stated to exist in the Tertiary drifts and the Cretaceous beds which extend under an immense portion of the area of Central Australia, from the western districts of New South Wales to a yet unknown limit into Western Australia.

In New South Wales the question of the existence of underground waters had long been a subject of earnest discussions, but doubts were set at rest in 1879 by the discovery, on the Killara Run, at a depth of 140 feet, of an artesian supply of water, which rose 26 feet above the surface. The Government undertook the work of searching for water, and since the year 1884 the sinking of artesian wells has proceeded in a scientific and systematic manner, under the direction of specially-trained officers. Private enterprise, which had shown the way, has also followed up its first successes. It has been ascertained from official sources that contracts have already been let by the Government of New South Wales for the sinking of fifty-nine wells; of these, twenty-one have been completed, ten are in progress, and the others will shortly be commenced; of the completed wells, nineteen are flowing, and five sub-artesian, yielding large pumping supplies; these wells represent 40,000 feet of boring. From the completed wells a total of about 5,000,000 gallons of water flow every day to the surface; at the Mongulla bore and at the Native Dog bore the daily supply reaches respectively 750,000 and 500,000 gallons, and other wells yield even larger supplies. But these are far from being the most successful artesian wells in New South Wales, for some wells sunk by private enterprise have tapped much larger supplies; the Coomburrah well, for instance, is stated to have a daily flow of 5,000,000 gallons, and those at Leila Springs, Lissington, Briwara, &c., are reported to give aggregate flows exceeding 2,000,000 gallons of water per diem. A better idea of the importance of these wells to the community will be obtained when it is known that the aggregate flow of underground water brought to the surface since the year 1884 reaches the enormous quantity of over 40,000,000 gallons of water in New South Wales alone. The average depth of the various completed Government bores, on 31st December, 1893, was 1,269 feet per bore, ranging from 138 feet to 2,753 feet, with temperatures varying between 90° and 125° Fahrenheit. The cost of the completed bores to 31st March, 1894, including caretakers' wages, casing, carriage, &c., was £52,303. Experimental cultivation by means of irrigation with artesian water has been most successfully carried out at the Barrington and Native Dog bores. Lucerne, maize, wheat, tobacco, sugar-cane, date-palms, pine-apples, bananas, and many other tropical and sub-tropical products have been found to do exceedingly well.

The Queensland Hydraulic Engineer reports that at the end of 1892 ten bores had been successfully completed by private contractors on Government account, while three were in progress and six had been abandoned, the most remarkable being that at Charleville, where a daily supply of 3,000,000 gallons was struck at a depth of 1,571 feet.

The number of private bores is given as two hundred and one, of which one hundred and forty-one were successfully sunk; in some cases, however, the supply is sub-artesian, and has to be pumped to the surface. The largest daily supply was yielded by the well at Burrumbilla, where a flow of 4,000,000 gallons was struck at a depth of 1,811 feet; on the Noorama Run there are three wells yielding—one, 3,456,000 gallons, and two, 1,500,000 gallons each. Several other wells yield over 1,000,000 gallons of water per diem, and the aggregate flow from artesian sources in Western Queensland alone, were most of the wells are located, at the end of 1892 was estimated at about 105,000,000 gallons per day.

In South Australia a number of bores have been put down with success in widely distant parts of the territory, and an essay was made on the Great Australian Bight, which resulted in a supply being struck on the Nullarbor Plain, at a depth of 777 feet, yielding 68,000 gallons per diem; the supply is, however, sub-artesian. Other wells have been sunk since with better results, the water rising to the surface in several instances. The most successful wells, however, are situated in the central portion of the territory; those at Hergott Springs, Coward, Strangways, and Lake Harry, giving supplies of 50,000 to 1,200,000 gallons per diem. A bore has recently been completed at Tintinarra, in the south-eastern portion of the colony, thus showing that the marine tertiary area is water-bearing.

The Government of Western Australia, following the example set by those of the eastern colonies, proposes to sink a line of wells in the direction of the Coolgardie gold-field, and of the South Australian Border.

In the province of Victoria the Government have since the year 1886 executed several experimental borings, but, so far, the results have not been encouraging. Artesian water was, however, struck at Sale, in Gippsland, as early as the year 1880, but the bore is not now used.

The fears so long entertained that the search for underground water might prove unsuccessful have now been dissipated by the results already attained, and both private firms and the State are emulating each other in extending their operations throughout the arid portions of the continent, meeting generally with the most pronounced success.

PASTORAL RESOURCES AND DAIRY INDUSTRY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the soil, climate, and indigenous herbage of Australasia are admirably adapted to the sustenance of animal life, no attempt was made to test the capabilities of the land as a feeding ground for flocks and herds on a large scale, until the example of Captain Macarthur had demonstrated, beyond doubt, that Nature favoured the production in Australasia of a quality of wool unsurpassed by that of any part of the world. Then the settlers began to understand and utilise the natural resources of the country, and as the indomitable spirit of exploration gradually opened up the apparently boundless plains of the interior, pastoralists extended their domain, and sheep and cattle in increasing numbers spread over the face of Eastern Australia. The expansion of the pastoral industry is gradually converting the central and western portions of the continent into holdings, devoted to the production of the greatest element of the wealth of Australasia.

The beginnings of pastoral enterprise in Australia were very humble. The whole stock of the community which accompanied Captain Phillip comprised only 1 bull, 4 cows, 1 calf, 1 stallion, 3 mares, 3 foals, 29 sheep, 12 pigs, and a few goats; and although the whole of the present flocks and herds of Australasia have not sprung from these animals alone, it will be seen on how small a scale the business of stock-raising was first attempted. No systematic record of the arrival of stock seems to have been kept in the early days of settlement, but it appears that in the period between Governor Phillip's landing and the year 1800 there were some slight importations, chiefly of sheep from India.

In the last-mentioned year the stock in Australasia of the various kinds was—6,124 sheep, 1,044 cattle, 203 horses, and a small number of swine, the precise figures not being obtainable; in 1892 the numbers had increased to 121,939,965 sheep, 12,343,853 cattle, 1,830,415 horses, and 1,112,273 swine.

The following figures give the number of stock in the Colonies at various epochs ending with 1851 :—

Year.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Swine.
1792	105	23	11	43
1800	6,124	1,044	203	4,017
1810	33,818	11,276	1,114	8,992
1821	290,158	102,939	4,564	33,906
1842	6,312,004	1,014,833	70,615	66,086
1851	17,326,021	1,921,963	166,421	121,035

The progress since 1861 is illustrated in the following table :—

Year.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Swine.
1861	23,741,706	4,039,839	459,970	362,417
1871	49,773,584	4,713,820	782,558	737,477
1881	78,063,426	8,709,628	1,249,765	903,271
1891	124,547,937	11,861,330	1,785,835	1,154,553
1892	121,939,965	12,343,853	1,830,415	1,112,273

The numbers of each class of stock per inhabitant at the same periods were :—

Year.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Swine.
1861	18·8	3·2	0·4	0·3
1871	25·3	2·4	0·4	0·4
1881	27·7	3·1	0·4	0·3
1891	31·8	3·0	0·5	0·3
1892	30·3	3·1	0·5	0·3

It will be seen that during 1861 there were 18·8 sheep for every person in the Colonies, increasing in 1892 to 30·3; on the other hand cattle has decreased from 3·2 per inhabitant at the former period to 3·1 in the latter. The breeding of horses and swine has about kept pace with the population.

SHEEP.

The suitability of the land discovered in the early days of New South Wales for pastoral pursuits was undoubtedly the means of leading the infant Colony to take its first step on the path of commercial progress; and it is not a little surprising at this distance of time how steadily some of the settlers, in the face of the almost insurmountable difficulty of transport which existed a century ago, availed themselves of the opportunities at their disposal. The importation of valuable specimens of sheep from England or the Cape of Good Hope, prior to the introduction of steam, was at all times attended with great risk, and it frequently

happened that many of these costly animals died during the tedious voyage. These enterprises were, however, on the whole successful, and thus the flocks and herds of the colonists surely, if at first slowly, increased and multiplied.

By the year 1795, Captain Macarthur, one of the first promoters of sheep-breeding in New South Wales, had accumulated a flock of 1,000, which were held in great estimation, and gradually increased in value, until, as recorded by an entry in his journal ten years later, the market price of a fat wether had risen to £5. Not satisfied with the natural increase of his flocks, Macarthur sought to improve the quality of his fleeces, by which means he could see opening before him the promise of great wealth, and the prospect of establishing important commercial relations with Great Britain. With these ends in view, he procured from the Cape of Good Hope, at great cost and trouble, a number of superior rams and ewes. A happy circumstance occurred which favoured his enterprise; for he had the good fortune to secure possession of three rams and five ewes of very fine Spanish breed, which had been presented by the King of Spain to the Dutch Government. These animals, out of a total of twenty-nine purchased at the Cape, arrived in Sydney in 1797, and were disposed of to various breeders. With the exception of Macarthur, however, those who had secured sheep of the superior breed made no attempt to follow up the advantage, being probably amply satisfied with the larger gains from the sale of an increased number of animals. Macarthur, on the other hand, thought little of present profits, and still less of breeding entirely for human consumption. He attentively watched the results of crossing his imported rams with the old stock, and by systematically selecting the finer ewes which were the offspring, for further mingling with the sires, he gradually improved the strain, and in a few years obtained fleeces of very fine texture which met with the ready appreciation of English manufacturers. It has been asserted that Macarthur was not the first to introduce merino sheep into Australia; but whether this be so or not, there is no doubt that to him is due the credit of having been the first to prove that the production of fine wool could be made a profitable industry in this Colony.

Prior to the present century the production of the finest wool had been confined chiefly to Spain, and woollen manufactures were necessarily carried on in England upon a somewhat limited scale, which was not likely to improve in face of certain restrictions the operatives endeavoured to place upon their employers. These men, in support of their contention that the woollen trade could not be expanded, on account of the limited supply of the raw material, argued that fine wool was obtainable only in Spain; and it was at this favourable period that Macarthur arrived in England with specimens of the wool obtained from his finest sheep, conclusively proving the capabilities of Australia as a wool-producing country. In this way he opened up a small trade with English manufacturers, which, as Australasian wool rose in public estimation, gradually

increased until it reached its present enormous dimensions. During his visit to England, Macarthur purchased an additional stock of ten rams and ewes of the noted Spanish breed, nearly equal in quality to those which in 1797 he had procured from the Cape of Good Hope. That these animals were the finest obtainable in Europe may be gathered from the fact they also had formed portion of a present from the King of Spain to George III. Thus did Macarthur, after his return to New South Wales, patiently continue for many years the process of selection, with such success, that in 1858, when his flock was finally dispersed, it was estimated that his superior ewes numbered fully 1,000. Victoria secured a considerable portion of Macarthur's flock, and the process of breeding proceeded simultaneously in that and other adjacent Colonies.

Although the increase in the numbers of the finer sheep was satisfactory, the importation of superior stock was not discontinued, and the stock of the Colonies was augmented in 1823 and 1825 by the further introduction of Spanish sheep. Sheep-breeding was about this period commenced in the Mudgee district, and the climate of that region has produced a still more favourable result upon the quality of the fleeces than any other part of the Colony, and it was thence that the finest merinos were for a long time procured. As might have been anticipated, the climate has in some respects changed the character of the Spanish fleece. The wool has become softer and more elastic, and while having diminished in density it has increased in length, so that the weight of the fleece has only slightly altered. The quality of the wool has thus on the whole improved under the beneficial influence of the climate, and if no further enhancement in its value can be reasonably hoped for, there is at least every reason to believe that Australasian wool will maintain its present high standard of excellence.

The following table shows the number of sheep at the close of 1861 and 1892 for each Colony; also, the annual increase per cent. in comparison to that of the population :—

Colony.	1861.	1892.	Annual Increase from 1861 to 1892.	
			Sheep per cent.	Population per cent.
New South Wales	5,615,054	58,080,114	7·83	3·97
Victoria	6,239,258	12,965,306	2·39	2·51
Queensland	4,093,381	21,708,310	5·53	8·42
South Australia	3,038,356	7,197,949	2·82	3·23
Western Australia.....	279,576	1,685,500	5·97	4·35
Tasmania	1,714,498	1,622,338	*0·18	1·72
New Zealand	2,761,583	18,680,448	5·57	6·26
Australasia	23,741,706	121,939,965	5·42	3·77

* Decrease.

Tasmania is the only Colony of the group in which the business of sheep-breeding has not advanced since 1861, though, strange to say, it is singularly well adapted for sheep raising, and its stud flocks are well known and annually drawn upon to improve the breed of sheep in the other colonies. In all the other provinces there has been a material increase; but in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand, the proportion of sheep has declined as compared with the population. There has been a very substantial increase in the number of sheep depastured in Queensland and New Zealand during the period covered by the table, but the population has progressed at a rate even more rapid. In South Australia the area adapted to sheep is limited, and no great expansion in sheep-farming can be looked for. As regards Victoria, the important strides made by that province in agriculture and kindred pursuits, afford sufficient explanation of the slow rate at which its flocks are increasing. The following statement shows the proportion of sheep in each Colony to the total flocks of Australasia. In 1861 out of every 100 sheep New South Wales depastured 23·7, while, in 1892, the proportion had increased to 47·6, or little short of one-half the total flocks. Queensland came second, with 17·8 per cent. With the exception of the two Colonies named, and of Western Australia and New Zealand, the proportion of sheep depastured in each Colony to the total number of sheep in Australasia was less in 1892 than it had been in 1861 :—

Colony.	1861.	1892.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
New South Wales	23·7	47·6
Victoria.....	26·3	10·7
Queensland	17·2	17·8
South Australia	12·8	5·9
Western Australia	1·2	1·4
Tasmania	7·2	1·3
New Zealand	11·6	15·3
Australasia	100·0	100·0

The value of the sheep depastured in Australasia at the beginning of 1893 may be set down at £39,784,000, thus distributed among the various provinces :—

	£
New South Wales	15,972,000
Victoria	4,322,000
Queensland	5,698,000
South Australia	2,159,000
Western Australia.....	548,000
Tasmania	811,000
New Zealand	10,274,000
Australasia	£39,784,000

CATTLE.

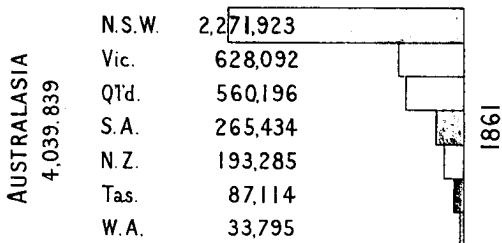
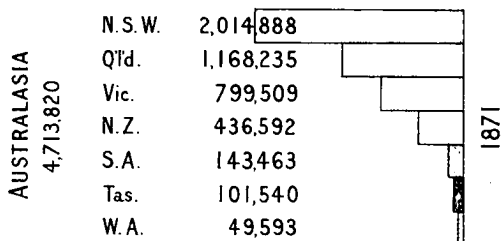
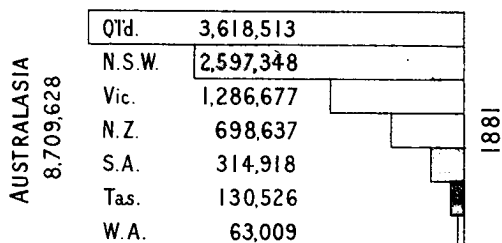
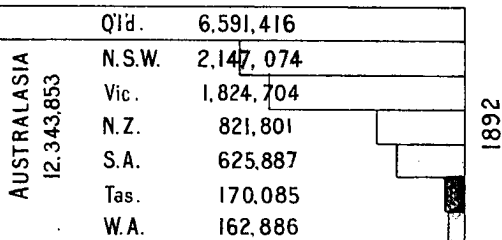
Except in Queensland cattle breeding is secondary to that of sheep. In New South Wales the industry does not occupy so important a position as it formerly did, the decline being nearly 6 per cent. since 1861, or at the rate of 0·18 per cent. per annum. The lowest point was reached in 1885, when the herds only numbered 1,317,315, the result partly of continuous bad seasons, but principally of the more profitable character of sheep-farming, which induced graziers on many runs to substitute sheep for cattle. Since that period the improvement has been gradual, and, though small, would seem to indicate a disposition on the part of pastoralists in some parts of the Colony to devote more attention to cattle-breeding. The progress of Victoria in this direction has been steady; but although the total number of cattle was nearly three times as great in 1892 as it was 31 years ago, the relative position occupied by the Colony remains much the same as in 1861 in regard to the proportional number of cattle depastured in the province. Queensland has largely increased her herds, and now possesses 53·4 per cent. of the total cattle of the whole group. New Zealand and Western Australia—especially the former—show decided improvement, and the breeding of this class of stock seems to be greatly in favour in those Colonies.

The following table shows the number of cattle in 1861 and 1892, with the yearly increase or decrease per cent. for the whole period, as well as the growth of the population :—

Colony.	1861.	1892.	Increase or Decrease per cent. per annum, 1861-1892.	
			Cattle.	Population.
New South Wales.....	2,271,923	2,147,074	*0·18	3·97
Victoria	628,092	1,824,704	3·50	2·51
Queensland.....	560,196	6,591,416	8·28	8·42
South Australia.....	265,434	625,887	2·81	3·23
Western Australia	33,795	162,886	5·20	4·35
Tasmania	87,114	170,085	2·18	1·72
New Zealand	193,285	821,801	4·78	6·26
Australasia.....	4,039,839	12,343,853	3·67	3·77

* Decrease.

LIVE-STOCK — HORNEO CATTLE



The value of the cattle in Australasia at the beginning of 1893 may be set down at £56,957,000, thus divided amongst the various provinces :—

	£
New South Wales	11,809,000
Victoria	10,948,000
Queensland.....	23,070,000
South Australia.....	3,129,000
Western Australia	937,000
Tasmania	1,106,000
New Zealand.....	5,958,000
Australasia	£56,957,000

HORSES.

Australasia is eminently fitted for the breeding of most descriptions of horses, and attention has long been directed to this industry. At an early period the stock of colonial bred horses was enriched by the importation of some excellent thoroughbred Arabians from India; and the high name which was acquired by the horses of Australia was largely due to this cause. The abundance of good pasture everywhere obtainable also contributed to this result. The native kangaroo-grass, especially when in seed, is full of saccharine matter, and young stock thrive excellently upon it. This abundance of natural provender allowed a large increase in the stock of the settlers, which would have been a great advantage, had it not been that the general cheapness of horses led to a neglect of the canons of breeding. In consequence of the discovery of gold, horses became very high priced. Under ordinary conditions this circumstance would have been favourable to the breed of horses, and such was the case in Victoria. In New South Wales it was far otherwise. The best of the stock of that Colony, including a large proportion of the most valuable breeding mares, was taken by Victoria, with the result that for twenty years after the gold rush the horses of New South Wales greatly deteriorated. One class of stock only escaped. The thoroughbred racer was probably improved both by the importation of fresh stock from England, and by the judicious selection of mares.

The Colonies are specially adapted for the breeding of saddle and light-harness horses, and it is doubtful whether these particular breeds of Australasian horses are anywhere surpassed. The bush horse is hardy and swift, and capable of making very long and rapid journeys, when fed only on the ordinary herbage of the country; and in times of drought, when the grass and water have become scanty, these animals often perform astonishing feats of endurance. Generally speaking, the breed of horses is improving, owing to the introduction of superior stud horses

and the breeding from good mares. Where there has been a deterioration in the stock, this has been due to breeding from weedy mares for racing purposes and from the effect of droughts.

Although the demand in India is fair, and Australia is a natural market from which supplies may be derived, the speculation of sending horses there is one open to many risks, as, apart from the dangers of the voyage, there is always an uncertainty as to the stock being accepted. Owing, therefore, to the limited foreign demand, it has not been found advantageous to breed horses for any but local requirements.

The following table shows the number of horses in each Colony for 1861 and 1892, also the proportion in each case to the total at each period. In 1861, New South Wales possessed 50·7 per cent. of all the horses in Australasia, Victoria being second, with 18·3 per cent. In 1892, New South Wales still held the leading position as regards numbers, but her proportion to the whole had fallen to 26·3 per cent. Queensland and New Zealand exhibit the most relative progress, having increased their respective proportions of the total from 6·3 and 6·2 per cent. in 1861 to 23·1 and 11·5 per cent. in 1892. The numbers and proportion for each Colony were :—

Colony.	Number.		Percentage of each Colony to total of Australasia.	
	1861.	1892.	1861.	1892.
New South Wales	233,220	481,416	50·7	26·3
Victoria	84,057	439,596	18·3	24·0
Queensland	28,983	422,769	6·3	23·1
South Australia	52,597	198,645	11·4	10·9
Western Australia	10,720	44,973	2·3	2·5
Tasmania	22,118	31,976	4·8	1·7
New Zealand	28,275	211,040	6·2	11·5
Australasia	459,970	1,830,415	100·0	100·0

The value of horses in the various Colonies is estimated as follows :—

	£
New South Wales	4,573,000
Victoria	4,506,000
Queensland	3,382,000
South Australia	1,837,000
Western Australia	450,000
Tasmania	256,000
New Zealand	2,532,000

Australasia..... £17,536,000

The following table gives the flocks and herds of each of the great divisions of the globe; the returns are the latest available, and are based on figures given in the report of the Statistician to the American Department of Agriculture:—

	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Swine.
Europe	214,499,000	104,166,000	34,865,000	46,152,000
Asia	71,669,000	70,850,000	4,443,000	417,000
Africa	60,820,000	8,203,000	721,000	840,000
America ..	143,581,000	117,249,000	21,920,000	53,974,000
Australasia	121,940,000	12,344,000	1,830,000	1,112,000
Total.....	612,509,000	312,812,000	63,779,000	102,495,000

STOCK-CARRYING CAPACITY OF AUSTRALASIA.

None of the Colonies are stocked to their full capacity, while in the large territory of Western Australia, and the Northern territory of South Australia, the process has only begun. A clear idea of the comparative extent to which each Colony is stocked cannot be given unless the different classes of stock are reduced to a common value. Assuming, therefore, that one head of large stock is equivalent to ten sheep, and stating cattle and horses in terms of sheep, it will be found that the number of acres per sheep for each Colony is as follows:—

Colony.	No. of acres per sheep.
New South Wales	2·4
Victoria.....	1·6
Queensland	4·7
South Australia	37·5
Western Australia	180·2
Tasmania	4·6
New Zealand	2·3
Australasia	7·7

The most closely stocked Colony is Victoria, with 1·6 acres per sheep, but this is by no means the limit of the carrying capacity of that province. On the contrary, there is still a considerable tract yet to be brought under the sway of the pastoralist. Neither New Zealand nor New South Wales, with 2·3 and 2·4 acres per sheep, can be said to have reached its full carrying capacity. If the present average of New South Wales be taken as the possible limit to which Australasia may be stocked, then there is room in these Colonies for 580 million of sheep, or 58 million cattle more than now depastured. That Australasia can carry 1 sheep to 2·4 acres is an improbable supposition. In almost every Colony the best land is under occupation, and the

demands of the farmer must diminish the area at present at the disposal of the grazier. This will more especially prove true in regard to Victoria, New Zealand, and Tasmania. On the other hand, by resisting the temptation to overstock inferior country, and by increasing the natural carrying capacity by water conservation and irrigation, and the artificial cultivation of grasses, the Colonies where agriculture has made most progress will be able to carry stock in even larger numbers than they have hitherto attempted. Taking all circumstances into consideration, it may be fairly estimated that under the present system the Colonies are capable of maintaining, in ordinary seasons, stock equivalent to 390,000,000 sheep; that is, about 126,000,000 sheep, or their equivalent in cattle, more than are now depastured.

The number of stock in Australasia, expressed in terms of sheep, the number of acres per sheep, and number of sheep per head of population for the various dates herein mentioned, were :—

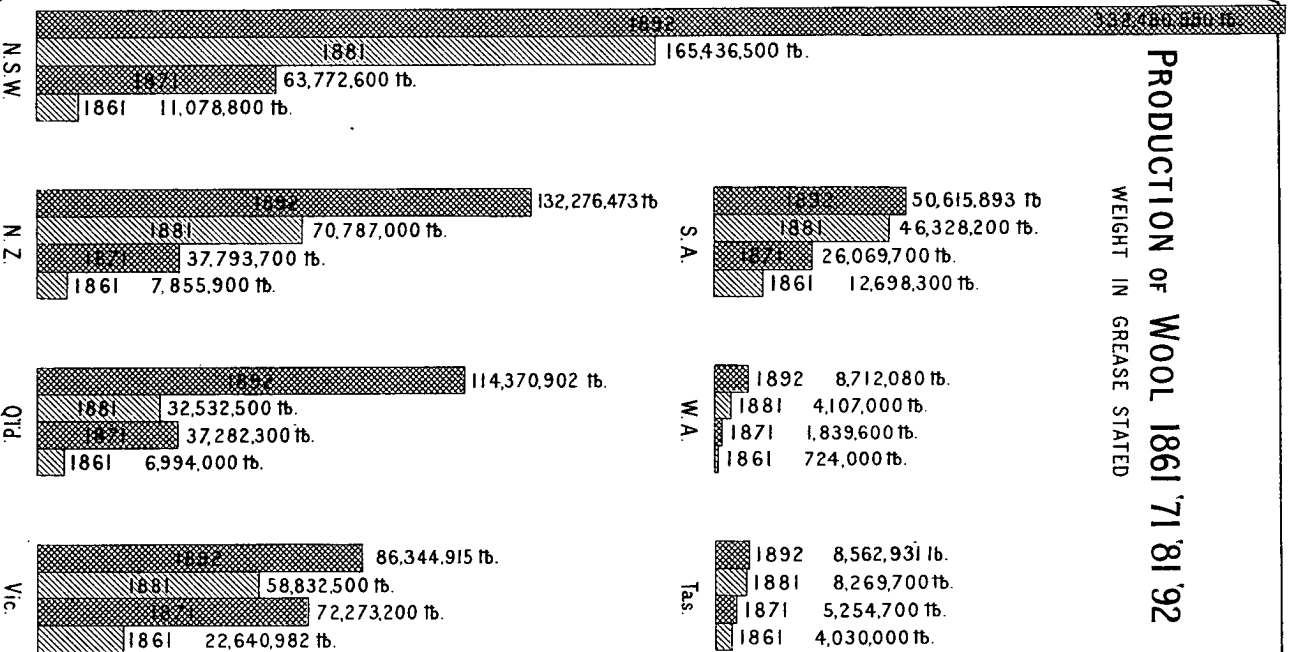
Year.	Sheep.	Cattle. In terms of Sheep.	Horses. In terms of Sheep.	Total.	Acres per Sheep.	Sheep per head of Population.
1861.....	23,741,706	40,398,390	4,599,700	68,739,796	29·4	54·3
1871.....	49,773,584	47,138,200	7,825,580	104,737,364	19·3	53·2
1881.....	78,063,426	87,096,280	12,497,650	177,657,356	11·4	62·9
1891.....	124,547,937	118,613,300	17,858,350	261,019,587	7·8	67·4
1892.....	121,939,965	123,438,530	18,304,150	263,682,645	7·7	65·4

The total value of pastoral property, that is, improvements, plant, and stock, was estimated in 1893 at £253,516,000, and of this large sum £80,864,000, or nearly one third, belonged to New South Wales. In the amount quoted the value of stock alone (excluding swine), comes to about £114,277,000. No account is here taken of the value of land devoted to pastoral purposes, for, though much purchased land is used for depasturing stock, the larger area comprises lands leased from the State, so that a statement which omitted to take into account the value of the State lands would be misleading. The annual return from pastoral pursuits was £37,641,000, the share of each Colony in the total production being in 1892-93 :—

New South Wales	£13,682,000
Victoria	6,074,000
Queensland	7,255,000
South Australia.....	2,273,000
Western Australia	509,000
Tasmania	648,000
New Zealand	7,200,000
Australasia	£37,641,000

The products of dairy cattle and swine are not included in the foregoing statement, the figures being given in another place. It should be

PRODUCTION OF WOOL 1861 '71 81 '92 WEIGHT IN GREASE STATED



understood that the values quoted are those at the place of production. The value of the return from each class of stock may be approximately reckoned as follows :—

Sheep.....	£28,046,000
Cattle	6,509,000
Horses	3,086,000
	<hr/> £37,641,000

As might be supposed, the greater part of the value of stock returns is due to wool. Thus, out of the £37,641,000 quoted above, £22,379,000 is the value of wool, viz.:—£22,203,500 for wool exported, and £175,500 for wool used locally. The wool export of the Australasian Colonies during 1892 was 728,170,332 pounds weighed in the grease, the quantity used locally 5,193,412 pounds, and the total clip 733,363,744 pounds, the export value, according to Customs returns, being £24,186,428—that is to say, £1,982,928 more than the figures shown above. The excess represents the cost of freight, handling, and brokerage between the sheep-walks and the port of shipment.

The quantity and value of the wool clip in the grease is given for each Colony in the subjoined table for 1881 and 1892. The values of the clip for the latter year for South Australia and Tasmania do not compare favourably with those of 1881; all the other Colonies show an improvement both in quantity and value of the clip, but this increase was relatively greatest in Queensland, New Zealand, and New South Wales, in the order named. New South Wales maintains its high position as a wool producer, nor can it be denied that in New Zealand sheep-breeding is a flourishing concern, for though the number of sheep in 1892 was not largely in excess of that in 1885, this is mainly due to the heavy demand upon the resources of the province for the supply of stock to meet the requirements of the London market in regard to frozen mutton.

Colony.	Weight of clip in grease.		Values.	
	1881.	1892.	1881.	1892.
	lb	lb	£	£
New South Wales.....	165,436,500	332,480,550	7,175,200	9,278,404
Victoria	58,832,500	86,344,915	2,562,800	3,092,443
Queensland.....	32,532,500	114,370,902	1,331,900	3,872,905
South Australia.....	46,328,200	50,615,893	1,573,300	1,318,039
Western Australia	4,107,000	8,712,080	256,700	294,033
Tasmania ..	8,269,700	8,562,931	498,400	317,756
New Zealand	70,787,000	132,276,473	2,910,600	4,204,986
Australasia.....	386,293,400	733,363,744	16,308,900	22,378,566

According to returns prepared by a leading firm of London wool brokers, the number of bales of Australasian wool imported into Europe and America during 1892 was 1,835,000, valued at £22,019,000. The difference in valuation amounts to less than 1 per cent. and shows the general correctness of the estimate made of the value of the wool clip of the Australasian Colonies. Similar returns for the year 1893 show the imports as 1,775,000 bales, valued at £22,187,000, an advance of ten shillings per bale on the 1892 prices. In comparing the weight of the clip with the number of sheep shorn in each Colony, it will be seen that the New Zealand clip is proportionately the heaviest and the Queensland clip the lightest.

The average price per lb. obtained for wool in grease, at the London Wool Sales, for the five series during each year from 1885, for the principal producing Colonies, was:—

Year.	New South Wales. (Good Merino.)	Victoria. (Good Merino.)	New Zealand. (Good Cross-bred.)
	d.	d.	d.
1885	8½	10¾	8¾
1886	8½	10½	9½
1887	9¾	10¾	9¾
1888	8¾	10½	9½
1889	10	11½	10
1890	10	11½	10½
1891	8¾	11¾	10½
1892	7½	11	9½
1893	8	10	10

It will be noticed that Victorian wool averages a little less than 2d. per lb. higher than New South Wales wool. The figures must be taken with qualification. Much of the New South Wales wool, the product of the Riverina districts, is exported *via* Melbourne, and sold as Port Phillip wool, and brings a price considerably in excess of the average given in the table for the Colony of which it is the produce.

In view of the large increase of stock which a succession of favourable seasons has brought to the flock masters of Australasia the question of the disposal of the surplus cast has become a matter of very serious consequence. In New South Wales especially, and in the Riverina district in particular, it was found necessary to have recourse to the old method of boiling down, which a fortunate rise in the price of tallow has made it possible to carry on with a margin of profit. In New Zealand, however, a much better solution has been found, and a trade in frozen mutton with the United Kingdom has been established on a thoroughly payable basis. The first successful attempt at shipping frozen mutton to England was made in New Zealand in

1882, and since then the trade has attained great proportions, to the immediate benefit of the Colonial producer as well as to that of the English consumer. The trade initiated by the New Zealand Land Company has been extended by the formation of numerous joint stock companies, which now own twenty-one meat freezing works in the two islands, having an aggregate capability for freezing about 4,000,000 sheep per year. In New Zealand the sheep are generally killed up country, and transported by rail to the freezing works. Four fleets of steamers are engaged in the trade, and the freight rates charged enable the companies to realise satisfactory profits. The example of New Zealand is now being followed by the continental provinces, and by New South Wales in particular; the following figures will show how the trade is being extended:—In 1881 the value of the trade done by New Zealand was only £22,391, or 6 per cent. of that of Australasia; in 1892 it had increased to £1,113,698, or 60·8 per cent. of the total. New South Wales and Queensland are the principal exporters in this trade after New Zealand, the value of export being £282,102 for New South Wales, and £374,922 for Queensland. In 1881 New South Wales and Victoria exported meat to the total value of £304,909; in 1891 their joint export had decreased to £218,312, but in 1892 it rose to £336,512. New South Wales exports increased from £197,916 in 1891 to £282,102 in 1892, and Victorian exports from £20,396 in 1891 to £54,410 in 1892. The New South Wales exports in 1893 amounted to £311,339, and a further development of this industry may be looked for.

The following table shows the quantity of fresh and preserved meats exported, the produce of each Colony, in 1881 and 1892:—

Colony.	Quantity.			
	1881.		1892.	
	Fresh and Frozen.	Salt and Preserved.	Fresh and Frozen.	Salt and Preserved.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
New South Wales.....	17,740	62,094	226,463	80,319
Victoria	8,136	35,947	889	19,036
Queensland.....	.....	22,051	174,791	56,193
South Australia.....	22	746	831	2,255
New Zealand .....	.....	9,595	870,476	44,400
Australasia.....	25,898	130,433	1,273,450	202,203

The seriousness of the question of the disposal of the surplus cast may be grasped when it is understood that, apart from New Zealand, there is a surplus of from 60,000 to 100,000 head of cattle, and 4,500,000

sheep, which in any ordinary year could be exported without trenching upon the local requirements, while if a satisfactory trade were opened up the surplus could be made much larger.

DAIRY-FARMING.

Dairy-farming has of late years made fair progress in Australasia, especially in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand. The introduction of the factory system at convenient centres, and the use of the cream separator, have done much to cause the extension of this industry. The number of dairy cows and the estimated quantity of milk produced by them in each Colony were as follow in 1892 :—

Colony.	Dairy Cows.	Quantity of milk produced (estimated).
	No.	Gallons.
New South Wales	365,110	131,439,600
Victoria.....	417,177	150,183,720
Queensland	125,000*	37,500,000
South Australia	79,420	28,591,000
Western Australia	8,000*	2,400,000
Tasmania	35,013	14,005,200
New Zealand	220,000*	92,400,000
Australasia	1,249,720	456,519,520

* Estimated.

The value of the milk and its products, butter and cheese, and of the return obtained from swine, together with the total value of dairy produce for each Colony in 1892 were :—

Colony.	Value of Milk, Butter, and Cheese.	Value of Return from Swine.	Total Value of Dairy and Swine Produce.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,957,970	443,280	2,401,250
Victoria	2,133,720	402,210	2,535,930
Queensland	592,540	157,710	750,250
South Australia	465,400	117,530	582,930
Western Australia.....	49,680	30,310	79,990
Tasmania	218,250	102,910	321,160
New Zealand	1,322,420	360,920	1,683,340
Australasia	6,739,980	1,614,870	8,354,850

The production of butter and cheese for 1892 in each Colony is estimated to have been as follows :—

Colony.	Butter.	Cheese.
	lb.	lb
New South Wales	20,758,000	6,090,000
Victoria.....	23,971,000	5,566,000
Queensland	5,802,000	1,196,000
South Australia	4,621,000	1,442,000
Western Australia	142,000	.....
Tasmania	1,874,000	594,000
New Zealand	15,674,000	7,843,000
Australasia	72,842,000	22,731,000

The Colonies having a surplus of butter and cheese available for exportation are shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Quantity.	
	Butter.	Cheese.
	lb.	lb.
New South Wales	1,027,809	.....
Victoria.....	6,532,728	.....
New Zealand	6,039,824	4,631,760
Total	13,600,361	4,631,760

New South Wales was formerly both an importer and an exporter of butter, because only during the spring and early summer months was the production larger than the local requirements, while during the remainder of the year butter had to be imported to meet the local demand. This importation, which was made chiefly from New Zealand, has now practically ceased, and such as took place during 1892 and 1893 came chiefly from South Australia as supplies for the Barrier district. During 1893 the large surplus of 2,705,369 lb. was available for exportation.

The Colonies which, on the other hand, are obliged to import butter and cheese are shown below :—

Colony.	Quantity.	
	Butter.	Cheese.
	lb.	lb.
New South Wales .....	.....	53,700
Victoria .....	.....	246,286
Queensland	19,476	675,050
South Australia	16,512	48,734
Western Australia	697,444	242,185
Tasmania	190,348	17,562
Total	923,780	1,283,517

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that those Colonies which produce a surplus of butter and cheese have, after providing for the deficiency of the other provinces, a balance available for exportation. The quantity in 1892 amounted to 12,676,581 lb. butter, and 3,348,243 lb. cheese, valued at £422,600 and £55,800 respectively. An export trade in butter and cheese has long been maintained from New Zealand, but since 1890 Victorian and New South Wales butter has been sent to the London market, and its very favourable reception there gave a fresh stimulus to the dairying industry in those Colonies. The rapidity with which this trade is growing may be gauged from the following table, which shows the quantity and value of butter exported to the United Kingdom during the years 1890, 1891, and 1892 :—

Colony.	1890.		1891.		1892.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£
New South Wales	589,160	18,914	391,180	17,278	1,532,782	63,129
Victoria	1,286,583	47,516	3,778,775	186,437	6,446,900	322,056
South Australia	10,850	326	23,804	1,150	.....	.....
New Zealand	2,976,848	92,646	3,246,768	106,446	4,648,980	170,123
Australasia	4,863,441	159,402	7,440,587	311,811	12,628,662	555,308

The increase in trade since 1890 in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand is certainly remarkable. Returns for 1893 are not to hand for the other Colonies, but the direct exports of butter from New South Wales to the United Kingdom increased to 2,846,989 lb., valued at £112,753, and it is certain that a large increase took place during the same period in the other Colonies, notably in Victoria.

From latest advices it would appear that the price obtained for Australian butter in London was higher than the rates ruling in the local market; and as there can hardly be a limit placed to the capacity of Australasia to produce butter and cheese, it is probable that these high prices will have the effect of greatly stimulating the dairy industry throughout all these Colonies. In connection with this subject, it may be mentioned that the value of the butter, cheese, and eggs imported into the United Kingdom during 1892 was £11,965,190, £5,416,784, and £3,794,718 respectively. The supply is chiefly drawn from the Continent of Europe and from America.

The breeding of swine is usually carried on in conjunction with dairy-farming. Below will be found a return of the number of swine in each Colony in 1861 and in 1892, together with the proportion owned by each in comparison with the total stock. It will be observed that the actual number owned by the various Colonies has in all cases increased except in South Australia, though the relative proportions have altered considerably. New South Wales, for instance, held over 40 per cent. of the stock of swine in 1861, but in 1892 the proportion had receded to 22·4 per cent.; while Victoria, which possessed only 12 per cent. in 1861, has now over 26 per cent. of the total number. In the same interval New Zealand had increased from nearly 12 per cent. to nearly 28 per cent. of the whole:—

Colony.	Number.		Percentage of each Colony to total of Australasia.	
	1861.	1892.	1861.	1892.
	No.	No.	Per cent.	Per cent.
New South Wales.....	146,091	249,522	40·3	22·4
Victoria.....	43,480	290,339	12·0	26·1
Queensland.....	7,465	116,930	2·1	10·5
South Australia.....	69,286	62,986	19·1	5·7
Western Australia.....	11,984	24,417	3·3	2·2
Tasmania.....	40,841	59,267	11·3	5·3
New Zealand	43,270	308,812	11·9	27·8
Australasia.....	362,417	1,112,273	100·0	100·0

The products of the swine—bacon, ham, lard, and salt pork—are still imported by all the Colonies with the exception of Victoria and New Zealand, as is shown in the following table, which relates to the year 1892:—

Colony.	Bacon and ham.	Salt pork.	Lard.	Net value imported.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	30,920	*329	*205	30,386
Victoria	*1,386	*726	241	*1,871
Queensland	5,032	*32	*677	4,323
South Australia	1,964	*179	.....	1,785
Western Australia.....	9,111	.....	921	10,032
Tasmania	1,229	.....	.....	1,229
New Zealand	*15,845	*1,818	*677	*18,106
Australasia	31,025	*3,084	*163	27,778

The figures marked (*) show an excess of exports; all the others represent an excess of imports. There seems to be considerable scope for an extension of this particular branch of farming in most of the Colonies.

POULTRY AND MINOR INDUSTRIES.

An estimate is given below of the value of the production of poultry and eggs, together with that arising from bee-culture. The value of the production in each Colony in 1892 was as follows:—

Colony.	Poultry and Eggs.	Honey and Beeswax.
	£	£
New South Wales	683,000	31,000
Victoria	670,000	21,000
Queensland	251,000	10,000
South Australia	222,000	9,000
Western Australia	33,000	1,500
Tasmania	90,000	4,000
New Zealand	386,000	17,000
Australasia	2,335,000	93,500

The most remarkable feature is the trade in eggs between South Australia as supplier and Victoria and New South Wales as buyers. The figures for 1892 show that during that year South Australia exported eggs to the value of £27,771, viz., £4,586 to Victoria, £20,737 to New South Wales, and £2,448 to Western Australia. The bulk of the New South Wales trade was done with the Barrier district, which is commercially a dependency of South Australia.

PASTORAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTION.

The total value of pastoral and dairy production during the year 1892, in each Colony and in the whole of Australasia, together with the value per inhabitant, is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Total Value of Pastoral and Dairy Production.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	16,797,250	14 4 4
Victoria	9,300,930	8 0 0
Queensland	8,266,250	19 7 7
South Australia	3,086,930	9 6 5
Western Australia	623,490	11 2 9
Tasmania	1,063,160	6 19 1
New Zealand	9,276,340	14 8 10
Australasia	48,414,350	12 5 7

From the following table, which gives similar figures for the years 1871, 1881, and 1891, it will be seen that, while the total production has increased more than twofold since 1861, the value per inhabitant has only varied slightly ; and that New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and New Zealand show the most satisfactory progress, while in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania the pastoral industry has advanced much more slowly :—

Colony.	1871.	1881.	1891.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	8,709,000	13,151,000	17,460,000
Victoria	7,260,000	7,499,000	9,321,000
Queensland	1,959,000	4,186,000	7,561,400
South Australia	1,800,000	3,178,000	3,148,525
Western Australia	274,000	431,000	647,350
Tasmania	734,000	1,093,000	1,117,550
New Zealand	3,210,000	7,096,000	9,153,225
Australasia	23,946,000	36,634,000	48,409,050
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per inhabitant	12 7 7	13 3 11	12 12 0

EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTION.

TO obtain a fair approximation of the number of persons engaged in the various walks of life in Australasia was impossible before the Census of 1891 was taken, for although at the Census Enumerations of 1881 and previous years the occupations of the people were made a feature of the inquiry, the classification, which followed closely that originally devised by the late Dr. Farr, was unsatisfactory, as it completely failed to distinguish between producers and distributors. To avoid a repetition of this defect the Census Conference, held at Hobart in March, 1890, abandoned the English system and adopted a scheme of classification more in accordance with sound principles. Under this classification population is divided into two great sections—breadwinners and dependents—and the breadwinners are arranged in their natural classes of producers and distributors, with their various orders and sub-orders. The classes may be shortly defined as follow :—

Section A.—Breadwinners.

Class I. Professional.

Class II. Domestic.

Class III. Commercial.

Class IV. Industrial.

Class V. Agricultural, Pastoral, Mineral, and other Primary Producers.

Class VI. Indefinite.

Section B.—Dependents : Non-Breadwinners.

Class VII. Dependents.

A description of the various classes and orders, together with the number of males and females, exclusive of aborigines, belonging to each order, is given in the following pages for all the Australasian Colonies. It is impossible, however, in a work such as this, to enter minutely into details ; and anyone who may desire to pursue the subject further is referred to the Census Reports of the various Colonies.

BREADWINNERS AND DEPENDENTS.

Of the total population of Australasia at the Census of 1891, the occupations of 2,023,999 males and 1,758,967 females were specified. The 2,023,999 males were thus divided into breadwinners and dependents :—

Colony.	Breadwinners.	Dependents.	Percentages to specified male population of—	
			Breadwinners.	Dependents.
New South Wales.....	382,385	223,285	63·13	36·87
Victoria	387,684	204,922	65·42	34·58
Queensland	146,611	76,064	65·84	34·16
South Australia.....	102,831	61,919	62·42	37·58
Western Australia	21,494	8,163	72·47	27·53
Tasmania	48,570	28,482	63·04	36·96
New Zealand	205,956	125,633	62·11	37·89
Australasia	1,295,531	728,468	64·01	35·99

If a comparison of the proportion of breadwinners be made with the proportion of males of supporting ages given in the table on page 61 of this volume, it will be seen that Western Australia, with the highest proportion of supporting males, viz., 67·60 per cent., naturally supplied the highest proportion of breadwinners, the leading position occupied by this Colony being sufficiently accounted for by the pioneer stage of its existence ; Queensland came second, with 65·22 per cent. of males of supporting ages, and 65·84 per cent. of breadwinners ; Victoria third, with 62·68 per cent., and 65·42 per cent. respectively ; and New South Wales fourth, with 61·41 per cent. of males of supporting ages, and 63·13 per cent. of breadwinners. Tasmania, South Australia, and New Zealand, with the lowest proportions of supporting ages, had also the lowest proportions of breadwinners ; and the positions of these Colonies may be largely attributed to the exodus from their shores of able-bodied men in search of employment.

In all the Colonies the male breadwinners were in excess of the males of supporting ages. This fact is, of course, due to the employment of boys under 15, and the continued activity of men over 65 years of age. The excess was greatest in Tasmania, where the largest proportion of males of the old ages was to be found. Queensland, where the excess

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was smallest, viz., to the extent of only 0·62 per cent., had the smallest proportion of males of the old ages, and, except Western Australia, the smallest proportion of children of dependent ages.

The 1,758,967 females of specified occupations were distributed as follow :—

Colony.	Breadwinners.	Dependents.	Percentage to specified female population of—	
			Breadwinners.	Dependents.
New South Wales	89,502	425,918	17·36	82·64
Victoria	114,270	426,060	21·15	78·85
Queensland	31,651	137,934	18·66	81·34
South Australia	24,263	127,672	15·97	84·03
Western Australia	3,032	16,814	15·28	84·72
Tasmania	12,431	56,059	18·15	81·85
New Zealand	43,589	249,772	14·86	85·14
Australasia	318,738	1,440,229	18·12	81·88

The dependents are thus grouped :—(1) Those performing domestic duties ; (2) scholars and students ; (3) relatives not stated to be performing domestic duties ; (4) those supported by the State and voluntary contributions ; (5) the criminal class.

The following table shows the number of male persons classified under each of these headings in the different Colonies :—

Colony.	Performing domestic duties.	Scholars and students.	Relatives not stated to be performing domestic duties.	Supported by the State and voluntary contributions	Criminal class.
New South Wales.....	98	118,454	96,140	6,059	2,534
Victoria .....	.....	114,829	83,300	5,241	1,552
Queensland	82	37,439	35,454	2,417	672
South Australia.....	.....	31,272	29,294	1,045	308
Western Australia ...	4	4,285	3,614	246	14
Tasmania .....	...	13,436	13,930	892	224
New Zealand.....	393	73,013	49,106	2,354	767
Australasia.....	577	392,728	310,838	18,254	6,071

Corresponding figures for the female dependents are shown below. In the Victorian and South Australian returns the persons "performing domestic duties" were classified with "relatives not stated to be performing domestic duties," and the figures for these Colonies have therefore been adjusted to correspond with the returns for the other Colonies :—

Colony.	Performing domestic duties.	Scholars and students.	Relatives not stated to be performing domestic duties.	Supported by the State and voluntary contributions	Criminal class.
New South Wales.....	210,701	117,136	94,123	3,450	508
Victoria	215,800	113,217	92,481	4,180	382
Queensland	60,736	37,067	38,768	1,292	71
South Australia.....	67,860	29,910	29,084	769	49
Western Australia	8,692	4,310	3,639	162	11
Tasmania	26,335	12,885	16,170	557	112
New Zealand	124,465	73,778	49,933	1,437	159
Australasia.....	714,589	388,303	324,198	11,847	1,292

The following table shows the number of male and female bread-winners in each of the Colonies :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	332,385	89,502	471,887
Victoria	387,684	114,270	501,954
Queensland	146,611	31,651	178,262
South Australia	102,831	24,263	127,094
Western Australia	21,494	3,032	24,526
Tasmania	48,570	12,431	61,001
New Zealand	205,956	43,589	249,545
Australasia	1,295,531	318,738	1,614,269

A distribution of the population into the characteristic divisions, such as employers, workers on their own account, relatives assisting, wage-earners, and unemployed, would be extremely interesting. Unfortunately it is not possible to make such a distribution with accuracy. The distinction between employers and employed is not made in the

Queensland census, and the other grades are imperfectly tabulated in all the Colonies except New South Wales and Tasmania. From the materials to hand the following summary has been compiled :—

Colony.	Employers.	Engaged on own account.	Other Workers.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales { Males ...	53,420	49,506	275,195	378,121
{ Females..	2,641	14,123	65,752	82,516
Victoria { Males ...	39,371	56,418	289,912	385,701
{ Females..	3,064	14,793	83,375	101,232
South Australia { Males ...	15,794	11,349	76,481	103,624
{ Females..	1,002	2,003	21,998	25,003
Western Australia { Males ...	2,405	3,060	16,179	21,644
{ Females..	201	270	2,690	3,161
Tasmania { Males ...	5,215	7,596	35,357	48,168
{ Females..	375	1,509	9,753	11,637
New Zealand { Males ...	24,842	30,170	152,216	207,228
{ Females..	1,391	3,405	40,606	45,402
Total (Six Colonies) { Males ...	141,047	158,099	845,340	1,144,486
{ Females..	8,674	36,103	224,174	268,951

THE PROFESSIONAL CLASS.

The Professional Class (Class I) embraces all persons engaged in the government and defence of the country who are not otherwise classed, and those employed in satisfying the intellectual, moral, and social wants of its inhabitants. This class is divided into two orders :—

GOVERNMENT, DEFENCE, LAW, &c.

Order 1 comprises persons engaged in government (general and local), defence, law, and protection ; and is represented by the following table. It must be pointed out in connection with this order that persons in the employment of the State are distributed, as far as possible, according to their special employment, and are not included in the table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	7,263	99	7,362
Victoria	6,786	169	6,955
Queensland	3,579	31	3,610
South Australia	1,905	6	1,911
Western Australia	601	5	606
Tasmania	1,026	6	1,032
New Zealand	3,085	20	3,105
Australasia	24,245	336	24,581

RELIGION, HEALTH, EDUCATION, &c.

Order 2 contains the persons ministering to religion, charity (exclusive of hospitals), health, literature, science, civil and mechanical engineering, architecture and surveying, education, fine arts, music, and amusements. The number of persons included in this order is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	13,826	10,303	24,129
Victoria	13,207	9,560	22,767
Queensland	3,970	2,896	6,866
South Australia	2,761	2,594	5,355
Western Australia	508	338	846
Tasmania	1,557	1,196	2,753
New Zealand	7,029	5,717	12,746
Australasia	42,858	32,604	75,462

PROFESSIONAL CLASS.

The following table gives the total number of persons of the Professional Class :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	21,089	10,402	31,491
Victoria	19,993	9,729	29,722
Queensland	7,549	2,927	10,476
South Australia	4,666	2,600	7,266
Western Australia	1,109	343	1,452
Tasmania	2,583	1,202	3,785
New Zealand	10,114	5,737	15,851
Australasia	67,103	32,940	100,043

THE DOMESTIC CLASS.

The Domestic Class (Class II) embraces all persons engaged in the supply of board and lodging, and in rendering personal services for which remuneration is usually paid. It contains one order, No. 3, in the consecutive series of orders, and is divided into two sub-orders as follow :—(1) Board and lodging, and (2) Attendance.

BOARD AND LODGING.

In the first of these sub-orders the males and females were fairly equal, as the following figures show :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	7,777	10,132	17,909
Victoria	6,857	7,637	14,494
Queensland	2,596	3,264	5,860
South Australia	747	402	1,149
Western Australia	194	65	259
Tasmania	523	551	1,074
New Zealand	3,345	3,196	6,541
Australasia	22,039	25,247	47,286

ATTENDANCE.

In the second sub-order, however, the females outnumbered the males in the proportion of nearly four to one :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	9,882	28,076	37,958
Victoria	9,126	34,929	44,055
Queensland	3,367	11,159	14,526
South Australia	2,316	10,777	13,093
Western Australia	952	1,475	2,427
Tasmania	951	5,239	6,190
New Zealand	2,622	16,195	18,817
Australasia	29,216	107,850	137,066

DOMESTIC CLASS.

The total number of persons in the Domestic Class in each of the Colonies was as follows :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	17,659	38,208	55,867
Victoria	15,983	42,566	58,549
Queensland	5,963	14,423	20,386
South Australia	3,063	11,179	14,242
Western Australia	1,146	1,540	2,686
Tasmania	1,474	5,790	7,264
New Zealand	5,967	19,391	25,358
Australasia	51,255	133,097	184,352

As the definition of Class II points out, it includes only those persons performing domestic duties who are usually in receipt of money wages; the much larger number of persons performing domestic duties without receiving money wages are enumerated among the dependents, principally under the first heading—persons performing domestic duties.

THE COMMERCIAL CLASS.

The Commercial Class (Class III) embraces all persons directly connected with the hire, sale, transfer, distribution, storage, and security of property and materials, and with the transport of persons and goods, or engaged in effecting communication. It is divided into four sub-classes, as follow :—(A) Property and Finance, (B) Trade, (C) Storage, and (D) Transport and Communication.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE.

The first of these sub-classes, Property and Finance, comprises Order 4, described as including persons who perform offices in connection with the exchange, valuation, insurance, lease, loan or custody of money, houses, land, or property rights. In the following table will be found the number of people coming under this sub-class :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	7,267	652	7,919
Victoria	8,147	1,141	9,288
Queensland	2,589	337	2,926
South Australia	1,622	221	1,843
Western Australia	372	51	423
Tasmania	1,180	514	1,694
New Zealand	3,459	342	3,801
Australasia	24,636	3,258	27,894

Sub-class B, Trade, contains Orders 5 to 11 inclusive.

DEALERS IN ART AND MECHANIC PRODUCTIONS.

Order 5 comprises persons dealing in art and mechanic productions, in which materials of various kinds are employed in combination. In this order are included all dealers in books, publications, and advertising; musical instruments; prints, pictures, and art materials; ornaments, minor art products, and small wares; equipment for sports and games; designs, medals, type, and dies; watches, clocks, and

scientific instruments ; surgical instruments and appliances ; arms and explosives ; machines, tools, and implements ; carriages and vehicles ; harness, saddlery, and leatherware ; ships, boats, and marine stores ; building materials and house fittings (not elsewhere classed) ; furniture ; chemicals and by-products ; and paper and paper-makers' materials. The persons enumerated in this order were as follow :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	3,304	247	3,551
Victoria	3,370	590	3,960
Queensland	632	80	712
South Australia	443	83	526
Western Australia	90	4	94
Tasmania	272	35	307
New Zealand	1,321	183	1,504
Australasia	9,432	1,222	10,654

DEALERS IN DRESS AND TEXTILE FABRICS.

Order 6 contains the persons engaged in the sale, hire, or exchange of textile fabrics and dress, and of fibrous materials, as shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	4,965	857	5,822
Victoria	5,163	901	6,064
Queensland	1,181	248	1,429
South Australia	1,072	454	1,526
Western Australia	71	39	110
Tasmania	428	120	548
New Zealand	2,634	510	3,144
Australasia	15,514	3,129	18,643

DEALERS IN FOOD AND DRINKS.

Persons engaged in dealing in animal and vegetable food, drinks, narcotics, and stimulants are included in Order 7. The following table gives the number of persons classified in this order in each of the Colonies :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	12,736	1,066	13,802
Victoria	13,039	1,401	14,440
Queensland	4,032	338	4,370
South Australia	3,090	274	3,364
Western Australia	234	11	245
Tasmania	996	142	1,138
New Zealand	6,367	534	6,901
Australasia	40,494	3,766	44,260

DEALERS IN ANIMALS, ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES.

Order 8 embraces all persons dealing in living animals ; manures and animal waste products ; leather, raw materials, and manufactures ; other animal matters ; seeds, plants, flowers, vegetable products for fodder and gardening purposes ; and other vegetable matter not included elsewhere. The following table shows the number of persons classified in this order :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	2,692	59	2,751
Victoria	3,400	105	3,505
Queensland	774	9	783
South Australia	422	14	436
Western Australia	97	.....	97
Tasmania	159	1	160
New Zealand	793	5	798
Australasia	8,337	193	8,530

DEALERS IN FUEL AND LIGHT.

Order 9, which contains persons dealing in minerals, &c., mainly used for fuel and light, is as follows :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,339	10	1,349
Victoria	1,648	17	1,665
Queensland	63	3	66
South Australia	447	4	451
Western Australia	1	.....	1
Tasmania	156	1	157
New Zealand	391	6	397
Australasia	4,045	41	4,086

DEALERS IN MINERALS AND METALS.

Order 10 includes persons dealing in stone, clay, earthenware, glass, and minerals not otherwise classed ; gold, silver, and precious stones, and metals other than gold and silver. The number for each Colony is as under :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,503	26	1,529
Victoria	1,684	50	1,734
Queensland	401	4	405
South Australia	364	1	365
Western Australia	6	.....	6
Tasmania	142	14	156
New Zealand	838	8	846
Australasia	4,938	103	5,041

GENERAL DEALERS AND SPECULATORS ON CHANCE EVENTS.

Order 11, the last of the orders comprised in sub-class Trade, comprises general dealers (undefined), speculators on chance events, and other mercantile persons undefined. The persons enumerated in this order are shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	16,819	1,920	18,739
Victoria	22,831	3,482	26,313
Queensland	6,050	907	6,957
South Australia	6,666	761	7,427
Western Australia	969	164	1,133
Tasmania	1,625	272	1,897
New Zealand	8,169	1,111	9,280
Australasia	63,129	8,617	71,746

TRADE.

The subjoined table shows the total number of persons engaged in Trade (sub-class B) in each of the Colonies. It has to be stated in connection with this sub-class that the rather numerous class of people who are manufacturers and dealers at the same time are classed amongst manufacturers in Class IV, and that those who are both primary producers and dealers are grouped amongst the primary producers in Class V. Persons who are engaged both in dealing and in transportation are classed in sub-class Storage of the Commercial Class :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	43,358	4,185	47,543
Victoria	51,135	6,546	57,681
Queensland	13,133	1,589	14,722
South Australia	12,504	1,591	14,095
Western Australia	1,468	218	1,686
Tasmania	3,778	585	4,363
New Zealand	20,513	2,357	22,870
Australasia	145,889	17,071	162,960

STORAGE.

Sub-class C (Storage) comprises only Order 12, embracing all persons engaged in Storage. The number of persons so employed in the different Colonies is shown below :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	313	1	314
Victoria	383	7	390
Queensland	247	.....	247
South Australia	168	.....	168
Western Australia	33	.....	33
Tasmania	187	.....	187
New Zealand	300	.....	300
Australasia	1,631	8	1,639

RAILWAY, ROAD, AND MARINE TRAFFIC.

Sub-class D (Transport and Communication) contains Order 13, comprising persons engaged in the transport of passengers or goods, or in effecting communication. This order includes all persons engaged on railways (not railway construction) or steam tramways ; on roads ; on seas, rivers, and canals ; on postal service ; on telegraph and telephone

service ; and in the delivery of documents, parcels, and messages. As the subjoined table shows, the order is a very large one :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	30,353	500	30,853
Victoria	29,925	1,544	31,469
Queensland	13,142	253	13,395
South Australia	9,940	163	10,103
Western Australia.....	2,833	52	2,885
Tasmania	3,702	209	3,911
New Zealand	15,051	144	15,195
Australasia	104,946	2,865	107,811

COMMERCIAL CLASS.

The total number of persons coming within the Commercial Class, comprising those dealing in property and finance, and engaged in trade, storage, and transport and communication, is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	81,291	5,338	86,629
Victoria	89,590	9,238	98,828
Queensland	29,111	2,179	31,290
South Australia.....	24,234	1,975	26,209
Western Australia.....	4,706	321	5,027
Tasmania	8,847	1,308	10,155
New Zealand	39,323	2,843	42,166
Australasia	277,102	23,202	300,304

THE INDUSTRIAL CLASS.

The Industrial Class (Class IV) embraces all persons not otherwise classed, who are principally engaged in various works of utility, or in specialities connected with the manufacture, construction, modification, or alteration of materials so as to render them more available for the various uses of man, but it excludes, as far as possible, all who are mainly or solely in the service of commercial interchange. Persons who are both primary producers and manufacturers are not included in this class, but are grouped in Class V, amongst primary producers. The Industrial Class is divided into seven orders—14 to 20.

WORKERS IN ART AND MECHANIC PRODUCTIONS.

Order 14 comprises persons engaged in connection with the manufacture of, or in other processes relating to, art and mechanic productions in which materials of various kinds are employed in combination. These include books and publications; musical instruments; prints, pictures, and art materials; ornaments, minor art products, and small wares; equipment for sports and games; designs, medals, type, and dies; watches, clocks, and scientific instruments; surgical instruments and appliances; arms and explosives; machines, tools, and implements; carriages and vehicles; harness, saddlery, leather, leatherware; ships, boats, and their equipment; furniture, and chemicals and by-products. The number of persons belonging to this order was as follows:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	18,496	621	19,117
Victoria	20,566	1,122	21,688
Queensland	4,875	138	5,013
South Australia	4,998	114	5,112
Western Australia.....	937	41	978
Tasmania	1,789	36	1,825
New Zealand	9,284	307	9,591
Australasia	60,945	2,379	63,324

WORKERS IN DRESS AND TEXTILE FABRICS.

Order 15 includes persons engaged in connection with the manufacture of, or in repairs, cleansing, or in other processes relating to, textile fabrics, dress, and fibrous materials. The enumeration of this order was as follows:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	7,709	16,892	24,601
Victoria	10,941	26,498	37,439
Queensland	2,546	4,869	7,415
South Australia	2,312	5,402	7,714
Western Australia.....	85	355	440
Tasmania	1,102	1,717	2,819
New Zealand	8,546	10,725	19,271
Australasia	33,241	66,458	99,699

WORKERS IN FOOD AND DRINKS.

Order 16 is composed of persons engaged in connection with the manufacture of, or in other processes relating to, food, drink, narcotics, and stimulants, and contains the following numbers :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	7,683	240	7,923
Victoria	7,188	429	7,617
Queensland	2,155	125	2,280
South Australia	1,916	57	1,973
Western Australia.....	258	6	264
Tasmania	720	65	785
New Zealand	4,421	177	4,598
Australasia	24,341	1,099	25,440

WORKERS IN ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES.

Order 17 comprises persons, not otherwise classed, engaged in manufactures or other processes connected with animal and vegetable substances. In this order are included paper manufacturers, workers in vegetable produce for fodder, and those working in wood and animal matters not elsewhere classified. The following table gives the persons employed in such pursuits :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	9,181	12	9,193
Victoria	5,433	92	5,525
Queensland	2,879	7	2,886
South Australia	892	33	925
Western Australia.....	595	1	596
Tasmania	1,080	7	1,087
New Zealand	3,541	40	3,581
Australasia	23,601	192	23,793

WORKERS IN MINERALS AND METALS.

In Order 18 are grouped persons engaged in the alteration, modification, or manufacture of, or in other processes relating to, metals or mineral

matters. It includes persons engaged in the conversion of coal and other substances to purposes of heat, light, or forms of energy, not otherwise classed; in manufactures and processes related to stone, clay, earthenware, glass, and minerals, not otherwise classed; in precious metals and precious stones; and in other metals. The persons enumerated in this order were as shown in the following table:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	13,717	8	13,725
Victoria	15,322	65	15,387
Queensland	4,186	6	4,192
South Australia	3,864	...	3,864
Western Australia.....	520	1	521
Tasmania	1,314	2	1,316
New Zealand	5,872	26	5,898
Australasia	44,795	108	44,903

MANUFACTURES.

Orders 14 to 18 comprise all those who may properly be classed as finding employment in the manufacturing industries of the Colonies. The classification includes persons employed in factories as well as those who work in their own homes, the latter being especially numerous in Order 15, where there is a great preponderance of female workers. A summary of these first five orders of the Industrial Class is given below:—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	56,786	17,773	74,559
Victoria	59,450	28,206	87,656
Queensland	16,641	5,145	21,786
South Australia	13,982	5,606	19,588
Western Australia.....	2,395	404	2,799
Tasmania	6,005	1,827	7,832
New Zealand	31,664	11,275	42,939
Australasia	186,923	70,236	257,159

BUILDING INDUSTRIES.

The remaining two orders of the Industrial Class contain together quite as many persons as the five orders already mentioned. Order 19 includes persons engaged in the construction or repair of buildings, roads, railways, canals, docks, earthworks, etc.; in the disposal of silt, dead matter, or refuse; or in operations the nature of which is undefined. The following figures show the numbers of persons classified under this order :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	33,507	4	33,511
Victoria	40,656	34	40,690
Queensland	10,772	3	10,775
South Australia	7,018	...	7,018
Western Australia.....	1,783	...	1,783
Tasmania	5,308	...	5,308
New Zealand	12,704	12	12,716
Australasia	116,748	53	116,801

UNDEFINED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

Order 20 comprises industrial workers imperfectly defined. The persons enumerated in this order were as follow :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	27,357	24	27,381
Victoria	38,911	284	39,195
Queensland	14,602	20	14,622
South Australia	11,074	...	11,074
Western Australia.....	1,801	3	1,804
Tasmania	2,714	...	2,714
New Zealand	16,577	63	16,640
Australasia	113,036	394	113,430

INDUSTRIAL CLASS.

The following table shows the total number of persons coming within the Industrial Class :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	122,650	17,801	140,451
Victoria	139,017	28,524	167,541
Queensland	42,015	5,168	47,183
South Australia	32,074	5,606	37,680
Western Australia.....	5,979	407	6,386
Tasmania	14,027	1,827	15,854
New Zealand	60,945	11,350	72,295
Australasia	416,707	70,683	487,390

PRIMARY PRODUCERS.

Class V (Primary Producers) embraces all persons mainly engaged in the cultivation or acquisition of food products, or in obtaining other raw materials from natural sources. Order 21 is the only order comprised in this class, and is defined as containing persons directly engaged in the cultivation of land, or in rearing or breeding animals, or in obtaining raw products from natural sources. The order is divided into six sub-orders, as follow :—1. Agricultural pursuits ; 2. Pastoral pursuits ; 3. Fisheries, the capture, preservation, or destruction of wild animals, or the acquisition of products yielded by wild animals ; 4. Forestry, or the acquisition of raw products yielded by natural vegetation ; 5. The conservancy of water in all its forms, and water supply from natural sources ; 6. Mines, quarries, or the acquisition of natural mineral products.

The conditions of production in the Australasian Colonies are such that it is difficult to draw a marked line of separation between the followers of the various pursuits. A man may be set down as engaged in agriculture, while at the same time he may be engaged in stock-raising or dairy-farming. As a matter of fact, there are few farmers who are not so engaged. A false impression of the value of agricultural or pastoral production would therefore be obtained if the total value of production hereafter given were divided by the number of hands employed and the value set down as the production per head.

AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.

In each of the Australasian Colonies fully one half of the total number of persons belonging to Class V are returned as being engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in some cases they amount to two-thirds of the total. The figures for each Colony are as follow :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	67,576	7,022	74,598
Victoria	79,245	6,028	85,273
Queensland	33,891	6,089	39,980
South Australia	27,961	886	28,847
Western Australia.....	4,378	164	4,542
Tasmania	16,131	1,794	17,925
New Zealand	57,090	2,387	59,477
Australasia	286,272	24,370	310,642

PASTORAL PURSUITS.

The number of people engaged in pastoral pursuits is very much larger in New South Wales than in any of the other Colonies, as will be seen from the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	31,172	5,092	36,264
Victoria	10,675	4,814	15,489
Queensland	13,651	653	14,304
South Australia	4,001	1,331	5,332
Western Australia.....	1,705	170	1,875
Tasmania	720	267	987
New Zealand	9,786	270	10,056
Australasia	71,710	12,597	84,307

FISHERIES, ETC.

Those engaged in fisheries, or in preserving, capturing, or destroying wild animals, etc., are not a very numerous class, as the following figures show :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,666	2	1,668
Victoria	1,608	7	1,615
Queensland	786	12	798
South Australia	581	1	582
Western Australia	537	5	542
Tasmania	486	25	511
New Zealand	1,895	5	1,900
Australasia	7,559	57	7,616

FORESTRY, ETC.

The number of persons finding employment in forestry, or in the acquisition of natural vegetable products, is not much larger than in the last-mentioned sub-order :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,653	.....	1,653
Victoria	1,511	.....	1,511
Queensland	1,102	.....	1,102
South Australia	123	.....	123
Western Australia	299	2	301
Tasmania	20	3	23
New Zealand	2,114	.....	2,114
Australasia	6,822	5	6,827

WATER CONSERVATION AND SUPPLY.

In the two last-mentioned sub-orders the number of persons employed in New Zealand is larger than that in any of the other Colonies ; while in the following sub-order, comprising the people engaged in water-conservancy and supply, the number in New South Wales is larger than the total of all the other Colonies :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	1,905	1	1,906
Victoria	414	2	416
Queensland	181	...	181
South Australia	243	...	243
Western Australia	216	1	217
Tasmania	46	...	46
New Zealand	121	1	122
Australasia	3,126	5	3,131

MINING INDUSTRIES.

The sixth sub-order of Primary Producers comprises the persons engaged in mines or quarries, or in the acquisition of natural mineral products. The persons enumerated in each Colony under this sub-order were as follow :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	30,936	1	30,937
Victoria	24,642	11	24,653
Queensland	11,622	5	11,627
South Australia	4,992	...	4,992
Western Australia	1,269	...	1,269
Tasmania	4,004	...	4,004
New Zealand	16,854	23	16,877
Australasia	94,319	40	94,359

PRIMARY PRODUCERS.

The total number of primary producers in each of the Colonies was as follows :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	134,908	12,118	147,026
Victoria	118,095	10,862	128,957
Queensland	61,233	6,759	67,992
South Australia	37,901	2,218	40,119
Western Australia	8,404	342	8,746
Tasmania	21,407	2,089	23,496
New Zealand	87,860	2,686	90,546
Australasia	469,808	37,074	506,882

Full particulars regarding the value of the labour of primary producers are given in previous chapters, and a summary will be found at the close of this chapter.

THE INDEFINITE CLASS.

The Indefinite Class (Class VI) is the last class of bread-winners to be considered. It only comprises one order, 22, defined as persons whose occupations are undefined or unknown, embracing those who derive incomes from sources which cannot be directly related to any other class. The number of persons coming within this Class is shown in the following table :—

Colony.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New South Wales	4,788	5,635	10,423
Victoria	5,006	13,351	18,357
Queensland	740	195	935
South Australia	893	685	1,578
Western Australia	150	79	229
Tasmania	232	215	447
New Zealand	1,747	1,582	3,329
Australasia	13,556	21,742	35,298

As would naturally be expected, the males greatly preponderate in all the foregoing classes, except the Domestic Class, in which, owing to the

great number of females engaged in Attendance, there is a preponderance of females for the whole class. The only other case in which this takes place is in Class IV, in the sub-order comprising persons engaged in the manufacture of dress, but the percentage which this sub-order bears to the whole class is not high enough to affect the figures relating to the class. In the sub-order of Class VI which comprises persons of independent means, females also outnumber males in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

In the following table are shown the totals of the seven classes of occupations for each Colony, a distinction being made between breadwinners and dependents; and the figures also disclose the number of persons who did not state their occupations at the Census :—

Class.	Colonies.							
	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
I. PROFESSIONAL.	{ Males .. 21,089 Females 10,402 Total .. 31,491	{ Males .. 19,993 Females 9,729 Total .. 29,722	{ Males .. 7,549 Females 2,927 Total .. 10,476	{ Males .. 4,666 Females 2,600 Total .. 7,266	{ Males .. 1,109 Females 343 Total .. 1,452	{ Males .. 2,583 Females 1,202 Total .. 3,785	{ Males .. 10,114 Females 5,737 Total .. 15,851	{ Males .. 67,103 Females 32,940 Total .. 100,043
II. DOMESTIC.	{ Males .. 17,659 Females 38,208 Total .. 55,867	{ Males .. 15,983 Females 42,566 Total .. 58,549	{ Males .. 5,963 Females 14,423 Total .. 20,386	{ Males .. 3,063 Females 11,179 Total .. 14,242	{ Males .. 1,146 Females 1,540 Total .. 2,686	{ Males .. 1,474 Females 6,790 Total .. 8,264	{ Males .. 5,067 Females 19,891 Total .. 25,358	{ Males .. 51,255 Females 133,097 Total .. 184,352
III. COMMERCIAL.	{ Males .. 81,291 Females 5,338 Total .. 86,629	{ Males .. 89,590 Females 9,238 Total .. 98,828	{ Males .. 29,111 Females 2,179 Total .. 31,290	{ Males .. 24,234 Females 1,975 Total .. 26,209	{ Males .. 4,706 Females 321 Total .. 5,027	{ Males .. 8,847 Females 1,308 Total .. 10,155	{ Males .. 39,823 Females 2,843 Total .. 42,166	{ Males .. 277,102 Females 23,202 Total .. 300,304
IV. INDUSTRIAL.	{ Males .. 122,650 Females 17,801 Total .. 140,451	{ Males .. 139,017 Females 28,524 Total .. 167,541	{ Males .. 42,015 Females 5,108 Total .. 47,183	{ Males .. 32,074 Females 5,606 Total .. 37,680	{ Males .. 5,979 Females 407 Total .. 6,386	{ Males .. 14,027 Females 1,827 Total .. 15,854	{ Males .. 60,945 Females 11,350 Total .. 72,295	{ Males .. 410,707 Females 70,683 Total .. 487,390
V. PRIMARY PRODUCERS.	{ Males .. 134,908 Females 12,118 Total .. 147,026	{ Males .. 118,095 Females 10,862 Total .. 128,957	{ Males .. 61,233 Females 6,759 Total .. 67,992	{ Males .. 37,901 Females 2,218 Total .. 40,119	{ Males .. 8,404 Females 342 Total .. 8,746	{ Males .. 21,407 Females 2,089 Total .. 23,496	{ Males .. 87,860 Females 2,686 Total .. 90,546	{ Males .. 469,808 Females 37,074 Total .. 506,882
VI. INDEFINITE.	{ Males .. 4,788 Females 5,635 Total .. 10,423	{ Males .. 5,006 Females 13,351 Total .. 18,357	{ Males .. 740 Females 195 Total .. 935	{ Males .. 893 Females 685 Total .. 1,578	{ Males .. 150 Females 79 Total .. 229	{ Males .. 232 Females 215 Total .. 447	{ Males .. 1,747 Females 1,582 Total .. 3,329	{ Males .. 13,556 Females 21,742 Total .. 35,298
TOTAL BREADWINNERS.	{ Males .. 382,385 Females 89,502 Total .. 471,887	{ Males .. 387,684 Females 114,270 Total .. 501,954	{ Males .. 146,611 Females 31,661 Total .. 178,262	{ Males .. 102,831 Females 24,263 Total .. 127,094	{ Males .. 21,494 Females 3,032 Total .. 24,526	{ Males .. 48,570 Females 12,431 Total .. 61,001	{ Males .. 205,956 Females 43,589 Total .. 249,545	{ Males .. 1,295,531 Females 318,738 Total .. 1,614,269
VII. DEPENDENTS.	{ Males .. 223,285 Females 425,918 Total .. 649,203	{ Males .. 204,922 Females 428,060 Total .. 630,982	{ Males .. 76,064 Females 137,934 Total .. 213,998	{ Males .. 61,919 Females 127,672 Total .. 189,591	{ Males .. 8,163 Females 16,814 Total .. 24,977	{ Males .. 28,482 Females 56,059 Total .. 84,541	{ Males .. 125,633 Females 249,772 Total .. 375,405	{ Males .. 728,468 Females 1,440,229 Total .. 2,168,697
OCCUPATION NOT STATED.	{ Males .. 2,333 Females 531 Total .. 2,864	{ Males .. 5,483 Females 1,421 Total .. 6,904	{ Males .. 1,104 Females 354 Total .. 1,458	{ Males .. 2,051 Females 1,095 Total .. 3,146	{ Males .. 150 Females 129 Total .. 279	{ Males .. 508 Females 617 Total .. 1,125	{ Males .. 1,288 Females 420 Total .. 1,708	{ Males .. 12,917 Females 5,167 Total .. 18,084
TOTAL POPULATION.	{ Males .. 608,003 Females 515,951 Total .. 1,123,954	{ Males .. 598,039 Females 541,751 Total .. 1,139,840	{ Males .. 223,779 Females 169,939 Total .. 393,718	{ Males .. 166,801 Females 153,630 Total .. 320,431	{ Males .. 29,807 Females 19,075 Total .. 48,882	{ Males .. 77,560 Females 69,107 Total .. 146,667	{ Males .. 332,877 Females 293,781 Total .. 626,658	{ Males .. 2,036,916 Females 1,764,134 Total .. 3,801,050

MANUFACTORIES.

Statistics of manufactories and works are collected at certain intervals in all the Colonies except Queensland and Western Australia; but the data given in some of the Colonies are not very complete. The following figures regarding plant, etc., refer to different years, viz., in New South Wales, except where otherwise stated, to the year ended March, 1894; in Victoria and South Australia, to the year ended March, 1893; in Tasmania, to the calendar year 1892; while all the figures given for New Zealand are those obtained under the Census Act of 1891.

The horse-power employed in manufactories is known only in the case of four Colonies, viz. :—

New South Wales.....	27,162
Victoria	29,114
South Australia.....	4,002
New Zealand	22,823

The value of the plant employed is returned only for New South Wales and Victoria, and is given as follows :—

New South Wales	£6,914,500
Victoria	6,953,090

With regard to Tasmania, the value of land, buildings, and plant is stated to be £378,752, while a similar return for New Zealand places the figure at £5,261,826. Assuming 40 per cent. of these amounts to represent the plant alone, the values would be—

Tasmania.....	£151,500
New Zealand	2,104,700

The value of the plant in the remaining three Colonies has been estimated as follows :—

Queensland	£1,388,100
South Australia	1,210,000
Western Australia.....	124,500

The gross value of articles produced in manufacturing establishments is known in the case of four Colonies (the figures for Victoria being those of the Census year of 1891) and is stated as follows :—

New South Wales	£16,623,258
Victoria	22,390,351
Tasmania	724,734
New Zealand	8,773,837

The foregoing figures include, of course, the value of materials used, of wages paid, and of fuel. In New South Wales the returns obtained under the Census and Industrial Returns Act show that the value of materials used was £7,382,070, of wages paid £4,831,308, and of fuel

£375,927, together £12,589,305, thus leaving the net value of production at £4,035,953. In regard to the gross value of articles produced in manufacturing establishments in this Colony, given on the preceding page as £16,625,258, it must be noted that this figure includes the value of certain pastoral and mining produce excluded from the last column of the first table on page 269. In New Zealand the value of materials used is given as £3,471,304, and of wages paid as £1,808,640, while the value of fuel may be estimated at £267,000, together £5,546,944, so that the net value of production would amount to £3,226,893. Similar figures for Tasmania are not available. Taking Australasia as a whole, it may be said that manufacturing, properly so called, is in its infancy. Most of the hands are employed in works depending on the natural production of the country, or in what may be termed domestic industries—that is, furnishing the supply of goods which must of necessity be produced on the spot. The Colony of Victoria is perhaps of all the Colonies the possessor of the most varied classes of industries; but the signs are not wanting that other Colonies will soon seek in manufacturing industries outlets for capital which they have hitherto found in other channels.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION.

Full particulars regarding the value of primary production have already been given in previous chapters; combining the results there shown with the value of manufactures, the total value of production during the year 1892–93 was £116,187,780, of which amount the total of each Colony, and the value per inhabitant, were as follow:—

Colony.	Value of Production.	Value per Inhabitant.
	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	35,007,490	29 4 7
Victoria	30,267,690	25 18 7
Queensland	15,152,620	35 19 4
South Australia	9,202,310	27 6 7
Western Australia	1,780,560	30 6 11
Tasmania	3,833,440	25 0 8
New Zealand	20,943,670	32 4 0
Australasia	116,187,780	29 3 1

Of this amount, £87,917,780, or £22 ls. 3d. per inhabitant, is derived from primary industries, and £28,270,000, or £7 ls. 10d. per inhabitant, from other productive industries.

The distribution of the production of the Colonies, under the various branches of primary and other productive industries, was as follows :—

Colony.	Agriculture.	Pastoral Industries.	Dairying, Poultry-Farming, &c.	Mineral Production.	Forestry and Fisheries.	Other Productive Industries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales....	3,961,400	13,682,000	3,115,250	4,946,840	1,502,000	7,800,000
Victoria	6,665,900	6,074,000	3,226,930	2,650,860	1,250,000	10,400,000
Queensland.....	1,412,900	7,255,000	1,011,250	2,470,470	763,000	2,240,000
South Australia	3,327,300	2,273,000	813,930	316,030	282,000	2,190,000
Western Australia ..	278,100	509,000	114,490	248,970	200,000	340,000
Tasmania	1,032,600	648,000	415,100	493,680	344,000	900,000
New Zealand	4,837,100	7,200,000	2,076,340	1,305,230	*1,125,000	4,400,000
Australasia.....	21,515,300	37,641,000	10,773,350	12,432,130	5,556,000	28,270,000

* Kauri gum production included hereunder.

Corresponding figures, showing approximately the total value of production at previous periods, are given in the following table :—

Colony.	1871.	1881.	1891.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	15,379,000	25,180,000	36,739,760
Victoria	19,260,000	22,750,000	30,319,610
Queensland	3,995,000	10,200,000	14,273,660
South Australia	5,228,000	8,457,000	9,025,675
Western Australia.....	707,000	943,000	1,806,340
Tasmania	2,131,000	3,586,000	3,920,940
New Zealand	9,739,000	16,490,000	21,518,915
Australasia	56,439,000	87,606,000	117,604,900
Per Inhabitant	£ s. d. 28 17 0	£ s. d. 31 0 7	£ s. d. 30 3 3

Compared with the older countries of the world, the amounts stated above are by no means insignificant, and, as regards production per head, Australia exceeds any other country of which the records are available.

270 PRIMARY PRODUCTION OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Although the data are incomplete on which an exact statement can be founded, there is sufficient information to warrant the assertion that from primary industries alone Australasia produces more per inhabitant than is produced from the combined industries of any other country, and a consideration of this fact will perhaps explain the general prosperity which these Colonies have enjoyed, and the ease with which they bear their apparently great indebtedness. The following figures, showing particulars respecting the primary industries of the world, are taken from Mulhall's Dictionary :—

Country.	Total.	Per head of Population.		
	£	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom.....	311,000,000	8	2	10
France	470,000,000	12	2	3
Germany	449,000,000	9	4	9
Russia	578,000,000	6	5	8
Austria	337,000,000	8	8	1
Italy	206,000,000	6	16	0
Spain	177,000,000	10	1	1
Portugal	32,000,000	6	16	2
Sweden	50,000,000	10	8	4
Norway.....	18,000,000	9	0	0
Denmark	35,000,000	16	13	4
Holland.....	39,000,000	8	9	7
Belgium.....	62,000,000	10	3	3
Switzerland	19,000,000	6	6	8
United States	883,000,000	14	2	7
Canada	59,000,000	11	7	7
Argentina	42,000,000	13	11	0
Australasia (1892-93).....	87,917,780	22	1	3
New South Wales	27,207,490	22	14	4
Victoria.....	19,867,690	17	0	5
Queensland	12,912,620	30	13	0
South Australia	7,012,310	20	16	6
Western Australia	1,440,560	24	11	0
Tasmania	2,933,440	19	3	1
New Zealand	16,543,670	25	8	8

Judged by the aggregate production, New South Wales stands far above the other Colonies, a position which it owes to the largeness of its interests in pastoral pursuits. The value of the return from this industry was £13,682,000, a sum greater than the total production of every Colony except Victoria and New Zealand from all primary industries. As regards the average primary production per inhabitant, Queensland stands first and New Zealand second, while Victoria is lowest, with little more than one half of the production per head of the first-named Colony. Such a condition of things is only what might be anticipated from the circumstances of the Colonies. But a

comparison of the production of the Colonies from primary industries per head of population is liable to give a fallacious importance to the Colonies with large territories and scanty population, for it is but a natural expectation that where the population of a country is dense, a large proportion of it will be engaged in other than primary industries. The value of primary production in the Australasian Colonies is, however, so great compared with the value of other productive industries, that even if the latter be included, the relative positions of the Colonies remain much the same. If the primary production be compared with the extent of territory enjoyed by each Colony it will be found that the positions of several of the Colonies are reversed. Thus Victoria occupies first position with an average primary production of £226 1s. 4d. per square mile, while Western Australia has the lowest return of £1 7s. 2d. The following, as well as the preceding table, bears testimony to the great natural resources of New Zealand, which has an average production per head of £25 8s. 8d. and per square mile of £158 7s. 2d. :—

Colony.	Total production per square mile.		
	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	87	11	4
Victoria	226	1	4
Queensland.....	19	6	4
South Australia.....	7	15	2
Western Australia	1	7	2
Tasmania	111	17	11
New Zealand.....	158	7	2
Australasia.....	27	16	2

PARLIAMENTS.

FROM the nature and composition of the population of Australia at and for some time after its first settlement, the government and direction of affairs naturally rested in the hands of the Governor alone, and it was not until the year 1824, during the time of Sir Thomas Brisbane, that any attempt was made to provide the Governor with recognized advisers. In that year the first Legislative Council was appointed, consisting of six gentlemen, of whom five held the principal official positions in the Colony, the sixth being Mr. John Macarthur, the founder of the Australian wool industry. The first Act of Parliament ever passed in Australia was a measure dealing with the currency, in 1824. Four more members were added to the Council in the following year, by Governor Darling, and further additions were made from time to time. On 6 June, 1838, the public were first admitted to hear the debates, for up to that time even the reporters of the Press had been excluded. Henceforth, however, the proceedings were more or less fully reported. Until the year 1843 the members of the Legislative Council were all nominated by the Governor, but in that year the principle of election was introduced, in conjunction with that of nomination. The nominated members were twelve in number, six being official and six non-official. The elected members comprised a number of men whose names have become historic, such as W. C. Wentworth, William Bland, William Lawson, Charles Cowper, Terence Aubrey Murray, W. H. Suttor, Francis Lord, Richard Windeyer, Alexander Macleay, Roger Therry, Charles Nicholson, and John Dunmore Lang, the two last mentioned being among the representatives of the Port Phillip district, since known as Victoria. Mr. Alexander Macleay was the first Speaker of this body, succeeded by Sir Charles Nicholson in 1846. Partial representation in the Legislature did not altogether satisfy the colonists, for as far back as the year 1845 the question of Responsible Government was publicly discussed. The

tion once started was never allowed to slumber, but aided by a vigorous and outspoken Press, as well as by the talented oratory of some of the patriotic members of the Legislature, it continually acquired new strength, until, in the year 1855, the Imperial Parliament passed a measure to sanction the new Constitution that the colonists sought. On 22 May, 1856, the first Australian Parliament under Responsible Government was opened by Sir William Denison, in Sydney. It consisted of a nominated Upper House, called the Legislative Council, the number of members not being definitely fixed, and a Legislative Assembly, consisting of fifty-four elected members, of whom Sir Daniel Cooper was chosen the first Speaker. The first Ministry consisted of Sir Stuart Alexander Donaldson as Colonial Secretary and Premier; Mr. Thomas Holt, Colonial Treasurer; Sir William Manning, Attorney-General; Mr. J. B. Darvall, Solicitor-General; Mr. G. R. Nichols, Auditor-General; and Mr. W. C. Mayne as Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council. From that period the principles upon which the Government of New South Wales is based have never altered, though there have been some changes in the details. Various amendments of the Electoral Act have taken place from time to time, by which the number of representatives to the Legislative Assembly has been largely increased, and alterations have taken place, all in the direction of the removal of restrictions, and the extension of the liberties of the people. The Legislative Council now numbers sixty-six members, and the tenure of a seat in that body is for life. The only qualification required of members is that they shall be 21 years of age, and natural-born or naturalized subjects. The qualification for a member of the Assembly is the holding of an elector's right. Members of the Lower House receive a remuneration of £300 a year, but members of the Council are unpaid. Free passes by rail and tram are received by members of both Houses. A new Electoral Act, assented to on June 13, 1893, remodelled the whole electoral system of New South Wales. The number of members of the Assembly is fixed at 125, and the Colony is divided into 125 electoral districts. No elector can have more than one vote in the Colony, or, in other words, the "one man one vote" principle is enforced. Every person entitled to vote must see that his name is inscribed on the electoral roll, and must provide himself with a document called an "elector's right," without the production of which he cannot demand a ballot-paper. The suffrage is manhood, the only conditions being twelve months' residence in the colony in the case of an immigrant, and three months' residence in the electoral district in which the right to vote is claimed. The duration of Parliament is limited to three years. There have been fifteen Parliaments in New South Wales, the average existence of which has been two years six months and fourteen days.

The example and influence of New South Wales have not been without effect on the other Australasian Colonies. Victoria, after its

separation from New South Wales, was legislated for by a Council of partly nominated and partly elected members, but on 21 November, 1856, the first Parliament under the new Constitution of Victoria was opened. This Constitution differed from that of the parent Colony in that the Legislative Council, as well as the Assembly, was elective; it consisted of thirty members, while there were fifty-eight in the Lower House. Mr. W. C. Haines was the first Premier. There are now forty-eight members in the Council, and ninety-five in the Assembly. Members of the Council must be of the full age of 30 years, and for one year previous to the election must have possessed a freehold estate to the value of £100 per annum, free of encumbrance. The tenure of office is six years, and there is no remuneration attached to the office. Electors must possess a £10 freehold, or a leasehold of £25, or be mortgagors in possession of property rated not less than £10 per year. Graduates of British or Australasian Universities, legal and medical practitioners, ministers, certified school-masters, military and naval officers, and matriculated students of the Melbourne University are entitled to the franchise. Members of the Assembly must be 21 years of age, natural-born or naturalised subjects, and resident in the Colony for two years. The reimbursement is £300 per annum. Three years is the limit of the duration of a Parliament. The suffrage is practically manhood, with a residence of twelve months. There have been fifteen Parliaments in Victoria under the present Constitution, the average duration of each being two years and four and three-quarter months.

Tasmania, on its separation from New South Wales, at the end of 1825, was provided with a nominated Legislative Council, under which it was governed for some thirty years. Following the lead of their neighbours, the colonists of this island also agitated for a Constitution, which was eventually granted to them, and came into force on 2 December, 1856. Tasmania possesses a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly, both of which are elective. The Council consists of eighteen members, who hold office for six years. They must be 30 years of age, and natural-born or naturalised subjects; their remuneration is £100 per annum. The electors must possess a property qualification of £20 per annum freehold, or £80 leasehold, in addition to which there are professional and educational qualifications, coupled with a condition of residence. There are thirty-six members of the Assembly, whose qualification is the same as that for the Council, except that the minimum age is 21. The duration of the Assembly is limited to five years, and members receive £100 per annum. The tenth Parliament of Tasmania recently terminated its existence, and the eleventh commenced to sit in June, 1894. The actual term of existence of Tasmanian Parliaments has averaged a little over three years and nine months.

South Australia, like most of the other Australian Colonies, was at first subject to the nominee system of appointment to the Legislative Council,

but in 1848 it obtained the boon of adding elected members to those nominated. Constitutional Government was granted to this Colony in 1856, and the first Parliament under the new order of things assembled on 22 April in the following year. The South Australian Legislature consists of a Legislative Council of twenty-four members and a House of Assembly of fifty-four. Both Houses are elected by the people. Eight members of the Council retire every three years, but are eligible for re-election. Members are not required to have a property qualification, but must have resided in the province for three years. An elector must have a freehold of £50 or a leasehold of £20 annual value, or be an occupier of a dwelling of the clear annual value of £25, and must have been registered six months prior to the election. The principle of "one man one vote" has long been in existence in South Australia; and in regard to general elections, there has been for some time a provision in force by which sea-faring persons, and others temporarily absent, can nevertheless record their votes. Members of the Assembly, as well as electors, are qualified by being 21 years of age, and enrolled for six months before the election. Members of either House receive £200 per annum. The duration of a Parliament is limited to three years.

Queensland, which separated from New South Wales at the end of the year 1859, was never as a separate Colony under the nominee system, but commenced with Responsible Government, under which its first Parliament opened on 29 May, 1860. Its Legislative Council consists of members nominated by the Governor. There are thirty-eight at present, but there is no limit fixed to the number. The tenure is for life. The qualification for members is that they must be 21 years of age, and natural-born or naturalised subjects. They receive no remuneration. The Legislative Assembly, of which there are seventy-two members, is elected by the people. Electors for the Assembly are enrolled under what is practically manhood suffrage, the only condition being six months' residence. Any person on the Electoral Rolls is qualified to be a member. The duration of Parliament is limited to three years, and members of the Assembly receive £300 a year.

In New Zealand, as in the other Colonies, the form of government in the early days was of a mixed description, but in the year 1852 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament conferring upon this Colony a Constitution. New Zealand was divided into six provinces, subsequently increased to nine, each governed by a Superintendent and Provincial Council, elected according to a franchise which was practically equivalent to household suffrage. The provincial system, however, did not give satisfaction, and was abolished in 1876, when a system of Parliamentary Government for the whole of the Colony, very similar to that of the large Australian Colonies, came into existence. The Legislature now consists of two branches. There is a Legislative Council of forty-six nominees. By an Act passed in 1891 all appointments to the

Council are made for seven years only, though each Councillor will be eligible for re-appointment. The honorarium is £150 per Session, payable monthly, with a deduction in case of absence, except from illness or some other unavoidable cause. The qualification for membership is that the person must be 21 years of age, and a natural-born or naturalised subject (in New Zealand) of Her Majesty. One-fourth of the total number of members is required to form a quorum. The House of Representatives consists of seventy-four members, of whom four are Maoris, chosen to represent them by their countrymen. The qualification for membership is simply registration as an elector; and under the provisions of an Act passed in 1893, females are allowed to vote. The honorarium is £20 per month, with travelling expenses to and from Wellington. Twenty members are required to form a quorum. There have been six Parliaments under the present Constitution, the average duration of each being nearly two years and eight months.

Western Australia, which was proclaimed a British Colony on 1 June, 1829, was the last of the group to enjoy the privilege of Responsible Government. At an early stage of its existence the Colony possessed a Legislative Council, consisting exclusively of officials nominated by the Governor. Subsequently, elected members were added, representing the principal districts of the Colony, and this state of things continued until the end of 1890, when the new Constitution came into existence. Under it there were two houses of Legislature; the Upper House consisting of fifteen nominated members, and the Lower House of thirty members, representing the thirty electorates into which the Colony was divided. An amended Constitution Act, however, came into force in 1893, when the total population of the Colony was found to exceed 60,000 persons. Under the new Act the Legislative Council consists of twenty-one elected members, and the Legislative Assembly of thirty-three members. Members of both Houses must possess freehold estate to the value of £250, free of encumbrance. An elector for the Upper House must have resided in the Colony for twelve months, and for that time have held a freehold estate of the value of £100; or have been a householder occupying a dwelling of the annual value of £25 for the same period; or he must occupy a leasehold estate of the same annual value, which has eighteen months to run; or have held a similar leasehold for the past eighteen months, or a Crown lease of an annual value of not less than £10; or he must be on the electoral roll of a municipality or Roads Board District in respect of property of not less than £25 annual value. To qualify a person as an elector for the Assembly, he must have resided in the colony for six months, and for that period have held a freehold estate of not less than £50, or a house of an annual value of not less than £10, or a leasehold estate of similar value, or a pastoral or running lease of not less than £5 per annum, or be inscribed on the roll of a Municipal or Roads Board District within the electorate. The first Premier was the Hon. John Forrest.

The following table shows the number of members and the amount of remuneration in each branch of the Legislature, in the various Australasian Colonies :—

	Legislative Council.		Legislative Assembly.	
	No. of members.	Remuneration.	No. of members.	Remuneration.
New South Wales	66	None	125	£300 per ann.
Victoria	48	None	95	£300 „
Queensland	38	None	72	£300 „
South Australia	24	£200 per ann.	54	£200 „
Western Australia	21	None	33	None.
Tasmania	18	£100 per ann.	36	£100 per ann.
New Zealand	46	£150 per sess.	74	£20 per month

The question of federation having been so prominently brought before the public of Australasia during recent years, this chapter would be incomplete without a brief record of what has been done in the matter. The subject did not escape the attention of those who drew up the outlines of the first free Constitution for Australia, and who indeed sketched out a fairly comprehensive federation scheme. Unfortunately, however, the proposition was mixed up with others that were unpopular, and it was allowed to sink out of sight with them. Still, from time to time the evil of want of union among the Australian Colonies was forcibly apparent, and the idea of federation has gradually become more and more popular. Discussions of the subject took place in the Australian press, and conferences were held, the result of which was that the question came before the Imperial Parliament, by whom a measure was passed, permitting the formation of a Federal Council, to which any Colony that felt inclined to join could send delegates. The first meeting of the Federal Council was held at Hobart, in January, 1886, the Colonies of Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Fiji being represented. New South Wales, South Australia, and New Zealand declined to join, but South Australia sent delegates to a subsequent meeting. The Council has held five meetings in all, at which various matters of inter-colonial interest have been discussed. The Council, however, is purely a deliberative body, and possesses neither funds nor powers to put its legislation into force.

A more important step towards the federation of the Australasian Colonies was taken in February, 1890, when a Conference, consisting of delegates from each of the seven Colonies, was held at the Parliament House, Melbourne. The members held seven meetings, the result being the adoption of an Address to the Queen, enclosing certain resolutions as the result of the Conference, affirming the desirableness of an early union, under the Crown, of the Australian Colonies, on principles just

to the several Colonies ; that the remoter Australasian Colonies should be entitled to admission upon terms to be afterwards agreed upon ; and that steps should be taken for the appointment of delegates to a National Australasian Convention, to consider and report upon an adequate scheme for a Federal Constitution.

In accordance with the resolution just quoted, delegates were appointed by the different Australasian Parliaments, and on the 2nd March, 1891, the National Australasian Convention commenced its sittings in the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Macquarie-street, Sydney. There were forty-five members of the Convention altogether, every Colony sending seven, with the exception of New Zealand, which had only three representatives. Sir Henry Parkes was unanimously chosen as President, and Sir Samuel Griffith as Vice-President. Resolutions were adopted affirming the following principles :—

1. That the powers and rights of existing Colonies shall remain intact, except as regards such powers as it might be necessary to hand over to the Federal Government.
2. That no alteration shall be made in State boundaries without the consent of the Legislatures of such States, as well as of the Federal Parliament.
3. Trade between the federated Colonies to be absolutely free.
4. Power to impose Customs and Excise Duties to be in the Federal Government and Parliament.
5. Military and Naval Defence Forces to be under one command.
6. The Federal Constitution to make provision to enable each State to make amendments in its constitution if necessary for the purposes of Federation.

Further resolutions approved of the framing of a Federal Constitution which should establish a Senate and a House of Representatives—the latter to possess the sole power of originating money bills ; also a Federal Supreme Court of Appeal ; and an Executive consisting of a Governor-General, with such persons as may be appointed as his advisers.

A draft Constitution Bill was adopted by the Convention, and it now remains for the several Colonies to adopt or reject the scheme presented to them by the Convention. Nothing practical has yet been done in this direction by any of the Colonies.

DEFENCE.

IN each of the Colonies a small permanent military force is maintained, consisting for the most part of artillery and submarine miners. There has always been manifested by the colonists of Australasia an objection to the maintenance of a standing army, and a disposition to rely mainly upon the patriotism and valour of the citizens for their own defence. But each Colony possesses a more or less complete system of fortifications, armed with expensive ordnance, which requires a more regular and constant attendance than could well be bestowed by those who devote only a portion of their time to military affairs. Hence it has been found advisable to institute the small permanent forces alluded to, whose chief duty it is to man the fortifications and keep the valuable armaments therein in a state of efficiency, so as to be ready for any emergency. At the same time it is expected that they will prove a steady nucleus around which to form an effective defence force if ever hostilities should unfortunately occur. The greater portion of the Australian forces is, however, comprised of volunteers under a system of partial payment, which affords a cheap and effective defence force without the disadvantages and expense of a standing army. The men receive a fixed amount of pay, in order to compensate them for loss of wages during the time they are away from their employment for the purposes of military instruction. In New South Wales and Victoria the remuneration amounts to £12 per annum to each man, and in Queensland and South Australia to about half that sum. It is computed on the basis of a certain number of whole or half-day parades or night drills at the rate of 10s. per day in the first two Colonies named, 6s. a day in Queensland, and 5s. a day in South Australia. In addition to the remuneration the partially-paid, in common with all the other military forces, receive free rations when in camp or on active service. There has been a marked tendency in most of the Colonies to discourage the services of the purely volunteers, as the system was found to work unsatisfactorily, especially in the country districts. In New Zealand and Western Australia alone is the volunteer system the mainstay of defence.

The following is the strength of the forces maintained by each province in 1892-3 :—

	Total Forces.	Paid.	Partially Paid.	Unpaid.
New South Wales	5,687	625	4,719	343
Victoria	6,864	400	3,899	2,565
Queensland	4,586	150	3,745	691
South Australia	2,629	79	1,734	816
Western Australia	610	2	.....	608
Tasmania	1,780	22	508	1,250
New Zealand	6,701	334	.....	6,367
Australasia	28,857	1,612	14,605	12,640

Included in the figures relating to Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, in the last column of the foregoing table, are rifle clubs or companies of a strength of about 2,800 men. By means of a liberal extension of these clubs, it is expected that there will be a large number of men, trained to the use of the rifle and not unaccustomed to drill, who in time of need may be available to fill the ranks of the regular forces. New South Wales also had its Rifle Companies, but they were disbanded at the end of 1892.

The relative strength of the various arms in the Colonies may be summarized as follows :—

Staff, Medical Staff, Instructors, Ambulance Corps, &c.	698
Artillery (Garrison, field and horse)	7,242
Engineers and Submarine Miners	1,000
Cavalry	1,000
Mounted Infantry and Mounted Rifles	3,227
Infantry	15,690

making a total strength, as shown above, of 28,857 men.

In addition to the forces enumerated above, all the Colonies, with the exception of Tasmania and Western Australia, have small corps of Naval Volunteer Artillery, or a partially paid force of a similar character, capable of being employed either as a light artillery land force, or to serve on board the local war vessels. In Victoria there was in 1892 a permanent naval force of 237 men. The marine forces are as follow :—

Colony.	Strength.
New South Wales	619
Victoria	617
Queensland	516
South Australia	143
New Zealand	1,185
Total	3,080

Thus the combined forces of all the Australasian Colonies on their present footing are 31,937 strong; and of these nearly 22,000 could be mobilised in any one of the Colonies of Queensland, New South Wales,

Victoria, or South Australia. Most of the Colonies have also Cadet companies comprising pupils in the Public Schools, who are taught the use of arms so as to fit them, on reaching manhood, for taking a patriotic share in the defence of their country if need be. The Cadets have not been enumerated in the figures given.

NAVAL DEFENCE.

The boundaries of the Australian Naval Station have been defined as follow :—From 95° E. long. by the parallel of 10° S. lat. to 130° E. long. ; thence north to 12° N. lat., and along that parallel to 160° W. long., and on the south by the Antarctic Circle, including the numerous groups of islands situated within those limits.

The defence of the Australasian coast is mainly in the hands of the British ships on the Australian Station, and of the Australasian Auxiliary Squadron. Sydney, the head-quarters of the fleet, ranks as a first class naval station ; and extensive repairing yards and store-houses have been provided for the accommodation of the ships of war. There were stationed in the Australasian waters at the close of 1893 nine Imperial vessels whose armament, speed, &c., are as follow :—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.	Length.	Beam.	Guns.	Speed.	Coal endurance.	
									Coal that can be carried in bunkers.	Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed.
Orlando ..	Twin-screw cruiser, 1st class, armoured.	tons. 5,600	3,500	ft. in. 24 2	ft. in. 300 0	ft. in. 56 0	20·2 in. 22-ton B.L.R. 10 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R. 10 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 7 M., 3 L.	knots. 13·5	tons. 900	knots 7,000
Curagoa ..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,330	2,540	18 10	225 0	44 6	4 6-in. 5-ton B.L.R., 85-in. 2-ton B.L.R. 1 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 9 M., 2 L.	13·0	470	3,800
Rapid	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,400	15 9	200 0	38 0	2 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L.	13·1	425	6,600
Royalist ..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	1,420	1,510	15 0	200 0	38 0	2 6-in. 4-ton B.L.R., 10 5-in. 38-cwt. B.L.R., 4 M., 1 L.	13·1	425	6,600
Lizard ..	Screw gun-boat, 1st class.	715	1,000	13 6	165 0	29 0	64-in. 25-cwt. B.L.R. 4 M.	12·7	105	2,500
Goldfinch.	Screw gun-boat, 1st class.	805	1,200	12 8	165 0	30 0	64-in. 26-cwt. B.L.R. 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M.	13·0	105	..
Ringdove.	Screw gun-boat, 1st class.	805	1,200	12 8	165 0	30 0	64-in. 26-cwt. B.L.R. 2 Q.F. Hotchkiss, 2 M.	13·0	105	..
Dart*	Screw yacht.	470	200	12 11	133 0	25 2	2 L.	8·8	64	..
Penguin*.	Screw sloop.	1,130	700	14 0	180 0	38 0	2 64-pr. M., 1 L., 2 M.	10·0	200	..

* Surveying service. M.L.R., Muzzle-loading rifled guns ; Q.F., Quick-firing guns ; M., Machine guns ; L., Light guns under 15 cwt. ; B.L.R., Breech-loading rifled guns.

The hull of the "Orlando" is of steel; that of the "Curagoa" of steel and iron, sheathed with wood; and the hulls of the other vessels are of composite materials. The "Orlando" has a 10-inch armoured belt at water-line, with 3-inch armoured deck, and 12-inch conning tower. In addition to the armament mentioned in the table, the "Orlando" and the "Curagoa" have each two torpedo tubes.

Early in 1894 the first-class cruiser "Crescent," the largest and most powerful warship ever seen in Australian waters, brought out relief crews for several vessels of the fleet, and returned to England with the time-expired officers and men.

An undertaking has been entered into by all the Colonies for the payment of a *pro rata* subsidy for the maintenance of an auxiliary fleet. The total subvention to be paid by all the Colonies amounts to £126,000 per annum, the contributions of each being determined on the basis of population. The amount paid by each Colony for the year 1893 was :—

	£
New South Wales	37,720
Victoria	36,968
Queensland	13,342
South Australia	10,663
Western Australia	1,858
Tasmania	4,850
New Zealand.....	20,599
Australasia.....	£126,000

The fleet consists of five fast cruisers, and two torpedo gunboats of the "Archer" (improved type) and "Rattlesnake" classes of the British Navy; of these three cruisers and one gunboat will be continuously kept in commission, the remainder being held in reserve in Australasian ports, but ready for commission whenever circumstances may require their use. The agreement is for a period of ten years, and shall then, or at the end of any subsequent year, be terminable, provided two years' notice has been given. The vessels have been built by the British Government, but the Australasian Colonies pay the interest on their prime cost at the rate of 5 per cent., provided such payment does not exceed £35,000. The Colonies are also to pay the actual charge for maintenance as mentioned above. On the termination of the agreement these vessels will remain the property of the Imperial Government. The strength of the fleet already in Australian waters will be maintained. The vessels specified in the agreement between Great Britain and the Colonies are to be in addition to these. The Australasian squadron is commanded by the Admiral on the Australian Station, whose headquarters are in Sydney, where a residence is provided for him by the

Colony. The squadron, which arrived in Port Jackson on 5th September, 1891, consists of the following vessels:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Indicated horse-power.	Draught of water extreme.	Length.	Beam.	Guns.	Special.	Coal endurance.	
									Coal that can be carried in bunkers.	Distance that can be steamed at 10 knots' speed.
		tons.		ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.		knots.	tons.	knots.
Katoomba ..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0	8 4·7 Q.F. guns, 8 3-pr. Q.F. guns, 1 7-pr. M. L. R. gun (boat and field), 4·45 in. 5-barrel Nordenfeldt.	16·5	300	6,000
Ringarooma	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0	do	16·5	300	6,000
† Mildura ..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0	do	16·5	300	6,000
Wallaroo ..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0	do	16·5	300	6,000
† Tauranga..	Screw cruiser, 3rd class.	2,575	7,500	16 6	265 0	41 0	do	16·5	300	6,000
† Boomerang	Torpedo gun-boat.	735	4,500	10 6	230 0	27 0	24·7 in. Q.F. guns, 4 3-pr. Q.F. guns	*18·75	160	2,500
Karrakatta..	Torpedo gun-boat.	735	4,500	10 6	230 0	27 0	do	*18·75	160	2,500

* This speed can be increased until, under favourable conditions, for a short period, a maximum of 21 knots can be obtained. Q.F.—Quick firing guns. † In reserve.

The hull of each of the vessels of the auxiliary squadron is of steel. The deck armour over machinery space is 2-in. and 1-in., and the conning-towers are protected by 3-inch armour, except in the case of the torpedo boats, the towers of which have 1-in. armour. In addition to the armament mentioned in the table, each of the cruisers carries four, and each of the torpedo boats five, torpedo tubes.

The corvette "Wolverene," which had been presented to New South Wales by the Imperial Government, having been sold in August, 1893, the Colony now possesses no ships of war of its own, with the exception of the two small torpedo steam launches, the "Acheron" and the "Avernus," which are manned by members of the Naval Artillery Volunteers.

Victoria has a navy of its own for harbour defence, consisting of the following vessels:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Armament.
Nelson	Wooden frigate..	Tons. 2,730	Two 7-in. M.L.R., fourteen 64-pdrs., two Gatlings.
Cerberus.....	Armoured turret ship (twin screw).	3,480	Four 10-in. M.L.R., four 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 4 barrels, twenty-four Q.F. guns, one 13½-pdr. and one 26-pdr. B.L. guns.
Victoria	Steel gunboat ... (twin screw).	530	Two 13-pdr. B.L.R. guns, two 1-in. Nordenfeldt M. guns, one 8-in. and one 6-in. B.L. gun.
Albert.....	do ...	350	One 8-in. and one 6-in. B.L. gun, two 2-barrel and two 4-barrel Nordenfeldt M. guns.
Countess of Hopetoun.	First-class steel torpedo boat.	120	Three 14-in. Fiume torpedoes, and two 2-barrel Nordenfeldt M. guns.
Childers	First-class steel torpedo boat.	63	Three 15-in. and three 14-in. Fiume torpedoes, and two 1-pdr. Hotchkiss Q.F. guns.
Nepean	Second-class steel torpedo boat.	12	Four 14-in. Fiume torpedoes.
Lonsdale.....	do	12	do do
Gordon	Wooden torpedo boat "Turnabout."	12	Four 14-in. Fiume torpedoes, three 2-barrel Nordenfeldt guns.
Batman	Armed steamer.. (twin screw).	387	One 6-in. R.B.L., two 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 2 barrels.
Fawknor	do ...	387	One 6-in. R.B.L., two Gatlings.
Gannet	do	347	One 6-in. R.B.L., two 1-in. Nordenfeldts, 2 barrels.
Lady Loch.....	Customs steamer (steel).	346	do do
Commissioner..	Wooden steam launch.	40	Spar torpedoes, and dropping gear for two 14-in. R.L. torpedoes.
Customs No. 1	do ...	30	do do

The two dredges ("Batman" and "Fawkner") and the tug ("Gannet") mentioned above have been specially built to carry heavy guns, and provision is also made by which some of the fast steamers belonging to the port could be fitted as cruisers at very short notice. Guns are kept in readiness in Melbourne in case it should be deemed necessary to put these vessels into commission.

Queensland has two gunboats, one of which, the "Paluma," is usually employed on survey service on the coast of Queensland at the joint expense of the Queensland and Imperial Governments; but this vessel has been lent temporarily to the Imperial Government, and is now in commission as tender to H.M.S. "Orlando." The following are the particulars of the vessels available for the defence of Queensland ports:—

Name.	Class.	Displacement.	Armament.
		Tons.	
Gayundah	Steel gunboat (twin screw).	360	One 8-in. B.L. Armstrong, one 6-in. B.L. Armstrong, two 3-pdr. Q.F., 2M.
Paluma	do	360	One 8-in. B.L. Armstrong, one 6-in. B.L. Armstrong, one 3-pdr. Q.F., 2 M.
Otter	Tender (twin screw).	120	One 64-pounder, M.L.R.
Bonito	Barge (twin screw).	450	One gun.
Stingaree	do	450	One gun.
Pumba	do	450	One gun.
Dolphin	do	450	One gun.
Bream	do	450	One gun.
Midge	Steam pinnace	.....	Two machine guns.
Mosquito	Second-class steel torpedo boat.	.....	Two machine guns.

South Australia maintains one twin-screw steel cruiser, the "Protector," of 920 tons. Her armament consists of one 8-in. 11½-ton B.L., seven 6-in. 4-ton B.L., four 3-pdr. Q.F., and five Gatling machine guns. Tasmania owns one torpedo boat, and Western Australia one schooner, the "Meda," of 150 tons, employed on survey service at the joint expense of the Imperial and Colonial Governments. New Zealand possesses four Thornycroft torpedo boats, and four steam launches fitted for torpedo work.

COST OF DEFENCE.

Most of the Colonies have spent considerable sums in works of defence, and the principal ports are well protected by extensive fortifications, erected by the various Governments at great cost.

The total expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue for defence purposes during 1892-93 was as follows :—

Colony.	Amount.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	248,905	4 3
Victoria	221,195	3 9
Queensland	75,685	3 8
South Australia	52,623	3 2
Western Australia	4,057	1 5
Tasmania	19,282	2 6
New Zealand	75,254	2 4

The above table gives a total expenditure for Australasia of £697,001, at the rate of 3s. 7d. for each inhabitant.

In all the Colonies, with the exception of Western Australia, a certain amount of money has been spent out of loans on works of defence. Victoria, however, for several years has discontinued the expenditure of loan moneys for this service. The amounts thus spent during 1892-93 were as follow :—

	£
New South Wales	*77,851
Queensland	22,611
Tasmania	1,740
New Zealand	4,563
Total	£106,765

* Inclusive of £23,412 for naval station, Port Jackson.

The total debt incurred by each Colony for defence purposes to the end of 1892-93 was as follows :—

	Amount.	Per head of Population.
	£	s. d.
New South Wales	*1,096,530	18 7
Victoria	100,000	1 9
Queensland	191,423	9 2
South Australia	234,414	14 2
Tasmania	118,903	15 9
New Zealand	871,474	27 2
Australasia	2,612,744	13 3

* Inclusive of £225,610 for naval station, Port Jackson.

This does not represent the whole cost of the fortifications, as large sums have from time to time been expended from the general revenues of the Colonies in the construction of works of defence; the amount of such payments, however, it is now impossible to determine.

A military commission was appointed in 1890 by the Imperial and the different Australian Governments, to take evidence and report on the fortification of King George's Sound, Hobart, Thursday Island, and Port Darwin, at the joint expense of the various Governments. The commission visited the points mentioned during 1891, and as a result of the evidence taken it may be anticipated that before long these four important strategical points will not be left at the mercy of any hostile cruiser that might choose to make a descent upon them. At Thursday Island the works have been completed, and the following sums have been apportioned to be paid towards their maintenance by the Colonies interested for the six months ended June 30, 1893 :—

	£
New South Wales	765
Victoria	750
Queensland	270
South Australia	213
Western Australia	38
Total	£2,036

The amounts are distributed in proportion to the population of the several Colonies. The total cost of the fortifications at Thursday Island was £21,573, the expense of which has been borne by the contributing Colonies as under :—

	£
New South Wales	8,133
Victoria	7,928
Queensland	2,861
South Australia	2,253
Western Australia	398
Total	£21,573

At King George's Sound the works are now complete, the armament being in position, and the garrison on the spot.

ACCUMULATION.

THE first century of Australasian history closed on the 26th January, 1888. It is impossible to trace step by step the progress made during that period, as the data for the purpose are for the most part wanting. Sufficient material is, however, available, from which a comparative statement of the wealth of the Colonies at different periods may be deduced. In the following figures the private wealth of the people has alone been considered, the value of the unsold lands of the State, as well as the value of public works, having been omitted. The subjoined table shows the private wealth of the whole of Australasia and the increase thereof at intervals of twenty-five years from the date when this territory was first colonised:—

January.	Australasia.	
	Amount of Private Wealth.	Increase during 25 years.
1788	£ —	£ Country first colonised.
1813	1,000,000	1,000,000
1838	26,000,000	25,000,000
1863	181,000,000	155,000,000
1890	1,169,000,000	*988,000,000

* Increase for twenty-seven years.

The progress exhibited in this table is marvellous, and as regards ratio quite unprecedented. Though Australasia has but the population of a province of one of the great European powers, in the wealth and earnings of its people it stands before most of the secondary States, and as regards wealth and income per head of population far before any other country. The following figures show the average wealth per inhabitant of the principal countries, and have been corrected according to the latest information procurable:—

	£		£
Australasia.....	309·0	Argentine Republic.....	164·2
United Kingdom.....	246·1	Spain.....	142·9
France.....	235·0	Germany.....	132·5
Belgium.....	226·0	Sweden and Norway.....	122·1
U.S. America.....	205·2	Italy.....	97·8
Canada.....	196·0	Austria-Hungary.....	96·1
Holland.....	195·5	Portugal.....	82·7
Denmark.....	192·4	Russia.....	55·4
Switzerland.....	164·7		

Land and the improvements thereon form the great bulk of Australasian wealth, for out of the 1,169 millions at which it is valued, about 821 millions, or 70 per cent., is represented by what is termed real estate. The valuation of lands and buildings presents no difficulty except in the case of Western Australia and New South Wales; as regards the first-mentioned Colony the only data procurable are very meagre, but the area, situation, and use to which the lands are put are known, and from these data an approximation has been formed.

Only a very small part of New South Wales is under municipal government, and until the last Census was taken the valuation of lands outside the municipal area could only be a matter of speculation. The Census Act, however, was so framed that every holder of land was required to make a declaration of the value of his property, and from the return so obtained the present estimate was compiled. The value of lands, buildings, and other improvements thereon has been set down at £303,152,000; of this sum 141 millions represents property subject to municipal taxation, 117 millions country lands outside municipalities, and 45 millions the improvements thereon.

In Victoria the valuation of municipalities is 214 millions. An inspection of the returns, however, will show that this is an under-estimate, as some of the municipalities, notably Melbourne City, have placed the capital value at only ten times the annual value, which is obviously too low a figure. Making a correction on this account, the estimated valuation of property within municipalities may be set down at 233 millions; and to this must be added the value of improvements on pastoral properties which are not reckoned in the municipal valuation. In New South Wales similar improvements, which originally cost 73 millions, were valued by the owners at 45 millions, equal to 11s. 3d. per head of sheep depastured. Reckoning every head of large stock as equal to ten sheep, for Victoria these improvements are taken to be worth 13s. 4d. per sheep, which fixes their value at 23 millions, making the total value of land and improvements in Victoria 256 millions.

For South Australia and New Zealand the valuations adopted are those of the Local Taxation Offices, but slightly increased. For Western Australia the land has been valued at slightly over 5 millions, which sum is liable to correction should there be any evidence of a more exact valuation. For the other Colonies the municipal values have been accepted, with an addition for improvements not valued by the municipalities, according to the carrying capacity of the runs.

The plan adopted in valuing the other forms of wealth is given in a previous issue of this work, and, as it is marked by no features of special interest, need not be repeated on this occasion.

The valuation of each of the principal elements of wealth is as follows :—

Classification.	£
Land, Houses, and Permanent Improvements	821,280,000
Live Stock.....	120,205,000
Coin and Bullion	33,582,000
Merchandise	51,151,000
Household Furniture and Personal Property	62,874,000
Shipping owned in Colonies	7,049,000
Mines and Mining Plant.....	38,033,000
Plant employed in Agricultural, Manufacturing, and other industries not elsewhere included.....	35,260,000
Total	1,169,434,000

The distribution amongst the various provinces was as stated below :—

Colony.	Private Wealth.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£
New South Wales	412,484,000	368
Victoria	344,224,000	304
Queensland	118,414,000	301
South Australia	99,141,000	310
Western Australia	10,619,000	218
Tasmania	34,360,000	236
New Zealand	150,192,000	240
Australasia	1,169,434,000	309

No attempt has been made in the foregoing pages to bring the estimates of private wealth to a date later than 1890, although it cannot be denied that very material changes have since taken place in the value of most descriptions of property. Allusion has been made in another place to the disastrous effects of the collapse of land companies and building societies, to which many thousands had entrusted their savings, and to the still more serious losses entailed by the suspension of payment on the part of many old-established banks. The experience of all the provinces shows that the selling value of property has seriously fallen, but it would be idle to alter the estimates of 1890 to the conditions of June, 1894, seeing that a few months will probably show a material improvement. The conditions of productive industry are still hopeful. The country has been favoured with an unusual succession of good seasons, and though the prices of Australasian produce have tended to lower rates than formerly, there has been an increased production per inhabitant. It is not likely that certain forms of

investment, notably land, will reach their former speculative values, at least for many years, nor is it desirable that they should do so; but there is ample evidence that, with the expansion of population, there will still be ample scope for the remunerative employment of capital.

THE DIFFUSION OF WEALTH.

In former issues of this volume the probate returns of each Colony were made the basis of a calculation of its private wealth. Extended investigation showed that unless the ages of the persons dying were also taken into consideration, estimates based on the probate returns were likely to prove fallacious; and as information in regard to ages was not procurable, this form of estimating was abandoned. The occurrence at irregular intervals of the death of very rich persons, even if the ages had been procurable, would have had a disturbing effect on the calculations, as it can be readily imagined that, where the average number of deaths ranges from only one thousand in Western Australia to sixteen thousand in Victoria, an exceptionally large estate might easily vitiate the average. In support of what is here stated, it may be pointed out that, as estimated by probates, the average wealth per inhabitant in Victoria during five years varied between £325 and £610, and in New South Wales between £300 and £530. That such was the case involves a supposition too ridiculous to be for a moment entertained. The probate returns have some statistical value, as will presently appear; the returns for the latest available year (1892) are, therefore, given:—

Colony.	Number of Estates.	Total Value of Estates.	Average Value of Estate left by each Deceased Person leaving Property.
		£	£
New South Wales	2,117	4,542,350	2,145
Victoria	3,208	9,669,784	3,014
Queensland	577	860,287	1,491
South Australia	742	1,137,747	1,533
Western Australia	112	.....	.....
Tasmania	281	269,336	958
New Zealand	768	1,477,331	1,924
Australasia	7,805	*17,956,835	*2,334

* Exclusive of Western Australia.

As already pointed out, the value of estates is liable to vary greatly from year to year. For the past twelve years the average value of property left by persons who have died and left property was:—For New South Wales, £2,558; Victoria, £2,714; Queensland, £1,584; South Australia, £1,290; and Tasmania, £1,253. For New Zealand,

returns are only available for seven years, and they show an average of £2,432; while the values have not been ascertained in the case of Western Australia.

Although the probate returns have little value as indicating the total wealth of the community, in the absence of the exact figures which property returns disclose, they form the only means of estimating the diffusion of wealth. The following table shows the proportion of persons out of every 100 dying who left estates sufficiently large to be the objects of specific bequest. The figures cover twelve years:—

Colony.	Proportion of Estates per 100 deaths of total population.		
	1890-94.	1885-89.	1890-92.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	11·0	11·5	12·5
Victoria	12·7	13·1	17·2
Queensland	6·6	8·2	10·4
South Australia	12·3	15·3	18·3
Western Australia	10·8	10·7	12·0
Tasmania	9·6	11·5	12·9
New Zealand.....	.....	.....	10·2
Australasia	*11·1	*12·0	14·0

* Exclusive of New Zealand.

These figures show a distribution of wealth not to be paralleled in any other country in the world. In South Australia is found the widest diffusion of the individual Colonies; and in a country where so much is said about the poor growing poorer and the rich richer, it is pleasing to find one out of every four adult males and females the possessor of property. Victoria comes next to South Australia, then New South Wales, and Queensland and New Zealand stand last on the list. Too much stress may be laid on the apparently wider distribution of wealth in one Colony than another, for it is obvious that a Colony with a stationary or decreasing population will naturally come out of a comparison of this kind more favourably than another with a rapidly increasing population. However, taking all things into consideration, the table as a whole is highly satisfactory, and should be additionally pleasing from the circumstance that the ratio of distribution has been increasing in every province of the group.

In the United Kingdom, during the three years 1890-92, the number of estates on which legacy duty was paid was 153,448. Making the liberal allowance of one-fourth for successions, of which the number is not given in the Statistical Abstract, the total estates would be 191,800, as compared with 2,209,248 deaths, or not quite 8·7 per cent.,

as against 14·0 per cent. in Australasia during the same period. To show still more clearly the wide distribution of property in these Colonies, the following statement is even more useful than the figures just given. The comparison is made as for every hundred deaths of adult males, and for the same number of deaths of adult males and females. This latter method is undoubtedly the proper basis of comparison, as large numbers of females are possessors of a substantial amount of property :—

Colony.	Proportion of Estates per 100 deaths of adult males.			Proportion of Estates per 100 deaths of adult males and females.		
	1880-84.	1885-89.	1890-92.	1880-84.	1885-89.	1890-92.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
New South Wales	34·8	36·9	38·3	22·4	23·8	24·2
Victoria	38·8	39·6	49·5	23·4	24·2	30·1
Queensland	18·2	23·4	29·1	13·7	16·1	20·6
South Australia	50·0	53·3	60·4	29·4	30·8	33·5
Western Australia	23·7	24·2	27·0	19·3	19·3	21·2
Tasmania	26·0	31·7	34·6	16·0	19·4	21·2
New Zealand .....	.....	.....	29·6	.....	.....	18·1
Australasia	*34·6	*36·7	41·2	*22·0	*23·1	25·7

* Exclusive of New Zealand.

IMPORTATION OF CAPITAL.

Australasia ranks among the debtor nations. At the close of 1892 its people owed to persons outside its boundaries, or, more correctly speaking, there was invested in it by non-residents, and owing by its various governments, a sum approximating to £328,500,000, or £82 per inhabitant. Of this large sum, £121,850,000 represents the private investments, and £206,650,000 the outstanding liabilities of the States and local governing bodies. More important in some respects than the corpus of the debt are the annual payments made in respect thereof. These can be stated with some exactitude. The yearly interest paid on account of State and local government debts, to other than Australasian creditors, amounts to £8,265,000 ; while the income from private investments may be stated at £6,455,000 ; in all, £14,720,000. The return on private investments represents an annual interest of about 5½ per cent. ; and considering that much of the money invested in these Colonies obtains a much higher return than what has just been quoted, it is evident that a considerable sum, variously estimated at

from eleven to fifteen millions sterling, has been sunk in unproductive investments. In considering the question of the annual payment made by Australasia to Great Britain—which is its sole creditor—it is important to have distinctly in view the fact that part of this income is payable irrespective of production, and part only arises when there has been antecedent production. In the first of these categories is the charge on State and municipal borrowings to the amount already stated (£8,265,000), and probably half the income from private investments, or, in round figures, £3,100,000—the two taken together making a sum of £11,365,000, or a little less than £3 per inhabitant, which must be exported entirely irrespective of the condition of productive industry. It may here be remarked that there is another source of drainage from these Colonies to be considered in estimating the tributary stream flowing from Australasia to England; that is the income of absentee colonists, which for 1892 probably reached £810,000. The total payments to outside creditors or investors during 1892 may be summarised as follow :—

	£
Payments on account of State or municipal borrowings, and on account of private investments on which interest must be paid irrespective of the condition of production	11,365,000
Return dependent on antecedent production	3,389,000
Absentee incomes (usually so called)	810,000
Total	15,564,000

It has been stated above that the gross amount of investments by non-residents was £328,500,000. This sum may be divided into what was received prior to 1871, and what was received subsequent to that date, for the year 1871 may be conveniently taken as the opening year of latter-day Australasian finance. At the opening of 1871 these Colonies stood indebted to Great Britain thus :—

	£
On account of State and municipal borrowings	37,000,000
Private investments	44,700,000
Total	81,700,000

From 1871 to 1892 the increase of indebtedness was :—

	£
On account of State and municipal borrowings	169,650,000
Private investments	77,150,000
Total	246,800,000

The figures just given are irrespective of the money brought to the Colonies by persons taking up their abode therein; the amount of such money is very considerable, as will presently appear.

IMPORTATION OF CAPITAL, 1871 TO 1892.

The movement of capital to Australasia prior to 1871 presented no features of unusual importance, for the total sum received, though large, representing as it did rather more than £40 per inhabitant, was not larger than might reasonably have been expected to be introduced into a country so rapidly adding to its population and so fertile in resources. In the twenty-two years that followed, the introduction of capital by the various Governments far outstripped private investments, and at the close of 1892 the Colonies stood indebted to their outside creditors to the extent of £82 per inhabitant, or more than twice the average of 1870. But this was not all, for besides the investments which may be termed foreign, there was a sum of £58,105,000, reduced by transfer from one Colony to another to £45,605,000, introduced by persons taking up their abode permanently in Australasia; so that there was actually received £292,405,000 in twenty-two years. The following table shows how each Colony participated in the golden stream. In only one instance, that of South Australia, has the withdrawal of capital from investment by non-residents, or the amount sent away by residents for investment, exceeded the import of capital. One other explanation is needed before the table is considered. The capital introduced comprised some £34,825,000 of private investments withdrawn from one Colony to another, and £12,500,000 transferred with their residence by intercolonial emigrants. The actual capital introduced from abroad was thus £77,150,000, and by immigrants from abroad £45,605,000:—

Colony.	Capital introduced by State and Local Government Bodies.	Private Capital introduced or withdrawn from investment outside the Colony.	Capital introduced by persons taking up their abode in the Colony.	Total Capital introduced.	Capital withdrawn from investment by non-residents, or sent away by residents for investment, chiefly in other Colonies.	Net amount of Capital introduced.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	42,744,000	26,052,000	23,406,000	92,202,000	7,138,000	85,064,000
Victoria	40,730,000	49,106,000	12,082,000	101,918,000	8,589,000	93,329,000
Queensland	22,818,000	14,927,000	11,525,000	49,270,000	8,169,000	41,101,000
South Australia ..	19,598,000	2,989,000	960,000	23,547,000	15,941,900	7,606,000
Western Australia..	2,644,000	1,300,000	920,000	4,864,000	700,000	4,164,000
Tasmania	5,011,000	2,867,000	1,275,000	9,153,000	268,000	8,885,000
New Zealand.....	36,103,000	14,734,000	7,937,000	58,774,000	6,518,000	52,256,000
Total	169,648,000	111,975,000	58,105,000	339,728,000	47,323,000	292,405,000

Figures so immense and interesting deserve more than a passing reference. Dividing, then, the years which have elapsed since 1870 into quinquennial periods, the following results are obtained :—

Five-year Periods.	Capital introduced by State and Local Government bodies.	Private Capital introduced or withdrawn from investment outside the Colony.	Capital introduced by persons taking up their abode in the Colony.	Total Capital introduced.	Capital withdrawn from investment by non-residents or sent away by residents for investment, chiefly to other Colonies.	Net amount of Capital introduced.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1871-75	20,310,000	4,757,000	10,315,000	35,332,000	12,442,000	22,940,000
1876-80	31,902,000	15,018,000	12,755,000	50,675,000	10,077,000	48,698,000
1881-85	46,064,000	32,773,000	17,309,000	96,236,000	6,176,000	90,060,000
1886-90	52,586,000	40,051,000	14,196,000	115,833,000	10,200,000	105,624,000
1891-92 (two years)	18,786,000	10,376,000	3,440,000	32,602,000	7,519,000	25,083,000
Total	169,648,000	111,975,000	58,105,000	339,728,000	47,323,000	292,405,000

It will be seen that the net introduction of capital during the first period was £22,940,000, and of this New Zealand received £10,707,000, or nearly one half, principally the proceeds of Governmental borrowings, the withdrawals of private capital being nearly as large as the amount introduced. Queensland and New South Wales had, during the period, an accession of capital to the extent of £4,329,000 and £4,321,000 respectively; in the one case the sum obtained by the State was £1,604,000, and by the public, £2,725,000; while, in the other case, the sum introduced by the State was £2,861,000, and by private persons something less than £1,500,000. The net sum introduced into Victoria was £2,982,000, the State having imported £3,352,000, while the export of private capital was some £370,000. Tasmania received in all £1,210,000, of which £220,000 was introduced by the State, and nearly one million by private persons, which must be reckoned a very considerable sum in view of the smallness of the population of the island. Nearly the whole sum introduced into Western Australia, £400,000, was by the local or the Imperial Government. South Australia, even so far back as 1871-75, was in a very different position to the other Colonies in regard to private investments. During the five years the State introduced £1,722,000, but £2,731,000 was withdrawn by lenders or sent out of the Colony for investment.

Speaking generally, the period 1871 to 1875 was marked by large public borrowing, with a very moderate influx of private capital. During the period the importation by the various governments amounted

to £2 per inhabitant yearly, the private investments being not more than 5s. per inhabitant.

The period from 1876 to 1880 showed a net importation of capital to the amount of £48,698,000, or more than twice the sum received during the preceding five years. Of the sum named, New Zealand received £15,396,000, or slightly less than one-third, although its population was only one-eighth of the whole of Australasia. The larger portion of the money brought to New Zealand was in the shape of Government loans, which amounted to £10,884,000, the net amount received on account of private investment being £4,500,000. New South Wales stood next as regards the amount of capital received, but the borrowing by the State and local bodies only amounted to £5,456,000, or half the sum raised by New Zealand, while the private investments amounted to about £8,170,000, the bulk of which was received with immigrants taking up their permanent abode in the Colony. The total capital imported into New South Wales during the five years was £13,626,000. Queensland received £8,028,000 during the period,—an enormous sum considering that the population was not more than 150,000. The money imported by the Government of that Colony was £4,195,000, and that invested by private persons, £3,383,000. The Victorian Government imported £5,229,000, while the sum sent to the Colony by private investors, over and above the amount withdrawn, was £1,949,000. South Australia borrowed largely during the five years, the sum raised being £5,217,000, but, as in the previous period, the sum withdrawn by investors or sent to other Colonies for investment exceeded the capital introduced, by £1,905,000. Both Tasmania and Western Australia received less capital from abroad from 1876 to 1880 than in the previous five years, the amounts being £954,000 and £204,000 respectively. The Government borrowings were £454,000 in the one case and £465,000 in the other; but in Tasmania there was an investment of £500,000 by private persons, and a withdrawal of £241,000 in the case of Western Australia.

Taking Australasia as a whole, the public borrowings during 1876–80 were large, amounting to £31,902,000, or a yearly sum of about £2 11s. per inhabitant. The import of private money continued on a more extended scale, the sum received in excess of withdrawals being £16,796,000, but a large portion of this sum was brought in by immigrants.

The facility with which New Zealand had been able to raise money on loan during the five years 1876–80 was an object lesson not lost on the other Colonies, for during the five years from 1881 to 1885 the sum of £46,064,000 was raised by the various Governments and local bodies; while private investors, banks, and financial institutions poured in money at an almost equal rate, the net sum received on private account being, in round figures, £44,000,000. These sums represent yearly amounts of £3 1s. 6d. and £2 18s. 6d., or together £6, per inhabitant—a rate of increase in indebtedness quite unparalleled in any country

except in the next succeeding five years of Australasian history. Of the large sum of £90,060,000 received by these Colonies, the share of New South Wales was £30,473,000. In the light of this statement it is easy to understand how, during this same period, though one of drought and restricted production, the industrial life of the Colony was marked by increasing wages, shorter hours, and full employment. The importation by the State amounted to £16,066,000, and by private investors to £14,407,000, but at least half the sum last quoted represented the money brought by immigrants and entailed no burthen on the Colony for future interest to be exported. This period was, so far as New South Wales is concerned, the one marked by the most lavish borrowing by the State, though it yields to the subsequent quinquennium in regard to the importation of private capital. Queensland was the Colony next after New South Wales in receipt of most money during the period under review, the Government of that Colony having obtained £6,309,000, while private investments amounted to £13,291,000—enormous sums for a population of a quarter of a million. Included in the private investments, however, is the sum of £4,430,000, introduced by immigrants taking up their abode permanently in the Colony. The imports of capital into New Zealand during the quinquennium were still very heavy, amounting to £7,442,000 by the State and £10,475,000 on private account, or £17,917,000 in all. Of the private importation, £1,013,000 accompanied the owners who settled in the Colony. The capital received by Victoria, which in the two preceding periods amounted to very moderate sums, now rose to £13,002,000, viz., £8,519,000 on account of the Government, and £4,483,000 by private investors. The South Australian Government in 1881–85 was still a large borrower, £5,900,000 being raised and expended during that time, while, contrary to the experiences of previous periods, there was an importation on private account of £550,000. Tasmania, also, considerably increased its borrowings, the State raising £1,165,000 in the five years, while £725,000 was sent to the Colony for investment or was received with the owners. The borrowing of the Western Australian Government for 1881–85 amounted to £663,000, but not more than £65,000 was received for private investment, or in all £728,000.

The next period, 1886–90, was marked by very extraordinary features. The average population of the seven Colonies was 3,540,000, yet during the short space of five years the various States governing these people raised and expended £52,586,000, while an additional sum of £53,038,000 was received for investment on private account, or was introduced into the country by persons who made it their abode. But even more astonishment will be evinced on considering the detailed figures for each Colony. Of the large total received by the seven Colonies, considerably more than one-half—£54,790,000—was obtained by Victoria, and, as the population of this Colony during the five years under review was

1,070,000, the inflow of capital amounted to over £51 per inhabitant. The State and local bodies borrowed and disbursed £17,087,000, which was the largest expenditure from the proceeds of loans that any Colony contrived to crowd into the short space of five years. The private capital introduced was £31,641,000, and the sum brought by persons taking up their abode in the country was £6,062,000. These figures afford a sufficient explanation of the astounding impetus which trade received during these years, and the corresponding rise in land values. New South Wales, though not the recipient of so much money as its southern neighbour, nevertheless contrived to obtain £28,105,000,—a far larger sum than could be conveniently absorbed in five years, especially as in the like preceding period £30,000,000 was absorbed. The capital introduced represented £11,571,000 of Government borrowings, £12,183,000 of private investments, and £4,391,000 brought by persons making New South Wales their home. The Queensland Government was also a large borrower, its loan expenditure during the five years, 1886–90, being not less than £8,793,000. The private capital introduced, however, fell off largely. The sum received, allowing for withdrawals to the amount of £3,360,000, was £2,362,000. The flow of private money to New Zealand practically ceased during the period now under consideration, amounting only to £632,000, as compared with £10,500,000 in the preceding five years; but Government borrowings still continued, and a sum of £6,560,000 was raised and expended. South Australia occupied an exceptional position, for though the Government introduced some £5,693,000, there was a large withdrawal of private capital, or, as it may be, an export of capital for investment in other Colonies, so that the net withdrawals from the Colony amounted to £219,000. Tasmania, with its population of 150,000, was well in the struggle for British investments, the State loan expenditure being £2,257,000, and the investment by private persons, £870,000; of this last sum about half was introduced by persons taking up their abode in the Colony. It was about this period, too, that Western Australia began to attract attention as a field for investment, for over and above the sum of £625,000 introduced by the Government, about £810,000 was invested by private persons, perhaps half the amount being accompanied by the investors themselves.

The recitation of borrowing just given brings the financial history of the Australias down to the close of 1890. Two years more of credit and investment remain to be traced, after which came the collapse of credit, and the events of May, 1893, still so fresh in the public memory. That two years elapsed after the close of 1890 before Australasian public credit in London finally collapsed, is true only of Victoria, and in a modified sense of New South Wales, Western Australia, and Tasmania. Withdrawals of private capital continued from South Australia, but to a less extent than in the preceding period, the total amounting to £1,944,000. New Zealand ceased to receive any private

money, while Queensland, for the first time in its history, showed a net withdrawal of capital, the amount of which was £2,011,000, but as the State had introduced £1,917,000, there was an actual withdrawal of £3,928,000. During the two years 1891 and 1892 the total capital imported into the seven Colonies was £25,083,000, and of this £18,786,000 was introduced by the various Governments and local bodies, the share of each Colony being:—

New South Wales	£6,788,000
Victoria	6,543,000
Queensland	1,917,000
South Australia	1,066,000
Western Australia	446,000
Tasmania	915,000
New Zealand	1,111,000
Total	£18,786,000

As already pointed out, the private borrowings were—excepting in the case of Victoria—on a minor scale. Victoria received fresh capital to the extent of £8,834,000, of which amount only £464,000 was brought in by immigrants. New South Wales received from private investments over £3,000,000, but the withdrawals were also extensive, so that the net amount of capital invested was only £1,711,000. Western Australia received £952,000, of which £408,000 was accompanied by the owners. Tasmania received £792,000, and of this about £271,000 was introduced by permanent residents.

The record is not extended beyond 1892, as the following year was one of utter financial confusion, which baffles any attempts that can at present be made to trace the movements of private capital.

The figures dealing with the introduction of private capital into Australasia from 1871 to 1892 are not complete without a reference to a question closely associated with the subject—that is, the sums paid by the Colonies in the way of interest on loans, and earnings of private investments.

The relation borne to the outside investor is by no means the same for each Colony. In some Colonies the income of foreign investors is derived mainly from interest on loans, and is drawn irrespective of the condition of the country as regards production and trade; in other Colonies the income is chiefly from investments, and cannot be drawn unless there have been antecedent production and profit sufficient to yield an income; while in the case of others both forms of investment exist side by side to about an equal extent. So far as Victoria and South Australia are concerned, there have also to be considered the earnings derived by local residents from their own outside investments. In the case of Victoria the earnings of investments of non-residents and income of absentees were less than the income derived by residents in the Colony from investments abroad until the year 1888, and in South

Australia the income from abroad exceeded the income derived from the Colony by non-residents in 1886 and all subsequent years. This explanation must be borne in mind in considering the following table:—

Colony.	Interest paid on State and Municipal Loans.	Earnings of investments of non- residents and incomes of absentees in excess of incomes derived by residents in the Colony from investments abroad.	Total Interest and Earnings of Investments.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	23,053,000	39,562,000	62,615,000
Victoria	25,552,000	4,157,000*	21,395,000
Queensland	13,453,000	38,444,000	51,897,000
South Australia	10,561,000	1,324,000	11,885,000
Western Australia	739,000	1,807,000	2,546,000
Tasmania	3,012,000	2,504,000	5,516,000
New Zealand	29,910,000	19,750,000	49,660,000
Total	£ 106,280,000	99,234,000	205,514,000

* Incomes of residents from investments abroad in excess of incomes of absentees, &c.

The table given on a previous page shows that the borrowings of the seven Colonies and the investments therein made by absentees during the same period was £292,405,000, so that the actual money or its equivalent reaching these shores was £86,891,000, thus distributed:—

Colony.	Excess of Money introduced over Interest on Public Loans and Earnings of Investments of non-residents, &c.
	£
New South Wales	22,449,000
Victoria	71,934,000
Queensland	10,796,000*
South Australia	4,279,000*
Western Australia	1,618,000
Tasmania	3,369,000
New Zealand	2,596,000
Total	£ 86,891,000

* Excess of interest, &c., over money introduced.

If from this £86,891,000 just ascertained, there be deducted £23,000,000, representing the amount of money brought in by British immigrants included in the capital stated to be introduced by persons taking up their residence in the Colonies, and not already deducted, there would remain £63,000,000 as the actual sum that came to Australasia

in twenty-two years, during which the indebtedness of the Colonies rose from £81,700,000 to £328,500,000. Such is the operation of interest affecting a debtor country.

Before quitting this subject it may be well to remark that the sum of £47,323,000, withdrawn from investment by non-residents or sent out of the country for investment, includes the sum transferred from one Colony to another by persons changing their abode; what the sum so transferred actually amounts to cannot be stated with any pretence to exactitude. In the foregoing paragraph it has been assumed to be £35,000,000, leaving the sum introduced by immigrants from abroad £23,000,000, or thereabouts; but these figures are not given with any degree of confidence, as the data on which to base an estimate are not procurable. The other figures in this chapter are based on authentic information, and the computation of Australasia's foreign indebtedness herein made agrees with remarkable closeness with the figures of the "Banking and Insurance Record"—a very competent authority.

The following is a statement of the sums payable by each Colony to its outside creditors. In the case of private investments the sums payable are the excess of the earnings of these investments over any income derived by residents from outside investments:—

Colony.	Payable by the State or Local Bodies.	Earnings of Invest- ments by non- residents and Incomes of Absentees, in excess of Incomes derived by residents in Aus- tralasia from Investments abroad.	Total.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,850,000	3,250,000	5,100,000
Victoria	1,950,000	1,442,000	3,392,000
Queensland	1,156,000	1,854,000	3,010,000
South Australia	860,000	840,000*	20,000
Western Australia	98,000	117,000	215,000
Tasmania	308,000	182,000	490,000
New Zealand.....	2,077,000	1,260,000	3,337,000
Australasia£	8,299,000	7,265,000	15,564,000

* Incomes of residents from investments abroad, in excess of incomes of absentees, &c.

The total income derived by absentees or investors from Victoria is probably over £3,250,000 in addition to the interest payable on State and local borrowings, but Victorian investors abroad claim an income of about £1,800,000, the difference being the sum stated in the foregoing table. As regards South Australia, the income payable to foreign investors other than the holders of Government or Municipal stock, is so small as to be practically a negligible quantity.

THE BANKING CRISIS OF 1893.

To accurately describe the banking crisis of 1893, it would be necessary to have access to sources of information not open to persons outside banking circles. A volume of this kind would not be complete, however, without some details of an occurrence which so disastrously affected Australian credit and finances. The following pages have, therefore, been prepared ; and the figures given have all been independently compiled, and, where possible, checked with such trustworthy authorities as were available.

In considering the facts and figures in this sub-chapter, it would be desirable to have in view the general conditions under which banks work in these Colonies. Unlike the institutions operating in the United Kingdom, Australasian banks do not lend the bulk of their money on bills and convertible securities ; on the contrary, a large bulk of their lendings is secured on real estate, and cannot be called up at short notice without entailing grave trouble. The opportunity for loans on bills and convertible securities does not exist to any large extent in Australia, and however anxious a bank may be to touch only this class of business, it cannot do so. Several banks have large holdings of the stock and debentures of the local Government, but these have not proved of much service in cases of emergency, the only sale for such securities being in London.

The occurrences of April and May, 1893, were not altogether unexpected ; but it was not anticipated that the disorganisation of financial affairs that ensued would be of such a widespread character. As early as the year 1890 it was apparent that the stability of some institutions was about to be subjected to a severe test. The first to feel the effect of the awakening of public distrust were the building societies and land companies ; and a number of these institutions were unable, from the loose manner in which their business had been conducted, to resist the drain upon their resources ; and their fall undermined the position of kindred societies, which otherwise would have been perfectly safe. The growth of the feelings of distrust and alarm thus promoted unfortunately received an impetus from the failure of the Mercantile Bank of Australia, at Melbourne, in March, 1892. Four weeks later, the Bank of South Australia and the New Oriental Bank suspended payment. The business of the former institution was ultimately taken over by the Union Bank of Australia ; and though the failure of the New Oriental Bank came within the period of the crisis, it was not in any sense due to the Australian business of the bank. No further failures occurred during the year ; but the feeling of uneasiness gathered strength, heavy withdrawals of deposits were made, and it was evident that, unless something should dispel the feeling of insecurity, it was only a question of time before other institutions, even those undoubtedly

sound, would have to close their doors. All efforts in this direction failed. On the 29th January, 1893, the Federal Bank of Australia suspended payment; the Commercial Bank of Australia followed on the 5th April; and by the 17th May no fewer than 13 out of 25 Banks of Issue had temporarily closed. The following are the dates when the suspensions took place, the time each bank was under suspension, and the date of opening after reconstruction, the institutions being entered under their original names in the table :—

Bank. (Original name.)	Head office.	Date of suspension.	Date of opening after reconstruction.	Length of suspension.
Commercial Bank of Australia	Melbourne	5 April, 1893..	6 May, 1893..	31 days.
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank	London	13 " " ..	19 Aug., " ..	128 "
Australian Joint Stock Bank	Sydney	16 " " ..	19 June, " ..	64 "
London Chartered Bank of Australia	London	26 " " ..	10 Aug., " ..	106 "
National Bank of Australasia	Melbourne	1 May, " ..	26 June, " ..	56 "
Colonial Bank of Australasia	"	6 " " ..	10 July, " ..	65 "
Bank of Victoria	"	10 " " ..	19 June, " ..	40 "
Queensland National Bank	Brisbane	15 " " ..	2 Aug., " ..	79 "
Bank of North Queensland	"	15 " " ..	19 July, " ..	65 "
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney	Sydney	16 " " ..	18 June, " ..	33 "
City of Melbourne Bank	Melbourne	17 " " ..	19 June, " ..	33 "
Royal Bank of Queensland	Brisbane	17 " " ..	7 Aug., " ..	82 "

LIABILITIES OF SUSPENDED BANKS.

The shock given to the trade of Australia by the failure of the banks was very severe, as may be judged from the fact that their united liabilities to the public were £89,845,428, and to their shareholders £13,469,786, as detailed below :—

Bank. (Original name.)	Date of Balance-sheet.	Liabilities.		
		To Share- holders.	To Public.	Total.
Commercial Bank of Australia	31st Dec., 1892	£ 2,058,990	£ 12,635,066	£ 14,694,056
English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank	30th Sept., 1892	1,239,670	7,028,679	8,268,349
Australian Joint Stock Bank	31st Dec., 1892	1,305,647	11,772,847	13,078,494
London Chartered Bank of Australia	31st Dec., 1892	1,367,958	7,384,600	8,752,558
National Bank of Australasia	31st March, 1893	1,730,488	11,155,499	12,885,987
Colonial Bank of Australasia	31st March, 1893	573,822	3,820,458	4,394,280
Bank of Victoria	31st March, 1893	880,380	7,857,405	8,746,785
Queensland National Bank	31st Dec., 1892	1,343,626	9,279,344	10,622,970
Bank of North Queensland	31st Dec., 1892	260,023	391,281	651,304
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney	31st Dec., 1892	1,535,902	12,439,140	14,025,042
City of Melbourne Bank	31st March, 1893	732,231	5,103,553	5,835,784
Royal Bank of Queensland	31st Dec., 1892	432,040	927,556	1,359,605
Total .....	.....	13,469,786	89,845,428	103,315,214

These figures are from the most recent balance-sheets before suspension; no statement has yet been published of the actual condition of business on the day of suspension. The list leaves out of consideration the Federal

Bank and the so-called banks which failed in 1892, as these institutions would probably have closed under any circumstances, and their breakdown forms no part of the banking crisis here being dealt with. Exclusive of Government money, the deposits in the twelve banks amounted to about 68 millions, of which $10\frac{3}{4}$ millions were on current account, and $57\frac{1}{4}$ millions on fixed deposit. Of the latter, about 35 millions were Australian money, and the remainder British. All the banks suspending payment put forward schemes of reconstruction, which involved the locking-up of the fixed deposits for terms of various lengths, ranging from seven to fourteen years, in some instances the acceptance of inscribed stock, and, monstrous to relate, in one case of preference shares. These proposals were, with certain modifications, adopted by the creditors in meeting, and sanctioned by the Supreme Court, to whose jurisdiction the schemes of reconstruction were required to be submitted. The deposits transferred to capital account amounted to £3,323,390; a further sum of £3,485,464 was converted into inscribed stock, that is to say, perpetual deposits; while on the balance of the deposits during the period of detention, with one exception, a uniform rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest is payable, the right being reserved to the banks of paying in full before the deposits mature if they should desire to do so. The bulk of the current accounts was paid off by the end of 1893, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, it may be stated, having paid these in full on July 3, forty-eight days after suspension. The following table shows the amount of deposits due in each year according to the reconstruction schemes adopted. Allowance will have to be made for the deposits converted into preferential capital, the amount of which is shown:—

Year when due.	Amount.
	£
1896	61,500
1897	1,684,124
1898	11,264,709
1899	10,964,042
1900	12,339,609
1901	8,513,109
1902	1,832,269
1903	2,732,269
1904	1,832,268
1905	1,498,935
1906	515,602
1907	515,602
Interminable (Inscribed Stock).....	3,485,464
Total	57,239,502
Less Preferential Shares.....	3,323,390
Deposits locked up	£ 53,916,112

ALTERATION IN CAPITAL OF BANKS.

One of the immediate effects of the reconstruction schemes was a revision of the capital, stock, and reserved profits of the banks. Five of the suspending banks wrote off a considerable portion of their original capital; but the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, while writing down £450,000, called up £320,650; and the London Bank of Australia wrote off £250,000, and received £521,060 increased capital. The reserved profits in all the reconstructed banks, except the Commercial of Sydney, the Queensland National, and the Bank of North Queensland, have been largely reduced. In most instances the reserves have been entirely wiped out, being held in suspense against depreciation of assets. The following is a statement of the position of the banks in regard to capital and reserves on the 31st March, 1893, that is, just before the crisis, and on the 31st March, 1894. For the sake of convenience the twelve banks which weathered the storm are given, as well as the twelve that succumbed. It will be seen that two of the New South Wales banks unaffected by the crisis have added to their share capital:—

Bank.	Head Office.	Before the Crisis (31st March, 1893).		After the Crisis (31st March, 1894).	
		Paid-up Capital.	Reserved Profits.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserved Profits.
Not Suspending Payment.					
Bank of New South Wales	Sydney	£ 1,250,000	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,683,500	£ 1,030,864
City Bank of Sydney	"	315,550	187,845	337,866	227,564
Royal Bank of Australia (Limited)	Melbourne	300,000	7,651	300,000	7,071
Bank of Adelaide	Adelaide	400,000	157,149	400,000	178,752
Western Australian Bank	Perth	80,000	116,485	80,000	118,889
Commercial Bank of Tasmania (Limited)	Hobart	141,493	193,037	141,493	190,533
National Bank of Tasmania (Limited)	Launceston	152,040	39,074	152,040	23,794
Colonial Bank of New Zealand	Dunedin	400,000	77,423	400,000	84,791
Bank of Australasia	London	1,600,000	809,641	1,600,000	811,330
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	"	1,500,000	1,095,708	1,500,000	1,015,612
Bank of New Zealand	"	900,000	75,831	900,000	80,061
National Bank of New Zealand (Limited)	"	250,000	6,834	250,000	10,073
Reconstructed.					
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited)	Melbourne	1,200,000	783,990	3,496,522	2,145
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	London	900,000	321,670	770,650*
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	Sydney	704,709	529,493	930,215	40,309
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	London	1,000,000	377,251	1,271,060	2,083
National Bank of Australasia (Limited)	Melbourne	1,000,000	679,032	1,560,642	108,950
Colonial Bank of Australasia (Limited)	"	406,250	303,136	742,031	2,370
Bank of Victoria (Limited)	"	600,000	259,380	1,144,175	4,980
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	Brisbane	800,000	501,811	559,246	501,811
Bank of North Queensland (Limited)	"	249,554	4,454	200,000	4,996
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Limited)	Sydney	600,000	849,489	850,555	1,032,674
City of Melbourne Bank (Limited)	Melbourne	500,000	422,117	597,325	51,694
Royal Bank of Queensland (Limited)	Brisbane	375,000	47,674	300,000	33,650

* Not established.

With one exception, viz., the Bank of North Queensland, all the reconstructed banks are adding to their working capital, either by calling up on the subscribed shares or by fresh issues. The five Victorian banks and one London bank are, in addition, creating preferential share capital by capitalising a portion of the fixed deposits; but only in the case of the Commercial of Australia have the terms of reconstruction made it compulsory for the holders of deposits to accept shares. The New South Wales and Queensland Banks, and the other London institution, have relied entirely on the ordinary method of raising additional capital, unless exception be taken to the inscription of £385,464 of the fixed deposits of the Australian Joint Stock Bank. It will be interesting to compare the results obtained by the banks conducting business under ordinary capital, with those obtained by the institutions adopting ordinary and preferential share capital. Apparently the shareholders of the former are in the happier position as regards the division of profits; while the increased stability claimed for the latter system is yet an open question. It must be mentioned, however, that the preference, as applying to both capital and interest, will cease in a certain number of years. One thing is pretty certain—the day of heavy dividends will not come again for some time.

Allusion has been made to the fact that the interest payable on deposits under the various schemes of reconstruction was fixed at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in every instance but one, the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank having obtained a more favourable rate (4 per cent.). In fixing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the managers and directors of the banks seemed to have been of opinion that they would be able to transact business on the same lines, and make equally large profits, as before the crisis. In this expectation most of the reconstructed institutions have been disappointed, and the payment of interest at the rate agreed upon has become very burthensome, especially as the current rate for fixed deposits has fallen to 2 per cent. for six months, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for twelve months; and at these rates money is freely offering. It is evident from this that the banks that have undergone reconstruction are under a disadvantage as compared with the other banks, and will remain so until the rates rise to their old level or the fixed depositors are paid off.

The system of issuing perpetual inscribed stock deposits, formerly followed only by the Union Bank of Australia, has been adopted by the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank and the Australian Joint Stock Bank, the former having, early in 1894, inscribed £3,100,000 of the deposits held, and the latter, as already stated, £385,464. The holders of the Inscribed Stock of the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank have the power to appoint two directors so long as the amount outstanding shall exceed one half of the total originally issued; the stockholders of the other bank are placed on the same footing as ordinary shareholders as regards the election of directors.

The ordinary and preferential share capital called up and the reserved profits to March, 1894, were as follow :—

	£	£	£
Paid-up Capital, March, 1893	15,624,596		
<i>Less—</i>			
Capital written off to Contingent Fund—			
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank ...	450,000		
London Bank of Australia	250,000		
Queensland National Bank.....	320,000		
Royal Bank of Queensland.....	75,000		
Bank of North Queensland.....	50,000		
	<u>1,145,000</u>		
<i>Add—</i>			14,479,596
Calls paid on account of Reconstructed Banks			
during 12 months, 31st March, 1894—			
Ordinary Capital	1,978,038		
Preference Share Capital.....	3,303,870		
	<u>5,281,908</u>		
<i>Further Issue—</i>			
Bank of New South Wales.....	433,500		
City Bank of Sydney	72,316		
	<u>505,816</u>		
			5,787,724
Total Paid-up Capital of all Banks, March, 1894		£20,267,320	
Total Reserved Profits of all Banks, March, 1894.....		5,572,201	

The above table would be incomplete without a supplementary statement giving the amount of calls to be made during the next few years, which, if they be met, will give, with the capital already called up, a total working capital of £30,357,846, or £14,733,250 in excess of the working capital before the crisis. The total capital is made up as follows :—

	£	£
Paid-up Capital to March, 1894	20,267,320	
Amount of Calls to be met by ordinary Shareholders of		
Reconstructed Banks	4,256,908	
Balance of Additional Capital—		
Bank of New South Wales.....	316,500	
City Bank of Sydney	12,134	
	<u>328,634</u>	
Preferential Capital to be created.....	19,520	
Perpetual Inscribed and Debenture Stock Deposits—		
English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, Limited...	3,100,000	
Australian Joint Stock Bank, Limited	385,464	
	<u>3,485,464</u>	
Bank of New Zealand—Guaranteed Share Capital	2,000,000	
Total Actual and Prospective Working Capital.....		£30,357,846

The Bank of New Zealand, from causes which were chiefly local and had but slight connection with the banking crisis of the sister Colonies, became seriously embarrassed during the middle of 1894. The Govern-

ment of the Colony promptly took action, and, at the end of June, passed the "Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act of 1894." The Act authorises the issue of preferential shares to the extent of £2,000,000 under State guarantee, £1,000,000 of which will be used for ordinary banking purposes, and the remainder as the Government may direct. The necessary capital was subscribed in July, on the same day on which the share list was opened. Permission is also given to call up £500,000 of the £1,500,000 reserved liability on the ordinary share capital, and to suspend the dividends on ordinary capital; and the Act also provides for the removal of the head office of the bank from London to Wellington within three months after issue of shares. This bank, therefore, has become, to all intents and purposes, a State institution, and as such is the first of its kind in the Colonies.

BANKING RETURNS.

The laws relating to banks and banking at present in force are susceptible of great improvement; and the recent failure of many monetary institutions posing as banks has directed attention to the strong necessity for entirely revising the conditions under which deposits may be taken from the general public. All institutions transacting the business of banking are required by law to furnish quarterly statements of their assets and liabilities in a specified form, and from these statements and the periodic balance-sheets the tables in this chapter have been compiled. The returns furnished by the banks, though in compliance with the laws of the Colonies, are by no means satisfactory, being quite unsuited to the modern methods of transacting banking business, nor can they be taken without question as indicating the stability or otherwise of the banks. As a rule nothing can be elicited beyond what is shown in the balance-sheets. These are published half-yearly, with the exception of those of three banks which are issued annually. No uniformity is observed as regards the dates of closing the balance-sheets, and the modes of presentation are equally diverse. Important items which should be specifically stated are lumped with accounts of minor import, and, as a rule, current accounts are blended with other accounts instead of being separately shown. The value of the information vouchsafed to the public is illustrated by the fact that it was impossible to obtain from the publications of several institutions suspending payment the amount of their liabilities either to the public or the State, and these particulars are still unknown.

The liabilities and assets of each bank, according to balance-sheets published at the end of 1893 or early in 1894, are shown in the following table. Under the head of deposits are included in some cases small items which should be classed as other liabilities, but which cannot be distinguished in the balance-sheets:—

BANKS OF ISSUE—AUSTRALASIA.

Bank.	Date of Balance Sheet.	Liabilities to Public.				Assets.			
		Notes in circulation.	Deposits.	Other liabilities.	Total.	Coin and bullion.	Advances.	Other assets.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of New South Wales	31 Mar., '04	851,652	17,421,081	2,857,006	21,129,829	4,093,603	13,136,476	1,795,941	24,031,020
City Bank of Sydney	31 Dec., '93	126,830	1,077,525	412	1,204,767	260,674	1,410,079	130,783	1,801,536
Royal Bank of Australia (Limited)	31 Mar., '04	4,263	279,060	21,070	304,402	114,893	466,438	33,304	614,730
Bank of Adelaide	26 „ '94	86,391	1,723,938	108,069	1,923,898	232,841	1,238,755	927,542	2,499,133
Western Australian Bank	31 Dec., '93	33,338	453,881	21,131	508,400	100,032	551,470	62,788	714,290
Commercial Bank of Tasmania (Limited) ..	31 „ '93	40,797	1,437,867	.....	1,478,664	242,333	1,393,407	177,290	1,813,030
National Bank of Tasmania (Limited)	31 May, '04	25,395	314,005	24,296	363,876	96,671	414,017	33,754	544,442
Colonial Bank of New Zealand	28 Feb., '04	116,793	2,024,313	787,836	2,923,942	362,098	2,613,839	1,037,797	3,413,734
Bank of Australasia	16 Oct., '93	480,134	13,060,845	1,804,366	15,345,345	3,405,917	13,029,815	1,330,949	17,816,631
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	31 Aug., '93	512,415	16,913,319	2,892,807	20,318,541	3,995,721	17,239,879	1,658,553	22,894,153
Bank of New Zealand	31 Mar., '03	530,323	8,071,783	1,343,699	9,935,805	1,484,457	7,127,655	2,310,354	10,922,466
National Bank of New Zealand (Limited) ..	31 „ '04	110,513	1,434,366	470,596	2,015,475	304,075	1,854,643	126,330	2,285,048
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited) ..	31 Dec., '93	163,824	8,461,636	191,694	8,817,204	1,292,491	9,866,571	1,062,517	12,221,579
English, Scottish, & Australian Bank (Ld.)		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited) ..	31 Dec., '93	211,430	9,470,129	153,775	9,840,334	1,141,436	8,276,978	1,438,477	10,856,941
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	31 „ '03	131,302	6,013,464	645,271	6,840,037	1,056,540	6,350,378	644,951	8,051,569
National Bank of Australasia (Limited) ..	31 Mar., '04	250,127	7,856,594	842,179	8,948,900	1,764,603	6,865,529	2,015,100	10,645,232
Colonial Bank of Australasia (Limited) ..	31 „ '04	106,721	2,466,617	173,501	2,746,339	401,557	2,351,866	245,672	3,499,093
Bank of Victoria (Limited)	31 Dec., '93	143,318	6,361,662	291,002	6,795,982	1,189,326	5,915,022	804,742	7,909,090
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	31 „ '93	440	8,560,391	162,536	8,723,367	735,141	7,288,079	1,227,025	9,300,245
Bank of North Queensland (Limited)	31 „ '93	2,269	265,069	81,389	348,727	67,122	441,367	48,234	556,723
Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney (Ld.) ..	31 „ '93	393,293	10,688,142	262,799	11,344,234	2,118,667	9,535,323	1,540,415	13,203,405
City of Melbourne Bank (Limited)	31 Mar., '04	43,064	3,984,648	126,757	4,154,469	499,757	4,078,767	230,613	4,809,137
Royal Bank of Queensland (Limited)	31 Dec., '93	1,642	773,304	43,135	823,081	173,255	835,309	148,167	1,156,731

* The English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited) has not published a balance-sheet since September, 1892.

The results of working for the first half-year after the crisis are given below. The dates of the balance-sheets will be found in the preceding table :—

Bank.	Class of Shares.	Amount of Profits for Half-year.				Total.
		Rate of Dividend per annum.	Amount of Dividend.	Amount carried forward.		
Not Suspending Payment.						
Bank of New South Wales	Ordinary ..	10	£ 77,679	£ 21,037	99,316	
City Bank of Sydney	" ..	6	10,418	8,172	18,590	
Royal Bank of Australia (Limited) .....	" ..	..	Nil.	10,328	10,328
Bank of Adelaide	" ..	7	14,000	18,240	32,240	
Western Australian Bank	" ..	17½	7,000	18,890	25,890	
Commercial Bank of Tasmania (Limited)	" ..	10	7,340	533	7,873	
National Bank of Tasmania (Limited)	" ..	6	4,732	1,473	6,205	
Colonial Bank of New Zealand	" ..	7	14,000	10,792	24,792	
Bank of Australasia	" ..	7½	60,000	11,336	71,336	
Union Bank of Australia (Limited)	" ..	8	60,000	15,612	75,612	
†Bank of New Zealand .....	" ..	..	..	..	..
National Bank of New Zealand (Limited)	Ordinary ..	5	12,500	15,175	27,675	
Reconstructed.						
Commercial Bank of Australia (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	..	Nil. }	2,145	55,895
	{ Preferential ..	5	53,750 }			
*English, Scottish, and Australian Bank (Limited)	Ordinary ..	5	22,951	25,088	51,039	
Australian Joint Stock Bank (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	..	Nil. }	2,083	5,987
London Bank of Australia (Limited)	{ Preferential ..	5½	8,904 }			
National Bank of Australasia (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	4	23,267 }	9,730	40,690	
	{ Preferential ..	5	7,643 }			
Colonial Bank of Australasia (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	..	Nil. }	2,691	10,223
	{ Preferential ..	5	7,532 }			
Bank of Victoria (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	5	15,149 }	4,979	31,655	
	{ Preferential ..	5	11,527 }			
Queensland National Bank (Limited)	Ordinary ..	..	Nil.	33,796	33,796
Bank of North Queensland (Limited) .....	" ..	..	Nil.	4,996	4,996
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (Ltd.) ..	" ..	10	34,796	32,074	67,470	
City of Melbourne Bank (Limited)	{ Ordinary ..	..	Nil. }	6,525	7,341
	{ Preferential ..	5	816 }			
Royal Bank of Queensland (Limited)	Ordinary ..	..	Nil.	12,650	12,650

* Balance-sheet not published.

† Information not obtainable.

BANKING BUSINESS OF EACH COLONY.

Of the twenty-four banks operating in Australasia at the beginning of 1894, thirteen had offices in New South Wales, twelve in Victoria, eleven in Queensland, eight in South Australia, five in Western Australia, four in Tasmania, and six in New Zealand. There was only one bank doing business in each of the seven Colonies; two transacted business in six Colonies; one in five Colonies, three in four, one in three, four in two, and twelve banks did not extend their business beyond the limits of one Colony. The liabilities and assets of the

twenty-four banks of issue operating in the different Colonies, during the March quarter of 1894, are shown in the following tables. The total liabilities of the banks are given as £106,346,112, and the assets as £154,709,726, showing a surplus of assets of £48,363,614. If the returns gave all the facts in relation to the operations of the banks, this surplus would be represented almost entirely by capital or funds provided out of their own resources; but the capital and reserve funds amount only to £25,839,521, so that there is a balance of about £22,520,000 to be otherwise accounted for. This sum represents deposits obtained in the United Kingdom, and used in the Australian business of the banks. The total British deposits with Australasian banks, however, is probably not less than thirty millions. The following figures will convey some notion of the business transacted within each Colony:—

LIABILITIES.

Colony.	Notes in circulation not bearing Interest.	Bills in circulation not bearing Interest.	Deposits.		Balances due to other Banks, &c.	Total.
			Not bearing Interest.	Bearing Interest.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	1,382,025	71,390	8,638,966	21,637,957	68,642	31,848,980
Victoria	1,107,664	159,214	8,479,198	25,905,613	205,303	35,856,992
Queensland {	Treas. Notes	18,803	.....	.....	....	.....
	Bank Notes	26,109	20,001	2,675,973	8,148,520	43,223	10,932,629
South Australia	392,805	13,262	1,725,156	5,283,056	54,481	7,468,760
Western Australia.....	104,167	18,654	556,589	949,170	6,258	1,634,838
Tasmania	97,263	25,635	899,446	2,363,852	....	3,386,201
New Zealand	975,526	57,596	4,150,712	10,003,044	30,834	15,217,712
Australasia.....	4,104,367	365,752	27,176,040	74,291,212	408,741	106,346,112

The preceding table shows that over 95 per cent. of the Australasian liabilities of the banks consisted of deposits, viz.:—£101,467,252 out of £106,346,112. The statements by banks in each Colony, with the exception of Tasmania, distinguish between deposits at call and deposits bearing interest. In Tasmania, although not obliged by law to do so, the same distinction has been made by every bank but one; and assuming the proportion of deposits at call to total deposits in that bank to be the same as in the case of the other banks doing business in Tasmania, the total deposits at call are as stated in the table, viz.:—£27,176,040, or somewhat over 26 per cent. of all deposits.

The assets for the same period were as given in the following table. Certain assets of small amount, not classifiable under any of the sub-

heads of the table, have been included in the total, and in the case of one Colony technical over-statements of the assets of some of the banks have been rectified :—

ASSETS.

Colony.	Coin.	Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills discounted, and all other Debts due to the Bank.	Notes and Bills of other Banks, and Balances due from other Banks.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	6,770,538	106,400	1,930,323	38,133,042	439,655	47,384,972
Victoria	8,290,312	404,217	2,922,548	44,089,273	312,775	56,028,125
Queensland	1,764,727	242,779	740,996	15,332,373	506,339	18,069,489
South Australia	1,908,634	20,273	552,592	6,128,100	71,455	8,725,695
Western Australia	492,999	40,213	103,382	2,050,474	27,215	2,721,783
Tasmania	637,508	27,410	115,538	2,522,250	132,604	3,490,537
New Zealand	2,429,333	117,472	533,220	12,228,901	67,639	17,680,125
Australasia.....	22,303,051	958,773	5,998,604	121,439,413	1,557,682	154,709,720

The following table shows the metallic reserves held by the banks as against their total Australasian liabilities, and also against their liabilities at call, viz., deposits at call and note circulation. The table, however, cannot be taken as complete, as those banks which receive deposits in England and elsewhere, and which do not include such deposits or liabilities, are shown in too favourable a light :—

Colony.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Liabilities.	Liabilities at Call.	Percentage of Coin and Bullion.	
				To Total Liabilities.	To Liabilities at Call.
	£	£	£		
New South Wales.....	6,876,947	31,848,980	10,070,991	21·59	68·28
Victoria	8,703,529	35,856,992	9,586,862	24·27	90·79
Queensland	2,007,506	10,932,629	2,720,885	18·36	73·77
South Australia	1,928,907	7,468,760	2,117,961	25·83	91·07
Western Australia	533,212	1,634,838	660,756	32·61	80·70
Tasmania	664,918	3,386,201	996,714	19·63	66·71
New Zealand	2,546,805	15,217,712	5,126,238	16·74	49·68
Australasia	23,261,824	106,346,112	31,280,407	21·87	74·36

It will be seen that New Zealand apparently holds the weakest position in the proportion of cash reserves both to total liabilities and liabilities at call. This, however, means very little, seeing that in some of the Colonies many banks profess to hold gold largely in excess of their wishes or requirements.

EXPENSES OF BANKING.

The balance sheets of banks, as presented to the shareholders, do not usually contain details likely to satisfy the inquirer curious to discover the amount of gross profits as compared with the net amount divisible amongst shareholders. Allowing the same proportion of expenses for the banks not disclosing this information as for the banks concerning which particulars are available, the following results are obtained, the period referred to being the year before the crisis :—

Total trading assets.....	£155,582,833
Capital and reserves	19,084,148
Gross earnings, less reserve for bad and doubtful debts	7,638,400
Gross expenditure, including interest.....	6,068,600
Net earnings.....	1,569,800

Compared with the total assets, the net earnings represent 1·01 per cent. ; and compared with the banks' own resources, *i.e.*, capital and reserved profits, 8·23 per cent. The gross expenditure above set down may be divided into expenses of management, £2,019,600, and interest, £4,049,000 ; these together amount to 79·5 per cent. of the gross earnings, the management expenses being 26·5 per cent., and the interest 53 per cent. It would appear, therefore, that for every £1 of net earnings, the sum of £1 6s. is spent in management expenses, and £2 12s. in interest. The cost of working banking institutions in Australia is, undoubtedly, very large ; but this class of business is everywhere expensive, and an analysis of the balance-sheets of some twenty British banks shows that the expenses of management amount to nearly 16s. for every £1 of net earnings.

Compared with their resources, the net earnings of Australasian banks are far less than those of English banks, as will appear from the following statement, which gives the rate per cent. per annum of earnings compared with total resources, including, of course, deposits and issue, as well as shareholder's capital :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Bank of England	1	18	5	Bank of Isle of Man	1	2	6
English Provincial Banks ...	1	10	9	Scotch Banks	1	0	5
Irish Banks	1	8	5	Banks trading in New South			
London Banks	1	3	11	Wales	1	0	3

The expense of banking in Australia is largely due to the number of branches open throughout the country ; thus, in New South Wales, prior to the crisis, there were 504 banks and branches, or one to every 2,150 persons ; in England the proportion is one bank to 10,000 persons, and in Scotland one to every 4,000. Since the crisis, however, several of the Australian banks have closed a number of their minor branches.

OTHER BANKING SUSPENSIONS.

The term "Bank" in Australasia may cover any person or persons receiving and lending money, from the legitimate institution down to the small one carrying on a questionable business at usurious interest ; but the designation "Bank of Issue" reduces the number of institutions to twenty-four for the whole of Australasia. The uneasy feeling in England regarding the solvency of Australian banks is not a little due to the public not being able to distinguish companies carrying on legitimate banking business from institutions engaged in land jobbing. The following statement has been compiled with a view of showing the banks, properly so called, which suspended payment during the last four years, in addition to those banks already dealt with. Four of the institutions, the New Oriental, the Standard, the Ballarat Banking Company, and the Australian Banking Company of Sydney, had no note issue :—

Bank.	Paid-up Capital and Reserves.	Deposits (Current account and fixed deposits).
	£	£
Mercantile Bank of Sydney (taken over by Commercial Bank of Australia)	350,806	1,540,605
Bank of Van Diemen's Land	306,714	786,016
Metropolitan Bank (Limited)	494,985	835,488
Mercantile Bank of Australia	556,273	1,831,240
Ballarat Banking Company (re-opened).....	114,445	350,783
Bank of South Australia (taken over by Union Bank)	718,396	3,625,571
New Oriental Bank.....	861,821	5,630,209
Federal Bank of Australia.....	525,665	1,957,847
Standard Bank of Australia (re-opened)	374,142	785,612
Australian Banking Company of Sydney	114,086	97,878

The Mercantile Bank of Sydney went into liquidation during the early part of 1891, and shortly afterwards the business of this bank was taken over by the Commercial Bank of Australia.

The Bank of Van Diemen's Land suspended payment on the 3rd August, 1891, and on the 22nd September of the same year, at a meeting of shareholders, it was decided to voluntarily wind up the affairs ; and on the 5th October an Act was passed providing for the carrying out of the resolution. During the early part of 1894, through the remaining assets being unsaleable, the Legislature of Tasmania passed an Act empowering the Trustees to dispose of the properties by public lottery, the shares in which were being offered to the public during October, 1894.

The Metropolitan Bank (Limited) suspended payment on the 3rd December, 1891, but information as to its later operations is not obtainable.

The Mercantile Bank of Australia suspended payment on the 5th March, 1892, and on the 21st of the same month, at a special meeting of shareholders, it was resolved to voluntarily wind up. Several of the directors, the manager, and the auditors were charged with presenting false balance-sheets, but no convictions were obtained.

The Ballarat Banking Company suspended payment on the 26th March, 1892, was reorganised on the 29th of the same month, and reopened on the 8th June of the same year.

The Bank of South Australia went into liquidation, and its business was taken over by the Union Bank of Australia on the 11th April, 1892.

The New Oriental Bank Corporation suspended payment on the 8th June, 1892, and went into voluntary liquidation on the 16th of the same month. It is estimated that this bank will pay a dividend of 12s. 6d. in the £.

The Federal Bank of Australia suspended payment on the 28th January, 1893, and the voluntary liquidation under the Companies' Act was agreed to on the 17th February. A further resolution was carried to the effect that the liquidation should be continued under the supervision of the Supreme Court of Victoria, and the necessary order was accordingly made by the Court. An application was made for the removal of the official liquidator in Melbourne, and consequently delay has arisen in connection with the payment of a dividend, but the preferential liabilities have been discharged.

The Standard Bank of Australia first suspended payment on the 3rd December, 1891, and was reconstructed. The adverse circumstances of 1893, however, compelled the bank to again close its doors on the 28th April, 1893, but it was once more reconstructed, and opened for business on the 11th August, 1893. The figures given above apply to the second suspension.

The Australian Banking Company of Sydney suspended on 2nd November, 1891. The shareholders held a meeting on the 10th of the same month and resolved to voluntarily wind-up, and the liquidation of the assets is now being proceeded with.

RECENT BANKING LEGISLATION.

The provinces chiefly affected by banking suspensions were New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland; but only in two of the Colonies was legislative action taken with a view to minimise the effects of the suspensions.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The first measure to be passed by New South Wales was the "Bank Issue Act of 1893," which was assented to on the 3rd May of that year. Under its provisions bank notes were made a first charge on the bank

assets, and the Governor-in-Council could declare notes a legal tender for a period of twelve months from the passing of the Act. The first part of the Act was to be permanent, and provided that all notes payable on demand and issued under authority of any statute should be, to the amount of the issue authorised, a first charge on all assets and property of the bank issuing them. A proclamation under the Act declaring the notes of certain banks legal tender was in operation for the six months ending 14th November, 1893; but it was not considered necessary to extend the provisions after that date, the object sought for—restoration of confidence—having been gained during the interval.

The second measure, which was named the "Current Account Depositors' Act," and passed on the 26th May, 1893, authorised the Treasury to advance Treasury notes to the extent of half the amount of the current accounts locked up in the banks. The Treasury notes were made payable in gold upon presentation at the Treasury on the expiration of five years from the passing of the Act, or within such shorter time as might be notified, but no note was to be payable unless presented before the expiration of six years. During this period of five years Treasury notes were made legal tender. As security for the advance so made, the Treasurer was to hold the certificate of deposit for the full amount, and was entitled to all dividends, interest, or profit on the same. At the time of suspension there was locked up on current account the sum of £4,794,000, so that the Treasurer might have been called upon to advance half this sum. As events turned out, the actual sum was not nearly so large, the total issue being only £358,000. The Treasury notes issued were practically all redeemed by 1893.

The third measure, the "Bank Notes Act of 1893," was an Act to regulate the issue of Bank notes, and to make them a legal tender except at the chief offices of the banks in Sydney, the date of receiving the Royal assent being the 9th April, 1894. The Act applies only to twelve banks of issue trading in New South Wales, the exception being the Bank of North Queensland. These banks only are empowered to issue notes, and the issue must not exceed one-third of the paid-up capital (such sum not being in any case greater than one-third of two million pounds), together with the value of the coin and bullion held by the bank in New South Wales; but the total issue in the Colony by any bank must not exceed one million pounds. The Act has effect for eighteen months from the date of passing, and provision was made for the composition on bank notes being increased from 2 to 2½ per cent.

The fourth measure, "The Reconstructed Companies Act," which was passed in the same year, provided for the transfer of all assets, &c., of the old company to the new; also that the name of the old company should be read as that of the new in all transactions; and that all actions by or against the old company should be prosecuted and dealt with in the name of or against the new company.

VICTORIA.

The Government of Victoria issued a proclamation appointing as bank holidays the five days from the 1st to the 5th May, 1893. Several of the banks, however, disregarded the proclamation and thereby succeeded in somewhat abating the public excitement that so unwise a step aroused. Prior to declaring the moratorium the Government had attempted to obtain an undertaking from the associated banks to assist the Commercial Bank of Australia to whatever extent was required, but, after consideration, they declined to entertain the proposal, and the Commercial Bank of Australia was compelled to suspend payment.

QUEENSLAND.

In Queensland the first assistance rendered by the Legislature was the passing of the "Public Depositors' Relief Act," which authorised the Colonial Treasurer to make advances in respect of deposits of a public nature in suspended banks. The Act applied only to deposits by Hospitals, Flood Relief Committees, Civil Service Investment Board, Police Superannuation Fund, Fire Brigades, Schools of Arts, and by local authorities, including Waterworks Boards, etc., and any other deposits which the Treasurer might consider to be of a public nature.

The "Treasury Note Act" of the same Colony provided (1) for the issue of Treasury notes against a reserve of 25 per cent. gold, the balance to be covered by Treasury Bills; (2) for the abolition of bank notes; and (3) for the retirement of notes of suspended banks by Treasury notes. These notes have practically taken the place of the old bank notes, the composition duty having been raised to 10 per cent. The notes issued are of the value of £1, £5, and any multiple of the latter amount, and are payable in gold at the Treasury. The agreement between the banks and the Government, to the effect that the amount of notes supplied to the banks should be a Crown debt due by the banks, bearing interest at 4 per cent., terminates at the end of 1894. Generally speaking, the Act has worked unsatisfactorily to both parties, as is apparent from the Under Treasurer's official memorandum on the subject, addressed to the Governments of the other Colonies.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

On the 11th July, 1893, a Bill to authorize the issue of Treasury notes was introduced into the Assembly of South Australia, and read a first time; and on the 12th July of the same year a Bill was introduced providing for the release of current accounts held by reconstructed banks; but no further action was taken with regard to these measures.

NEW ZEALAND.

During 1893 the New Zealand Government passed an Act to regulate Bank note issues, the operations of which were extended under the Bank of New Zealand Share Guarantee Act, passed in 1894, already referred to.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

In addition to the Banks of Issue, there are numerous Savings Banks and Land, Building, Investment, Trading, and Commercial Companies receiving money on deposit and transacting much of the business usually undertaken only by banks of issue. The land, building, and other trading companies were presumed to be in a flourishing condition even as late as the year 1890. Their dividends to shareholders were very large, and the rates allowed on deposits were considerably in excess of those current in the banks of issue. As might be expected, the high interest offered was too tempting a bait to be resisted by a section of the investing public, and large sums were placed in these institutions with the utmost confidence that they would be available when required. This confidence, unfortunately, proved to be, in many instances, unmerited. The shrinkage of land values, and the depreciation of real estate generally, put an end to all unsound institutions working on speculative lines, as well as to some other companies that were conducted on reasonable principles. The difficulties into which the deposit companies have fallen may for the most part be attributed to their practice of borrowing money for short periods, and locking it up for long terms. Besides this, however, many so-called building societies indulged in speculative land purchases, and having retailed the land at enhanced prices, with payments over extended periods, proceeded to divide the presumed profits among the shareholders; with a result that might easily have been foreseen, for in many cases the purchasers, after paying a few instalments toward the price, left the allotments on the hands of the companies, whose anticipated profits were therefore purely visionary, and whose dividends were really never earned, but, in many instances, were merely taken from the deposits.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The Savings Banks are on a very different footing, being to a greater or less extent under State control and otherwise safeguarded, so that they enjoy public confidence. The institutions classed as Savings Banks may be divided into two kinds—those worked in conjunction with the Post Office, and, consequently, directly administered by the State; and those under trustees or commissioners, who are generally nominated by the Government. The declared objects of these banks are to encourage thrift in the working classes, and to provide a safe investment for the funds of charitable institutions, friendly societies, and such like. The institutions, however, have become so popular that all classes of the community are represented amongst their depositors.

The banks directly controlled by the State Governments were unaffected by the financial troubles, except that their deposits were somewhat increased. The banks under trustees were not so fortunate.

A run on the Savings Bank of New South Wales took place in February, 1892. The bank promptly met all demands in gold, and the panic subsided as quickly as it arose. During the time the scare lasted, deposits to the amount of £124,000 were paid over the counter, and, in addition to this amount, £13,119 were paid by the banks of issue in the interests of the Savings Bank, making a total of £137,119 withdrawn by depositors. A second run took place during the bank panic of 1893, but it did not greatly disturb the business of the bank. The Auckland Savings Bank had a similar experience during September, 1893, but the trustees promptly met the call upon their funds, and the panic quickly subsided. In the case of both banks, the run was quite unjustifiable; but, had the necessity arisen, the Governments of the Colonies interested were prepared to render practical assistance to the menaced institutions.

In New South Wales there are both State and trustee institutions for the receipt of savings, the Post Office Savings Bank having been established in 1871, and the Savings Bank of New South Wales as far back as 1832. In both institutions sums of one shilling and any multiple of that amount may be deposited; but, with the exception of the funds of charitable institutions and friendly societies, deposits exceeding £200 do not bear interest on such excess. The general rate of interest allowed in both banks is 4 per cent.; but the trustee institution allows an additional 1 per cent. on accounts remaining open at the end of the year.

In Victoria both commissioners' and Post Office Savings Banks, established in 1842 and 1865 respectively, are in operation. Amounts of one shilling and any multiple thereof are received; and deposits in the commissioners' banks are guaranteed by the Government, an obligation undertaken by it in May, 1893. The rate of interest paid was 4 per cent. up to September, 1893, when it was reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in April, 1894, to 3 per cent. Interest is not allowed on any sum in excess of £250. It has been proposed to amalgamate the two institutions, but so far no legislative action has been taken.

In Queensland, Post Office banks only are in operation, the system dating from 1865. The rate of interest allowed is 4 per cent. on all deposits below £200.

In South Australia there are, properly speaking, no Government Savings Banks; but institutions administered by trustees were established in 1848. The rate of interest paid by the trustees has been the subject of many changes. Starting at 3 per cent., it fell as low as 1 per cent. in 1853; rose to 6 per cent. in 1858; and declined to 4 per cent. in 1873. Between the year last mentioned and 1892, interest fluctuated between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and in 1893 it was reduced to 4 per cent.

In Western Australia, Post Office banks have been in operation since 1864. One shilling and upwards may be received, provided not more than £150 is deposited in any one year, while the maximum amount of

deposits must not exceed £500. Interest is allowed at the rate of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. provided the amount at credit is not less than £1.

In Tasmania, Post Office and trustee banks are working side by side. Sums of one shilling and upwards may be deposited, the interest allowed being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the Post Office banks, and 5 per cent. in the trustee institutions. Interest is not allowed on amounts over £150.

In New Zealand, Post Office and trustee institutions are also established. The former commenced operations in February, 1867; but some of the other class of banks are of much older standing, the Auckland Savings Bank, for instance, having been established as far back as 1847. Deposits of one shilling and upwards are received. Interest was formerly allowed in both classes of institutions at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to £200, and 4 per cent. from £200 to £500; but in July, 1893, the rates allowed in the Government Savings Bank were reduced to 4 per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. respectively, the maximum amount bearing interest remaining at £500. A feature of the New Zealand Post Office Savings Bank is that deposits of one shilling may be made by means of twelve postage stamps affixed to cards specially issued for the purpose. This plan was adopted to encourage thrift among children. It was recognised to be a difficult matter for a child to save its pence until they accumulated to a shilling; but under the present system, whenever a child receives a penny it may purchase a postage stamp and affix it to the card in its possession.

The returns of the Savings Banks show an enormous development since the year 1861. At that period the number of depositors in Australasia (excluding Tasmania, for which there are no returns) was 20,062, with the sum of £1,367,396 to their credit, or an average of £47 to each depositor. In 1871 the number of depositors had risen to 115,074, with deposits amounting to £3,675,772, but the average amount credited to each depositor was only £32. In the year 1881 there were 311,124 depositors, with a total of £9,442,979, averaging £30 for each deposit. In 1891 the number of depositors had increased to 741,627, and the amount of deposits to £18,943,541, the average being £26. Notwithstanding the depression of 1892 and 1893, the number of depositors in the latter year had risen to 813,933, with a total deposit valued at £22,068,498, the average value being £27 2s. 2d. per depositor. It will thus be seen that there has been a decline in the amount per depositor from the period first mentioned; but this is no sign of retrogression, for the large increase in the number of depositors, which must be taken into consideration, evidences the fact that the less affluent classes of the community are more largely represented in the books of the banks than was formerly the case. In point of fact, the proportion of depositors to the entire population has increased all along. Thus, in 1861 the number of persons who had accounts in the Savings Banks represented only 2.31 per cent. of the entire population of Australasia; but in 1871 it had risen to 5.98 per cent.; in 1881, to 11.33; and in 1891,

to 1947; while in 1893, in spite of hard times, the proportion was 20 per cent., an increase being observable in nearly all the Colonies. As regards the last year named, it must be confessed that the increase was, in a great measure, due to the closing of accounts in the banks of issue during the crisis of 1893, and the depositing of the money withdrawn in the Savings Banks. The Queensland depositors have the largest amount at their credit, averaging £39 3s. 4d. per head; New South Wales depositors come second with £36 7s. 3d.; while those of Western Australia have the smallest sum, their average being only £16 0s. 9d. The subjoined table shows the progress of accumulation in the Savings Banks and Post Office Banks of each of the Colonies for the several periods:—

	1871.		1881.	
	Depositors.	Amount.	Depositors.	Amount.
	No.	£	No.	£
New South Wales.....	24,379	945,915	72,384	2,698,703
Victoria	45,819	1,117,761	101,829	2,569,438
Queensland	6,769	407,134	20,168	944,251
South Australia	14,270	517,000	37,742	1,288,450
Western Australia.....	1,062	15,583	3,219	23,344
Tasmania.....	8,500	217,413	14,728	369,278
New Zealand	14,275	454,966	61,054	1,549,515
	115,074	3,675,772	311,124	9,442,979
Amount per Depositor	£31 18s. 10d.		£30 7s. 0d.	

	1891.		1893.	
	Depositors.	Amount.	Depositors.	Amount.
	No.	£	No.	£
New South Wales.....	158,426	5,342,135	179,727	6,535,758
Victoria	300,781	5,715,687	324,389	6,715,443
Queensland	46,259	1,660,753	47,855	1,875,615
South Australia.....	78,795	2,217,419	81,798	2,318,309
Western Australia.....	3,564	46,181	4,745	76,086
Tasmania.....	26,916	554,417	28,190	580,438
New Zealand	126,886	3,406,949	147,199	3,966,849
	741,627	18,943,541	813,933	22,068,498
Amount per Depositor	£25 10s. 10d.		£27 2s. 3d.	

The following table shows the average amount per depositor, the average amount per head of population, and the average number of depositors per 100 of population, in each of the Colonies, for the year 1893; the number of depositors and the amount of deposits being given on the preceding page :—

Colony.	Average amount per Depositor.	Average amount per head of Population.	Depositors per 100 of Population.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	36 7 3	5 6 10	15
Victoria	20 14 0	5 14 10	28
Queensland	39 3 4	4 6 9	11
South Australia	28 6 10	6 13 8	23
Western Australia	16 0 9	1 3 5	7
Tasmania	20 11 10	3 15 2	18
New Zealand	26 19 0	5 18 0	22
Australasia	27 2 3	5 8 6	20

It will be observed that Victoria had the largest number of depositors per 100 of population; while Queensland had the largest amount per depositor, the corresponding amount in New South Wales being slightly less than £3 below the amount in the northern Colony. The largest amount per head of population was reached in South Australia.

The following table shows the number of depositors, the total amount of deposits, and the average amount per depositor, for some of the principal countries of the world, compiled from the latest available returns :—

Country.	Depositors.	Amount of Deposits in Savings Bank.	Average Amount per Depositor.
	No.	£	£ s. d.
United Kingdom	6,954,236	118,238,528	17 0 0
Sweden	1,360,961	16,555,060	12 3 3
Norway	432,126	9,747,120	22 11 2
Holland	630,705	7,198,700	11 8 3
Austria (excl. Hungary).....	3,348,545	116,521,500	34 15 11
Belgium	731,057	13,016,600	17 16 1
Italy	4,152,778	72,788,347	17 10 7
France	8,268,676	150,049,700	18 2 11
Denmark	886,291	28,330,800	31 19 4
United States.....	4,830,599	366,862,100	75 18 11
Canada.....	165,601	7,905,900	47 14 10
Australasia, 31 Dec., 1893	813,933	22,068,498	27 2 3

The figures for the United States are given on the authority of the official Statistical Abstract, and are, to all appearances, correct.

If to the amounts deposited in Savings Banks as shown above be added the deposits in banks of issue, it will be seen that the total sum on deposit in banking institutions is equal to over £30 for each inhabitant of Australasia. The largest amount on deposit as compared with population is found in Victoria with £35 0s. 2d., or £4 12s. 10d. above the average of all the Colonies. The particulars for each will be found below :—

Colony.	Deposits in Banks of Issue (Averages for the first quarter of 1894).	Deposits in Savings Banks, end of 1893.	Total.	Amount of Deposits per head of Population.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	30,326,923	6,535,758	36,862,681	30 2 8
Victoria	34,384,811	6,715,443	41,100,254	35 0 2
Queensland	10,824,493	1,875,615	12,700,108	29 7 7
South Australia.....	7,008,212	2,318,309	9,326,521	26 17 9
Western Australia	1,505,759	76,086	1,581,845	24 6 3
Tasmania	3,263,298	580,438	3,843,736	24 17 10
New Zealand.. ..	14,153,756	3,966,849	18,120,605	26 19 1
Australasia.....	101,467,252	22,068,498	123,535,750	30 7 4

As already mentioned, large sums are also deposited with various building and investment societies, but the returns with reference to these are incomplete. The latest available figures show that the amounts so invested were:—In New South Wales, £1,516,567; in Victoria, £2,636,022; in Tasmania, £217,924; and in New Zealand, £270,263.

In the following table the deposits in banks, including savings banks, and, where available, building societies, &c., at four decennial periods, as well as for the year 1893, are given :—

	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	5,645,108	7,989,801	23,006,720	42,988,550	38,379,248
Victoria	7,575,406	12,476,677	23,721,348	50,183,551	43,730,276
Queensland	334,503	1,647,830	5,633,097	12,154,657	12,700,108
South Australia.....	875,327	2,038,719	6,231,004	9,992,333	9,326,521
Western Australia	*2,487	*15,588	*23,344	1,365,906	1,581,845
Tasmania	1729,085	875,512	2,969,390	4,220,292	4,061,660
New Zealand	905,675	3,789,639	10,618,893	17,497,436	18,390,863
	16,067,584	28,888,761	72,203,796	138,402,730	128,176,526
Per head of population	£13	£15	£26	£36	£31

* Savings Banks only.

† Banks of Issue only.

From this table it may be gathered that the increase of deposits of all classes in banks between 1861 and 1881 was exactly 100 per cent., allowing for the increase of population; while between 1871 and 1891 the deposits per head of population increased by about 133 per cent. When compared with the figures for Great Britain, it will be found that the amount of deposits per head of population in Australasia far exceeds that in the older country. In 1861, indeed, the sum per head in Britain exceeded that in Australasia, amounting to £15, against £13 in the Colonies, and in 1874 the total in Britain amounted to £25 per head; but ten years later, in 1884, it had sunk to £23, and in 1890, to £16. In the Colonies there was no falling-off at any period until 1893, in 1888 the total deposits per head far exceeding the highest level ever reached in Great Britain. In 1893, however, there was a decline of about ten millions in the sum total of Australasian deposits; that is to say, the commercial depression which prevailed more or less throughout Australasia during that year caused the amount just mentioned to be withdrawn from the savings of the people and to be employed in meeting current expenses and in the maintenance of credit. Victoria showed the largest falling-off—about six and a half millions, while New South Wales was responsible for about four and a half millions, the other Colonies being practically stationary.

CURRENCY.

The coins circulating in Australasia are those of the United Kingdom. Gold is the standard, the silver and bronze current being more properly tokens than coins. Gold coins are legal tender to any amount, silver for an amount not exceeding forty shillings, and bronze for one shilling. The standard weight and fineness of each coin are given below. The least current weight of a sovereign is 122·5 Imperial grains, and a half-sovereign 61·125 grains:—

Denomination of Coin.		Standard Weight.	Standard Fineness.
		Imperial grains.	
		Troy.	
Gold	Sovereign	123·27447	{ Eleven-twelfths fine gold, one-twelfth alloy, or deci- mal fineness '91666.
	Half-sovereign	61·63723	
Silver.....	Crown	436·36363	{ Thirty-seven-fortieths fine silver, three-fortieths alloy, or decimal fineness '925.
	Double Florin	349·09090	
	Half-crown	218·18181	
	Florin	174·54545	
	Shilling	87·27272	
	Sixpence	43·63636	
Bronze ...	Threepence	21·81818	{ Mixed metal, copper, tin, and zinc.
		Avoirdupois.	
	Penny	145·83333	
	Halfpenny	87·50000	

It may be repeated here that bank notes are legal tender throughout New South Wales, except at the head offices of the banks of issue in Sydney; also that in Queensland there is a legal paper currency in the shape of Treasury notes, which are now being used in common with the ordinary bank-notes.

The only coins struck at the Sydney and Melbourne Mints are of gold, though silver and bronze of English coinage are also issued. The amounts of the latter issued during 1893 were, at the Sydney Mint, silver, £10,025, and bronze, £840; and, at the Melbourne Mint, £2,400 and £650 respectively. The Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint was opened on the 14th May, 1855, and the Melbourne Branch on the 12th June, 1872. The amount of gold received for coinage up to the end of 1893, in the Sydney Mint, was 20,334,049 oz., valued at £76,119,354; and the amount received into the Melbourne Mint to the same date was 14,656,822 oz., valued at £58,594,138.

The following table shows the quantity of gold received into the two Mints to the end of 1893, the metal received from outside sources being distinguished from that locally produced:—

Country in which the Gold was raised.	Quantity received for Coinage.	
	Sydney Mint.	Melbourne Mint.
	oz.	oz.
New South Wales	7,874,172	13,266
Victoria	1,442,419	11,487,682
Queensland	8,269,929	9,501
South Australia	78,621	308,097
Western Australia .....	.....	213,017
Tasmania	11,910	590,820
New Zealand	2,392,123	1,885,903
Other Countries	21,628	139,135
Old Coin, &c.	243,247	9,401
Total	20,334,049	14,656,822

The total value of gold raised in Australasia to the end of 1893 was £362,045,600, of which amount 37 per cent. passed through the Sydney and Melbourne Mints during the same period.

The following table shows the amount of gold coin and bullion issued to the end of 1893 by each Mint :—

Mint.	Sovereigns.	Half-sovereigns.	Bullion.	Total Value of Coin and Bullion issued.
	£	£	£	£
Sydney	70,382,500	2,622,500	2,960,849	75,965,849
Melbourne	52,688,043	332,819	5,572,104	58,592,966
Total	123,070,543	2,955,319	8,532,953	134,558,815

The quantity of gold received into the Sydney Mint in 1893 was 843,582 oz., valued at £3,000,696, of which only 171,097 oz., or slightly more than one-fifth, was the produce of New South Wales. Queensland contributed 585,042 oz., or nearly seven-tenths of the whole, the remainder being chiefly New Zealand produce, and old coin received for reminting. The amount of gold received into the Melbourne Mint for the same year was 946,996 oz., valued at £3,749,561, of which nearly three-fourths was the produce of Victoria.

The gold coins issued in 1893 from the Sydney Mint were 2,844,000 sovereigns, and 250,000 half-sovereigns. The Melbourne Mint issued 3,563,752 sovereigns during the year, and 110,024 half-sovereigns, the latter being the first issued by that mint since 1887. The value of the gold coinage issued from the Sydney, Melbourne, and London Mints was as follows:—

	£
Sydney	2,969,000
Melbourne.....	3,618,764
London	9,266,461

Besides gold coin, the Sydney Mint during 1893 issued gold bullion to the value of £17,509, and the Melbourne Mint, to the value of £130,321.

During the thirteen years that have elapsed since 1880 silver coin has been imported into Australasia, exclusive of Western Australia, which received very little silver, to the value of £1,835,007, while the exports have amounted to £521,155, making the net imports £1,313,852. Within the same period worn silver has been withdrawn from circulation to the extent of £285,105, viz., £208,427 in Melbourne, and £76,678 in Sydney, so that the actual increase in the silver circulation was equal to the nominal value of £1,028,747. From 1880 to 1893 the population of Australasia increased by 1,338,006, so

that the addition to the silver currency represented 15s. 4d. per head of the increased population. If the amount of silver already in these Colonies in 1880 was equal to the proportion since imported for the use of the added population, then the total silver circulation in 1893 would be £929,700.

Complete information regarding worn coin is not available for the Melbourne Mint; the following figures, therefore, refer to Sydney only. From 1873, when the Mint first received worn coin, until 1893, the amount of silver withdrawn from circulation was of the nominal value of £131,478. The actual weight after melting was 417,383 oz., and the corresponding weight of new coinage would be 478,099 oz. The loss while the coins were in circulation was therefore 60,716 oz., the average loss being 12·7 per cent.

As has already been pointed out, standard silver consists of ·925 pure metal and ·075 alloy. A pound troy of standard silver is coined into sixty-six shillings; that is to say, 11·1 ounces of fine metal produce coin to the value of £3 6s. The price of silver is at present 2s. 4d. per ounce, which for 11·1 ounces gives the sum of £1 5s. 11d.; so that, after making due allowance for Mint expenses and loss entailed by abrasion of the coinage, it is evident that the Imperial Authorities derive a considerable profit from the silver coin circulating in Australasia, and this profit will, with the increase of population, become correspondingly large. This explains why the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria have approached the Imperial Government for authority to coin silver to the value required for circulation in the Colonies.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

All the Colonies except New South Wales have special laws regulating the business of life assurance. Except that of Queensland, the Life Assurance Acts require yearly statements to be made showing the total business of companies in operation, and also certain particulars regarding the transactions within their own Colony. In New South Wales no special law has been passed, and companies doing this class of business obtain such by registration under the Companies or Friendly Societies Act, or by special act of incorporation. In the other Colonies the Acts regulating the business of life assurance deal chiefly with deposits to be made by companies commencing business, and with returns of business transacted. In no Colony are the full returns officially published; nevertheless, interesting and valuable reports are prepared and circulated by several of the companies, and all information reasonably to be desired is given in their pages. Other companies pursue a different course, and disclose very few particulars of their business. However, from such sources as were available, the information contained in the following table has been compiled. The particulars relate only to the thirteen life

assurance companies having their head offices in the Colonies, and to what is termed ordinary business only, the industrial business being excluded :—

Institution.	Date of Establishment.	Premium Income 1893.	Addition to Funds during 1893.	Amount of Funds at end of 1893.
		£	£	£
Head Office in New South Wales—				
Australian Mutual Provident Society	1849	1,272,171	626,139	11,954,587
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	1869	146,762	54,748	1,002,471
City Mutual Life Assurance Society	1879	26,001	10,021	107,463
Citizens Life Assurance Company	1886	19,232	14,626	34,816
Head Offices in Victoria—				
Australian Alliance Assurance Company	1862	28,356	383	290,077
National Mutual Life Association	1869	212,480	113,099	1,373,273
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria	1870	121,602	59,853	853,632
Australian Widows' Fund	1871	165,285	100,733	1,106,346
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society	1872	308,729	139,703	1,662,301
Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society	1875	31,334	19,064	149,433
Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Company	1888	6,877	.....	240,593
Head Office in South Australia—				
Adelaide Life Assurance and Guarantee Company ..	1866	1,031	(—) 1,134	39,312
Head Office in New Zealand—				
New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department	1870	241,965	132,500	1,980,298
Total .....	.....	2,581,825	1,270,345	20,799,602

Of these thirteen companies, nine are mutual, and the remainder are what is termed in insurance parlance "mixed"—that is, proprietary companies dividing profits with the policy-holders. Two of the institutions also transact industrial business. Most of the offices have representatives in all the Colonies, and one institution has extended its operations to London and South Africa. The New Zealand Government does not transact any business outside that Colony.

The balance-sheets of several of the companies do not disclose the amount of their liabilities on existing policies. The following table gives the sum assured at the date of the latest balance-sheet or return available; in some instances this last being represented by the return made under the provisions of the Annual Industrial Returns Act of New South Wales. The item "sums assured" means the sums payable at death, or on attaining a certain age or at death before that age. The

proportion of each class of business varies in the different companies, and comparisons drawn from the table must not be stretched very far :—

Office.	Policies.	Sums Assured.	Amount of Annual Premiums.
	No.	£	£
Australian Mutual Provident Society.....	119,232	39,331,071	1,239,919
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	17,103	4,250,997	145,053
City Mutual Life Assurance Society	5,559	733,745	26,338
Citizens Life Assurance Company	4,707	553,334	22,463
Australian Alliance Assurance Company	Returns not available.		
National Mutual Life Association	28,400	6,420,576	212,468
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria	15,106	3,668,517	125,650
Australian Widows' Fund	21,047	4,727,701	172,754
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society	32,986	10,827,023	336,233
Australasian Temperance & General Mutual Life Assurance Society.....	5,771	898,007	33,607
Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Company	456	215,832	6,515
Adelaide Life Assurance and Guarantee Company.....	117	41,900	1,075
New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department	31,709	8,302,257	244,299
Mutual Life of New York	1,478	1,160,366	48,332
New York Life	2,169	1,643,535	94,654
Equitable Life of United States	7,204	4,063,627	159,830

Frequent reference has been made in this volume to the financial disturbances of 1893, and when the magnitude of the interests involved in these disturbances is realised there will be little cause for wonder that the business of life assurance was affected by the general stringency. The sudden stoppage of credit by the locking-up of deposits in banks drove many of the policy-holders to borrow on the security of their policies, and borrowing was too frequently the first step towards the surrender of the policy on the security of which the advance was made. It is quite possible that the year 1893 would have witnessed a shrinkage of new business even if the bank failures had not taken place, as no class of investment feels more keenly the effect of trade depression than life assurance. The shrinkage in the value of real estate also injuriously affected profits, as some of the companies felt it necessary to devote a share of their profits to a reserve against possible depreciation of securities, which in these Colonies are chiefly mortgages of real estate. The losses under the latter head, however, cannot be large, as the companies are reputed to be cautious in obtaining proper valuations and keeping advances within safe margins.

The total receipts and disbursements of the thirteen institutions will be found in the subjoined table. It will be seen that the former exceeded the latter by £1,270,345, which is the addition made to the accumulated funds during the year. Of the disbursements, the sum of £1,122,909 was paid as claims to policy-holders or their representatives, and it is worthy of notice that the total amount of interest earned, and rents, etc., received, was more than sufficient to meet the expenditure under the head of claims:—

Receipts.		Disbursements.	
Premiums—	£	Claims	£
New	213,836	Surrenders	1,122,909
Renewal	2,340,842	Annuities	478,271
Consideration for Annuities	27,147	Cash Bonuses and Dividends	28,297
Interest	1,112,079	Expenses	113,948
Other Receipts (Rents, &c.)	11,253	Other Disbursements	488,331
		Amount written off to Depreciation, Reserves, &c.	16,373
			186,683
Total.....	£ 3,705,157	Total.....	£ 2,434,812

The total assets and liabilities of the purely local institutions for 1893 were as follow:—

Assets.		Liabilities.	
Loans on Mortgage	£ 11,412,147	Assurance, Endowment, and Annuity Funds	£ 20,813,020
Loans on Policies	4,355,241	Investment Fluctuation Fund	25,338
Loans on Personal Security	103,009	Paid-up Capital	100,000
Government Securities and Debentures	1,721,119	Reserve Funds	522,843
Shares	137,149	Other Liabilities	339,270
Freehold and Leasehold Property ..	2,275,055		
Cash in hand, on Deposit, and Current Account	1,160,547		
Other Assets	636,114		
Total.....	£ 21,800,471	Total.....	£ 21,800,471

It will be seen that more than one-half the total assets is represented by loans on mortgage; indeed, in these Colonies insurance companies are almost restricted to this form of investment. The remaining items enumerated require no special comment, except loans on personal security, and shares. Investments of this character are unusual in Australasia, but the amount invested only aggregates £240,248. In some of the Colonies the companies are obliged by law to deposit certain sums with the Treasury as a guarantee of good faith; the amount so lodged is either included under the head of Government securities or deposits.

The following table gives a summary of the new business completed during the past five years. The assurance and endowment policies only are dealt with, as the annuity transactions are unimportant :—

Year.	Policies.	Amount Assured.		Annual Premiums.	
		Total.	Per Policy.	Total.	Per £100 of Assurance.
	No.	£	£	£	£ s. d.
1889	30,497	8,690,542	285	277,456	3 3 10
1890	32,011	9,201,925	287	296,612	3 4 6
1891	30,776	9,119,915	297	294,386	3 4 7
1892	30,876	8,677,055	281	282,629	3 5 2
1893	27,103	6,661,512	246	216,529	3 5 0

It will be noticed that the average sum assured fell to £246 in 1893, while the annual premium for £100 remained at about the same figure as that for the previous year. It would seem from these two facts that the depression of the past three years has had the effect of curtailing the insuring powers of the people ; while the proportionate increase in the premium may be accounted for either by the assurances being effected on older lives, or by the selection of other forms of benefit than the ordinary whole life policy.

An important feature in the management of life companies is the proportion which the payments for claims and surrenders bear to income. For the thirteen companies under review the proportions referred to, for the ten years ending with 1893, are given below :—

Year.	Total amount paid as claims and surrenders.	Percentage of amount paid as claims and surrenders.	
		To Premium Income.	To total Income.
	£		
1884	487,361	33 30	25 25
1885	688,791	42 50	32 18
1886	749,930	41 97	31 62
1887	791,516	40 93	30 66
1888	858,100	43 19	30 85
1889	992,141	46 16	33 44
1890	1,087,303	49 72	35 13
1891	1,175,095	49 23	34 95
1892	1,420,275	57 89	40 22
1893	1,601,180	62 02	43 21

It will be noticed from the figures given that the amount of claims and surrenders is increasing in a much higher ratio than that of the premium or total income, the increase being very rapid during the last two years of the decade quoted above. This is partly due to the natural falling-in of insurance and endowments effected in past years, but, it must be admitted, also to the inability of a large number of

assured to continue their payments, with the consequent lapsing or surrender of their policies.

Information of a similar nature to that contained in the preceding table cannot be given for other countries, but a comparison of the proportions which the claims only bear to total income may be made from the figures in the following statement :—

Country.	Percentage of Payments for Claims to Total Income.
United Kingdom	52·9
United States.....	31·2
Canada.....	35·7
Australasia	30·3

The smallest percentage is, it will be seen, found in Australasia, while the largest is in the United Kingdom, a result probably due to the age of the companies operating therein.

The rate of interest obtained on the accumulated funds, and the expenses of management, are given in the following table. As regards the former, no great variation exists, especially for the larger institutions. The ratio of expenses of management to premium income and gross receipts must necessarily vary according to the age of the society and to the proportion of new business transacted. The figures are given for what they are worth. That a more exact comparison cannot be made is the fault of certain companies which fail to make complete disclosure of their affairs, and do not distribute their expenses of management so that the cost of new business may be distinguished from that of old business; the reports of other companies are unequalled in any part of the world :—

Institution.	Interest.		Expenses of Management.		
	Amount received on Investments during the year.	Rate per Cent. on Mean Funds.	Amount.	Percentage to	
				Premium Income.	Gross Receipts.
	£		£		
Australian Mutual Provident Society	609,780	5·74	172,062	13·70	8·86
Mutual Life Association of Australasia	52,525	5·38	40,959	23·03	20·55
City Mutual Life Assurance Society	6,575	6·41	9,489	36·49	29·13
Citizens Life Assurance Company	1,256	4·57	3,073	15·97	15·00
Australian Alliance Assurance Company	15,085	5·20	4,490	15·83	10·33
National Mutual Life Association	71,303	5·40	53,202	25·04	18·74
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria	44,873	5·50	34,942	28·73	20·09
Australian Widows' Fund.....	55,798	5·28	36,233	21·94	16·38
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society	81,026	5·08	84,069	27·23	21·57
Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society	7,033	5·02	8,240	26·29	21·47
Victoria General Insurance and Guarantee Company	15,745	6·54	2,660	33·68	11·75
Adelaide Life Assurance and Guarantee Company	1,682	4·22	716	69·45	69·45
New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department	100,651	5·26	52,707	21·78	15·38
Total.....	1,123,332	5·57	502,842	19·47	13·58

The high ratios for one society—an institution doing a very limited business—may admit of an explanation not obvious on the face of the returns.

The British and foreign companies are not obliged by law to supply information regarding their operations in New South Wales and Queensland, so that a complete statement of their local business cannot be given. These companies have therefore been omitted from the foregoing list. The average amount assured per policy for each Colony given in the following table must therefore be taken with this qualification :—

Country.	Average amount assured per Policy.
	£
Australasia	309
New South Wales	333
Victoria	273
Queensland	359
South Australia	263
Western Australia	383
Tasmania	278
New Zealand	285
United Kingdom.....	397
United States (New York only).....	538
Canada	303

The average amount of assurance per head of population was in Australasia, £20 ; in Canada, £11 ; in the United Kingdom, £13 ; and in the United States £12 ; while the average number of policies per thousand of population was, in Australasia, 66 ; in Canada, 38 ; in the United Kingdom, 32 ; and in the United States, 23.

The average policy is scarcely a fair measure of thrift. In these Colonies mutual assurance is the rule, and members of the various societies have acquired large bonus additions. During 1892 the average existing policy and bonus of four of the leading assurance companies doing business in Australasia was £342, as compared with the £309 shown in the comparative table. For the other countries named this information is not obtainable.

It would seem that the practice of assuring life is much more prevalent in Australasia than in any of the other countries named ; and, although the average sum assured by each policy is less than elsewhere, the number of policies is so much greater, as compared with population, that the amount assured per inhabitant is considerably higher than in the other countries mentioned.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Friendly societies are co-operative associations of working-men which grant, in consideration of a series of weekly or monthly payments : first, medical attendance and medicine to a member, his wife, and such

of his children as may be under a specified age, usually sixteen years ; second, a weekly allowance in the case of sickness of a member, decreasing in amount as the period of sickness is extended ; and, third, a funeral allowance on the death of a member or his wife. With such objects as these, friendly societies are deserving of every encouragement. The working-man born in Australia does not, as a rule, lay part of his wages aside for a rainy day. He is accustomed to a high standard of living enjoyed by but a very small proportion of the labouring classes in European countries, even in Great Britain ; and in maintaining his wife and family and himself in this condition of life, his wages are almost, if not entirely, absorbed. Such a state of things would be the cause of much distress were it not for the benefits granted by the friendly societies. It is to them, in a large measure, the preservation of his independence is due. When sickness or death visits his household, they supply the required relief—for which he has himself paid ; and the necessity for the circulation of the degrading subscription list among the members of the trade to which he may belong, the incurrence of debt, or the acceptance of State relief, is happily avoided.

Friendly societies, therefore, are assurance societies, only that, in addition to assuring against death, they assure against sickness, which is of equal importance to the working classes. Indeed, some of the large Orders in England enter into competition with the life assurance companies, and grant to their members life policies for amounts as high as £1,000. For such a state of things friendly societies in these Colonies are not ripe. In some cases, unfortunately, they are not constituted on a sound basis. Solvency is only to be attained by a series of contributions graduated according to the ages of the members, while too many societies are to-day working under a system of uniform payments ; and, furthermore, a short-sighted policy of rivalry has been pursued by some of the orders in regard to the acquisition of members, and inducements have been offered in the shape of reduced rates or increased benefits, to the great danger of the societies following such a practice. But with the abandonment of this cut-throat policy, and the determination to proceed on safe and cautious lines, there seems to be no reason why, with rigid supervision on the part of the Registrars, friendly societies in these Colonies should not, in the future, follow the example of some of their English brethren, and, in addition to assuring their members for a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of burial, make provision for the maintenance of the wives of deceased members during the period of their widowhood.

In the following table will be found the number of societies, the number of lodges or branches of these societies, the aggregate number of members, the total amount of their funds, and the average amount per member, in each of the Colonies. The figures are for the year

ending 31st December, 1892, with the exception of those for Queensland and South Australia, which are for the preceding year:—

Colony.	Societies.	Lodges or Branches.	Members.	Total Funds.	Average Amount of Capital per member.
	No.	No.	No.	£	£
New South Wales	38	787	71,218	499,637	7 0 3
Victoria	33	1,061	87,003	978,929	11 5 0
Queensland	15	230	16,358	124,943	7 12 9
South Australia.....	10	444	33,763	417,441	10 15 4
Western Australia	7	24	1,708	15,998	9 7 3
Tasmania	18	109	10,358	73,889	7 2 8
New Zealand	12	379	23,754	501,155	17 8 7
Australasia.....	133	3,034	254,162	2,611,992	10 5 6

It will be seen from the foregoing table that, taking the average amount of capital per member as the basis of comparison, New Zealand easily occupies first position with the sum of £17 8s. 7d. Victoria, though far behind, takes second place with £11 5s. per member; South Australia comes next with £10 15s. 4d.; and then follow Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania in the order named; New South Wales having the smallest amount, viz., £7 0s. 3d., to the credit of each individual member.

MONEY ORDERS, &c.

The business transacted in the various Postal Departments under the system of money orders has grown to very large dimensions. This increase is due mainly to the greater facilities now afforded for the transmission of money by this method, though it is also to some extent attributable to the more general appreciation of the system by the working classes. The following is a statement of the business transacted during 1893:—

Colony.	Orders issued.		Orders paid.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
New South Wales	530,546	1,615,885	523,747	1,556,238
Victoria	269,584	845,296	284,444	910,148
Queensland	116,258	434,973	115,266	389,494
South Australia.....	82,925	248,498	72,990	234,205
Western Australia.....	23,922	80,183	9,585	36,872
Tasmania.....	79,903	166,531	65,592	141,033
New Zealand	210,957	750,929	165,503	648,491
Australasia	1,314,095	4,142,295	1,237,127	3,916,481

The average amount of each money order issued was £3 3s. 1d., and the business done by New South Wales greatly exceeded that of any other Colony of the group. The average value of money orders issued in the United Kingdom during 1892 was £2 14s. 10d.

Besides the money orders mentioned above, a system of postal notes is in force in all the Colonies, New South Wales having adopted the system in 1893. The first issue of the notes took place on 1st October, 1893, and the figures relating to New South Wales in the following table are, therefore, for three months only. The notes are issued for fixed amounts, varying from 1s. to 20s. The number and value of notes cashed during 1893, in each of the Colonies, were :—

Colony.	No.	Amount.
		£
New South Wales	64,312	26,966
Victoria	674,166	284,509
Queensland	92,561	34,246
South Australia	177,680	59,622
Western Australia	2,960	777
Tasmania	13,054	4,316
New Zealand	275,194	97,537
Australasia.....	1,299,927	507,973

These figures show an increase on those of the previous year of 315,056. in the number, and £132,852 in the value of postal notes.

BANKRUPTCIES.

During 1893 the number of bankruptcies was largest in New South Wales. The total number for the whole of Australasia was 3,957, this number including insolvencies in Western Australia, for which the amount of liabilities only is returned as £34,080. The cases for which complete returns are available numbered therefore only 3,935, and were distributed as follow :—

Colony.	Number of Sequestrations.	As shown in Bankrupts' Schedules.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
New South Wales	1,685	1,527,985	905,763	622,222
Victoria	1,175	4,014,733	1,681,090	2,333,643
Queensland	306	113,330	76,394	36,936
South Australia.....	87	104,085	60,288	43,797
Tasmania	198	118,862	34,132	84,737
New Zealand	484	441,011	68,844	372,160
Total (Six Colonies)	3,935	6,320,006	2,826,511	3,493,495

Little, if any, reliance can be placed upon the statements made by bankrupts as to the state of their affairs, the assets being invariably exaggerated. Taking the figures given on the preceding page for what they are worth, it would appear that the average amount of liabilities per bankrupt was £1,606, and of assets, £718, showing a deficiency of £888. In the following table the average figures for the ten years ending 1893 are given; the assets, however, have been omitted, as the statements, as far as some of the Colonies are concerned, are palpably worthless :—

Colony.	Number of Sequestrations.	Liabilities, as shown in Bankrupts' Schedules.
		£
New South Wales	1,183	1,089,104
Victoria	722	2,159,800
Queensland	301	226,944
South Australia	150	153,059
Tasmania	112	83,554
New Zealand	747	808,938
Total (Six Colonies)	3,215	4,521,399

PUBLIC FINANCE.

TAKING the state of the Revenue Account as a guide, it would seem that New South Wales and Victoria have suffered most severely from the crisis of 1892-3, while New Zealand and Western Australia have apparently suffered least, for not only have these Colonies been able to live within their income, but they have carried forward a credit balance to the succeeding year, a creditable performance considering the trying times. New Zealand, it may be pointed out, suffered from the general inflation, but luckily it had weathered its troubles when the credit of the other Colonies was attacked, and the remarkable strides made by it in recovering lost ground afford a striking illustration of its recuperative powers.

A discussion of the causes of the stagnation in trade and the general depression hardly comes within the scope of this chapter. It may be mentioned, however, that distrust in Australasian finance was first exhibited in London, and as far back as 1890 the British investor, who had up to that time possessed unbounded confidence in Australian securities, suddenly faced about and regarded the scrip with suspicion. This distrust eventually spread to investments of a general nature in the Colonies, and the crisis of April and May, 1893, was the result, when thirteen banks of issue, several of them leading institutions, were forced to suspend payment. The figures relating to Government finance during the period referred to possess more than ordinary interest.

REVENUE ACCOUNT, 31st DECEMBER, 1893.

The following table has been compiled with the view of showing the position of the Revenue Account of each Colony. It will be seen that five of the Colonies have large overdrafts, which are partly cash and partly in the form of Treasury Bills; and that to establish the necessary equilibrium between income and outgo a restricted expenditure by future administrations will be absolutely necessary. The credit or

debit balance of each Colony, on the 31st December, 1893, was as follows:—

Colony.	Cr. Balance.	Dr. Balance.		
		Overdraft liquidated by Treasury Bills.	Cash Overdraft.	Total Dr. Balance.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	.....	1,902,884	591,462	2,494,346
Victoria .....	.....	738,866	1,914,565	2,653,431
Queensland.....	.....	1,000,622	79,931	1,080,553
South Australia.....	.....	676,288	296,538	972,82
Western Australia	30,768	.....	.....	.....
Tasmania.....	.....	304,800	57,318	362,118
New Zealand	290,238*	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	321,006	4,623,460	2,939,814	7,563,274

* 31st March, 1894.

The figures given in the last column of the above table represent the accumulated deficiency on the 31st December, 1893. It is very necessary that this fact should be borne in mind, as it often happens that the official statements of the Colonies show only the cash overdraft, the amount represented by outstanding Treasury Bills being omitted from consideration.

The condition of the revenue accounts of two of the Colonies needs further explanation than the table affords. In 1889 land was resumed for the purpose of facilitating certain improvements in connection with a street facing the General Post Office, Sydney, and it was determined that the sum paid for resumption should not be treated as a matter of ordinary expenditure, but be held in suspense pending the sale of the land resumed, or so much of it as was not needed for the formation of the Post Office street. The amount so held in suspense at the close of 1893 was £319,566. In Victoria certain public works were undertaken on the understanding that the cost should be defrayed from the proceeds of the sale of certain lands specifically set apart for the purpose. The works have been constructed, but the sales have fallen short to the extent of £512,543, and this sum has been placed to a suspense account. Neither of these amounts is included in the debit balance shown above.

TREASURY BILLS USED TO LIQUIDATE OVERDRAFTS.

The practice of issuing Treasury Bills for the purpose of liquidating an overdraft obtains in all the Colonies, the bills being, in this respect, somewhat like the Exchequer Bills issued by the British Treasury. This, however, is the only point of resemblance. The British Exchequer Bills

bear interest at a rate which is fixed from year to year, and at the end of every twelve months the holder has the option of retaining them or presenting them at the Treasury for payment. They are, therefore, readily saleable, and are used with great freedom in commercial transactions, for, as will be seen, they combine the two advantages of ready money and money bearing interest. The Treasury Bills of these Colonies, on the other hand, are only payable at the Treasury on the expiry of the period for which they are issued, and they carry interest at a fixed rate during the whole term of currency; consequently they are not used to any extent in commerce. The nearest approach to the British system seems to prevail in New Zealand. Treasury Bills are generally regarded as unfunded or floating debt, and until wiped off form part of the Public Debt.

TRUST FUNDS.

It may be pointed out that all the Governments in Australasia hold sums in trust, either directly or indirectly. In some instances these sums are considerable, and are found extremely useful in adjusting the finances, forming a strong reserve which a Government is able to use in tiding over temporary difficulties. It is, however, very questionable whether the existence of a large balance, out of which a necessitous Treasurer can make advances to an overdrawn revenue or loans account, is desirable. In past years it has led to much extravagance that a Treasurer forced to rely on the legitimate revenue of the country would have been compelled to avoid. Several Colonies have seen this, and in New Zealand and South Australia public trustees have been appointed to control Trust Funds in the hands of the Government; but in the other Colonies these funds are directly subject to the Treasury.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure of each of the Colonies for the last financial year were as follow:—

Colony.	Year ended.	Total.		Per Inhabitant.	
		Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
		£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	31 Dec., 1893 ..	10,536,504	10,833,381	8 14 1	8 19 10
Victoria	30 June, 1894 ..	6,719,623	7,334,961	5 14 6	6 5 10
Queensland	30 June, 1894 ..	3,343,069	3,351,536	7 14 8	7 15 1
South Australia	30 June, 1894 ..	2,526,705	2,525,606	7 5 8	7 5 7
Western Australia	30 June, 1894 ..	681,246	656,357	10 9 5	10 1 9
Tasmania	31 Dec., 1893 ..	704,641	832,874	4 11 8	5 8 4
New Zealand	31 Mar., 1894 ..	4,653,038	4,386,359	6 18 5	6 10 6
Australia		29,164,826	30,024,074	7 3 10	7 8 1

The returns given for each Colony represent the cash transactions during the fiscal year. The functions of Government are much

alike in all the provinces of Australasia, and, therefore, it is only to be expected that similar items of expenditure will be found in the budgets of each. The chief difference is the extent to which local requirements are provided for out of general revenue. In most of the Colonies the provision for local improvements is a matter very largely of local concern; but in New South Wales and Western Australia the central government still charges itself with the construction of public works of a purely local character, especially in rural districts; hence the appearance, in the statements of expenditure of these Colonies, of items of large amount which find no parallel in the other Colonies. Railway communication and electric telegraphs are almost entirely in the hands of the State, and also, in some instances, water conservation, water supply, and sewerage works, which are usually outside State control in other countries; and it is on account of the expenses of such services that the Australasian budgets mount up to such large figures.

It may also be pointed out that a uniform system of keeping the public accounts is not followed by the Colonies. For instance, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, exclude refunds; while the New South Wales and Queensland returns represent the gross receipts and expenditure. The calendar and financial years are the same for New South Wales and Tasmania; the financial year of Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia, ends on the 30th June; while New Zealand closes its transactions on the 31st March. These differences should be borne in mind when a comparison between the Colonies is instituted; but the figures, for all practical purposes, may be regarded as comparative.

REVENUE.

The revenue is mainly derived from taxation, which produced, during 1893-4, £10,696,641; and from public services, such as railways, post and telegraphs, which yielded £11,325,584; in all £22,022,225, or over 75 per cent. of the total revenue. The following table shows the revenue of each Colony, arranged under the various heads:—

Colony.	Taxation.		Railways.	Post and Telegraphs.	Public Lands.	All other Revenue and Receipts.	Total Revenue.
	Customs.	Other.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,127,645	706,834	3,253,272	643,849	2,206,272	1,598,632	10,536,504
Victoria	1,716,788	884,572	2,712,383	420,589	500,092	485,199	6,719,623
Queensland	1,085,638	261,149	981,053	208,474	588,613	268,142	3,343,069
South Australia	503,754	255,466	1,008,769	217,584	234,835	306,207	2,526,705
Western Australia	331,293	29,709	134,967	47,680	98,661	38,931	681,246
Tasmania	285,456	114,245	152,525	59,044	58,138	35,233	704,641
New Zealand	1,655,503	738,584	1,175,548	359,847	313,059	410,497	4,653,038
Australasia	7,706,082	2,990,559	9,368,517	1,957,067	3,999,670	3,142,931	29,164,826

The revenue per head averaged £7 3s. 10d., and ranged from £4 11s. 8d. for Tasmania, to £10 9s. 5d. for Western Australia. The rate for each Colony, subdivided into the classification adopted in the previous table, was as follows:—

Colony.	Taxation.		Railways	Post and Tele- graphs.	Public Lands.	All Other Revenue.	Total Revenue.
	Customs.	Other.					
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	1 15 2	0 11 8	2 13 9	0 10 8	1 16 5	1 6 5	8 14 1
Victoria	1 9 3	0 15 1	2 6 3	0 7 2	0 8 6	9 8 3	5 14 6
Queensland	2 10 3	0 12 1	2 3 1	0 9 8	1 7 2	0 12 5	7 14 8
South Australia.....	1 9 0	0 14 9	2 18 2	0 12 6	0 13 7	0 17 8	7 5 8
Western Australia	5 1 10	0 9 2	2 1 6	0 14 8	1 10 4	0 11 11	10 9 5
Tasmania.....	1 17 2	0 14 10	0 19 10	0 7 8	0 7 7	0 4 7	4 11 8
New Zealand	2 9 3	1 2 0	1 14 11	0 10 8	0 9 4	0 12 3	6 18 5
Australasia.....	1 18 0	0 14 9	2 6 2	0 9 8	0 19 9	0 15 6	7 3 10

The Colony with the highest revenue from import duties as compared with population is Western Australia, South Australia being at the other end of the scale. A false impression is apt to be gathered from a bare statement of the amounts per head, as it may be assumed that the provinces obtaining the least revenue are the most lightly taxed, while those with large revenues are heavily burthened. The truth is often the reverse of this. Where the taxation is obtained through the Custom House, a low consumption of taxable goods under a high tariff—such as is the case in South Australia—may give a revenue per inhabitant not greater than a high consumption under a lower tariff, as is the case in New South Wales. A reference to the above table will show the correctness of this statement.

Customs and Excise, Stamp Duties, and License Fees are the ordinary forms of taxation in each Colony; in addition to these, various forms of direct taxation are levied in most of the Colonies, particulars of which will be found on page 345.

The Colonies differ considerably in respect to the proportion of revenue raised by taxation. Thus, in New Zealand 51·4, in Western Australia 53·0, and in Tasmania 56·7 per cent. of the revenue passing through the hands of the Government during 1893 was derived from this source, while in New South Wales the proportion only reached 26·9 per cent.; the comparison, however, is only interesting as showing the large territorial revenue which New South Wales is fortunate enough to possess.

The amount of taxation collected during 1893-4 is shown in the following table. The revenue has been divided into direct and indirect, according to the usually accepted classification :—

Colony.	Total.			Per Inhabitant.		
	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	311,637	2,522,842	2,834,479	0 5 2	2 1 8	2 6 10
Victoria	558,749	2,042,611	2,601,360	0 9 6	1 14 10	2 4 4
Queensland	162,220	1,184,567	1,346,787	0 7 6	2 14 10	3 2 4
South Australia	230,627	528,593	759,220	0 13 4	1 10 5	2 3 9
Western Australia	11,280	349,727	361,007	0 3 6	5 7 6	5 11 0
Tasmania	67,650	332,051	399,701	0 8 10	2 3 2	2 12 0
New Zealand	676,776	1,717,311	2,394,087	1 0 2	2 11 1	3 11 3
Australasia	2,018,939	8,677,702	10,696,641	0 9 11	2 2 10	2 12 9

It is interesting to compare these figures with the returns of 1881, which are given below. Much the same features are displayed by all the Colonies. The shrinkage of other revenue, and the failure of land sales, have necessitated the adoption of direct taxation; while the Customs Revenue has also increased as compared with the population, not through the increased purchasing power of the people, but by reason of the extension of the number of dutiable articles and increase in the duties levied. The returns for 1881 were :—

Colony.	Total.			Per Inhabitant.		
	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	192,503	1,578,345	1,770,848	0 5 0	2 1 3	2 6 3
Victoria	347,782	1,635,345	1,983,127	0 8 1	1 18 0	2 6 1
Queensland	49,311	608,443	657,754	0 4 7	2 16 7	3 1 2
South Australia	14,522	569,617	584,139	0 1 1	2 2 7	2 3 8
Western Australia	1,206	114,910	116,116	0 0 10	3 17 10	3 18 8
Tasmania	66,748	283,398	350,146	0 11 5	2 8 6	2 19 11
New Zealand	405,802	1,480,507	1,886,309	0 16 6	3 0 1	3 16 7
Australasia	1,077,874	6,270,574	7,348,448	0 7 10	2 5 8	2 13 6

PROBATE AND STAMP DUTIES.

Probate duties are imposed in all the Colonies except Western Australia; but in Tasmania they only apply to personal estate. The New South Wales duties range from 1 to 5 per cent., according to the value of the estate; and in Victoria the duties range from 2 to 10 per cent. In Queensland they are unusually light, but in that Colony they are bound to succession duties ranging from 2 to 10 per cent., the rate being doubled if the legatee is not a blood relation. In South Australia the legacy and succession duties vary from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$, and from 1 to 10 per cent., respectively. Duty on personal estate in Tasmania ranges from 2 to 3 per cent.; while the probate duties in New Zealand run from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent., with an additional 3 per cent. if the legatees are strangers in blood. The other stamp duties are of the ordinary kinds, the chief among them being the composition duty on bank-notes, and stamps on receipts and other documents.

LAND AND INCOME TAXES.

Victoria, in 1877, was the first Colony to introduce a land tax; the object of the impost being, however, not so much to obtain revenue as to cause the sub-division of large estates. The rate imposed in that Colony is $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on all holdings exceeding 640 acres, and possessing a capital value of at least £2,500. Tasmania and South Australia, in 1880 and 1884 respectively, and New Zealand in 1885 and 1891, adopted the system of taxing land values. Tasmania first adopted the taxation of properties, and, to a limited extent, the taxation of incomes by means of a dividend tax. A rate of 9d. per £ was collected on the assessed annual value of the property; and the dividend tax was also fixed at 9d. in the £ on the amount of the dividends received. The property tax was reduced to 6d. in 1883; and in 1888 the Land Tax Act was passed superseding the property tax. This measure fixed the capital value as the basis of assessment, and the rate as $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £ on all private holdings, lands belonging to Municipal Corporations and other public bodies being the only exemptions; and the rate was increased to 1d. in 1894. In the same year an income tax was imposed, the rate being 8d. in the £ on incomes derived from personal exertion, and 1s. on other incomes, with exemptions of incomes under £150.

In Queensland a dividend tax of 1s. per £ on all dividends has been in force since 1890.

South Australia was first to adopt a general system of land and income taxation. The assessment for the land tax is made on the unimproved value, the rate being one half-penny in the £. The income tax is 3d. in the £ on incomes derived from personal exertion only, and 6d. in the £ on incomes derived from invested capital. The sum of £200 or under is exempted from taxation, from whichever source it may be derived.

During 1891 an Act was passed in New Zealand for the taxation of both land and incomes, and superseded a system of property tax

which had previously prevailed in that Colony. The former is assessed on the actual capital value of the land; but a taxpayer is entitled to a deduction on account of the value of all improvements up to £3,000, and also on account of any sum which may be owing on a registered mortgage. There are other exemptions which, with the two previously mentioned, considerably reduce the number of estates liable to taxation. The rate for 1893 was 1d. in the £. A graduated tax, ranging from one-eighth of a penny to 1½d. in the £, is imposed on all lands of an unimproved value of £5,000 or more. The income tax is levied on all incomes over £300, this sum being exempted in every case. The rate for 1893 was 6d. in the £ on the first £1,000 liable to taxation, and 1s. per £ on all beyond that sum.

The following is a statement of the amount derived from the various sources of direct taxation in each of the Colonies during 1893 :—

Colony.	Stamp Duties.		Land Tax.	Income Tax.	Dividend Tax.	Property Tax.	Total.
	Probate.	Other.					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	114,248	197,389	....	....	....	....	311,637
Victoria	144,612	290,695	123,442	....	....	....	558,749
Queensland	106,752	....	....	....	55,468	....	162,220
South Australia.....	55,622	27,119	147,886	....	....	....	230,627
Western Australia	11,280	....	....	....	....	....	11,280
Tasmania	5,271	13,724	37,375	....	11,280	....	67,650
New Zealand	314,800	....	360,564	....	....	1,412	676,776

Australasia raises in proportion to its total income a less sum by taxation than most countries concerning which information is available, as the following table shows. The figures, however, prove very little, because in most of these countries taxation is the chief source of revenue, while in the Colonies a large share of the income is obtained from railways and telegraphs, which, in older countries, are generally in the hands of private companies. The return given below shows the percentage of direct and indirect taxation to total revenue, exclusive of the receipts from railways and electric telegraphs. The returns are for latest available dates :—

Country.	Total Revenue, less Receipts from Railways and Electric Telegraphs	Taxation.	Percentage of Revenue derived from Taxation to total in first column.
	£	£	
United Kingdom.....	87,915,377	74,800,000	85·1
Russia	88,388,100	63,275,900	71·6
Italy	65,453,000	50,787,700	77·6
United States	80,379,100	75,913,000	94·4
Canada	7,036,511	5,926,283	84·2
Cape Colony.....	2,301,497	1,654,583	71·9
Australasia	19,165,000	10,696,641	55·8

LAND REVENUE.

The practice of treating as ordinary revenue money derived from the sale and occupation of Crown lands obtains in all the Colonies, and the money so raised forms one of the largest items of their income. The propriety of so doing is open to grave doubt, but the argument used in its justification is that the sums so obtained have enabled the Government to construct public works, which both enhance the value of the remaining public lands and facilitate settlement, or to endow municipalities, and thus enable them to carry out local works. The revenue from land sales is declining year by year, both absolutely and as compared with population. In New South Wales and South Australia the falling off has been most noticeable; in the former Colony the revenue from this source is now some £1,200,000 less than was the case in 1881, while in South Australia the revenue from land sales has almost disappeared.

Adopting the division of land revenue into receipts from sales, and receipts from occupation, the following table shows the income for 1881:—

Colony.	Total.			Per Inhabitant.		
	Revenue received.		Total.	Revenue received.		Total.
	From Auction and other classes of sales.	Occupation, &c., of Crown lands.		From Auction and other classes of sales.	Occupation, &c., of Crown lands.	
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	2,483,338	337,651	2,820,989	3 4 11	0 8 10	3 13 9
Victoria	701,276	135,194	836,470	0 16 4	0 3 2	0 19 6
Queensland	435,664	186,893	622,557	2 0 6	0 17 5	2 17 11
South Australia	651,914	97,042	748,956	2 8 9	0 7 3	2 16 0
Western Australia	5,750	34,695	40,445	0 3 11	1 3 6	1 7 5
Tasmania	37,269	39,487	76,756	0 6 5	0 6 9	0 13 2
New Zealand	376,461	174,479	550,940	0 15 4	0 7 1	1 2 5
Australasia	4,691,672	1,005,441	5,697,113	1 14 2	0 7 4	2 1 6

Compared with 1881, the land revenue for 1893 shows a large decline, in all amounting to £1,697,443. The falling off is found entirely in the amount of revenue from sales, that derived from rents having largely increased. However, general remarks applicable to all the Colonies can scarcely be made. New South Wales obtained £2,483,338 from land sales in 1881, out of a total of £4,691,672 for all the Colonies, or more than one half; while from occupation its revenue was £337,651 out of £1,005,441, or little more than one-third. In 1893 the revenue of the

Colony from sales amounted to £1,297,564, still a large amount, but £1,185,774 short of the receipts of 1881. In regard to occupation, a different condition of things is disclosed—the receipts in New South Wales during 1893 rose to £908,708, or an increase of £571,000 as compared with 1881, and amounting to more than half the aggregate for Australasia. The following are the figures for 1893 or 1894 for all the Colonies :—

Colony.	Total.			Per Inhabitant.					
	Revenue received.		Total.	Revenue received.		Total.			
	From Auction and other classes of sales.	Occupation, &c., of Crown lands.		From Auction and other classes of sales.	Occupation, &c., of Crown lands.				
	£	£	£	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
New South Wales	1,297,564	908,708	2,206,272	1	1 5	0	15 0	1	16 5
Victoria	383,165	116,927	500,092	0	6 6	0	2 0	0	8 6
Queensland	131,959	456,654	588,613	0	6 1	1	1 1	1	7 2
South Australia	54,531	180,304	234,835	0	3 2	0	10 5	0	13 7
Western Australia	25,000	73,661	98,661	0	7 8	1	2 8	1	10 4
Tasmania	36,914	21,224	58,138	0	4 10	0	2 9	0	7 7
New Zealand	128,670	184,389	313,059	0	3 10	0	5 6	0	9 4
Australasia	2,057,803	1,941,867	3,999,670	0	10 2	0	9 7	0	19 9

In only three of the Colonies is a general sinking fund established to assist in the redemption of public loans on maturity. The desirability of such a fund is on all sides admitted, and a portion of the proceeds of lands sales could, with advantage, be set apart from the general revenue and devoted to this purpose. Victoria deals with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Crown lands apart from the general revenue, by annually placing about £100,000 derived from that source to the credit of the Railway Construction Account.

EXPENDITURE.

The amount disbursed by the Government of New South Wales is far larger than that expended by any other Colony of the group; in the last financial year it exceeded that of Victoria by three and a half millions, and was equal to the united expenditure of New Zealand, Queensland, and South Australia. This is chiefly owing to the large extent of settled territory in the Colony, and the system of centralisation already referred

to. The total expenditure during 1893-4 for each Colony, distributed under various heads, was:—

Colony.	Year ended.	Railways.	Post and Telegraphs.	Public Instruction.	Interest and charges on Public Debt.	All other Services.	Total Expenditure.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	31 Dec., 1893	1,896,347	774,502	805,330	2,537,898	4,873,304	10,886,381
Victoria	30 June, 1894	1,565,052	523,065	624,077	1,912,000	2,758,967	7,384,961
Queensland	30 June, 1894	592,403	296,407	210,245	1,255,533	996,948	3,351,536
South Australia ..	30 June, 1894	575,551	193,448	143,280	923,737	689,590	2,525,606
Western Australia.	30 June, 1894	105,978	66,983	20,300	133,262	329,834	656,357
Tasmania	31 Dec., 1893	136,420	75,289	45,120	323,150	252,895	832,874
New Zealand.....	31 Mar., 1894	728,624	292,433	381,652	1,885,697	1,097,953	4,386,359
Australasia ..	.....	5,590,975	2,222,727	2,230,004	8,971,877	10,099,491	30,024,074

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that 18·6 per cent. of the whole expenditure is for working the railways of the Colonies, a service not usually undertaken by the State. Post and Telegraphs and Public Instruction absorb 7·4 per cent. each, and the interest on the Public Debt, 29·9 per cent.

Adopting the classification of expenditure used in the preceding table, the amount per inhabitant of each province is given below. It may be here mentioned that in New South Wales, and to some extent in South Australia and Western Australia, the tramways are the property of the State, and are under the same management as the railways, with which they are included in the various statements in this sub-chapter relating to revenue and expenditure:—

Colony.	Railways.	Post and Telegraphs	Public Instruction.	Interest and charges on Public Debt.	All other Services.	Total Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	1 11 4	0 12 9	0 13 4	2 1 11	4 0 6	8 19 10
Victoria	1 6 8	0 8 11	0 10 8	1 12 7	2 7 0	6 5 10
Queensland	1 7 5	0 13 8	0 9 9	2 18 1	2 6 2	7 15 1
South Australia.....	1 13 2	0 11 2	0 8 3	2 13 3	1 19 9	7 5 7
Western Australia.....	1 12 7	1 0 7	0 6 3	2 1 0	5 1 4	10 1 9
Tasmania	0 17 9	0 9 10	0 5 10	2 2 0	1 12 11	5 8 4
New Zealand	1 1 8	0 8 9	0 11 4	2 16 1	1 12 8	6 10 6
Australasia	1 7 8	0 10 11	0 11 0	2 4 3	2 14 3	7 8 1

The most remarkable feature in the general expenditure is the largeness of the amount required to pay interest on the public debt, both in regard to the rate per head and the proportion of total revenue thus hypothe-

cated. The proportion for Australasia is more than one-fourth of the total expenditure, and £2 4s. 3d. per head of population, while the actual expenditure for each Colony during 1893-4 was as follows:—

Colony.	Interest and Charges on Public Debt.		
	Total.	Per Inhabitant.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.
	£	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	2,537,898	2 1 11	23·3
Victoria	1,912,600	1 12 7	25·9
Queensland	1,255,533	2 18 1	37·5
South Australia	923,737	2 13 3	36·6
Western Australia	133,262	2 1 0	20·3
Tasmania	323,150	2 2 0	38·8
New Zealand	1,885,697	2 16 1	43·0
Australasia	8,971,877	2 4 3	29·9

The amounts given are actual payments made during the financial year, and do not represent the interest liabilities of that period, the amounts of which will be found on page 363. In the case of New South Wales the sum of £288,750 is included which should properly have been taken into account during the previous year, so that the actual sum chargeable to 1893 was £2,249,148, or £1 16s. 9d. per inhabitant.

A casual glance at the figures quoted will lend colour to the suggestion sometimes hazarded that the Colonies are too rapidly mortgaging their resources, and that the expense of the public debt will prove a greater burthen than can easily be borne. However true this may be as far as any individual Colony is concerned, it is certainly erroneous as regards the whole of Australasia. Out of the sum of £8,971,877 required to pay interest and charges on the public debt during 1893-4, £3,768,500 was directly recouped by the profit on public railways; while water supply, sewerage, and other productive services yielded a further sum of £300,300, making a total of £4,068,800. Besides this, there is a large indirect revenue obtained by each Colony from the opening up of its public lands, and from the construction of breakwaters, lighthouses, bridges, and other works of public utility. But even these advantages might have been bought at too dear a price if production had not correspondingly advanced. Fortunately such has been the case, as will be seen from the chapters in this volume which deal with the leading items of Australasian production.

ADJUSTED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The form in which the public accounts of all the Colonies are presented has led to a great deal of misconception regarding the actual requirements of the various Governments for public purposes. Nor has it been possible to do other than follow that form in the foregoing pages, as otherwise the figures quoted would differ from the various Treasury statements, and add another element of confusion; nevertheless, it would be well before closing the remarks on Public Finance to make a separation of the items of revenue and expenditure according to the principles which should govern the presentation of the public accounts.

South Australia was fortunate enough in 1892 to have a surplus revenue from services after all charges and interest had been defrayed. The conditions are now changed, and the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure has not been maintained; this Colony, during 1893, like the others, exhibiting a loss on the working of its services. Treating the services generally as a matter apart from the public accounts, and on the one hand taking into consideration as revenue only the surplus (if such exists) after working expenses and interest charges have been allowed for, and on the other hand counting as expenditure only the deficiency of the revenue from the working expenses and interest, the results shown in the following tables are obtained. The services separately dealt with are railways, tramways, telegraphs and telephones, water supply and sewerage. The Post Office has not been included, inasmuch as it is a matter of governmental administration in all countries. First as regards revenue :—

Colony.	Revenue from all sources except excluded Services.	Revenue (if any) from Services after deducting cost of Working and Interest.	Total.	
			Revenue as adjusted.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	6,830,124	Nil.	6,830,124	5 12 10
Victoria	3,735,556	Nil.	3,735,556	3 3 8
Queensland.....	2,342,356	Nil.	2,342,356	5 8 4
South Australia.....	1,336,902	Nil.	1,336,902	3 17 1
Western Australia.....	523,811	Nil.	523,811	8 1 0
Tasmania	536,397	Nil.	536,397	3 9 9
New Zealand	3,362,490	Nil.	3,362,490	5 0 0
Australasia.....	18,667,636	Nil.	18,667,636	4 12 1

In the following table the adjusted expenditure is given. From the first column of expenditure the expenses of services have been excluded; in the second the actual cost of such to the State is inserted, after allowing for revenue received and for interest:—

Colony.	Expenditure, except for excluded Services.	Net cost of Services to the State, allowing for Revenue received against Working Expenses and Interest.	Total.	
			Expenditure as adjusted.	Per Inhabitant.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	6,936,984	431,000	7,367,984	6 1 9
Victoria.....	3,943,986	456,908	4,400,894	3 15 0
Queensland	1,874,915	475,908	2,350,823	5 8 9
South Australia	1,160,995	174,808	1,335,803	3 17 0
Western Australia	459,147	39,775	498,922	7 13 4
Tasmania	509,852	154,778	664,630	4 6 5
New Zealand	2,466,948	628,863	3,095,811	4 12 1
Australasia	17,352,827	2,362,040	19,714,867	4 17 3

The figures just given show that the actual cost of government is materially less in all the Colonies than would appear from the ordinary statement of revenue and expenditure. The difference is largest in the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, in which the various services show the most development; and least in Western Australia, where the opposite condition obtains. On a population basis, however, the last-mentioned Colony shows the heaviest expenditure.

COLONIAL SECURITIES.

In another chapter the growth of Australasian indebtedness has been traced over a period of about twenty-five years, and it has been shown that nearly the whole of the advances made to the various State Governments, and some one hundred and twelve millions of private advances, have been obtained in Great Britain. This condition of dependence on external capital for the development of the country has on more than one occasion proved a great danger to Australasia, but never to the same extent as during the crisis of 1892-93, when the withdrawal of confidence on the part of the British investor caused widespread confusion in almost every department of industry, and

intense financial unrest, from which some of the Colonies are even now only slowly recovering. That there has been a recovery in part cannot be denied, as some of the following tables will clearly show.

The quotations for Colonial stocks in the London markets at the close of June, 1892, 1893, and 1894, are given below, the price in every instance being "cum dividend." With one exception, the quotations are for loans raised on the security of the local revenues of the country borrowing; in the case of India, however, there is also an Imperial guarantee. This advantage has been extended to some Canadian, Mauritius, and New Zealand loans, but these are not quoted in the following list. In passing, it may be mentioned that the guarantee of the British Government is certainly to the advantage of the dependencies to which it has been extended, as, in addition to the security afforded, the guarantee carries with it the right of trustees in the United Kingdom to invest trust funds in this class of stock, a privilege not extended to Australasian securities:—

Country.	Class of stock.	Selling price "cum dividend."		
		June, 1892.	June, 1893.	June, 1894.
Australasia—				
New South Wales	3½ per cent. Inscribed..	96½	93	98½
Victoria	3½ do do ..	97	88½	97½
Queensland	4 do do ...	103½	99	104
South Australia	4 do do ...	106	103	106½
Western Australia.....	4 do do ...	103½	104	108
Tasmania	4 do do ...	103	98½	103
New Zealand	4 do do ...	104½	104½	108½
Canada	3 do do ...	94½	96	97
Cape Colony	4 do do ...	106	108	112
Natal	4 do Debentures	103	108	109
India.....	3 do Stocks ...	97¼	98½	99¼

In order to make the comparison quite fair as between different stocks, other things than bare quotations on a given date have to be considered. These are chiefly accrued interest and unexpired currency of scrip. A uniform date for the payment of interest on loans has not been adopted, so that the amount of interest accrued at the above-quoted dates varies with each loan; while the date on which the loan is repayable is a factor not to be neglected in estimating the price of a stock. The return obtained by investors from the stock of each Colony on the basis of previous quotations, allowing for interest accrued and

redemption at par on maturity, is given below. The stocks were inscribed except in the case of Natal:—

Country.	Class of Stock.	Selling Price, "ex Dividend."	Currency.	Annual Rate of Interest per £100 sterling.				
				If no allowance is made for re- demption at par on maturity.	Gain or Loss per annum by redem- tion at par on maturity.		Rate if Stock is held till date of maturity.	
					Gain.	Loss.		
June, 1892.								
Australasia—	Per cent.	£	Years.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	3½	96·19	32	3 12 10	1 3	....	3 14 1
Victoria	3½	95·45	31	3 13 4	1 8	....	3 15 0
Queensland	4	101·72	32	3 13 8	....	1 11	3 16 9
South Australia	4	105·22	44	3 16 0	....	4 11	3 11 1
Western Australia	4	101·72	42	3 13 8	....	1 9	3 16 11
Tasmania	4	101·22	16	3 19 0	....	0 2	3 18 10
New Zealand	4	104·05	37	3 16 11	....	4 2	3 12 9
Canada	3	93·17	46	3 4 5	1 4	....	3 9 9
Cape Colony	4	105·89	31	3 15 6	....	6 6	3 5 0
Natal	4	102·55	34	3 13 0	....	2 9	3 15 3
India	3	96·69	56	3 2 1	0 5	....	3 2 6
June, 1893.								
Australasia—	Per cent.	£	Years.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	3½	92·33	31	3 16 0	2 8	....	3 13 8
Victoria	3½	86·07	30	4 0 6	4 8	....	4 5 2
Queensland	4	97·25	31	4 2 3	0 11	....	4 3 2
South Australia	4	102·23	43	3 13 3	....	2 2	3 16 1
Western Australia	4	102·25	41	3 13 3	....	2 3	3 16 0
Tasmania	4	96·75	15	4 2 8	3 3	....	4 5 11
New Zealand	4	104·06	36	3 16 10	....	4 2	3 12 8
Canada	3	94·68	45	3 3 4	1 1	....	3 4 5
Cape Colony	4	107·90	30	3 14 2	....	8 10	3 5 4
Natal	4	107·56	33	3 14 4	....	8 0	3 6 4
India	3	97·92	55	3 1 3	0 4	....	3 1 7
June, 1894.								
Australasia—	Per cent.	£	Years.	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales	3½	98·21	30	3 11 3	0 9	....	3 12 0
Victoria	3½	95·92	29	3 13 0	1 7	....	3 14 7
Queensland	4	102·25	30	3 13 3	....	2 7	3 15 8
South Australia	4	105·74	42	3 15 8	....	5 6	3 10 2
Western Australia	4	106·25	40	3 15 4	....	6 1	3 9 3
Tasmania	4	101·25	14	3 19 0	....	0 3	3 13 9
New Zealand	4	108·45	35	3 13 9	....	8 8	3 5 1
Canada	3	95·68	44	3 2 9	0 11	....	3 3 8
Cape Colony	4	111·91	29	3 11 6	....	13 4	2 13 2
Natal	4	108·57	32	3 13 8	....	9 2	3 4 6
India	3	98·68	54	3 0 10	0 2	....	3 1 0

The figures given in the last column of the preceding table show the relative positions of the stocks referred to at the respective dates. As will be seen, the credit of each division of Australasia was somewhat better in 1894 than in 1892, notwithstanding the financial panic which occurred between these dates. In 1893 there was naturally a heavy fall, as compared with the preceding year, in all Australasian securities except those of New Zealand and Western Australia. Victorian stock shows the largest fall—a thing to have been expected, seeing that the panic originated in that Colony, and Victorian finances generally were at a low ebb. The quotation for New Zealand stocks at the middle of

1893 was the same as that of the preceding year, which seems to point to the conclusion that the London market does not consider the interests of New Zealand to be bound up with those of the Colonies on the mainland.

Although there has been an improvement during the last few years, the position of Australasian stocks is still very much below the level of 1889. To this general statement New Zealand and Western Australian stocks are exceptions. To illustrate this, the rates obtained during 1892, 1893, and 1894 are given below, in a simpler form than in the preceding table, and an additional column is added, showing the interest yielded to investors in 1889. During the same periods, British consols were selling at 98 $\frac{1}{4}$, 97, 99, and 101 $\frac{1}{8}$:—

Country.	1889.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Australasia—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	3 3 1	3 14 1	3 18 8	3 12 0
Victoria.....	2 19 3	3 15 0	4 5 2	3 14 7
Queensland.....	3 2 8	3 16 9	4 3 2	3 15 8
South Australia.....	3 5 6	3 11 1	3 16 1	3 10 2
Western Australia.....	.....	3 16 11	3 16 0	3 9 3
Tasmania.....	3 7 9	3 18 10	4 5 11	3 18 9
New Zealand.....	3 16 11	3 12 9	3 12 8	9 5 1
Canada.....	3 0 1	3 5 9	3 4 5	3 3 8
Cape Colony.....	3 4 9	3 9 0	3 5 4	2 18 2
Natal.....	3 8 2	3 15 3	3 6 4	3 4 6
India.....	3 1 6	3 2 6	3 1 7	3 1 0

PRICES OF STOCK TO GOVERNMENT.

So far, only the return yielded to the investor has been considered. The following table shows the average prices obtained by the issuing Governments for some of the last issues, and the quotations for the same stocks at June, 1894, the latter prices being, of course, "ex dividend." Except in the case of South Australia, whose loan was at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the loans quoted bore interest at 4 per cent. :—

Colony.	Date of Negotiation.	Amount of Issue.	Average price realised.	Quotation, ex-dividend, June, 1894.
		£	£	£
New South Wales.....	1893	2,500,000	100.59	104.75
Victoria.....	1893	2,107,000	96.00	102.25
Queensland.....	1893	1,182,400	88.82	92.46
South Australia.....	1894	475,600	90.75	.....
Western Australia.....	1893	400,000	100.26	106.25
Tasmania.....	1894	1,000,000	101.21	100.25

The following statement shows the rates obtained by investors on loans floated by the Colonies during the periods covered by the table on page 354. The computations allow for the repayment of the various loans

at par on maturity. The loans are arranged in the order in which they were floated. The loan yielding least income to investors, and consequently the most favourable to the Colony borrowing, was the Victorian loan of January, 1889, which gave investors £3 5s. 5d. per cent.; while the highest was the New South Wales loan of October, 1893, which gave investors £4 1s. 1½d. per cent. As the state of credit during the years shown has been previously reviewed, the fluctuations during the period covered call for no special comment. The returns for each Colony were:—

Colony.	Date of Negotiation.	Principal		Currency of Loan.	Rate per cent. to Investors, allowing for redemption at par on maturity.
		Rate of Interest.	Amount.		
	1889.	Per cent.	£	Years.	£ s. d.
Victoria	January ...	3½	3,000,000	35	3 5 5
South Australia	January ...	3½	1,317,800	40	3 10 8
Tasmania ..	April	3½	1,000,000	30 to 50	3 12 0
New South Wales	July	3½	3,500,000	30	3 7 10
Western Australia	July	4	100,000	45	3 6 7
New Zealand	October ...	3½	2,700,000	50	3 13 11
	1890.				
Queensland	March	3½	2,264,734	34½	3 13 9
Victoria	April	3½	4,000,000	34	3 9 7
	1891.				
South Australia	February..	3½	*932,300	48	3 12 5
Victoria	April	3½	2,000,000	35	3 13 10
Queensland	May-June..	3½	2,500,000	40	4 0 3
Victoria	July	3½	1,000,000	34½	3 14 0
Western Australia	July	4	250,000	40	4 0 11
New South Wales	Sept.	3½	4,500,000	27	3 16 8
	1892.				
New South Wales	Nov.-Dec..	4	227,000	20	4 0 0
Victoria	June	3½	2,000,000	29 to 34	3 18 10
Western Australia	November.	4	400,000	19 to 39	4 0 2
	1893.				
New South Wales	October	4	2,500,000	40	4 1 1½
Do	Jan.-Dec..	4	1,829,400	20	4 0 0
Victoria	October	4	2,107,000	18 to 33	.....
Do	Various ...	4	300,953	Various	.....
Do	do	4	377,595	20 to 30	.....
Queensland	January....	3½	1,182,400	37	.....
South Australia .....	.....	3½	125,000	46	.....
Tasmania	March	3½	600,000	47	.....
	1894.				
South Australia	January..	3½	475,600	45	.....
Do	February..	3½	200,000	.....	.....
Western Australia	June	4	540,000	.....	.....
Tasmania	January....	4	1,000,000	46	3 18 9
New South Wales	September	3½	832,000	24	3 7 10½

INSCRIBED STOCK.

By far the larger part of Australasian loans are inscribed, and the outstanding issues under the debentures system are being converted into inscribed stock as quickly as circumstances permit. New Zealand was the first to introduce inscription in 1877, in which year was passed the Consolidated Stock Act, a measure made necessary by the abolition of the provincial Councils. Under this Act the liabilities of the various provinces were merged into the general debt of the Colony; and under the same Act and its amendment of 1884 the Government has worked systematically to consolidate the debt by conversion and inscription, so that in March, 1894, the whole of the public liabilities were inscribed, with the exception of £4,120,123 represented by debentures. The Consolidated Stock Act of New Zealand was assented to in December, 1877; and in August of that year the Imperial Parliament passed the Colonial Stock Act, which provided for the inscription and transfer of Colonial stock raised in the United Kingdom. Certain steps were required to be taken before a Colony could take advantage of the provisions of the Imperial Act. As already mentioned, New Zealand passed the necessary legislation at the end of 1877; but nothing was done by the other Colonies until 1882, when Victoria and South Australia passed Inscribed Stock Acts; New South Wales and Queensland passed similar legislation in the following year, Western Australia in 1884, and Tasmania in 1889. It will thus be seen that a gradual change in the mode of floating loans for public purposes has been going on since 1877, and the time cannot be far distant when the whole debt of each Colony will be represented by one class of stock. In 1879, or two years after passing the Consolidated Stock Act, New Zealand placed on the market a 5 per cent. loan of £5,000,000 at 97½ in the form of debentures, the subscribers having the option, up to March, 1881, of exchanging for 4 per cent. inscribed stock, at the rate of £120 of stock for each £100 of debentures. The loan was successfully floated, and within the stated period £4,476,000 of the £5,000,000 debentures were exchanged for £5,371,200 inscribed stock at 4 per cent. The other Colonies issued inscribed stock loans shortly after passing the respective Acts.

The Imperial "Colonial Stock Act, 1877," as previously mentioned, provides for the inscription and transfer of stock raised in the United Kingdom and for stamp duty to be levied thereon. It also defines the position of the British Government as regards Colonial indebtedness, and provides that every document connected with stock transactions shall have printed upon it a distinct intimation that no liability, direct or indirect, is incurred by the British Government in respect to such stock, unless the loan is under Imperial guarantee.

DEBENTURES, REGISTERED AND INSCRIBED STOCK.

The difference between registered and inscribed stock is practically small. Transactions under the former head are confined to a few old funded stock loans. Debentures and inscribed stock form the principal class of securities, and, as pointed out, the debenture form is rapidly giving way to inscription. Debenture coupons are, like ordinary scrip, negotiable by bearer, and are liable to the risk of forgery. By inscription the possibilities of fraud in transfer are minimised, as the stock is inscribed in the books of the bank, and transferable therein by the stock-holders personally or by their attorneys, without the issue of certificates of stock. In the case of registered stock, certificates are issued transferable by deed.

TREASURY BILLS.

The practice of issuing Treasury Bills, either in anticipation of, or to make good, deficiencies in revenue, obtains in each Colony, and is an old-established custom ; but, as will be seen later on, Treasury Bills have been made to serve another purpose, and money has been raised by their sale to meet certain obligations for public works. This is an innovation which could not be well avoided in the disturbed markets of the last few years. The bills are in reality ordinary loans with short currencies, and carry a higher rate of interest than issues of the funded debt. The unsatisfactory state of Australasian finance does not allow of the absolute redemption of these bills ; consequently they will either have to be renewed or converted into stock, an operation which will entail an additional expenditure to the charges of first negotiation. The New Zealand Treasury Bills are issued direct by the Treasury at par, and the expenses of negotiation are small. The bills are usually redeemed during the year of issue, and for this reason they have not been included with or considered as part of the Public Debt of New Zealand, though in the case of the other Colonies Treasury Bills have been so included. Australasian Treasury Bills are like the British Treasury Bills in name only, but they have some points in common with the British Exchequer Bills.

CONVERSION AND CONSOLIDATION.

Conversion and consolidation as applied to loans are not interchangeable terms, but represent two distinct transactions in so far related that, without conversion, consolidation would be impracticable. All the Colonies are systematically converting their old loans into inscribed stock, and by so doing they are taking a step towards consolidation.

Since the Consolidated Stock Act was passed in 1877, New Zealand has been engaged in converting its old loans into inscribed stock, and consolidating the whole debt by adopting two uniform interest rates of 4 and 3½ per cent. and fixing the dates of maturity at 1929 and 1940 for each class of stock. The transactions in conversion and consolidation in New Zealand from 1877 to 31st March, 1894, were as follow :—

Amount of Old Debentures Converted.	Additional Capital added to Principal by Conversion.	New Stock Issued.		
		Nominal Rate of Interest.	Amount.	Date of Maturity.
£ 17,923,900 660,800	£ 1,375,162 41,276	4 per cent. 3½ „	£ 19,299,062 702,076	1929 1940

The loading of the principal by conversion appears heavy ; but New Zealand was saddled with a number of small loans, much after the type of municipal borrowings, which it was most desirable should be consolidated without delay, and some sacrifice was made to accomplish this ; besides, the compensation obtained in a lower rate of interest must be set against the increased capital. The subject of the New Zealand conversion is a large one, and inquirers should consult the publications of the Government of that Colony, which give details hardly in place in a volume such as this,

REDEMPTIONS.

Loans are either redeemed or renewed. In the former case, the amount of the obligations of the State to its public creditors is reduced ; in the latter case, the liability remains the same or is only slightly decreased. Repayments, however, are chiefly effected under the head of renewals, the amount of loans redeemed from revenue, by sinking fund, annual drawings, or directly from the general account, at date of maturity, being small. The principle of extinguishing public debt by the operation of sinking funds or by annual drawings is not general in Australasia, and in the Colonies in which it has been adopted the loans affected do not amount to a large sum. In cases in which sinking funds are adopted the funds are held until the date of redemption ; but exactly the opposite course is followed where annual drawings are provided, for in such cases the Government retires a certain amount of its debentures yearly, and thus effects a gradual extinction of the loan. New Zealand, Tasmania, and Western Australia have sinking funds in operation, the amounts to the credit of which will be found on page 362. The system of annual drawings has been adopted to a very limited extent only by New Zealand, New South Wales, and Western Australia.

With the exception of one or two small amounts of perpetual or interminable stock, all the Australasian loans are redeemable at prescribed dates; hence the Governments frequently find themselves at the mercy of an adverse market when they are compelled to raise a loan to pay off stock falling due. Within the last few years, however, practical steps have been taken by Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, to avoid this disability, as the Governments of the Colonies named, in their late issues, have reserved to themselves the option of redeeming at a minimum or a maximum date, or any intervening period, on giving the necessary six or twelve months' notice. Canada was the first of the British possessions to introduce this principle.

ACCUMULATED DEBT LIABILITIES.

The practice of raising money for State purposes by means of public loans was begun in 1842, when New South Wales issued debentures redeemable in two years and bearing interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The sum raised—£45,900—was devoted to immigration purposes. This, as well as the succeeding loans, nine in number, raised prior to 1855, was obtained locally; in the year named, however, New South Wales placed on the London market the first instalment of a 5 per cent. loan for £683,300, which was the first external loan raised, and may be rightly said to mark the commencement of the present Australasian indebtedness.

So far as most of the Colonies are concerned, their Public Debts date from about the time of their assuming the control of their own affairs. Western Australia, which obtained responsible government in 1890, incurred liabilities in London, however, as far back as 1872, but in the case of that Colony the granting of Parliamentary government was unduly delayed. The following table is interesting as showing the liabilities of each of the Colonies at the date of its taking charge of its own affairs:—

Colony.	Date of obtaining Responsible Government.	Amount of Debt Liability at that date.
		£
New South Wales	1855	1,366,770
Victoria	1855	480,000
Queensland	1859	.....
South Australia	1856	294,900
Western Australia	1890	1,367,444
Tasmania	1855	.....
New Zealand	1856	.....

No feature of Australasian finance is so astonishing as the growth of the public indebtedness, and this fact forms the gravamen of the indictments which have been urged against the Colonies during the past few years, especially since the failure of the house of Baring Brothers. The debts have undoubtedly grown at a much more rapid pace than the population; but as the Colonies were in an entirely undeveloped state when public borrowing first came into favour, the more rapid growth of their indebtedness as compared with the population was in a sense the corollary of the position taken up by the Governments, that the State should reserve to itself the construction of railways and similar undertakings, which in other countries are prosecuted by private enterprise. Even with this explanation, the figures in the following statement are sufficiently striking:—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1893-4.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	4,017,630	10,614,330	16,924,019	58,079,033
Victoria	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	47,297,708
Queensland	70,000	4,047,850	13,245,150	32,076,434
South Australia	866,500	2,167,700	11,196,800	22,546,225
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	511,000	2,873,098
Tasmania .....	.....	1,315,200	2,003,000	7,645,604
New Zealand	600,761	8,900,991	29,659,111	39,826,415
Australasia	11,899,951	39,040,871	95,965,582	210,344,517

The figures for the year 1893-4 represent both funded and unfunded debt. The increase between the periods has been, in round numbers, from 1861 to 1871, 27 millions; from 1871 to 1881, 57 millions; and from 1881 to 1893, 114 millions.

The figures just given would be incomplete without corresponding information of the debt per head for the same period. In 1861 the debt stood at £9 10s. 5d.; in 1871, at £19 16s. 4d.; in 1881, at £34 0s. 2d.; while in 1893 it was £51 13s. 1d. For each Colony the figures stand as follow:—

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1893-4.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	11 4 5	20 10 0	21 14 8	47 9 6
Victoria	11 14 3	16 0 11	25 9 7	40 6 1
Queensland	2 0 9	32 6 11	58 7 2	74 4 0
South Australia	6 16 8	11 13 7	39 2 1	65 0 0
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	17 0 6	44 3 2
Tasmania .....	.....	12 18 5	16 16 10	49 10 2
New Zealand	6 1 4	33 6 9	59 4 2	58 17 0
Australasia	9 10 5	19 16 4	34 0 2	51 13 1

These figures present the amount of the public indebtedness as represented by outstanding debentures or stock, but the real amount is less in New Zealand, Western Australia, and Tasmania, each of these Colonies having established a sinking fund. To this matter reference will be made later on.

Of the £210,344,517 which constituted the debt of Australasia in 1893, £200,705,019 was funded debt raised either as debentures, funded, or inscribed stock, and £9,639,498 unfunded or floating debt. The particulars for each Colony, on the 31st December, 1893 were:—

Colony.	Year.	Debenture Bonds.	Inscribed and Funded Stock.	Treasury Bills.		Total.
				For Works.	In aid of Revenue.	
		£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	1 Jan., 1894	12,659,060	40,767,089	2,750,000	1,902,884	58,079,033
Victoria	30 June, 1894	20,607,130	25,850,578	.....	750,000	47,297,708
Queensland	31 Dec., 1893	11,325,500	19,314,034	436,278	1,000,622	32,076,434
South Australia ..	1 Jan., 1894	11,482,600	9,714,400	500,000	849,225	22,546,225
Western Australia..	31 Dec., 1893	434,000	2,259,563	179,535	.....	2,873,098
Tasmania	31 Dec., 1893	3,668,150	2,706,500	966,154	304,800	7,645,604
New Zealand	31 Mar., 1894	4,120,123	35,706,292	.....	... ..	39,826,415
Australasia		64,386,563	136,318,456	4,831,967	4,807,531	210,344,517

In one or two instances the amount of the Bills current in aid of Revenue, which is set down in the above table, differs somewhat from that given on page 340. The figures there given represent the net indebtedness, and are exclusive of the provision made to meet the Bills when they fall due.

As before mentioned, three of the Colonies have sinking funds, which should be reckoned as decreasing the indebtedness shown in the foregoing statement. The amounts to the credit of the sinking funds were as follow at the specified dates:—New Zealand, 31st March, 1894, £951,924; Western Australia, 31st December, 1893, £129,099; and Tasmania, 31st December, 1893, £136,592.

The relative burthen of the public debt for each Colony is not to be determined by comparing the gross amount with the population, unless the rate of interest payable is also taken into consideration. Thus the general average interest payable by New South Wales is 3·83 per cent., while New Zealand pays 4·03 per cent., so that a debt of £100 in the former is not more burthensome than £95 in the latter Colony. A more exact basis of comparison is obtained by taking the interest liability. This is shown in the following table. It will be understood that the interest shown is on the supposition that the debt is outstanding for the whole of the year following the day on which the amounts are made up. The whole debt, funded and unfunded, has been included :—

Colony.	Average rate of Interest.			Interest.	
	Funded Debt.	Unfunded Debt.	Total.	Amount on Outstanding Liabilities on 31st December, 1893.	Per Inhabitant.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	3·82	4·04	3·83	2,227,037	1 16 5
Victoria	3·93	4·50	3·94	1,862,197	1 11 9
Queensland	3·91	4·00	3·91	1,255,921	2 18 1
South Australia	4·06	4·56	4·09	921,813	2 13 2
Western Australia.....	4·08	4·50	4·10	117,870	1 16 1
Tasmania	3·94	4·63	4·06	310,263	2 0 2
New Zealand	4·03	.....	4·03	1,605,466	2 7 5
Australasia	3·93	4·23	3·95	8,300,567	2 0 9

In 1884 the nominal rate of interest on New South Wales loans was fixed at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., at which rate stock to the amount of £28,494,200 had been sold to January, 1894. This example was not followed by any of the other Colonies until 1888, when Queensland successfully floated the loan of £2,520,000 at the reduced rate; and in 1889 Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, in the order named, were successful in issuing stock at a similar nominal rate. Through the pressure of events already referred to, the nominal rate for those Colonies issuing in 1893 was increased to 4 per cent. Early in the following year, however, South Australia and Tasmania issued again at

the lower rate. The following shows the amount of the total debt under each rate of interest for each of the group :—

Rate of Interest.	New South Wales (to 1 Jan., 1894).	Victoria (to 30 June, 1894).	Queensland (to 31 Dec., 1893).	South Australia (to 1 Jan., 1894).	Western Australia (to 31 Dec., 1893).	Tasmania (to 31 Dec., 1893).	New Zealand (to 31 Mar., 1894).
			FUNDED DEBT.				
per cent.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Nil.	860	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	311
7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,000
6½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35,000
6	92,000	.....	765,600	1,067,500	33,000	484,400	203,200
5	4,266,000	153,900	.....	290,900	83,100	100	1,699,400
4½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40,450	.....
4¼	.....	5,000,000	.....	.....	111,700	.....	2,546,634
4	20,572,489	29,393,808	21,384,300	17,464,400	2,465,763	3,142,500	30,805,802
3½	28,494,200	12,000,000	8,489,634	2,375,100	.....	2,707,200	4,521,068
Total	53,426,149	46,547,708	30,639,534	21,197,000	2,693,563	6,374,650	39,826,415
			UNFUNDED DEBT—Treasury Bills.				
5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	465,304	.....
4½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	95,500	.....
4·5625	.....	.....	.....	1,349,225	.....	.....	.....
4¼	.....	750,000	.....	.....	179,535	445,920	.....
4	750,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	154,430	.....
4	3,902,884	.....	1,436,900	.....	.....	109,800	.....
Total	4,652,884	750,000	1,436,900	1,349,225	179,535	1,270,954	.....
Total Debt ..	58,079,033	47,297,708	32,076,434	22,546,225	2,873,098	7,645,604	39,826,415

The Treasury Bills of New Zealand do not rightly form part of the Public Debt, and outstanding bills have therefore been excluded from the foregoing statement.

DATES OF MATURITY.

Australasian loans, as previously shown, have been issued for fixed periods, and the accumulated amount maturing for Australasia in each year is given in the following statement. No combined action is taken to regulate the raising of loans, each Colony acting according to the exigencies of its Government, regardless of the condition of its neighbours. The placing of a loan on the London market, especially if it be for a large amount, generally results in an all round fall in the prices of Australasian stocks, and subsequent issues of other Colonies are placed at a disadvantage if the market is approached before it has recovered its tone; in fact, the Colonies have, in this respect, all the evils of disintegration and all the liabilities of federation, without any of the advantages which federation would give. It would be useless

to criticise the amount falling due in any year, large though it may be, unless for a period close at hand, as existing conditions will eventually become so intolerable that some change must perforce be made. Happily, the amounts to be redeemed during the next decade are moderate, and the fact of heavy obligations requiring to be met in any remote year may prove a solid advantage, as it will simplify negotiations when the time is ripe for the conversion of Australasian loans into one consolidated stock. As previously mentioned, only one Colony is at present systematically working with this end in view, but so far it has treated the question from a provincial standpoint only. The principle of adopting a minimum and a maximum date for repayment has been so recently introduced that, in the table now given, no attempt has been made to specially show the amounts to which it is applicable, the period of redemption in each case being assumed to be the more remote date:—

FUNDED DEBT.

Due Dates.	£	Due Dates.	£
Overdue ...	1,171	1916 ...	1,423,500
1894 ...	424,050	1917 ...	1,363,800
1895 ...	1,520,722	1918 ...	13,463,100
1896 ...	2,243,700	1919 ...	4,026,000
1897 ...	564,190	1920 ...	6,313,000
1898 ...	1,805,850	1923 ...	7,586,230
1899 ...	2,993,722	1924 ...	31,125,134
1900 ...	951,320	1926 ...	7,174,600
1901 ...	3,618,200	1929 ...	29,350,302
1902 ...	589,200	1930 ...	3,704,800
1903 ...	2,058,680	1931 ...	1,436,000
1904 ...	5,599,900	1933 ...	9,686,300
1905 ...	187,500	1934 ...	823,563
1906 ...	1,262,400	1935 ...	1,560,400
1907 ...	5,538,500	1936 ...	2,182,400
1908 ...	8,298,000	1939 ...	2,375,100
1909 ...	1,884,500	1940 ...	7,227,568
1910 ...	2,953,000	Interminable...	532,889
1911 ...	1,076,600	Annual Drawings	1,682,600
1912 ...	2,182,400	Dates undefined	1,743,578
1913 ...	6,560,650		
1914 ...	1,278,300		
1915 ...	12,328,600	Total ...	£200,705,019

UNFUNDED DEBT.

(Treasury Bills.)

		£			£
1894 ...	...	769,360	1900 ...	...	250,000
1895 ...	...	556,594	1903 ...	...	11,000
1896 ...	...	4,168,400	Annual payments	...	1,902,884
1897 ...	...	1,129,225			
1898 ...	...	629,535	Total ...	...	£9,639,498
1899 ...	...	222,500			
			Total Debt ...	...	£210,344,517

The list of redemptions, though lengthy, is marked by so many interesting features that it is printed in full detail :—

Year.	New South Wales (to 1 Jan., 1894).	Victoria (to 30 June, 1894).	Queens- land (to 31 Dec., 1893).	South Australia (to 1 Jan., 1894).	Western Australia (to 31 Dec., 1893).	Tasmania (to 31 Dec., 1893).	New Zealand (to 31 March, 1894).
FUNDED DEBT.							
Overdue	£ 860	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894	860	.....	.....	68,100	.....	40,650	315,300
1895	832,000	122,000	.....	60,000	.....	105,900	400,822
1896	977,400	.....	765,600	60,000	.....	100,600	340,100
1897	65,300	31,900	.....	60,000	.....	100,600	305,890
1898	177,200	.....	.....	140,000	.....	60,150	1,481,500
1899	197,700	1,500,000	.....	1,140,000	.....	.....	156,022
1900	857,100	.....	.....	63,000	.....	31,220	.....
1901	420,900	3,000,000	.....	64,300	33,000	100,000	.....
1902	459,000	.....	.....	65,000	34,000	31,200	.....
1903	1,901,500	.....	.....	70,000	31,500	55,680	.....
1904	58,000	5,457,000	.....	67,500	.....	17,400	.....
1905	2,300	.....	.....	42,500	17,600	10,500	114,600
1906	224,900	.....	.....	1,037,500	.....	.....	.....
1907 .....	.....	4,000,000	.....	538,500	.....	.....	1,000,000
1908	1,450,000	2,000,000	.....	4,548,000	.....	300,000	.....
1909	1,799,500	.....	.....	45,000	.....	.....	40,000
1910	2,863,700	.....	.....	84,300	.....	.....	25,000
1911 .....	.....	.....	.....	76,600	.....	1,000,000	.....
1912	2,116,400	.....	.....	60,000	.....	.....	.....
1913 .....	.....	4,000,000	1,466,500	41,000	.....	548,650	506,500
1914 .....	.....	.....	.....	32,500	.....	800,000	445,800
1915 .....	.....	.....	11,728,800	595,000	.....	.....	4,800
1916 .....	.....	.....	.....	1,411,300	.....	.....	12,200
1917 .....	.....	.....	.....	1,363,800	.....	.....	.....
1918	11,994,200	.....	.....	1,468,900	.....	.....	.....
1919 .....	.....	4,000,000	.....	26,000	.....	.....	.....
1920 .....	.....	6,000,000	.....	13,000	.....	300,000	.....
1923 .....	.....	7,586,230	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1924	16,500,000	.....	12,973,834	1,651,300	.....	.....	.....
1926 .....	.....	7,107,000	.....	.....	.....	67,600	.....
1929 .....	.....	.....	.....	200,000	.....	.....	29,150,302
1930 .....	.....	.....	3,704,800	.....	.....	.....	.....
1931 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,436,000	.....	.....
1933	9,636,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1934 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	823,563	.....	.....
1935 .....	.....	.....	.....	1,560,400	.....	.....	.....
1936 .....	.....	.....	.....	2,182,400	.....	.....	.....
1939 .....	.....	.....	.....	2,375,100	.....	.....	.....
1940 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,706,500	4,521,068
Interminable	532,889	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Annual Drawings	308,500	.....	.....	.....	317,900	.....	1,056,200
Dates undefined .....	.....	1,743,578	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	53,426,149	46,547,708	30,639,534	21,197,000	2,693,563	6,374,650	39,826,415
UNFUNDED DEBT. (Treasury Bills.)							
1893 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150,000	619,360	.....
1894 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,000	530,594	.....
1895 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40,000	.....
1896	2,750,000	250,000	1,128,400	.....	.....	30,000	.....
1897 .....	.....	250,000	.....	849,225	.....	.....	.....
1898 .....	.....	250,000	75,000	250,000	9,535	45,000	.....
1899 .....	.....	.....	222,500	.....	.....	.....	.....
1900 .....	.....	.....	.....	250,000	.....	.....	.....
1901 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1902 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1903 .....	.....	.....	11,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Annual payments	1,902,884	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	4,652,884	750,000	1,436,900	1,349,225	179,535	1,270,954	.....
Total Debt	58,079,033	47,297,708	32,076,434	22,546,225	2,873,093	7,645,604	39,826,415

EXPENSES OF NEGOTIATION.

From 1855, when the first New South Wales loan was placed on the London market, until the present time, the Colonies have obtained from the same source nearly the whole of the money which they have borrowed. In only two of the Colonies does the amount of the outstanding loans locally subscribed reach large figures, and even in these instances the local borrowings form but a small fraction of the whole sum for which the Colony stands indebted. Thus, for New South Wales the total local borrowing is only £3,127,449; and for Victoria, £2,329,808. These amounts, however, are exclusive of the floating debt in the form of Treasury Bills, which, to a large extent, have been placed locally. This dependence on the English market was originally due to the lack of local capital; but of late years, when such capital has been fairly abundant, the Governments have still turned to London, where the rate of interest at which they could borrow has been very much below what would have been demanded by the local capitalist.

The charges incidental to the floating of an inscribed stock loan in England are heavy. The chief expense is the stamp duty of 12s. 6d. per cent. imposed by the British Government on inscribed stock. The other charges are for services rendered. New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand issue their stock through the Bank of England; the London and Westminster Bank acts for Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania; South Australia issues its loans through its Agent-General resident in London; while with Tasmania also the Agent-General is the channel through whom the loans are placed, but in the case of this Colony, its representative has the assistance of the London and Westminster Bank.

The cost of negotiation by the Bank of England is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. commission; and by the London and Westminster Bank, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The 12s. 6d. per cent. composition duty per £100 inscribed stock has already been referred to. Brokerage costs $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. In addition to these charges there has usually to be added 4d. or 5d. per £100 for incidental expenses. The charges annually made by the Bank of England for the inscription and management of stock, and the payment of the half-yearly dividends, are £600 per million for the first ten millions, £550 for the next five, and £500 per million for all subsequent amounts. The charges of the London and Westminster Bank are £500 per million for the first ten millions, £450 for the second like sum, and £400 per million for any subsequent amount.

Under the old form of debenture the stamp duty imposed is 2s. 6d. per cent., or £1,250 per one million debentures. The expenditure per £100 debenture or stock, for the issues of those Colonies for which information is obtainable, is given in the subjoined table. The debenture loans shown are some of the last issued by the Colonies. It will be seen that the cost of floating inscribed stock loans is much larger than

that under the debenture system, but the extra outlay is inappreciable when compared with the advantages gained :—

Colony.	Year of Negotiation.	Principal.		Expenses per £100 Debenture and Stock.	Class of Stock.
		Rate of Interest.	Amount.		
			£	£ s. d.	
New South Wales.....	1883	4	2,000,000	0 11 5	Debentures.
	1889	3½	3,500,000	1 7 10	Inscribed.
	1891	3½	4,500,000	1 7 9	do.
	1893	4	2,500,000	1 8 0	do.
Victoria	1880	4½	2,000,000	0 17 9½	Debentures.
	1891	3½	3,000,000	1 2 9	Inscribed.
	1892	3½	2,000,000	1 3 0	do.
	1893	4	2,107,000	1 3 0	do.
Queensland	1881	4	1,089,500	0 15 9	Debentures.
	1890	3½	2,264,734	1 8 0	Inscribed.
	1891	3½	2,500,000	1 8 2	do.
	1893	3½	1,182,400	2 18 8	do.
South Australia.....	1883	4	1,438,500	0 9 0	Debentures.
	1889	3½	1,317,800	0 19 1	Inscribed.
	1892	3½	932,300	1 1 2	do.
	1893	3½	125,000	.....	do.
Western Australia ...	1894	3½	475,600	.....	do.
	1894	3½	200,000	.....	do.
	1891	4	250,000	1 3 6	Inscribed.
	1892	4	400,000	1 3 7	do.
Tasmania	1894	4	540,000	.....	do.
	1886	4	1,000,000	0 18 0	Debentures.
	1889	3½	1,000,000	1 3 6	Inscribed.
	1893	3½	600,000	1 3 5	do.
	1894	4	1,000,000	1 3 8	do.

The high rate of expenses on the last Queensland loan is accounted for partly by the fact that the amount was underwritten at the rate of 1 per cent.

LATE ISSUES OF LOANS AND TREASURY BILLS.

As late as the year 1890 the Colonies could borrow in London on very favourable terms, but in the year named the conditions were no longer favourable. This change had for its immediate cause a condition of things not of the Colonies' own creation, the Baring failure and the Argentine crisis being primarily responsible for the stoppage of Australasian credit; but there is no reasonable ground for supposing that if the Baring failure had not taken place, the London markets would have been much longer open to the Australasian Colonies. The Treasurers of the various Colonies were entirely unprepared for this revulsion in credit. They were committed to engagements for the construction of public works which they could not terminate; contracts

had been entered into for large sums on the assumption that funds would be available ; besides this, no preparation had been made to meet debentures falling due in a short time. The sudden stoppage of credit greatly embarrassed the Governments, and most of the Colonies had recourse to Treasury Bills to enable them to adjust their finances to the altered circumstances. The amounts received from the sale of Treasury Bills were devoted to meeting loans maturing, and providing funds for public works already contracted for. Pressing necessities, and the improved condition of the London market, encouraged several of the Colonies during 1893 and 1894 to place ordinary loan issues, which were successfully negotiated ; and the proceeds of these loans relieved the liabilities on matured Treasury Bills and current obligations.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Loan Issues.—New South Wales, in 1892 and 1893, had authority to issue £3,000,000 4 per cent. funded stock at a minimum price of par. Up to 8th May, 1894, when the stock was withdrawn, £2,345,780 had been disposed of. The cost of the issue was practically nil.

In October, 1893, an inscribed stock loan was floated in London, the rate of interest being 4 per cent., and the currency forty years. The minimum price was fixed at 98½, and the average price realized was £100 11s. 10½d. The rate paid by the Government, allowing for redemption at par on maturity, was £4 2s. 5¾d. ; while the return to investors was £4 1s. 1½d. During 1894, several small 5 per cent. loans matured, which amounted in the aggregate to £832,000. In September of that year a 3½ per cent. covering loan was successfully issued, the average price realised on the gross proceeds being £101 15s., which is reduced to £99 13s. 6d. if allowance is made for accrued interest and charges. The rate paid by the Government is £3 10s. 4d. per cent., and the interest yielded to investors, £3 7s. 10½d. The loan was subscribed over five-fold, the amount tendered being £4,268,000.

Treasury Bills.—In January, 1893, the two last issues of the 4,000,000 Treasury Bills, amounting to £736,500, were placed in London.

VICTORIA.

Loan Issues.—An inscribed stock loan of £2,107,000 was floated in London in October, 1893, the rate of interest being 4 per cent., and the date of maturity between 1911 and 1926, at the option of the Government on due notice being given. Four per cent. debentures were also disposed of locally to the amount of £377,595 ; and 4 per cent. stock on Melbourne register, amounting to £300,953, was sold.

Treasury Bills.—No Treasury Bills were sold during 1893, and the amount of outstanding Bills on the 30th June, 1894, was £750,000.

QUEENSLAND.

Loan Issues.—Queensland, in January, 1893, placed a 3½ per cent. loan of £1,182,400 on the London market, the average price obtained

being £88 16s. 4d. The charges were heavier than usual, as the loan was underwritten at the rate of 1 per cent.

Treasury Bills.—During 1893, three issues of Treasury Bills were placed locally, viz., £222,500 in January, £5,000 in April, and £11,000 in December. The rate of interest is 4 per cent., and the dates of maturity are 1899, 1898, and 1903 respectively. In January, 1894, Bills to the amount of £1,000 were also disposed of locally, the rate being the same as for the previous issues, and the date of redemption, 1903.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Loan Issues.—In 1893, a small loan of £125,000, being portion of the 1890 loan of £1,532,900, was floated in London. The rate of interest is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the loan is redeemable in 1939.

An instalment of the £1,013,279 loan of 1892 was floated in Adelaide, in February, 1894. The amount of the issue was £200,000, the price realised per £100 being 92, and the rate of interest being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Treasury Bills.—In June, 1892, Treasury Bills were issued to the amount of £349,225, with interest at the rate of £4 11s. 3d. per cent., and payable in five years; and in March and July, 1893, further issues of £250,000 each were made bearing the same rate, the dates of maturity being 1898 and 1910 respectively.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Loan Issues.—In June, 1894, a loan of £540,000, at £4 per cent., was floated in London at a minimum of 102, the average price realised being £103 6s. 1d.

Treasury Bills.—The Government had authority to issue Treasury Bills during 1893, the total amount issued being £179,535, of which £150,000 were negotiated in London, and the balance locally. The rate of interest is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the dates of maturity are 1895–8 for the bills due in Perth, and 1894 for those redeemable in London.

TASMANIA.

Loan Issues.—Tasmania issued a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -per cent. loan of £800,000 in March, 1893, which was part of the £2,100,000 authorised in December, 1892. The loan was only a partial success, £600,000 being taken up and the balance withdrawn. The rate of interest is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the average price realised per £100 was £92 2s. 2d. In 1894 a loan of £1,000,000 was negotiated in London, the rate of interest being 4 per cent., and the date of maturity between 1920 and 1940, at the option of the Government on 12 months' notice being given. The average amount realised per £100 was £101 4s. 3d.

Treasury Bills.—During 1893, four issues of Treasury Bills were negotiated in London, viz.:—£109,800 at 4 per cent., £50,000 at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., £95,500 at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and £79,000 at 5 per cent., the total amount sold being £334,300. The currency in all cases is 2 years.

NEW ZEALAND.

Loan Issues.—During the year 1893-4, £920,000 of old debentures were converted into inscribed stock of the amount of £1,038,180. Under the amending Consolidation Act of 1884, short dated debentures are issued, pending sale of inscribed stock under the Act of 1877. During 1893-4, £402,300 of debentures were sold under these conditions. Debentures were also issued under specific Acts during the same period, as follows:—

	£
Native Land Purchase Act, 1892	131,700
Cheviot Estate.....	250,000
Loans to Local Bodies	200,800
Naval and Military Settlers	26,661
Land for Settlement	53,966

Treasury Bills.—The amount of Treasury Bills sold during 1893-4 was £280,000. The outstanding bills on 31st March, 1894, amounted to £811,000; but as allowance is made for these at the end of the financial year, when carrying forward the balance of the Revenue Account, the liability is practically wiped out.

The particulars of the latest issues of the Funded Debts are as follow:—

FUNDED LOANS—LATEST ISSUES.

Colony.	Year of Issue.	Year of Maturity.	Nominal.		Net Proceeds, less charges and accrued Interest.		Annual Interest per £100 sterling, paid by Government.				
			Interest.	Amount of Loan.	Total.	Per cent.	Nominal Interest on net Proceeds.	Gain or loss in interest by redemption at par on maturity.		Rate paid, allowing for redemption at par on maturity.	
								Gain.	Loss.		
			Per cent.	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales..	1893	1933	4	2,500,000	2,437,249	97.49	2 0½	..	0 5	4 2 5½	
New South Wales..	1893	1913	4	1,829,400	1,927,850	99.92	0 0½	..	0 0½	4 0 1½	
New South Wales..	1894	1918	3½	832,000	829,307	99.63	3 10 2½	..	0 1½	3 10 4	
Victoria	1892	1921-1926	3½	2,000,000	1,810,666	90.53	3 17 3½	..	3 1½	4 0 5	
Victoria	1893	1911-1926	4	2,107,000							
Victoria	1893	undefined.	4	1300,953							
Victoria	1893	1913-23	4	8377,595							
Queensland	1893	1930	3½	1,182,400							
South Australia ..	1893	1939	3½	*125,000							
South Australia ..	1894	1939	3½	*475,000							
South Australia ..	1894	....	3½	||200,000						
Western Australia	1892	1911-1931	4	400,000	393,211	98.30	4 1 4½	..	0 3½	4 1 8	
Western Australia	1894	....	4	540,000						
Tasmania	1893	1920-40	4	1,000,000	994,912	99.49	4 0 5	..	0 0½	4 0 5½	

* Part of the £1,532,900 loan, particulars of which are not yet available. † Funded stock.
 ‡ Stock on Melbourne Register. § Debentures sold in Melbourne. ¶ Part of the £1,013,279 loan, particulars of which are not yet available.

The particulars of Treasury Bills issued during 1893-4 are as follow:—

TREASURY BILLS—LATEST ISSUES.

Colony	Year of Maturity.	Nominal.		Net Proceeds, less charges and accrued interest.		Annual Interest per £100 sterling, paid by Government.				
		Interest.	Amount of Loan.	Total.	Per cent.	Nominal interest on net proceeds.	Gain or loss in interest by redemption at par on maturity.		Rate paid by Govern- ment, allowing for par redemption at par on maturity.	
							Gain.	Loss.		
		Per cent.	£	£	£	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	
New South Wales (b)	1896	4	725,700	721,059	99'36	4 0 6	..	0 5½	4 0 11½	
" (b)	1896	4	10,800	10,759	99'62	4 0 3½	..	0 3	4 0 6½	
Victoria	..	no issues.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Queensland (a)	1899	4	222,500	222,500	100'00	4 0 0	..	..	4 0 0	
" (a)	1898	4	5,000	5,000	100'00	4 0 0	..	..	4 0 0	
" (a)	1903	4	11,000	10,973	99'76	4 0 2½	..	0 1½	4 0 4	
" (a)	1903	4	1,000	997	99'68	4 0 3½	..	0 1½	4 0 5	
South Australia (a)	1898	4/11/3	250,000	249,839	99'94	4 11 3½	..	0 0½	4 11 4	
" (a)	1910	4/11/3	250,000	249,918	99'97	4 11 3½	..	0 0½	4 11 3½	
Western Australia (a)	1895-8	4½	29,535	29,513	99'92	4 10 0½	..	0 0½	4 10 1½	
" (b)	1894	4½	150,000	150,000	100'00	4 10 0	..	..	4 10 0	
Tasmania (b)	1895	4	109,800	108,290	98'62	4 1 3½	..	0 10½	4 2 2	
" (b)	1895	4½	50,000	49,812	99'63	4 10 4	..	0 4	4 10 8	
" (b)	1895	4½	95,500	95,196	99'63	4 15 3½	..	0 3½	4 15 7	
" (b)	1895	5	79,000	78,749	99'68	5 0 4	..	0 3½	5 0 7½	

(a) Placed locally.

(b) Placed in London.

EXPENDITURE OF PROCEEDS OF LOANS.

In the foregoing pages the chief points dwelt upon have been the amount of the public indebtedness and the credit enjoyed by each Colony as tested by the selling price of its loans. Before closing this chapter it would be well to consider for what purpose the debts were incurred. The services upon which the proceeds of the public loans were expended are various, but the bulk of the expenditure may be placed to the account of the construction of railways, water supply, sewerage, and electric telegraphs. In the early stages of Australasian borrowing the expenditure was moderate, loans being hard to raise, and interest high; but latterly, as the conditions under which loans could be contracted became favourable, especially since 1881, few of the Colonies set any bounds to their requirements. It was a repetition of the old experience, the opportunity engendered the desire, and the open purses of the investors tempted the Colonies to undue borrowing and lavish expenditure. What is termed a "vigorous public works policy" was the order of the day, and works were pressed forward which, under other circumstances, would not have been undertaken, or have been held back until the growth of population warranted their construction. The

plethora of money has been harmful in many ways, the most apparent being the construction of not a few branch railways, in outlying and sparsely-settled districts, which do not pay even their working expenses. The consequence is that the interest on loan capital has to be met out of general revenue, and in some instances the present generation will pass away before this condition of affairs will be remedied. But when every allowance has been made for unwise or improvident expenditure, it will be found that by far the larger portion of the proceeds of loans has been well expended. In some instances, as the subsequent pages show, it will be years, taking a most hopeful view of the situation, before many of the revenue-producing works will yield a sum sufficient to pay working expenses and interest; nevertheless, a practical consideration of the conditions which surround Australasian settlement will demonstrate that in some instances the construction of these works was justifiable, for apart from the consideration that they will be ultimately self-supporting, they have already materially assisted in developing the country's resources, and have largely enhanced the value of the public estate.

The following statement gives, under a convenient classification, the loan expenditure of each Colony during 1893-4 :—

Colony.	Year.	Amount spent on Works yielding direct Revenue.				Other Works and Services.	Total.
		Railways.	Water Supply and Sewerage.	Electric Tele-graphs.	Total.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	31 Dec., 1893	1,143,330	353,931	15,985	1,513,246	416,334	1,929,580
Victoria	30 June, 1893	373,210	251,205	.....	624,415	136,785	761,200
Queensland	30 June, 1894	137,268	5,647	1,241	144,156	233,921	378,077
South Australia ..	31 Dec., 1893	262,726	225,066	1,101	488,893	97,491	586,384
Western Australia..	31 Dec., 1893	451,775	11,595	16,106	479,476	175,086	654,562
Tasmania	31 Dec., 1893	13,542	.....	2,464	16,006	158,021	174,027
New Zealand	31 Mar., 1894	176,294	5,272	16,127	197,693	208,323	406,016
Australasia .....	.....	2,558,145	852,716	53,024	3,463,885	1,425,961	4,889,846

The expenditure of Australasia during 1893-4 from funds derived from the proceeds of loans was £4,889,846. Of this amount the sum of £3,463,885 was spent on services directly revenue-producing, and the remainder was chiefly devoted to works of a substantial nature, such as the construction of roads and bridges, the improvement of harbours and rivers, and the erection of lighthouses, schools, and public buildings. The amount expended on fortifications and military works was relatively small.

The expenditure from loans has been largely reduced during the last three years, especially in the larger Colonies. This may be attributed, in some case, to a settled policy of retrenchment; but in others, the difficulty of raising a loan in London affords a more probable explanation.

The expenditure during the four periods shown for each province is given in the following table :—

Colony.	1890-1.	1891-2.	1892-3.	1893-4.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	4,750,167	4,813,780	3,014,680	1,929,580
Victoria	3,427,195	1,051,719	988,580	761,200
Queensland	1,296,259	662,281	1,035,523	378,077
South Australia.....	488,869	576,713	547,382	586,384
Western Australia	15,906	77,994	342,632	654,562
Tasmania	561,661	353,066	561,660	174,027
New Zealand	346,324	488,781	472,952	406,016
Australasia	£ 10,886,381	8,024,334	6,963,409	4,889,846

The total expenditure of the proceeds of loans from the commencement of borrowing to the year 1893-4 was £198,266,773. Of this sum £145,580,637, or nearly three-fourths, was spent in the construction of railways, water supply, sewerage, and electric telegraphs; and the balance was expended on works and services which, though classed as non-productive, for the most part assisted in the national development. The expenditure on defence, and the payments made to meet deficiency of revenue, are the exceptions to the rule which has governed the expenditure of the proceeds of loan issues. The expenditure to cover deficiency in revenue has not been large, and is looked upon as but a temporary charge on the loan funds; while the expenditure on defence has been extremely small in all the Colonies except New Zealand. The following table shows the total loan expenditure for each Colony up to the close of the last financial year :—

Colony.	Year ended.	Amount spent on works yielding direct Revenue.				Other Works and Services.	Total.
		Railways.	Water Supply and Sewerage.	Electric Telegraphs.	Total.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
N. S. Wales ..	Dec, 1893	38,557,903	6,473,680	817,286	45,848,869	8,255,431	54,104,300
Victoria	June, 1893	34,146,000	7,847,899	.....	42,294,499	2,830,623	45,125,122
Queensland....	June, 1894	18,226,414	292,532	839,256	19,358,202	8,752,510	28,110,712
South Australia	Dec, 1893	12,407,743	3,264,134	859,491	16,531,368	5,006,247	21,537,615
Western Australia	Dec 1893	1,565,444	39,578	266,116	1,871,138	560,804	2,431,942
Tasmania	Dec 1893	3,653,033	.....	116,287	3,769,300	3,510,144	7,279,444
New Zealand ..	Mar., 1894	14,655,027	572,441	679,793	15,907,261	23,770,377	39,677,638
Australasia...	.....	123,512,164	18,490,264	3,573,209	145,580,637	52,686,135	198,266,773

In the New Zealand returns old provincial debts contracted prior to 1876, amounting to £11,535,469, have been included under the head "Other Works and Services," as there is no available record of the services upon which the loans of the old Provisional Governments were expended, except where such was for the construction of railways.

The figures given for New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania under the head of "Railways" include loan expenditure on State tramways, but, except in the case of the first-mentioned Colony, the amount expended is unimportant, as this service in the other Colonies is generally in the hands of municipal authorities or private companies.

In the preceding table a large sum has been placed under the head of "Other Works and Services;" in the following statement this amount has been subdivided and is shown under several heads. In regard to New Zealand, the sum under the heading of "Defence Works" also includes the expenditure on light-houses and harbour works; and under "Miscellaneous" the provincial loans prior to 1876 are included. The returns for each Colony were:—

Colony.	Roads and Bridges, Harbours, &c.	Defence Works.	Immigra- tion.	Miscella- neous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	4,216,608	1,148,327	569,930	2,320,566	8,255,431
Victoria	718,371	98,299	.....	2,013,953	2,830,623
Queensland	2,775,511	232,201	2,787,942	2,956,706	8,752,510
South Australia	2,583,761	236,123	.....	2,186,363	5,006,247
Western Australia	312,155	.....	5,960	242,689	560,804
Tasmania	1,991,953	120,763	30,500	1,366,928	3,510,144
New Zealand	3,855,455	1,336,677	2,146,552	16,431,693	23,770,377
Australasia	16,453,814	3,172,480	5,540,884	27,518,953	52,686,136

The subjoined table shows the expenditure per inhabitant on the basis of the figures given in the table on the opposite page:—

Colony.	Amount spent on Works yielding direct Revenue.				Other Works and Services.	Total.
	Railways.	Water Supply and Sewerage.	Electric Telegraphs	Total.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	31 10 4	5 5 10	0 13 4	37 9 6	6 15 0	44 4 6
Victoria	29 8 8	6 14 1	.....	36 2 9	2 8 4	38 11 1
Queensland	42 3 3	0 13 6	1 18 10	44 15 7	20 4 11	65 0 6
South Australia	35 15 5	9 8 2	2 9 7	47 13 2	14 18 8	62 1 10
Western Australia	24 1 3	0 12 2	4 1 9	28 15 2	8 12 5	37 7 7
Tasmania	23 13 1	.....	0 15 1	24 8 2	22 14 7	47 2 9
New Zealand	21 13 1	0 16 11	1 0 1	23 10 1	35 2 6	58 12 7
Australasia	30 7 1	4 10 11	0 17 7	35 15 7	12 13 11	48 14 6

EXPENDITURE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL BODIES.

The question of Local Government is dealt with in another place. It is well, however, to give here a statement of the total amount which passes through the hands of the general and local Governments. The

sum can in no sense be taken as the cost of governing the various Colonies, which, as will appear from page 352, may be taken as £19,714,867.

The total sum expended by the general and local Governments of Australasia during the year 1893-4 fell little short of £40,000,000, or £9 13s. 2d. per head. Of this large sum £30,024,074, or £7 8s. 1d. per inhabitant, was spent by the general Governments from their revenues, and £4,889,846 or £1 4s. 4d. per inhabitant, from loans; the local expenditure, exclusive of course of a sum equal to the Government endowment, was £4,206,653, or £1 0s. 9d. per inhabitant.

The following was the general, loan, and local expenditure for each Colony:—

Colony.;	Government.		Local.	Total.
	General.	Loans.		
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	10,886,381	1,929,580	1,074,148	13,890,109
Victoria	7,384,961	761,200	1,519,587	9,665,748
Queensland.....	3,351,536	378,077	290,009	4,019,622
South Australia.....	2,525,606	586,384	262,123	3,374,113
Western Australia.....	656,357	654,562	*	1,310,919
Tasmania.....	832,874	174,027	169,959	1,176,860
New Zealand	4,386,359	406,016	890,827	5,683,202
Australasia	30,024,074	4,889,846	4,206,653	39,120,573

* No returns.

The expenditure per inhabitant under the same classification will be found below. The average expenditure per inhabitant on account of local Government given for New South Wales is to some extent misleading, as about 40 per cent. of the population live outside the boundaries of the municipalities:—

Colony.	Government.		Local.	Total.
	General.	Loans.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.....	8 19 10	1 14 4	0 17 9	11 11 11
Victoria	6 5 10	0 13 1	1 5 11	8 4 10
Queensland.....	7 15 1	0 17 6	0 13 5	9 6 0
South Australia.....	7 5 7	1 13 10	0 15 1	9 14 6
Western Australia.....	10 1 9	10 1 2	*	20 2 11
Tasmania.....	5 8 4	1 2 6	1 2 1	7 12 11
New Zealand	6 10 6	0 12 0	1 6 6	8 9 0
Australasia	7 8 1	1 4 4	1 0 9	9 13 2

* No returns.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

PRIOR to 1840 no municipal institutions existed in Australasia. On the 31st October of that year the first municipal elections took place in Adelaide, which was the first of Australian cities to be placed under municipal government. On the 20th July, 1842, an Act of the Legislative Council of New South Wales (6 Vic. No. 3) was assented to, providing for the incorporation of Sydney; and on the 12th of the following month another Act (6 Vic. No. 7) was passed, which granted municipal government to Melbourne. In the former case the town was raised to the dignity of a city. Melbourne was, however, proclaimed a town, and remained as such till 1847, at which date letters patent were received conferring the same privilege as that enjoyed by Sydney. In New Zealand an Act was passed in 1852, dividing the Colony into six provinces, the local administration of which was vested in provincial Councils. This system remained in force till 1876, when the measure was repealed, and the whole Colony, except the area within the forty-one boroughs then existing, was subdivided into counties, and a system of local county government came into operation. In 1858 Hobart, in Tasmania, was incorporated, and in 1859 systems of local government were initiated in Queensland and Western Australia by the incorporation of Brisbane and Perth. In Victoria a general system of local government came into force in 1874. Queensland adopted a general system in 1879, and South Australia in 1887.

The power of corporate bodies to impose taxation for local purposes differs considerably in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia, from that existing in the remaining Colonies of the group. As will be seen in the following table, the Colonies mentioned have a considerable area outside local supervision; the disproportion between

the incorporated and unincorporated areas in New South Wales is specially marked. The incorporated and unincorporated areas and the various classes of municipal divisions for each Colony for which there is information were as follow :—

Colony.	Incorporated Areas, divided into—	Area of Incorporated Districts.	Area still under control of Central Government.
		sq. miles.	sq. miles.
New South Wales...	Boroughs and Municipal Districts ...	2,479	308,221
Victoria	Cities, Towns, Boroughs, and Shires	87,165	719
Queensland	Boroughs, Shires, and Divisions.....	668,262	235
South Australia proper.	Corporations and District Councils	42,527	337,543
Western Australia...	Municipalities.....	.....	.....
Tasmania	Municipalities, Town Boards, and Road Trusts.	11,160	15,056
New Zealand	Boroughs and County Councils, Road Districts and Town Districts	.....	.....

In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, the rates are assessed on the annual value; in Queensland, on the capital value; and in New Zealand the property within counties and road districts is assessed on the capital value, while in boroughs and town districts both descriptions of assessment are adopted. The returns for each Colony were :—

Colony.	Capital Value.	Annual Value.
	£	£
New South Wales	150,938,000	8,929,475
Victoria	197,366,940	13,605,990
Queensland	44,188,698	*
South Australia	*	2,538,094
Tasmania	*	1,382,474
New Zealand	129,554,696	6,477,735

* No returns.

The annual value shown for Tasmania is to a certain extent overstated by the fact that the same property may be rated separately for one or more assessments, as for Municipal, Road Trust, or Town Board purposes. The New Zealand returns are similarly affected, some of the various divisions overlapping, but the error from this source can be but small. There are no returns from Western Australia.

The revenue and expenditure of local bodies previously particularised is given below. In the receipts, the amount of the Government endowment is specified, while in the expenditure the outlay on public works is similarly treated :—

Colony.	Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	Government.	Rates, &c.	Total.	Public Works.	Other.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	147,585	1,055,003	1,202,678	762,724	459,000	1,221,733
Victoria	515,316	1,251,636	1,766,952	1,077,393	957,510	2,034,903
Queensland	160,638	294,539	465,177	275,461	175,186	450,647
South Australia	113,583	262,123	375,706	208,990	166,716	375,706
Tasmania	19,905	173,094	192,999	.....	.....	189,864
New Zealand	129,326	952,323	1,077,649	557,223	462,930	1,020,153

Through the inclusion of the Loan Accounts in the general returns, the expenditure in some cases shows an excess over the revenue. A vigorous works policy must, however, be maintained till the various incorporated areas are improved to the extent that will satisfy the demands of permanent settlement.

The revenue of local bodies per head of population in incorporated districts, and per square mile of territory in incorporated area, was, as far as could be ascertained, as follows :—

Colony.	Receipts per Inhabitant.			Receipts per Square Mile of Incorporated Area.		
	Government.	Other Sources.	Total.	Government.	Other Sources.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£	£
New South Wales.....	0 4 0	1 8 8	1 12 8	59·5	425·6	485·1
Victoria	0 9 0	1 1 10	1 10 10	5·9	14·4	20·3
Queensland	0 8 3	0 15 8	1 3 11	0·2	0·5	0·7
South Australia.....	0 7 3	0 16 10	1 4 1	2·7	6·1	8·8
Tasmania.....	0 2 8	1 3 1	1 5 9	1·8	15·7	7·3
New Zealand	0 4 0	1 9 2	1 13 2	...	...	...

The large revenue obtained per square mile in New South Wales is due to the circumstance already explained, that the area incorporated is small compared with the total territory of the Colony, and comprises for the most part only urban settlements.

The Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Act of New South Wales was passed in 1880. Under the provisions of this measure municipalities outside the area under the control of the Metropolitan

and Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Boards are entitled to construct, or to have constructed for them by the Government, works for water supply and sewerage, provided the construction of the same be approved by the Governor-in-Council, and the municipalities agree to pay back the original cost of the works, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The Government pays the certified cost of the works, and the municipalities repay the Government by instalments extending over a period of sixty years. Under the operations of this Act thirteen water supply works have been carried out by the Government and three by municipal councils, while works in sixteen other places were in course of construction during 1893. The amount advanced by the Government to local bodies under this Act to the end of 1892 was £370,549, and instalments to the amount of £85,886 were then overdue, so that the Government have been considering the advisability of altering the conditions of repayment so as to make the burden easier for the municipalities concerned.

The Government of Victoria, prior to the establishment of the Trusts for Water Works, Irrigation, and Water Supply, advanced money from the Public Loans Account to local bodies requiring assistance to construct these works. The amount advanced for the development of the services to June, 1893, was £1,627,521, which has to be repaid into a sinking fund, or by annual instalments. The amount so repaid is £59,914. The figures just given are exclusive of the advances to the city of Ballarat for the water supply works, as these are now under a special commission. The outstanding debt of the Ballarat Water Commission is given on page 383. Under a special Act, the Government have power to advance funds to shires for the construction of tramways, and £60,511 has been so advanced up to June, 1893. In Queensland and New Zealand the Governments have advanced £677,504 and £546,049 respectively for municipal purposes exclusive of loans for water works, &c. In the former Colony, the whole amount has been paid out of General Loans Account; and in New Zealand, out of Revenue and Loans Accounts.

The amount of outstanding municipal loans for each Colony furnishing returns is shown below. The figures include the liabilities to the Government :—

Colony.	Outstanding Loans.
	£
New South Wales	2,119,450
Victoria	3,287,036
Queensland	677,504
Tasmania	411,360
New Zealand.....	3,134,203

Against the gross liabilities shown on the preceding page sinking funds are established in some of the Colonies. The amount to the credit of local bodies in New South Wales, Victoria, and New Zealand, was £161,671, £264,756, and £221,365 respectively ; there is also a fund in Queensland, but the amount accumulated cannot be given.

BOARDS AND TRUSTS.

In addition to the various forms of local government already mentioned, there are bodies known as Boards or Trusts, whose function it is to construct and supervise certain works which, generally speaking, have been established for the benefit of districts differing from, and in most cases larger than, the areas incorporated for ordinary municipal purposes. These bodies are usually composed of members representing respectively the central government, the municipalities affected by the works in question, and other persons directly interested in the particular undertakings ; and as a rule they raise the funds necessary for carrying out the works they control, by means of rates on the assessed value of the properties benefited, just as is the case in regard to municipalities.

In New South Wales there are the following Boards :—Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, which commenced by taking charge of the Water Supply in 1888, and assumed control of the Sewerage system in 1889 ; Hunter River District Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, formed in 1892 ; and the Wollongong Harbour Trust, instituted in 1889. This last-named body is the only one of the kind in the Colony, the works connected with shipping, and the improvements to navigation at Sydney, Newcastle, and other ports, being still carried out at the expense and under the supervision of the central Government. An Act was assented to in 1890 empowering a private company, known as the Illawarra Harbour and Land Corporation, to construct works that would convert Lake Illawarra, some 50 miles south of Sydney, into a navigable port, by cutting a canal between the Lake and the sea. Nothing has yet been done, however, towards the actual carrying out of this work. There is also a Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, on which the municipalities within the metropolitan area are represented, and towards the annual expense of which they contribute one-third.

In Victoria the port of Melbourne is under the control of a Harbour Trust, which was established as far back as 1877. A Tramway Trust, representing twelve of the metropolitan municipalities, has been formed under the provisions of an Act passed in 1883. This body was intrusted with power to construct tramways through the streets of the municipalities interested, the requisite funds being raised by loans on the security of the tramways and the revenues of the municipal bodies connected with the undertaking. The Trust had the option of either

working the tramways themselves or leasing them to a private company. They adopted the latter alternative, and the tramways are being worked on a thirty-two years' lease, commencing from 1884. In 1891 the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was established, to construct and supervise all works connected with water supply, sewerage and drainage, in Melbourne and its suburbs. The Government is not directly represented on this Board, while on the Board of a similar nature in Sydney three members are nominated by the State. The reason for this is that in New South Wales the Government constructed the works and is responsible for the debt incurred in order to do so, while in Victoria the Board carries out the work of construction, in addition to the maintenance and management to which the operations of the Sydney Board are confined. Throughout Victoria there are Water Works Trusts and Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts. During 1892 there were fifty-five of the Water Works Trusts, the work undertaken by whom was estimated to cost £863,870; and there were thirty Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, by whom £812,859 was estimated to be expended. The amount authorised to be advanced by the Government for the former service was £792,046, and for the latter £1,363,731, and the amounts actually lent were £754,974 and £872,547 respectively. The annual value of the property liable to be rated by the Waterworks Trusts is £900,000, and by the Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts, £295,932. As in New South Wales, the municipal bodies are represented on the Fire Brigade Boards, and bear a proportionate share of the expenses.

In Queensland the water supply service forms part of the local government system; the works are proposed by the municipal bodies, but the Government constructs and supervises them, and when completed hands them over to the local authorities with their attendant liabilities. The latter form a debt to the State which is repaid in instalments.

In South Australia and Western Australia there are no Boards or Trusts of any importance beyond the municipal bodies already mentioned. In the former Colony, however, extensive municipal powers exist for the construction of important local works.

In Tasmania six Marine Boards, forming part of the local government system, have been established in different parts of the Colony. The rural police come under the local government system, as the ratepayers who enjoy the benefits of police protection are obliged to bear the cost of administration. The control of the police is, however, under officers appointed by the central government.

In New Zealand there are, in addition to the ordinary forms of municipal government, River and Harbour Boards, which are established throughout the Colony. The number of each at the end of 1892 was respectively twenty-eight and twenty-one. There is also a Drainage Board at Christchurch.

Complete returns of the Boards and Trusts for each Colony are not readily obtainable; the following table, however, gives important details in connection with some of these bodies:—

Board or Trust.	Receipts.			Expenditure.	Out-standing Loans.
	Government.	Other.	Total.		
New South Wales—	£	£	£	£	£
Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage .....	...	243,813	243,813	240,269	5,001,529
*Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage .....	...	26,868	26,868	26,784	417,322
Wollongong Harbour Trust	5,000	2,632	7,632	5,717	.....
Victoria—					
Melbourne Harbour Trust .....	...	154,714	154,714	344,890	2,000,000
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works .....	...	190,202	190,202	186,008	4,029,934
Melbourne Tramways Trust .....	...	407,929	407,929	...	1,650,000
Water Works Trusts .....	...	...	...	...	754,974
Irrigation and Water Supply Trusts .....	...	...	...	...	872,547
Ballarat Water Commission .....	...	...	...	...	287,439
Queensland—					
Water Works	58,068	83,370	141,438	151,776	741,121
Tasmania—					
Marine Boards	34,031	18,409	52,440	49,858	.....
Light-houses	1,308	8,467	9,775	12,301	.....
Water Trusts .....	...	7,227	7,227	9,947	.....
Road and Bridge Trusts	11,943	15,432	27,375	26,785	.....
Town Boards	1,557	5,635	7,192	5,730	.....
New Zealand—					
River Boards	64	11,909	11,973	12,616	46,305
Harbour Boards	7,125	444,347	451,472	422,597	3,369,410
Drainage Board .....	...	17,278	17,278	17,183	200,000

* Water supply only.

The amounts shown in the foregoing table under Road and Bridge Trusts and Town Boards in Tasmania are included in the two tables on page 379.

The outstanding loans of Boards and Trusts for New South Wales constitute part of the Public Debt; the same is true also with regard to the amounts for Victoria, except the loans of the Tramway Trust, the Melbourne Harbour Trust, and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, which are not guaranteed. The liabilities shown for Queensland also form part of the Public Debt of that Colony, but the amounts given for New Zealand are not advanced from the General Loan Account. In the foregoing table the advances made by the Governments to the borrowing bodies are included.

INDEBTEDNESS OF LOCAL BODIES.

The following table shows the total indebtedness of local bodies for each Colony furnishing returns. The figures include the liabilities to the Government :—

Colony.	Outstanding Loans.		
	Municipalities.	Boards, Trusts, &c.	Total for local purposes.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	2,119,450	5,418,851	7,538,301
Victoria	3,287,036	9,594,894	12,881,930
Queensland	677,504	741,121	1,418,625
Tasmania	411,360	.....	411,360
New Zealand	3,134,203	3,615,715	6,749,918

For the amounts that have just been given the local bodies are responsible directly to their creditors in part, and the general governments hold themselves directly liable for the balance. In the following table is given a division of the indebtedness of local bodies into the sum due to the State and the amount due to the public. It may be mentioned that the amount due to the State is included with the general debt of the Colony; and in order to estimate the total State and municipal indebtedness the figures in the second column only have to be added to those on page 362. Further reference to this subject will be found in the last pages of "Public Finance":—

Colony.	Amount of Corporation Indebtedness included in the Public Debt.	Loans of Local Bodies floated in open market.	Total Municipal Indebtedness.
	£	£	£
New South Wales	5,418,851	2,119,450	7,538,301
Victoria	4,892,837	7,989,093	12,881,930
Queensland	1,418,625	.....	1,418,625
Tasmania	54,200	357,160	411,360
New Zealand	213,800	6,536,118	6,749,918

LAND AND SETTLEMENT.

THE systems adopted for a settlement of Crown lands differ in every Colony, and the conditions for acquiring land are of a more or less liberal nature according to the circumstances in which each province is placed. In Victoria, Queensland, and Tasmania, which are the offshoots of New South Wales, the Land Acts bear a considerable resemblance to one another, the differences being rather of degree than of principle, various designations being given to what are practically the same forms of conditional occupation of Crown lands under the deferred payment system. In South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand, however, the influence of the mother Colony was not so directly felt, and new experiments in colonisation were made. South Australia, for instance, was originally settled upon the Wakefield system—famous alike for its originality and its failure. In the other two Colonies, under pressure of a different order of conditions, the objects of colonisation were sought to be obtained by legislation of a novel character.

The following pages are devoted to a description, in as concise a form as the subject will allow, of the systems of land legislation in the Seven Colonies of Australasia, and summaries are given, from the latest available data, of the results obtained under the various methods, from a practical point of view.

LAND LEGISLATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The systems adopted for the settlement of an industrial population on the lands of New South Wales have varied according to the Colony's progress and development. In the earliest period land was alienated by grants, orders, and dedications, the power of disposing of the Crown lands resting solely with the Governor. In August, 1831, the principle of sale by auction was introduced, the minimum for country lands being fixed at 5s. per acre, but raised to 12s. in 1839. In 1843 the minimum was raised to 20s. per acre, with liberty to select at the upset price country portions not bid for, or on which the deposits had been forfeited. This is the first appearance of the principle of selection in the land legislation of New South Wales, but it was limited to lands that had been surveyed for sale by auction. This system lasted until

the introduction of new legislation by the Parliament of New South Wales, and the abrogation of the Orders in Council which had hitherto constituted the authority under which land was alienated.

The discovery of gold in 1851, and the consequent rush of population to Australia, greatly altered the conditions of colonisation, and as the interest in gold-digging declined, so did the desire for settlement on the land increase, and the question had to be dealt with in an entirely new spirit, to meet the wants of the class of immigrants now desirous of being placed upon the soil. The agitation that thus sprang up resulted in the passing of the Crown Lands Act of 1861, under the leadership of Sir John Robertson. This measure had for its object the establishment of an agricultural population side by side with the pastoral tenants. With this view an entirely new principle was introduced—that of free selection in limited areas before survey, coupled with conditions of residence and improvement, and the land was sold at 20s. per acre for country lots, payable by annual instalments carrying interest.

The occupation of the waste lands of New South Wales for pastoral purposes was at first allowed under a system of yearly licenses. Any person could apply for such a license to occupy runs, the extent of which was limited only by the boundaries of the surrounding stations, the license fee being fixed at £10 per annum for a section of 25 square miles, or 16,000 acres in extent, and £2 10s. being charged for every additional 5 square miles. This system of yearly licenses was succeeded by one in which the squatter was given fixity of tenure, with a license fee calculated upon the stock-carrying capacity of the runs, instead of the extent of land occupied. The Occupation Act of 1861 inaugurated a new system, limiting the tenure of pastoral leases to five years in all but the first-class settled districts, and leaving the whole of the pastoral leases open to the operations of the free selectors. Such evils were found to result from this system that in 1884, and again in 1889, Parliament was led to adopt amendments which are now in force, and the provisions of which, as regards pastoral occupation, are described further on. The Acts mentioned, while maintaining the principle of selection before survey, aimed at giving fixity of tenure to the pastoral lessees, and obtaining a larger rental from the public lands, while at the same time a restriction was placed on the sale of lands unconditionally.

Under these measures New South Wales is divided into three divisions, each subdivided into various land districts, one or more such districts forming a local division, the administration of which is entrusted to a Local Land Board, composed of a chairman and not more than two assessors. The decisions of these Local Land Boards may be appealed against to the Land Court. This Court is composed of a President and two members appointed by the Executive, whose decisions in matters of administration have the force of judgments of the Supreme Court; but whenever questions of law become involved, a case may be submitted to

the Supreme Court, either upon the written request of the parties interested, or by the Land Court acting of its own accord. The judgments given on this appeal are final and conclusive.

Under the enactments at present in force, land may be acquired by the following methods :—1st. By conditional and additional conditional purchase with residence. 2nd. By conditional purchase without residence. 3rd. By the preferent right of purchase attached to conditional leases. 4th. By improvements purchases in gold-fields. 5th. By auction sales. 6th. By special sales without competition.

The maximum area allowed to be conditionally purchased by a selector differs in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the Colony, and in the Western Division land can be occupied only in the form of a lease, or alienated by auction or special sale as further described.

The conditions for the purchase and occupation of Crown lands are more restricted in the Eastern than in the Central or the Western Division. Nevertheless, any person above the age of 16 years may, upon any part of the Crown lands not specially exempt, select an area of from 40 to 640 acres, together with a lease of contiguous land not exceeding thrice the area of the conditional purchase. The price demanded is £1 per acre, of which 2s. per acre must be deposited when making the application, and the balance paid, together with interest at the rate of 4 per cent., by instalments of 1s. per acre per annum. Payment of instalments commences at the end of the third year, but after the selector has completed his period of enforced residence he may pay up the balance in one sum at any time. The selector must reside on his selection for a period of five years, and within two years must erect a substantial fence around his selection, though in some cases other permanent improvements will be allowed in lieu of fencing. After the completion of the term of residence the selector may purchase additional areas, contiguous to the original purchase, or he may purchase his conditional leasehold if he should have one. With regard to additional purchases, fencing is required, but residence is not enforced. Married women judicially separated may select in their own right; and minors taking up lands adjoining the selection of their parents may fulfil the condition of residence under the paternal roof.

Conditional leaseholds, in conjunction with a selection, may be held for fifteen years at a rental fixed by the Land Board. These leaseholds must be fenced in within two years, one fence, however, being allowed to enclose both the conditional purchase and the lease. Conditional leases may at any time be converted into purchases, and the term of residence on both need not exceed five years from the date of application.

Land may be selected free from conditions as to residence; but the maximum area is then limited to 320 acres, and no conditional lease is granted. The selection must be fenced in within twelve months after survey, and within five years additional improvements must be made to the value of £1 per acre. The price demanded is £2 per acre, and

the deposits and instalments are double those required in the case of an ordinary conditional purchase. No person under 21 can take advantage of this clause; and no non-residential selector is allowed to make any other conditional purchase whatever under the Act.

Special areas may be thrown open to selection under special conditions, the price not to be less than £1 10s. per acre, and the maximum area 320 acres. Non-resident selectors are charged double the rate paid by those who do reside.

In the Central Division land may be conditionally purchased under the same terms as to residence, fencing, improvements, price, and mode of payment as required in the Eastern Division; but the limit of an individual selection has been fixed at 2,560 acres, with a corresponding increase of the conditional lease to three times that area. The acreage which may be purchased without residence, as well as the conditions in regard thereto, are the same for the Central as for the Eastern Division. In special areas the maximum extent of a selection has been fixed at 640 acres in the Central Division.

The Western Division embraces an area of 79,970,000 acres, watered entirely by the Darling River. This part of New South Wales is essentially devoted to pastoral pursuits. Conditional purchases, except on special areas, are not allowed in this division, but permanent pastoral settlement is encouraged in the form of homestead leases. Homestead leases for fifteen years may be granted within the resumed areas or vacant lands in the Western Division, in areas of not less than 2,560 acres nor more than 10,240 acres. A deposit of 1d. per acre must be paid with the application; and the lessee is required to reside upon his lease for six months out of each of the first five years of his lease. The whole area must be fenced within two years, except the Land Board allow other improvements to be erected instead. An extension of the lease for seven years may be granted, provided that the carrying capacity of the land has been improved, and the land benefited. At the end of the final term, the lease may be put up to auction or tender, without compensation for improvements to the outgoing tenant. A new incoming tenant will, however, have to pay the Government for existing improvements at a valuation. Holders of pastoral leases may not also hold a homestead lease, and no person may hold more than one such lease.

Under the Act of 1884 pastoral leases were surrendered to the Crown, and divided into two equal parts. One of these parts was returned to the lessee under an indefeasible lease for a fixed term of years, while the other half, called the resumed area, might be held under an annual occupation license, but was always open to selection—by conditional purchase in the Eastern and Central Divisions, and by homestead leases in the Western Division. Under the Act of 1889, the tenure of pastoral leases in the Western Division was fixed at twenty-one years, with a fresh assessment every seven years, and the

right of extension at the end of seven years if the land has been improved in a satisfactory manner. In the Central Division, a pastoral lease extends to ten years, and in the Eastern Division to five years only. All improvements revert to the Crown at the end of the lease, without compensation. Pastoral lessees, in applying for an occupation license for the resumed area, must make a deposit at the rate of £2 per section of 640 acres.

In addition to the pastoral and homestead leases, special leases on favourable terms are granted of scrub lands, snow lands—that is, lands covered with snow during a part of the year,—inferior lands, and portions of land required for the protection of artesian wells. There are also annual leases for pastoral purposes, and residential leases on gold and mineral fields. Auction sales to the extent of not more than 200,000 acres in any one year are permitted, the upset price to be fixed by the Minister—town lands not to be less than £8 per acre, while the minimum for suburban lots is fixed at £2 10s., and for country lands at £1. Special terms can be made for the purchase of land on gold-fields; and for reclaimed lands; and special leases are allowed in certain cases.

In the middle of 1893 an Act was passed to establish and regulate labour settlements on Crown Lands, following in this the example set by New Zealand, and imitated by several continental Colonies. Under this Act the Minister may set apart certain areas for the purpose of establishing labour settlements, under the control of Boards appointed to enrol such persons as they may think fit to become members of such settlements. These Boards are empowered to make regulations concerning the work to be done in the settlement, including the surrounding thereof with a substantial fence, the apportionment of the work among the members, and the equitable distribution of wages, profits, and emoluments, after providing for the cost of the maintenance of the members in the settlement. The Boards may establish and manage any trade or industry, and may, by regulations, dispose of and apportion the profits and proceeds derivable therefrom among the enrolled members. They are also authorised to make regulations concerning the collection, spending, and application of moneys; and the cleanliness, good order, and government of the settlement. And these Boards are constituted as *corporate* bodies, with perpetual succession and a common seal; and the lands are leased to them as such, in trust for the members of the settlement, for a period of twenty-eight years, with a right of renewal for a like term.

When a Board has enrolled such a number of persons as the Minister may approve, it may apply for monetary assistance on behalf of the members of the settlement; and the Minister has power to grant an amount not exceeding £25 for each enrolled member who is the head of a family dependent upon him, or £20 for each married person without a family, or £15 for each unmarried person. At the expiration

of four years from the commencement of the lease, and each following year, 8 per cent. of the total sum paid to the Board shall be a charge on the revenues of the Board payable to the Treasury, until the said sum, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, has been repaid.

LAND LEGISLATION OF VICTORIA.

During the earlier period of the colonisation of Victoria, then known as the District of Port Phillip, in the Colony of New South Wales, the alienation of Crown lands was regulated by the Orders in Council already referred to. In the year 1840, however, the upset price of country lands, which in the whole possession was limited to 12s. per acre, was increased to 20s. in the District of Port Phillip alone. The regime of Orders in Council continued until 1860, when the system of free selection of surveyed country lands was inaugurated, the uniform upset price being fixed at £1 per acre. No conditions were required to be fulfilled by the selector other than making a cash payment for the whole of his purchase, or for one half only, the remaining area being occupied under a yearly rental of 1s. per acre, with right of purchase at the original rate per acre. In 1862 a new Act was passed. Large agricultural areas were proclaimed, within which land could be selected at the uniform price of £1 per acre. Modifications were also introduced in the mode of payment, the maximum area allowed to be selected by one person being limited to 640 acres, with conditions as regards improvements or cultivation. This Act was amended in 1865, when the principle was introduced of disposing of Crown lands within agricultural areas by means of leases, with right of purchase after the fulfilment of certain conditions as to residence and improvements. A new clause was added to meet the demand arising from the occupation of land adjacent to gold-fields. These Acts were, however, superseded by the Land Act of 1869 and the Pastoral Act of the same year. Hitherto the free selection system had, in Victoria, been limited to certain lands proclaimed within agricultural areas, and to allotments previously surveyed, thus avoiding the conflict which was then beginning to take place in New South Wales between the selector and the pastoralist. Under pressure of a sudden increase in the demand for land, arising from the enormous immigration into Victoria which had followed the discovery of gold, and the necessity for the people finding other means of employment and other and more permanent sources of income, the Victorian Legislature adopted the system in vogue in the neighbouring Colony with modifications to suit the local conditions. The Act of 1869 was amended in 1878, both these Acts expiring by effluxion of time in 1884, when a new Land Act was passed, the main tendency of which was to restrict the further alienation of the public estate by limiting the extent which might be sold by auction, and substituting for the existing method of selecting agricultural

land a system of leasing such lands in certain defined areas, at the same time conserving to the lessee the privilege of acquiring from his leasehold the fee simple of 320 acres under the system of deferred payments.

A portion of the Public Domain, known as the "Mallee Scrub," comprising some $11\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, wholly or partly covered with various species of stunted trees, was separately dealt with under a statute entitled the "Mallee Pastoral Leases Act of 1883." The land legislation of 1884, and the special enactment just referred to, have again been modified recently by the Land Acts of 1890 and 1891, the following being the conditions under which agricultural lands may now be acquired, and the pastoral and Mallee scrub lands leased, in the Colony of Victoria.

The whole of the unalienated lands belonging to the State are divided into the following classes :—Pastoral Lands, Agricultural and Grazing Lands, Auriferous Lands, Lands which may be sold by auction, Swamp Lands, State Forests, Timber and Water Reserves.

Pastoral lands cannot be alienated in fee, but can only be obtained by lease, such lease to expire not later than December 29, 1898, and no lessee to hold more than one allotment. The lease is granted to the first applicant, but should more than one person apply on the same day, the lease is put up to auction. If no bid is offered the lease may be subdivided, and so put up to sale. The Land Act of 1891 provides for the division of certain Crown lands into pastoral allotments, varying in size from 7,500 to 40,000 acres, and the rent to be reserved in every lease of a pastoral allotment is to be computed at the rate of 1s. per head of sheep, and 5s. per head of cattle, the number of such sheep and cattle being determined by the grazing capabilities of the land.

A pastoral lessee must pay half the rent in advance every six months ; he cannot assign, sub-divide, or sub-let the lease ; he must destroy all vermin and noxious growths, and keep in good condition and repair all fences, tanks, dams, and other improvements ; and must not destroy or ring timber, except for fencing purposes. The incoming tenant pays the outgoing one for all permanent improvements the latter has effected. Upon complying with all the conditions, the lessee may select 320 acres in one block for a homestead, at £1 per acre, unless his lease contains a condition that he shall not be entitled to select upon it.

Agricultural and grazing lands are to be leased in "grazing areas," not to exceed 1,000 acres, for any term of not more than fourteen years, at the end of the term the land to revert to the Crown, improvements to be allowed for at a valuation. In certain cases the Land Act of 1891 allows of the holding of more than one grazing area by the same person provided the total area so held does not exceed 1,000 acres. The lessee may select out of his leased land an "agricultural allotment," not exceeding 320 acres in extent ; or should he have selected under previous Acts, he may increase his grazing area to 1,000 acres, and his agricultural allotment to 320 acres. The rent is fixed at from 2d. to 4d. per acre

for agricultural areas, on an assessment by the Local Board, with the addition of 5 per cent. on the assessed capital value of any permanent improvements that may be on the land. The area of an agricultural allotment is excised from the grazing lease, and a license to occupy such allotment is granted to the selector. The holder of a grazing lease is subject to the same conditions as the pastoral lessee, but has to enclose his land with a substantial fence within three years. The license is issued for an agricultural allotment for a period of six years, at a yearly rental of 1s. per acre per annum, payable half-yearly in advance, and is not transferable. The licensee must destroy all vermin, and within six years must enclose his land, and effect improvements to the value of £1 per acre. He is also required to reside thereon for five years. When these conditions are complied with, he may receive a Crown grant upon payment of 14s. per acre; or he can obtain a lease for fourteen years at 1s. per acre per annum, and at the end of the term he will receive his Crown grant.

Non-residential licenses are granted upon payment of double the ordinary license fee and other charges, but the area to be granted under non-residential licenses must not exceed 50,000 acres for the whole Colony during any one year. For the purpose of enabling selectors to establish and cultivate hop-gardens, vineyards, or orchards, they may obtain a grant of part of their allotments, not exceeding 20 acres, when so planted, upon payment of the difference between the amount of rent actually paid and the amount of purchase money.

Licenses to reside on or cultivate lands comprised within an auriferous area may be granted for a period not exceeding one year, the area not to exceed 20 acres. Land classified as auriferous cannot be alienated, but grazing licenses for such land may be issued for a period of five years, renewable for a further period of five years, subject to the right of any person to enter upon the land for the purpose of mining. The Land Act of 1891, however, provides that in the case of auriferous lands which are considered as no longer profitable to work for gold within 50 feet of the surface, such lands may be occupied in allotments not exceeding 5 acres for a period not exceeding seven years, and may be worked to the above-mentioned depth, at a rent of not less than 1s. per acre. Such land shall be used for the purpose of erecting a residence thereon, or for forming a vineyard, orchard, or garden, or any other like purpose. At the expiration of the seven years' lease the lessee may obtain a grant of such allotment upon payment of an amount fixed by the Local Board, which cannot be less than £1 per acre, the amount paid in license fees up to the date of purchase being deducted therefrom.

Lands comprised within certain areas notified in a schedule attached to the Act, and lands within proclaimed towns or townships, or within any city, town, or borough proclaimed before the passing of the Lands Act of 1884, may be sold at auction, the upset price for country lands being

£1 per acre, the maximum area not exceeding 1,000 acres, payment being at the rate of 25 per cent. cash, and the balance in twelve equal instalments at the end of every succeeding quarter.

The Act contains also provisions for the alienation of certain lands designated as "swamp lands," subject to conditions as to their drainage.

The Land Act of 1891 contains also the following provisions:—Crown lands alienated from the date of the passing of this Act shall be sold, or otherwise alienated, leased, or licensed, only as regards the surface and down to such a depth as may be stated by Order in Council; the sinking of wells is, however, authorized, but the rights to metals and minerals do not go with the land, but remain the property of the Crown.

Where Crown lands are enhanced in value by the proximity of railway or waterworks for irrigation purposes, &c., the Governor is empowered to increase the price of the land, and the minimum sum per acre for which such lands may be sold, as well as the minimum amount of rent or license fee, to an amount which may not be less than one-eighth part greater than, nor more than double, the upset or minimum price for which such land might otherwise be acquired. But where lands have been sold, leased, or licensed at an enhanced price, and the works by reason of which such additional sums have been demanded have not been constructed within ten years from the date of the Order in Council fixing the enhanced price, all additional sums paid shall be returned.

Land situated within the State forests, and timber and water reserves, cannot be alienated; and the administration of the Forests Domain of the Crown is placed in the hands of local Forest Boards, empowered to recover fees for licenses to cut or remove timber.

Leases for special purposes may be obtained under the provisions of this Act, which also provides for the administration of common lands, and miscellaneous matters incidental to land.

Lands situated in the north-western district of Victoria, over which the mallee scrub extends, were, before the year 1883, leased under the general provisions for the occupation of pastoral lands, but were subsequently made the subject of a special enactment designated as the "Mallee Pastoral Act of 1883," which was amended in 1885 and partly recast under the present Land Act of 1890. Under this special legislation the mallee country is divided into two parts, viz., the mallee border extending along the southern margin of the mallee country, and the mallee blocks situated to the north of the border extending to the banks of the Murray River. In the mallee border the land is parcelled out in divisions of various areas designated as "mallee allotments," the maximum area of which must not exceed 20,000 acres. These allotments may be leased for terms, which shall expire not later than the 1st December, 1903, the annual rent being from 10s. to 40s. per square mile.

The "mallee blocks" are also of various areas, one portion of which can be held under a license to occupy for a period of five years, the other being leased for a term not to exceed twenty years from the passing of the Act on 1st December, 1883, at the rate of 2d. per head of sheep and 1s. per head of cattle for the first five years, double these amounts for the second period of five years, and 50 per cent. over the last figures for the remainder of the term. The annual rent is computed at the rate of 2d. per head of sheep and 1s. per head of cattle depasturing thereon, but in no case must the yearly rent be less than 2s. 6d. for each square mile, or part of a square mile, of land.

The occupier or lessee of any part of a mallee block, or a mallee allotment, undertakes to pay the annual rent reserved in moieties; not to assign, subdivide, or cultivate any part of the same without the consent of the Board of Lands and Works; to destroy the vermin upon his block; and to fulfil certain other conditions; the Government retaining the right of resuming the land after giving due notice, compensation for improvements effected being given on assessment.

The Land Act also deals with districts described as "vermin districts," proclaimed as such by the Governor, the administration of which, for the special purpose of destroying vermin, is vested in local committees appointed by owners, lessees, and occupiers of the lands situated within such districts. For the purpose of erecting vermin-proof wire-fencing in certain districts, a fencing rate may be levied, the Minister also having power to deduct 5 per cent. of the amount levied in vermin districts for the purpose of paying for the erection of a vermin-proof fence between the mallee country and the mallee border.

LAND LEGISLATION OF QUEENSLAND.

The land legislation of New South Wales in force on the date when the Moreton Bay District was formed into the Colony of Queensland, gave place soon after that event to a new system of settlement, better adapted to the requirements of the newly constituted Colony. Following, to a certain extent, upon the lines adopted by their neighbours, the legislators introduced in their regulations the principle of free selection before survey, and that of sales under the deferred payment system. Having a vast territory to dispose of, which did not, however, offer the same attractions as the southern provinces did, not being endowed with so temperate a climate, the Queensland Legislature considered it necessary to exercise great liberality in offering its land in lots of a greater area, and at a smaller price per acre, than were required from settlers in the other Colonies. Most liberal were also the provisions enacted to facilitate the exploration and occupation for pastoral purposes of the huge and almost unknown territory which they possessed,

and the Pastoral Act of 1869 led to the occupation by an energetic race of pioneers of nearly the whole of the waste lands of the province. The rapid development of its resources, and the consequent increase of population, necessitated, later on, a revision of the conditions under which land might be either alienated or occupied; but although the tendency has been to curtail the privileges of the pastoralists, the alienation of the public estate by selection—conditional and unconditional—has been placed under enactments of a still more liberal character than those which existed in the earlier days. Under pressure of the new social movement, Queensland has followed in the wake of New Zealand and South Australia, and has granted to the working classes great facilities for acquiring possession of the soil. The regulations at present in force are based upon the legislation enacted under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and its subsequent amendments in 1886, 1889, and 1891.

Land may be acquired in the following manner:—By conditional selection: agricultural farms up to 160 acres, price 2s. 6d. per acre, payable in five years at the rate of 6d. per acre per annum, personal residence; agricultural farms up to 1,280 acres, at from 15s. per acre, payable in five years, or a fifty years' lease at from 3d. upwards per acre per annum, residence, personal or by agent; by unconditional selection, at from 20s. per acre, payable in twenty annual instalments; by grazing farm selection, up to 20,000 acres, thirty years' lease at from $\frac{3}{4}$ d. upwards per acre per annum; by purchase at auction, agricultural land, upset price from 20s. per acre, grazing land, upset price from 10s. per acre, payments spread over three years, without interest in the case of agricultural land, and with 5 per cent. added in the case of grazing land when instalments are paid later than six months from date of sale.

The Colony is, as far as is necessary, divided into Land Agents' Districts, in each of which there are a Public Lands Office and a Government Land Agent with whom applications for farms must be lodged. Applications for farms must be made in the prescribed form, and be signed by the applicant, but they may be lodged in the Land Office by his duly authorised attorney. There is connected with the Survey Department, in Brisbane, an office for the exhibition and sale of maps, and there full information respecting lands available for selection throughout the Colony can be obtained on personal application. Plans can also be obtained at the District Offices.

The conditions under which country lands may be acquired for settlement by persons of either sex over 18 years of age—married women excepted—are substantially as follow:—Surveyed areas of land are made available for selection as grazing farms over a great extent of Queensland territory within accessible distance of the seaboard. In these areas intending settlers can obtain grazing farms of areas up to 20,000 acres on lease, for a term of thirty years, at an annual rent varying according to the quality of the land, three farthings an acre being the minimum. This rent is subject to reassessment by the Land Board after the first

ten years, and subsequently at intervals of five years, but the rent cannot be increased at any reassessment to more than 50 per cent. above that for the period immediately preceding. The applicant first obtains a license to occupy, which is personal to the applicant and is not transferable, but may be exchanged for a lease for the balance of the term of thirty years as soon as the farm is enclosed with a substantial fence, which must be done within three years. This lease may be transferred or mortgaged, or the farm may be subdivided, or, with the consent of the Land Board, sub-let. The land must be continuously occupied by the lessee or his agent for the whole term of the lease, and cannot be made freehold. The cost of survey, ranging from something like £30 for a farm of 2,560 acres to about £65 for a farm of 20,000—subject to increase or decrease according to locality—must be paid with a year's rent when the farm is applied for.

The more accessible lands near lines of railway, centres of population, and navigable waters, are set apart for agricultural farm selection in areas up to 1,280 acres. In the case of these farms the period of license is five years, during which the selector must fence in the land, or expend an equivalent sum in other substantial improvements. As in the case of grazing farms, as soon as the improvement condition has been complied with a lease is issued, but in this case for a longer term—namely, fifty years from the date of the license, and with a right of purchase. The annual rent may range from 3d. per acre upwards (seldom exceeding 1s.) according to the quality and situation of the land, its natural supply of water, &c., and is subject to periodical reassessment, as in the case of grazing farms. The selector must occupy the land continuously, either in person or by agent, for the whole term of the lease. The cost of survey, ranging from about £10 to £12 for a farm of 160 acres to from £20 to £40 for a farm of 1,280 acres, must be borne by the selector.

When an agricultural farm not exceeding 160 acres in area is occupied by the selector in person, the freehold can be secured on extremely liberal terms as regards money payments, five annual payments of 6d. per acre being all the purchase money required, and the cost of survey also being payable in like instalments. The conditions attached to the granting of these liberal terms are the expenditure in improvements of a sum equal to 10s. per acre, and the immediate continuous and *bona-fide* personal residence on the land of the selector for five years. With regard to agricultural farms exceeding 160 acres in area, where the condition of occupation has been performed for five years by the continuous and *bona-fide* personal residence of one lessee, or for ten years by successive lessees, the freehold may be secured on payment of the prescribed purchasing price. If the purchase is made within twelve years from the commencement of the term of the lease, the price will be that mentioned in the proclamation declaring the land available for selection (not to be less than 15s. per acre); if after that period, the price will be increased

in proportion to the increase of rent upon re-assessment. The rent reserved under the lease usually amounts to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the purchasing price, and all rent paid during the period of personal residence is counted as part of the purchase money.

With regard to village settlement, special provision is made by law for the settlement of little communities, so that settlers may live together in townships for mutual convenience, on allotments not exceeding one acre in extent, and with farms of 80 acres in close proximity to their residences. The freehold of these farms may be secured generally on the same terms as above stated in regard to agricultural farms not exceeding 160 acres in area, with the additional privileges that residence on an allotment in the township is held equivalent to residence on the farm, and one-fifth of the required improvements may be made on the allotment.

Two or more selectors of agricultural farms not exceeding 80 acres each may associate for mutual assistance under license from the Land Board. A selector may perform conditions of residence for himself and any other member of the association, providing that at least one selector is in actual occupation for every 160 acres; and if more than 10s. per acre is spent on permanent improvements on any one farm, the surplus may be credited to any other farm or farms in the group. In other respects the conditions are the same as in the case of agricultural farms of 160 acres.

Areas of land are also available for unconditional selection at prices ranging from £1 per acre upwards, payable in twenty annual instalments. As the term implies, no other conditions than the payment of the purchase money are attached to this mode of selection—the disqualifications imposed in the case of agricultural farms being also removed, with the exception of the restriction upon the area allowed to be selected. The cost of survey, on the same scale as for agricultural farms, must be deposited with the first instalment of purchase money at the time of application.

To approved persons of European extraction, paying their own passages or those of members of their families in full to Queensland from Europe, the United States of America, or any British possession other than the Australasian Colonies, land orders are issued of the value of £20 sterling for each person of 12 years and upwards, and of £10 for each child between 1 and 12 years of age. These land orders are available for ten years from the date of issue, to their full nominal value, for use by the head of the family in payment of the rent of any agricultural or grazing farm, *but not an unconditional selection*, held by him, or they may be used by the members of the family severally—wife, and children under 18 years of age, of course excepted—in payment of the rent of farms held by them respectively. Land orders are not transferable, and can only be used by residents in the Colony. They are therefore of no use to anyone who does not settle on the land and fulfil the conditions as above

described. A single land order of the value of £20 will, of course, suffice for the payment of the whole purchase money of a farm of 160 acres under the personal residence conditions above described, and only the survey and deed fees will need to be paid in cash.

LAND LEGISLATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The foundation of the Colony of South Australia was in itself the outcome of an attempt to put into actual practice one of those remarkable theories of colonisation, based upon an apparently unanswerable logic of reasoning, which the logic of hard practical facts is often apt to reverse. The policy of settlement upon which a wealthy Colony was to be created in a few years on the edge of a supposed desert continent was based upon principles enunciated by its author, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, in a pamphlet published in England about the year 1836, in which he advocated a scheme of centralised colonisation, the main idea of which was the sale of the lands in the new possession at a very high price for cash, the amounts thus realised being immediately devoted to the introduction of immigrants, whom the land-owners would immediately employ to reclaim the virgin forest, thus creating wealth and abundance where desolation had previously existed. But although Wakefield had fairly calculated upon the results of the action of man, the action of nature itself had been left out of consideration, and the scheme quickly proved an empty failure and a distressful speculation for the many whom its apparent logic had deluded into investing their means in the lands of the new Colony. Had not the discovery of great mineral resources occurred at an opportune time, the exodus into the eastern Colonies of the immigrants imported or attracted to South Australia would have emptied the country of its population and considerably retarded the progress of a territory not inferior in natural resources to other portions of the Australian continent.

Measures were very soon introduced to modify the Wakefield system, but it was only in 1872 that an Act was passed more in conformity with the legislation of neighbouring Colonies, and giving to the poorer classes of the population a chance to settle upon the lands of the Crown under fair conditions.

The Land Act of 1872, adapted as it was to the needs of the time, gave way to other measures, and the regulations now in force are those of the Crown Lands Act of 1888, administered in conjunction with the Crown Lands Amendment Acts of 1889, 1890, and 1893. The Crown Lands Act of 1888 is referred to as the Principal Act. Part I of this Act refers to the power of the Governor to alienate Crown lands, exchange land for public purposes, and lease lands to aboriginal natives or their descendants; to dedicate and reserve lands for public purposes, cancel and resume dedications and reserves, constitute divisions of the

Colony into hundreds and counties, alter the boundaries of existing divisions, and set aside sites for towns or villages, &c. By clause 9 the grant in fee simple of any land shall not be construed to convey or include any property in any metal, ore or mineral, coal or mineral oils in or upon the land, the same being reserved by the Crown; the Commissioners being allowed to authorise persons at any time to search, mine for, or remove any of the metals and other things reserved.

Part II deals with leases with the right of purchase and perpetual leases. No lands are to be leased unless previously surveyed; the Land Boards are entrusted with the duty of classifying lands, and fixing the area of blocks, the price and annual rent at which each block may be taken up on lease with right of purchase, and the annual rent at which such block may be taken up on perpetual lease. Applications for such lands may be made in writing to the Commissioner, giving name and address of applicant, and forwarding at the same time 20 per cent. of the first year's rent of the block applied for. The applications are referred to the Land Board, who determine upon their acceptance, and who may subdivide or alter the boundaries of the block applied for, or reject the application, and generally decide upon all matters, including price or annual rent, connected with such application. Lessees must execute their leases and pay the balance of the first year's assessment and prescribed fees within twenty-eight days after the acceptance of application has been notified and the lease has issued, otherwise they forfeit the amounts paid and all rights to lease of the land.

Leases with the right of purchase are granted for a term of twenty-one years, with the right of renewal for a further term of twenty-one years, the right of purchase being exercisable at any time after the first six years of the term at a price fixed by the Boards, which must not be less than 3s. an acre.

The rent charged for any perpetual lease for the first fourteen years is fixed by the Board and notified in the *Government Gazette*, and the rent for every subsequent fourteen years is fixed by the Board after revaluation. Rents are payable annually in advance; and every lease contains a reservation to the Crown of all metals, ores, and minerals, gems, coal, timber, and mineral oils, in or upon the leased lands. All lessees under this part of the Act undertake to fulfil the following conditions:—1. To pay rent annually. 2. To pay all taxes and other impositions which may be payable in respect of the leased lands during the lease. 3. To fence the land within the first five years of the term, and keep the fences in repair. 4. To forthwith commence and continue to destroy, and keep the land free from, vermin. 5. To keep and maintain all improvements the property of the Crown on the leased land in good order and repair. 6. To insure and keep insured in full all buildings the property of the Crown upon the leased land in the joint names of the Commissioner and lessee. 7. To permit access to the land

of every person holding a mining license or mineral lease under Part V of the Act.

Part III of the Act refers to the sale of lands for cash. Provision is made for the sale of special blocks of land by auction ; all Crown Lands within Hundreds which shall have been offered for lease and not taken up may be offered for sale at auction for cash within two years of the date on which they were first offered for lease. Some lands may be sold by auction for cash, and shall not be sold upon credit or by private contract, the Commissioners fixing the upset price of both town and country lots offered to auction, provided always that no country lands shall be sold at less than 5s. per acre.

Part IV refers to pastoral leases, and enacts that all Crown lands not included in any Hundred may be leased for pastoral purposes. Pastoral lands are divided into three classes as follow :—Class 1 includes pastoral lands held under a new lease issued under certain previous Acts, or which having been held under such new lease were held under other leases expiring in the year 1888, or on the 1st January, 1887, and granted in lieu of such new lease. Class 2 includes all pastoral lands which were held by any pastoral lessee on the 14th November, 1884, for any other term of years. Class 3 includes all other pastoral lands.

When any pastoral lease in Class 1 shall have expired, the land may be offered for lease at auction in such sized blocks as the Commissioner may determine, every such lease being for a term not exceeding twenty-one years, the annual upset rent payable in advance being fixed by valuation. The lessee shall also pay a deposit of 10 per cent. upon the value of the improvements on the lease, interest at 5 per cent. being allowed for such deposit, which shall be returned on the expiration of the lease, provided the improvements have not been allowed to fall into disrepair, in which case the deposit would be forfeitable wholly or in part. On the expiration of any pastoral lease, or on the resumption of any lands included in any pastoral lease granted under the Act, the pastoral lessee shall be paid the value of all substantial water improvements on the land leased or resumed, and in cases of resumption he shall also be compensated for the loss or the depreciation in the value of his lease. Pastoral lands in Class 3 were offered for lease at auction on the following terms :—The lease to extend over a term of thirty-five years, at an annual upset rent of 2s. 6d. per square mile for the first fourteen years of the currency, afterwards, during each successive term of seven years, the annual rent to be fixed by valuation ; but under the Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1890 these terms have been altered to forty-two instead of thirty-five years, the revaluation being made every fourteen years instead of seven as above ; the lessee to covenant to stock the land before the end of the third year of the term with sheep in the proportion of at least five head, or with cattle in the proportion of at least one head, for every square mile leased, to keep the same

so stocked, and before the end of the seventh year to increase the stocking to at least twenty sheep or four head of cattle for the remainder of the term.

The expenditure of money for the purpose of improving the carrying capacity of the land exempts the lessee from fulfilling the condition with reference to stocking, the expenditure of 30s. before the end of the third year of the term, and of £3 per square mile before the end of the seventh year, wholly discharging the lessee from the covenant in reference to stock. This part of the Act also provides that leases may be granted to *bona-fide* discoverers of pastoral country at the rent of 2s. 6d. per square mile per annum.

Part V deals with leases and licenses to be issued for mining purposes, such leases to be for a term of 99 years, at an annual rent of 1s. per acre, and a further sum of 6d. in the £ on the net profits. A sum of at least £6 per acre of the area of the lease is to be expended every two years, the lessee having the option of constantly employing one man for every 20 acres of the lease during nine months of the year. Specific mineral licenses may be granted by the Commissioners on payment of a fee of 20s., permitting the holder to search for metals and minerals, except gold, upon any specific mineral lands not exceeding 80 acres in extent, subject to the condition of employing at least one man. General mineral licenses, for the term of one year, are also issued, to search for any metals or minerals, except gold, upon any mineral lands. The leasing of auriferous lands is regulated by the Gold-mining Act of 1885.

Part VI refers to leases and licenses for miscellaneous purposes, including leases to discoverers of coal, guano, petroleum, or other substance not being a metal or metalliferous ore; sites for factories and other industrial undertakings are also regulated under this part of the Act.

In Part VII a new feature has been introduced into the land legislation of the Colony, in response to the claims of the working classes. Under this part it is enacted that certain lands of the province may be surveyed in blocks not exceeding 20 acres in area, and leased under the conditions affecting leases granted under Part II of this Act, either with the right of purchase or of perpetual lease; no one except a person who gains his livelihood by his own labour, and who has attained the age of 18 years, being entitled to any such lease. The rent is payable annually in advance, and the lessee is bound to reside on the land for at least nine months in every year, but personal residence by his wife or any member of his family will be held as a fulfilment of the residence condition. Under the amended Act of 1890, working men's leases situated within a radius of 10 miles from the Post Office, Adelaide, cannot be taken up with the right of purchase, and the purchase of any such leases taken up under the provisions of the Principal Act cannot be completed.

Under the Crown Lands Act Amendment Act of 1889, certain modifications were introduced in the procedure regulating the surrender of existing agreements and leases in exchange for leases under Part II of the Principal Act, and certain regulations were enacted to deal with the rabbit pest, and provide for the erection of rabbit-proof fences, granting to District Councils the power to raise loans for this purpose. Provisions were also made for extensive alterations in the disposal of forest lands, and for various other matters relating to the alienation and lease of lands. Section 15 of the Principal Act was amended, so as to provide, among other matters, that no lessee shall hold under lease with a right of purchase at any one time more than 1,000 acres.

Three new Acts dealing with the lands of the Colony south of the 26th degree of south latitude came into force in South Australia at the close of 1893.

The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1893, repeals certain sections and schedules of former Acts; creates a central Land Board; deals with lands subject to mineral reservations; substitutes the term "homestead blocks" for "blocks for working-men"; and makes more extended provisions for granting loans to block-holders. In Part V of the Act permission is given to surrender agreements held under previous Acts for perpetual leases at a fixed rent in addition to the payment of an amount equal to the land-tax that would be payable if the lands were subject to such tax. The unimproved value of lands brought under the Act by one person is in no case (except city and township lands) to exceed £5,000. The last part of the Act deals with village settlements in a manner similar to that described under the heading "Labour settlements in New South Wales."

The Pastoral Act, 1893, deals with the pastoral lands of the Colony. It repeals a number of the sections of the Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1890, as well as of the Crown Lands Act of 1888; classifies the pastoral lands of the Colony into three classes, A, B, and C; and provides for the appointment of a Pastoral Board to deal with applications for leases, valuations, &c. Certain improvements are to be paid for by the incoming lessee. Leases in Classes A and B are to have a currency of twenty-one years, and in Class C of twenty-one years with a right of renewal for a further term of twenty-one years at a re-valuation. No mining by the lessee is allowed, but he may use the surface of the land for any purpose he should think fit, whether pastoral or not. Improvements are to be valued solely in connection with their worth to the incoming lessee, and are in no case to exceed in value such as are necessary for the working of a run of 5,000 sheep in Class A, of 10,000 sheep in Class B, or of 30,000 sheep in Class C, or a proportionate number of cattle, five sheep being taken as the equivalent of one head of cattle. Re-valuations may be made during the currency of a lease if, by the construction of Government works, such as railways, waterworks, &c., in the neighbourhood, the land has received an enhanced value. Leases

may be granted to discoverers of pastoral lands, or to any person for inferior lands, for forty-two years, the first five years at a peppercorn rental, the next five years at 1s. per annum per square mile, and the remainder of the term at 2s. 6d. per annum per square mile. For all other leases the minimum rent is fixed at 2s. 6d. per annum per square mile in all classes, together with 2d. for each sheep depastured in Classes A and B, and 1d. for each sheep in Class C. Provision is made for the resumption of leases and the granting of compensation. All disputed cases are to be decided according to the terms of the Arbitration Act, 1891. Lands held under any of the old Acts may be surrendered and a new lease applied for under the Act of 1893, except in the case of lands placed in Class I under the Act of 1888.

The Mining Act, 1893, repeals wholly all Mining Acts passed prior to 1888, and in part the Crown Lands Act of 1888, and the Amending Acts of 1889 and 1890. The Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration is created Minister of Mines; and wardens, registrars, and inspectors are to be appointed for the various mining districts into which the Colony is to be divided. Provision is made for the issue of miners' rights at 5s. per annum. Gold leases are granted for areas of not more than 20 acres, for any term not exceeding forty-two years, at a rental of 1s. per acre per annum, together with 6d. in the £ on the net profits, one man to be continuously employed either in mining or prospecting for every 5 acres of the lease. Mineral leases are issued for areas of not more than 40 acres of land not comprised within a gold-field, one man to be employed for every 10 acres. The currency of the lease and the rental are the same as in the case of a gold lease. Coal and oil leases, for areas not exceeding 640 acres, and periods not exceeding forty-two years, may be granted of any Crown lands not comprised within a gold-field, at a rent and upon such terms and conditions as the Governor may see fit to impose, or as may hereafter be prescribed. The only condition specified in the Act is that of keeping one man continuously employed for every 40 acres of the lease. Any number of gold, mineral, and coal and oil leases may be held by the same person. Miscellaneous leases for the manufacture or the obtaining of salt and gypsum, for the working of mineral springs, or for sites for smelting works or any other works approved by the Governor, may be granted, on terms hereafter to be prescribed, for any period not exceeding forty-two years; but, in the case of smelting or other works, no lease shall be granted of any water frontage for a longer term than twenty-one years. Provision is also made for the issue of business and occupation licenses. Business claims are to be of not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in townships nor more than 1 acre on other lands, and must not be situated within 5 miles of any Government township, except they come within a gold-field. The cost of a business license is to be 10s. for six months, or £1 for a year. Occupation licenses may be granted, of blocks not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, for a period of fourteen years, at an annual rental of 2s. or less. Parts IV and V of the Act make

provision for the inspection and the proper draining of mines ; while Part VI deals with the granting of rewards to discoverers of new mineral districts or of valuable mineral deposits, and with the granting of assistance to persons engaged in mining, either by the advance of money or by the loan of diamond drills or other machinery.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The Northern Territory of South Australia includes the whole of the lands situated to the north of the 26th degree of south latitude, bounded by Queensland on the east, Western Australia on the west, and the Ocean on the north. This portion of the Continent is under the administration of a Resident, appointed by the Government of South Australia ; and the alienation and occupation of lands within the Territory are conducted under regulations enacted by the South Australian Legislature, in accordance with "The Northern Territory Crown Lands Consolidation Act of 1882."

It is provided that lands may be purchased for cash, without conditions, in blocks not exceeding 1,280 acres, for 12s. 6d. per acre ; they may also be bought under the deferred payment system, to the same maximum area, and at the same price, payable in ten years, together with an annual rent of 6d. per acre.

Leases for pastoral occupation may be issued for a term not exceeding twenty-five years, for blocks up to 400 square miles, the annual rental for the first seven years being 6d. per square mile, while 2s. 6d. per square mile is charged during the balance of the term.

In order to encourage the cultivation of tropical produce, such as rice, sugar, coffee, tea, indigo, cotton, tobacco, &c., special provisions have been enacted. Blocks of from 320 acres to 1,280 acres may be let for such purposes at the rate of 6d. per acre per annum. If, on the expiration of five years, the lessee can prove that he had cultivated one-fifth of his area by the end of the second year of his term, and one-half by the end of the fifth year, he is relieved from all further payment of rent, and the amount already so paid is credited to him towards the purchase of the land in fee.

LAND LEGISLATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The first regulations referring to land settlement in Western Australia were issued by the Colonial Office in 1829, at the time that Captain James Stirling was appointed Civil Superintendent of the Swan River settlement. The first special grants were made in favour of Captain James Stirling for an area of 100,000 acres near Geographe Bay, and Mr. Thomas Peel for 250,000 acres, on the southern bank of the Swan River and across the Channing to Cockburn Bay, the latter under covenant to introduce at his own cost 400 immigrants into the Colony by a certain date. Regulations were issued to the effect that

persons proceeding to the settlement at their own cost, in parties in which the numbers were in the proportion of five females to every six male settlers, were to receive grants in proportion to the capital introduced, at the rate of 40 acres for every £3. Capitalists were also granted land at the rate of 200 acres for every labouring settler introduced at their expense, subject to the cancellation of the grant if the land was not brought under cultivation or reclaimed within twenty one years. The regulations were amended by others of a similar nature issued on the 20th July, 1830. In 1832, however, the mode of disposing of the Crown lands by sale came into force, the regulations issued in that year assimilating the system of settlement to that in force in the Colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Other alterations were made from time to time, until, in 1873, an entirely new system was introduced, which has served as the basis of the regulations at present in force, which were promulgated on the 2nd March, 1887.

The new land regulations, which were passed by the Legislative Council in 1886, came into force on the 2nd March, 1887. For the purposes of the regulations the Colony is divided into six divisions:—The South-west Division, the Gascoyne Division, the North-west Division, the Kimberley Division, the Eucla Division, and the Eastern Division. All town and suburban lands in these divisions may be sold by public auction, at an upset price to be determined by the Governor-in-Council. Any person may apply to the Commissioner to put up for sale by auction any town or suburban lands already surveyed, on depositing 10 per cent. of the upset price, which is returned if he does not become the purchaser; should the purchaser not be the applicant, he must pay 10 per cent. on the fall of the hammer, and complete his purchase within thirty days.

There are four modes of obtaining land by conditional purchase in the South-west Division:—(1) By deferred payment, with residence within agricultural areas; (2) by deferred payment, with residence outside agricultural areas; (3) by deferred payment without residence; (4) by direct payment without residence.

Agricultural areas of not less than 2,000 acres may be set apart by the Governor-in-Council. The maximum area to be held by any one person is 1,000 acres, and the minimum 100 acres. The price is fixed by the Governor-in-Council at 10s. an acre, payable in twenty yearly instalments of 6d. an acre, or sooner if the occupier choose. Upon the approval of any application, a license is granted for five years. Within six months the licensee must take up his residence on some portion or the land; and he must fence in the land with a good substantial fence during the term of his license. If these conditions are fulfilled, a lease is granted to him for fifteen years. After the lease has expired, provided that the fence is in good order, that improvements have been made equal to the full purchase money, and that the full purchase money has been paid, a Crown grant will be given.

Land may be purchased outside agricultural areas on deferred payment with residence, by free selection, and otherwise subject to all the conditions required within agricultural areas as already stated.

Under the third mode of purchase, the applicant is subject to all the conditions imposed under the first, except that of residence, but he has to pay double the price—or, £1 per acre,—in twenty yearly instalments of 1s. per acre.

By the fourth mode, land to the extent of 1,000 acres, and not less than 100, within an agricultural area, may be applied for at a price (at present 10s. per acre) fixed by the Governor-in-Council. Within three years the land must be fenced in, and within five years 5s. per acre must be spent on improvements.

For garden purposes, small areas of not less than 5 acres nor more than 20 acres (except in special cases) may be purchased at 20s. per acre, on the condition that within three years the land shall be fenced, and one-tenth planted with vines or fruit-trees, or vegetables.

In the Kimberley, North-west, Gascoyne, Eastern, and Eucla Divisions, special areas for purchase may be set apart of not less than 5,000 acres. The total quantity to be held by any one person in a division may not exceed 5,000 acres, nor be less than 100 acres. The price is at present 10s. an acre, payable in ten years, or sooner. Upon approval, a lease will issue for ten years. Within two years the land must be fenced. On the expiration of the lease, the fence being in good order, improvements, in addition to the fencing, equal to the purchase money having been made, and the purchase money having been paid, a grant from the Crown will be issued.

Pastoral lands are granted on lease, which gives no right to the soil or to the timber, and the lands may be reserved, sold, or otherwise disposed of by the Crown during the lease. The following are the terms of pastoral leases in the several divisions; all leases expire on the 31st December, 1907, and the rental named is for every 1,000 acres :—South-west.—In blocks of not less than 3,000 acres, at 20s. Gascoyne and Eucla.—In blocks of not less than 20,000 acres; for each of the first seven years, 10s.; for each of the second seven years, 12s. 6d.; for each of the third seven years, 15s. North-west.—In blocks of not less than 20,000 acres; for the first seven years, 10s.; for the second seven years, 15s.; for the third seven years, 20s. Eastern.—In blocks of not less than 20,000 acres; for the first seven years, 2s. 6d.; for the second seven years, 5s.; for the third seven years, 7s. 6d. Kimberley.—In blocks of not less than 50,000 acres with frontage, and 20,000 without frontage; for the first seven years, 10s.; for the second seven years, 15s.; and for the third seven years, 20s. Any lessee in the Kimberley Division may have a reduction of one-half the rental due under the Regulations, computed from the 1st day of January, 1887, for the first fourteen years of his lease, if, within five years of the date of these Regulations, he should have in his possession within the Division

ten head of sheep, or one head of large stock for every thousand acres leased. A similar reduction is made to a lessee in the Eucla Division, but here the reduction is also granted if he should have expended £8 per 1,000 acres, in constructing tanks, wells, or dams, or in boring for water. A penalty of double rental for the remaining portion of the lease is imposed, except in the South-western Division, if the lessee has not within seven years complied with the stocking or improvement clause.

Any person desirous of obtaining a lease of poison-land may apply to the Commissioner, defining the boundaries, and paying one year's rent at the rate of £1 per 1,000 acres, on the condition that the land is fenced in within three years; and if the poison plant is completely eradicated before the lease expires, the lessee will be entitled to a Crown grant.

Mining leases, not exceeding 200 acres, nor less than 20 acres, are granted for seven years, at a rental of 5s. per acre per annum, but must be worked within one year. If the holder has erected, or gives security for the erection of, suitable machinery to work the mine, he may obtain a Crown grant of not less than 20 acres, at the rate of £3 per acre.

Three Acts dealing with lands were passed in Western Australia during 1893. The first of these is the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, which is similar in its provisions to the Real Property Acts of the other Colonies. The second Act amends the Land Regulations proclaimed in 1887, and fixes rents in the Gascoyne, North-west, and Kimberley Divisions, and in the Eucla Division, west of a due north line from Point Culver, at 10s. per annum for every thousand acres or part of thousand acres for the whole term of the lease; in the Eucla Division, east of a due north line from Point Culver, at 5s. per annum for every thousand acres or part thereof for the whole term of the lease; and in the Eastern Division, at 2s. 6d. for each of the first seven years, and 5s. for each of the remaining years of the lease, for every thousand acres or part of a thousand acres. The Regulations of 1887, as far as they are contradictory to the amendments of 1893, are repealed; and the provisions of the Amendment Act are not only to apply to new leases, but also to all leases already in existence.

The Homesteads Act, 1893, is divided into three parts, the first part dealing with free homestead farms, the second with homestead leases, and the third with general matters. Under the first part of the Act the Governor may set apart for selection, either exclusively or partly, for free farms, certain areas situated within 40 miles of a railway. Unless otherwise ordered such selections are to be limited to alternate blocks, and are not to exceed 160 acres. The exempted portions may be alienated under the provisions of the Land Regulations or any law relating to Crown lands. Preliminary survey and notification in the *Gazette* are required, and blocks set apart for free farms may at any time be withdrawn. Application may be made by any person who is the sole head of a family, or by any male person who has attained the age of 18 years, provided the applicant be not already in possession

of 100 acres or more within the Colony, either in fee-simple, or under special occupation or conditional purchase. A statutory declaration and a fee of £1 must be submitted with the application, after approval of which by the Minister the applicant will receive a certificate enabling him to take possession. Residence is compulsory during six out of every twelve months during the first five years of the lease, except in cases of illness, or for some other valid reason which prevents compliance with this condition. Within two years £30 must be expended by the selector either in erecting a suitable house, in clearing, or in clearing and cropping; or in lieu thereof 2 acres of orchard or vineyard must be properly prepared and planted. Within five years at least one-fourth of the land is to be fenced in, and one-eighth cropped; and within seven years the whole selection is to be fenced in, and at least one-fourth cleared and cropped. After that time, upon proof that the residential and other conditions have been duly complied with, a Crown grant will be issued on payment of survey, Crown grant, and registration fees. Until then assignments, transfers, and mortgages shall be null and void; and any such agreement entered into by the lessee shall lead to the forfeiture of the homestead farm, and debar him from making another application for a similar lease. A person who has received a certificate to the effect that he is entitled to a Crown grant, may, however, legally dispose of, and convey, assign, transfer, or mortgage, his right and title therein. A selector who can prove residence for twelve months from the date of taking possession, and who has made all the improvements required to entitle him to a Crown grant, may at any time before the expiration of seven years, receive a Crown grant on payment of 5s. per acre, together with survey, Crown grant, and registration fees. Village sites may be set apart not more than 5 miles distant from land intended for homestead farms, and subdivided into areas not exceeding 1 acre each. A selector may obtain a village allotment free, and build a house and take up his residence there instead of on his farm. The improvements on the homestead farm must, however, be made as before described. A Crown grant for the village allotment may be obtained, as soon as the selector is entitled to a grant for his homestead farm, on payment of £1, together with survey, Crown grant, and registration fees.

Part II of the Act states that Crown lands may be set apart for homestead leases within 40 miles of a railway. Lands so set apart shall be divided into second and third class lands, the area of a lease to be from 1,000 to 3,000 acres of second-class, and from 1,000 to 5,000 acres of third-class lands. The currency of all leases is to be thirty years. The rent is fixed at 1d. per acre per annum for the first fifteen years, and 2d. for the last fifteen years of the lease, for third-class lands; and at 2d. per acre per annum for the first fifteen years, and 3d. for the remainder of the lease, for second-class lands. The lessee has to comply with the following conditions:—He must pay one-half of the

prescribed cost of survey in five yearly instalments ; he must reside on the land, either personally or by his agent or servant, for nine out of every twelve months during the first five years ; he must within two years fence half the area of the lease, and within four years the whole area ; he must expend, during each year from the sixth to the fifteenth, 8d. per acre on the improvement of second-class lands, or 5d. per acre of third-class lands. If he should spend more during one year, he may take credit for the excess in the following year or years. Improvements may be any of the following :—Subdivision, clearing, cultivating, grubbing, draining, ringbarking, tanks, dams, wells, or any other work which increases or improves the agricultural or pastoral capabilities of the land. The boundary fence, after its erection, must at all times be kept in good order and repair. If the Minister approves of an application for a lease, and the land is not yet surveyed, the time for making improvements, &c., is to be computed from the day when the survey is completed. On the expiration of a lease, if all the terms have been complied with, the lessee is entitled to a Crown grant on payment of Crown grant and registration fees. He may obtain his Crown grant earlier if he has spent, in addition to the cost of the boundary fence, an amount equal to the aggregate rent payable for the last twenty-five years of his lease, but in that case he must pay to the Minister the difference between the aggregate amount of rents already paid and the value of the land, calculated at 6s. 3d. per acre for second-class, and 3s. 9d. per acre for third-class lands. Transfers are allowed after five years' residence, either personal or by an agent ; but the approval of the Minister must first be obtained, and no lease can be transferred to any person who is already the holder of a homestead lease.

Part III states that agricultural areas may be gazetted and disposed of under the following conditions :—The price is to be fixed by the Governor-in-Council, but is not to be less than 10s. per acre, payable in twenty yearly instalments, or sooner, as may be determined. To qualify for a lease it is necessary to be not less than 18 years of age. The maximum area is to be 1,000 acres and the minimum area, except in special cases approved by the Minister, 100 acres. All leases are to have a twenty years' currency, and the lessee is to make the land the place of his habitual residence for six out of every twelve months during the first five years. Within two years at least one-tenth, and within five years the whole of the lease must be fenced in ; and within ten years, in addition to the cost of the boundary fence, an amount equal to the full purchase money must be spent in improvements. The lessee will be entitled to a Crown grant on the expiration of his lease, or at any time after the first five years, if the necessary fencing and improvements have been completed and the full purchase money has been paid. The residential clause may be dispensed with if the lessee pays an office fee of 20s. and expends double the amount on improvements that he would have to spend if he resided on the land.

LAND LEGISLATION OF TASMANIA.

In the earlier period of the occupation of Tasmania, from 1804 to 1825, the island being administered as a part of New South Wales, its settlement was subject to the regulations affecting the disposal of the Crown domain in that Colony. After its constitution under a separate administration, the regulations issued from the Colonial Office for the settlement of the Crown lands in the mother Colony were made to apply also to Tasmania. New measures were introduced after self-government had been granted to the province, but they became so complicated and cumbersome that the necessity was felt of passing in 1890 an Act consolidating into one comprehensive and general measure the twelve Acts previously in force.

The business of the Lands and Survey Departments is now transacted by virtue of the Crown Lands Act of 1890, under which, for the convenience of survey operations, the island is divided into thirteen survey districts. Lands of the Crown are divided into two classes, town lands and rural lands. Lands which are known to contain auriferous or other minerals, and such lands as may be necessary for the preservation and growth of timbers, are dealt with under separate sections; and the Governor-in-Council is empowered to reserve such lands as he may think fit for a variety of public purposes.

In the rural division any person of the age of 18 may select under this Act by private contract at the price and upon the terms set forth hereunder:—

One lot of rural lands not exceeding 320 acres nor less than 15 acres.

	£	s.	d.
100 acres at 20s.	100	0	0
Add $\frac{1}{3}$ for credit	33	6	8
	133	6	8

Payable as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cash at time of purchase	3	6	8
First year	5	0	0
Second year	5	0	0
Third year	10	0	0
And for every one of the eleven successive years to the fourteenth year inclusive at the rate of £10 per annum.....	110	0	0
	133	6	8

And so in proportion for any greater or smaller area than 100 acres, but credit will not be given for any sum less than £15. Additional selections may be taken up provided the total area held by one selector does not exceed 220 acres. Selection by agents is not allowed.

The conditions in connection with the credit system are as follow :— The purchaser shall commence to make improvements on the expiration of one year from the date of contract, and during eight consecutive years shall expend not less than 2s. 6d. per acre per annum, under penalty of forfeiture. Any surplus over 2s. 6d. per acre spent in any year may be set against a deficiency in another year, so that £1 per acre may be spent in the eight years. In the event of improvements to the full amount being made before the expiration of the eight years, the purchaser may pay off any balance due, discount being allowed. Payment of instalments may in certain cases be postponed, but interest must be paid at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The time for making the improvements may be extended for two years in certain cases. Should instalments not be paid within sixty days after becoming due the land may be put up to auction, the defaulter having the privilege of redeeming his land up to the time of sale by payment of the amount due, with interest and costs. If land sold at auction by reason of default realises over the upset price, the excess is handed to the defaulter. Land purchased on credit is not alienable until paid for, but transfers are allowed. For five years after alienation land is liable to be resumed for mining purposes, compensation being paid to the occupier. All grant-deeds contain a reservation by the Crown of the right to mine for minerals.

Rural lands not alienated and not exempt from sale may be sold by auction. Town lands are sold only in this way. £1 per acre is the lowest upset price, and agricultural lots must not exceed 320 acres. Lands unsold by auction may be disposed of by private contract, within one year from the time of being offered at auction. No lands may be sold by private contract within 5 miles of Hobart or Launceston.

Mining areas may be proclaimed, within which land may be selected or sold by auction, in lots varying with the situation, from 1 to 10 acres if within a mile from a town, and up to 100 acres if at a greater distance. In these cases residence for five years is required ; in default the land to be forfeited to the Crown. In 1891 an Act was passed to regulate the sale or disposal of Crown lands occupied under residence or business license, or under miner's right. Under this Act such land, in areas not exceeding one-quarter acre, may be sold by auction, persons in occupation having a preferential right of private purchase at the upset price fixed by the Land Commissioner. The manner of payment is settled by the Amended Act of 1892, which requires a deposit of one-sixth of the purchase money to be made, the balance to be paid in eleven equal monthly instalments.

Land selected or bought within a mining area is open to any person in search of gold or other mineral, after notice has been given to the owner or occupier, to whom compensation may be made for damage done. Persons who occupy land in a mining town, under a business license, and who have made improvements to the value of £50, may purchase one quarter of an acre for £10.

Grazing leases of unoccupied country may be offered at auction, but such runs are liable at any time to be sold or licensed, or occupied for other than pastoral purposes. The rent is fixed by the Commissioner, and the run is put up to auction, the highest bidder receiving a lease for fourteen years. The lessee may cultivate such portion of the land as is necessary for the use of his family and establishment, but not for sale or barter. Should any portion of the run be sold or otherwise disposed of, a corresponding reduction may be made in the rent, which is payable half-yearly in advance. A lease is determinable should the rent not be paid within one month of becoming due. In the event of the land being wanted for sale or any public purpose, six months' notice must be given to the lessee, who is to receive compensation for permanent improvements. Leases of not more than fourteen years may be granted for various public purposes, such as the erection of wharfs, docks, &c. Portions of a Crown reserve may also be leased for thirty years for manufacturing purposes.

Under the Crown Lands Amendment Act of 1893 any person of the full age of 18 years, who has not purchased under the Crown Lands Act of 1890, or under the Crown Lands Amendment Act, may select and purchase one lot of rural land not more than 50 acres nor less than 15 acres; and on payment of a registration fee of £1 an authority is issued to the selector to enter upon and take possession of the land, which must be done in person within six months from the date of issue of certificate. The purchase money, which is calculated on the upset price of £1 per acre, together with the survey fee, and with one-third of the whole added for credit, is payable in fifteen annual instalments, the first of which is due in the fourth year of occupation. A condition of purchase is that the selector must expend a sum equal to £1 per acre in effecting substantial improvements (other than buildings) on the land, or reside habitually thereon for the full term of eighteen years, before a grant deed will be issued.

LAND LEGISLATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

The first establishments in New Zealand were formed upon land obtained from the various native tribes, and the task of distinguishing between the few *bona fide* and the numerous bogus claims to the

possession of land thus acquired was the first difficulty which confronted Captain Hobson when, in 1840, he assumed the government of New Zealand. Trading in land with the natives had, from 1815 to 1840, attained such proportions that the claims to be adjudicated upon covered 45,000,000 acres, the New Zealand Company, of which Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, of South Australian fame, was the managing director, claiming an estate of no less than 20,000,000 acres in area. In the year 1840, the Legislature of New South Wales passed a Bill empowering the Governor of that Colony to appoint a Commissioner to examine and report upon all claims to grants of land in New Zealand, all titles, except those allowed by Her Majesty, being declared null and void. This Bill, before receiving the Royal assent, was superseded by an Act of the local Council, passed in 1841, under which the remaining claims were settled, and new regulations were adopted for the future disposal of the Crown lands. When, later on, the Colony became divided into independent provinces, each district had its own regulations, until, in 1858, an Act was passed by the General Assembly to regulate this question, embodying in one comprehensive measure the regulations under which land could be alienated or demised in the various provinces of the Colony. The Act of 1858 was repealed by that of 1876 and its amendments, the latter having since been repealed to give way to legislation of a more liberal nature. The enactments of 1885, 1887, and 1888 which followed have been superseded by the Lands Act of 1892, under which the Crown lands are now administered. For convenience the Colony is divided into ten land districts, each being under the local direction of a commissioner and a land board.

Crown lands are divided into three classes:—1. Town and village lands, the upset prices of which are respectively not less than £20 and £3 per acre; such lands are sold by auction. 2. Suburban lands, being lands in the vicinity of any town lands, the upset price of which may not be less than £2 per acre; these lands are also sold at auction. 3. Rural lands, being lands not reserved for towns and villages, classified into first and second class lands, which may be disposed of at not less than £1 per acre for first class, and 5s. an acre for second class lands; such lands may be either sold by auction after survey, if of special value, as those covered with valuable timber, &c., or be declared open for application as hereafter described. Pastoral lands are included within the term "rural lands," and are disposed of by lease.

No rural section may be larger than 640 acres in extent if of first-class land, or 2,000 acres if of second-class land, whether it is offered by auction or granted on application; but this limit does not apply to land classified as pastoral. No person can select more than 640 acres of first-class or 2,000 acres of second-class land, inclusive of any land which he may already hold; but this proviso also does not apply to pastoral land.

414 CONDITIONS OF SELECTION ; PERPETUAL LEASES.

Crown lands may be acquired as follows :—(1) By auction, after survey, in which case one-fifth of the price must be paid down at the time of sale, and the balance, with the Crown grant fee, within thirty days ; (2) by application, after the lands have been notified as open to selection, in which case the applicant must fill up a form and make the declaration and deposit required by the particular system under which he wishes to select.

After lands have been notified as open under the optional system, they may be selected for cash, with the condition that such lands shall within seven years be improved to an amount of £1 per acre for first-class land, and 10s. an acre for second-class land. One-fifth of the price is to be paid down at the time of application and the balance within thirty days, if the land is surveyed ; or the survey-fee if the land is unsurveyed (the latter going towards the purchase of the land), and the balance within thirty days of notice that survey is completed. A certificate of occupation will issue to the purchaser on final payment, which will be exchanged for a Crown grant so soon as the Board is satisfied that the improvements mentioned above have been completed.

After notification, lands may be selected for occupation with right of purchase under a license for twenty-five years. At any time subsequent to the first ten years, and after having resided on the land and made the improvements hereafter described, the licensee can, on payment of the upset price, acquire the freehold. If not purchased after the first ten and before the expiry of the twenty-five years of the term, the license may be exchanged for a lease in perpetuity. The rent is 5 per cent. on the cash price of the land. A half-year's rent has to be paid in with the application, if for surveyed land, and this sum represents the six months' rent due in advance on the 1st day of January or July following the selection. If the land is unsurveyed, the cost of survey is to be deposited, and is credited to the selector as so much rent paid in advance, counted from the 1st day of January or July following thirty days' notice of the completion of survey. Residence on and improvement of the land are compulsory, as hereafter described.

Lands notified under the optional system may be selected on a lease for 999 years (or in perpetuity), subject to the conditions of residence and improvements hereafter described. The rental is 4 per cent. on the cash price of the land. The application must be accompanied by half a year's rent, which, in the case of surveyed lands, represents that due on the 1st day of January or July following the date of selection. In the case of unsurveyed lands, the cost of survey must be deposited, and is credited to the selector as so much rent paid in advance, dating from the 1st day of January or July after thirty days' notice of completion of survey. Two or more persons may make a joint application to hold as tenants in common under either of the two last-named tenures.

Under all systems—excepting cash purchases, or pastoral and small grazing-run leases—residence and improvements are the same. Residence is compulsory (with a few exceptions mentioned in the Act), and must commence on bush or swamp lands within four years, and on open or partly open land within one year, from the date of selection. On lands occupied with a right of purchase, such residence must be continuous for six years in the case of bush or swamp land, and for seven years in the case of open or partly open land ; on lease-in-perpetuity lands residence must be continuous for a term of ten years. The Board has power to dispense with residence in certain cases, such as where the selector resides on adjacent lands, or is a youth or an unmarried woman living with his or her parents. The term “residence” includes the erection of a habitable house to be approved of by the Board.

Improvements are the same for all classes of land—excepting cash purchases or pastoral and small grazing-run leases—and are as follow :—

- (1.) Within one year from the date of the license or lease the land must be improved to an amount equal to 10 per cent. of its value.
- (2.) Within two years the land must be improved to the amount of another 10 per cent.
- (3.) Within six years the land must be improved to the value of another 10 per cent., making 30 per cent. in all within the six years.
- (4.) In addition to the foregoing, the land must be further improved to the amount of £1 an acre for first-class land, and for second-class land to an amount equal to the net price of the land, but not more than 10s. an acre. The term “improvements” includes the reclamation of swamps, clearing of bush, cultivation, planting of trees, making of hedges, cultivation of gardens, fencing, draining, making of roads, wells, water-tanks, water-races, sheep-dips, embankments or protective works, or the effecting of any improvement in the character or fertility of the soil, or the erection of any building, &c. ; and the term “cultivation” includes the clearing of land for cropping, or clearing and ploughing for laying down artificial grasses, &c.

Under the existing regulations any number of persons, not less than twelve, may apply for a block of land of not less than 1,000 acres nor more than 11,000 acres in extent, but the number of members shall be such that there shall be one for every 200 acres in the block, and no one may hold more than 320 acres, except of swamp lands, when the area may be 500 acres. The price of lands within a special settlement is fixed by special valuation, being not less than 10s. an acre ; the rental is not less than 4 per cent. on the capital value of the land, and the tenure a lease in perpetuity. Residence, occupation, and improvements are generally the same as already described, and applications have to be made in manner to be prescribed by the regulations.

Village settlements are disposed of under regulations made from time to time by the Governor, but the main features are as follow :—

Such settlements may be divided into—(1.) Village allotments not

exceeding one acre each, which are disposed of either by auction amongst the applicants, or by application as already described, with option of tenure, the cash price being not less than £3 per allotment; (2.) Homestead allotments not exceeding 100 acres each, which are leased in perpetuity at a 4-per-cent. rental on a capital value of not less than 10s. per acre. Residence, improvements, and applications are the same as already described. The leases are exempt from liability to be seized or sold for debt or bankruptcy. The Governor is empowered in certain cases, and under regulation, to advance small sums for the purpose of enabling selectors to profitably occupy their allotments.

Small grazing runs are divided into two classes: first class, in which they do not exceed 5,000 acres; and second class, in which they do not exceed 20,000 acres in area. The rental in both cases is not less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the capital value per acre. Small grazing runs are leased for terms of twenty-one years, with right of renewal for a like term, at a rent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of the land. The runs are declared open for selection, and applications and declarations on the forms provided have to be filled in and left at the Lands Office, together with the deposit of one half year's rent, which represents that due on the 1st day of March or September following the selection. A selector of a small grazing run may not hold more than one such run, nor may he hold any freehold or leasehold land of any kind whatever over 1,000 acres in area exclusive of the area he applies for under this system. The lease entitles the holder to the grazing rights and to the cultivation of any part of the run, and to the reservation of 150 acres around his homestead through which no road may be taken; but the runs are subject to the mining laws. Residence is compulsory, on bush or swamp land, within three years, and on open land, within one year; and it must be continuous to the end of the term, though this latter condition may in certain cases be relaxed. Improvements are necessary as follow:—Within the first year, to the amount of one year's rent; within the second year, to the amount of another year's rent; and within the next six years to the value of two years' rent; making a sum equal to four years' rental to be spent on the run in six years. In addition to this, first-class runs must be improved to an amount of 10s. an acre, and second-class runs to an amount of 5s., if the runs are under bush. After three years' compliance with the conditions, these runs may be divided among the members of the selector's family.

Purely pastoral country is let by auction for varying terms not exceeding twenty-one years; but, except in extraordinary circumstances, no run can be of a carrying capacity greater than 20,000 sheep, or 4,000 head of cattle. Runs are classified from time to time, by special commissioners, into those which are suitable for carrying more than 5,000 sheep (let as above), and into pastoral-agricultural country, which may be either let as pastoral runs, generally for short terms, or be cut

up for settlement in some form. Leases of pastoral-agricultural lands may be resumed at any time after twelve months' notice without compensation. No one can hold more than one run unless it possesses a smaller carrying capacity than 10,000 sheep, in which case he may hold additional country up to that limit. Runs are offered at auction from time to time, and half a year's rent has to be paid down at the time of sale, which represents that due in advance on the 1st March or September following the sale, and the purchaser has to make the declaration required by the Act. All leases begin on the 1st March; they entitle the holder to the grazing rights, but not to the soil, timber, or minerals; and the lease terminates at any part of the run which may be leased for another purpose, purchased or reserved. The tenant has to prevent the burning of timber or bush, and the growth of gorse, broom or sweet-briar, and to destroy the rabbits on his run. With the consent of the Land Board, the interest in a run may be transferred or mortgaged, but power of sale under a mortgage must be exercised within two years. In case it is determined to again lease any run on expiry of the lease, it must be offered at auction twelve months before the end of the term, and if, on leasing, it shall be purchased by some person other than the previous lessee, valuation for improvements, to be made by an appraiser, shall be paid by the incoming tenant, but to a value not greater than three times the annual rent, except in the case of a rabbit-proof fence, which is valued separately. Runs may also be divided with the approval of the Land Board.

Three Acts dealing with the lands of the Colony were passed by the New Zealand Parliament during 1893, viz. :—An “Act to provide a Court of Inquiry into Purchases and Leases of Native Lands”; an “Act to authorise the acquisition of Land owned by Natives for the purpose of Land Settlement”; and the “Land Act Amendment Act, 1893.” The last-named Act makes some slight amendments, which for the greater part are merely verbal, in the Land Act of 1892; while the Act dealing with the acquisition of native lands gives authority to the Government to acquire portions, as gazetted, of 7,000,000 acres of waste lands, principally in the North Island, owned by natives. Such lands may either be sold and conveyed to Her Majesty at the value fixed by the Native Land Purchase Board, to be established under the Act, or disposed of by lease under the provisions of the Land Act of 1892.

AUSTRALASIAN SETTLEMENT.

The particulars given in the foregoing pages will have made the fact abundantly clear that the main object of the land legislation, however variously expressed, has been to secure the settlement of the

public estate by an industrious class, who, confining their efforts to areas of moderate extent, would thoroughly develop the resources of the land. But where the character of the country does not favour agricultural occupation or mixed farming, the laws contemplated that the State lands should be leased in blocks of considerable size for pastoral occupation, and it was hoped that, by this form of settlement, vast tracts, which when first opened up seemed ill-adapted even for the sustenance of live stock, might be ultimately made available for industrial settlement. To how small an extent the express determination of the legislators to settle an industrious peasantry on the soil was accomplished will presently be illustrated from the records of several of the provinces; but in regard to pastoral settlement the purpose was fully achieved—large areas, pronounced by even experienced explorers to be uninhabitable wilds, have since been occupied by thriving flocks, and every year sees the great Australian desert of the early explorers receding step by step. The following statement shows the area of land alienated by each province, the area leased, and the area neither alienated nor leased at the close of 1893. The term “alienated” is used for the purpose of denoting that the figures include lands granted without purchase. The area so disposed of has not been inconsiderable in several provinces:—

Colony.	Area.	Area alienated or in process of alienation.	Area leased.	Area neither alienated nor leased.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
New South Wales	198,848,000	44,352,937	127,092,070	27,402,993
Victoria	56,245,760	24,471,993	15,070,974	16,702,793
Queensland	427,838,100	13,788,127	281,316,885	132,733,088
South Australia, south of 26° S.L.	243,244,800	8,358,612	103,813,038	131,073,150
Northern Territory	335,116,800	477,211	57,367,680	277,271,909
Western Australia	678,400,000	7,844,338	93,237,728	577,317,934
Tasmania	16,778,000	4,785,172	651,903	11,340,925
New Zealand	66,861,440	21,137,601	14,410,111	31,313,728
Australasia	2,023,332,900	125,215,991	692,960,389	1,205,156,520

The proportion which these figures bear to the total area of each Colony is shown below :—

Colony.	Area alienated or in process of alienation.	Area leased.	Area neither alienated nor leased.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
New South Wales	22·3	63·9	13·8
Victoria	43·5	26·8	29·7
Queensland	3·2	65·8	31·0
South Australia, south of 26° S.L.	3·4	42·7	53·9
Northern Territory	0·1	17·1	82·8
Western Australia	1·2	13·7	85·1
Tasmania	28·5	3·9	67·6
New Zealand	31·6	21·6	46·8
Australasia	6·2	34·2	59·6

The figures in the foregoing table disclose many grounds for congratulation. Of 2,023 million acres which comprise the area of Australasia, 818 millions, or 40·4 per cent., are under occupation for productive purposes, and there is every probability that this area will be greatly added to in the near future. New South Wales shows the least area returning no revenue, for out of nearly 200 million acres only 27 millions remain unoccupied, and much of this is represented by lands which the State has reserved from occupation, and which are used for travelling stock or for various public purposes, including lands reserved for future settlement along the track of the great trunk line of railways. The Colony of Tasmania has 68 per cent. of its area unoccupied, the western part of the island being so rugged as to forbid settlement. New Zealand favoured also with a beneficent climate, has nearly half its area not utilised, a circumstance entirely due to the mountainous character of its territory. Settlement in Western Australia is only in its initial stage ; much of the area of the Colony is practically unknown, and much of what is known is thought to be little worth settlement. Much the same thing was confidently predicted of western New South Wales and South Australia, though, as subsequent events proved, the forebodings were untrue. In South Australia proper—that is, south of the 26th degree of south latitude—only 46 per cent. is in occupation ; and in the Northern Territory, only 17 per cent. The practice of sales by auction without conditions of settlement was a necessary part of the system of land legislation which prevailed in most of the Colonies ; but this ready means of raising revenue offered the temptation to the Governments, where land was freely saleable, to obtain revenue in an easy fashion. The result of the system was not

long in making itself felt, for pastoralists and others desirous of accumulating large estates were able to take advantage of such sales, and of the ready manner in which transfers of land conditionally purchased could be made, to acquire large holdings, and in this manner the obvious intentions of the Lands Acts were defeated. Notwithstanding failures in this respect, the Acts have otherwise been successful, as will appear from the following table, as well as other pages in this volume. It is unfortunate that detailed information regarding settlement can only be given for three of the Colonies, viz., New South Wales, South Australia, and New Zealand. The information given for New South Wales in the table refers to the year 1893; and for South Australia and New Zealand, to the Census year of 1891 :—

Size of Holdings.	New South Wales.		South Australia.		New Zealand.	
	Number of Holdings.	Area of Holdings.	Number of Holdings.	Area of Holdings.	Number of Holdings.	Area of Holdings.
		Acres.		Acres.		Acres.
1 to. 100 acres	25,861	911,444	6,804	183,443	25,623	742,446
101 to 1,000 acres	23,342	8,227,206	10,618	4,711,060	15,890	4,818,277
1,001 to 5,000 acres	4,055	8,321,068	2,394	4,623,937	1,675	3,425,185
5,001 to 20,000 acres	832	8,560,260	481	4,737,253	436	4,468,203
20,001 acres and upwards	338	17,627,413	58	1,974,095	148	5,943,418
Totals	54,428	43,677,481	20,355	16,230,688	43,777	19,397,529

Out of the 43,677,481 acres set down to New South Wales in the foregoing, 39,251,547 acres are in the actual occupation of the owners, and 4,425,934 acres are held under rent. In New Zealand the proportion of rented land is much greater; the area occupied by the owners is 12,410,242 acres, while the proportion rented is 6,987,287, or 36 per cent. In South Australia only 5,510,289 acres are occupied by the owners, while 10,720,399 acres, or 66 per cent., are rented. The most remarkable feature of the table is that in New South Wales more than half the alienated land is owned by 672 persons, while in New Zealand 584 persons own considerably more than one half. In South Australia 1,283 persons own half the alienated land.

FOOD SUPPLY AND COST OF LIVING.

CONSIDERING the comparatively high rate of wages which prevails, food of all kinds is fairly cheap, and articles of diet which in other countries are almost within the category of luxuries, are largely used, even by the poorer classes. The average quantities of the principal articles of common diet annually consumed in the various Colonies of Australasia are given below :—

Article.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.	Australasia.
Grain—								
Wheat .....lb.	390·0	300·0	246·0	390·0	390·0	362·0	454·0	334·0
Rice .....lb.	11·8	7·1	19·0	12·3	25·2	8·2	8·6	10·7
Oatmeal .....lb.	4·2	6·0	4·3	4·3	4·9	...	...	4·9
Potatoes .....lb.	206·5	353·0	281·0	205·0	99·7	550·0	461·0	305·0
Sugar .....lb.	93·5	90·8	80·0	96·3	106·2	87·0	86·8	91·2
Tea .....lb.	7·8	7·7	8·4	6·5	10·6	6·7	6·2	7·3
Coffee .....oz.	11·5	17·4	10·4	21·9	24·2	10·2	9·2	13·4
Cheese .....lb.	5·2	2·8	...	...	...	...	..	4·0
Butter .....lb.	16·7	14·6	...	...	...	...	...	15·7
Salt .....lb.	43·8	21·0	51·5	...	19·4	22·2	33·9	36·5
Meat—								
Beef .....lb.	176·8	155·0	280·0	...	...	60·0	90·0	161·1
Mutton .....lb.	104·8	98·0	90·0	...	...	150·0	110·0	103·7
Pork and bacon ... lb.	9·5	12·0	...	...	...	...	...	10·8

It will be seen that the consumption of wheat varies from 246 lb. in Queensland to 454 lb. in New Zealand, the average consumption being 334 lb. per head. Rice varies greatly in the quantity used, only 7·1 lb. being the consumption of Victoria as against 25·2 lb. in Western Australia. The consumption of oatmeal does not vary much, but it is larger in Victoria than in the other Colonies. The use of tea is universal in Australia, the consumption being largest in Western Australia and Queensland, with 10·6 lb. and 8·4 lb. respectively. Sugar also enters

largely into consumption, the average being 93·5 lb. per head in New South Wales and 90·8 lb. in Victoria. Coffee is not a universal beverage in Australasia, the consumption being a little more than one-ninth that of tea. It is used most largely in South Australia and Western Australia, where the annual demand amounts to 21·9 oz. and 24·2 oz. respectively.

The consumption per head of potatoes in some of the Colonies is probably less than the foregoing table shows; thus, in the case of Tasmania, the return shows a consumption of 550 lb.; and in New Zealand, of 461 lb. It is probable that potatoes are in some years grown in excess of the local requirements, and the market in New South Wales and other continental Colonies not being sufficient to absorb this excess, it remains unconsumed or is given to live stock and poultry. Under these circumstances, it is impossible to determine with exactitude the quantity entering into the food consumption of the population.

The consumption of meat has been ascertained with exactness for only five Colonies, but these may be taken as fairly representing the whole group. The average quantity of beef consumed in the year amounts to 161·1 lb. per head; that of mutton, to 103·7 lb.; and that of pork, 10·8 lb.; in all, 275·6 lb. It would appear that each inhabitant of these Colonies requires daily about three-quarters of a pound of meat, and that during the year two sheep are killed for each member of the community, and one bullock to every five persons. It is obvious, therefore, that much meat must be wasted.

The quantity of meat used by the Australasian people, as shown by the above figures, is the most remarkable feature of their diet. The consumption per inhabitant in Germany is 64 lb.; in Australia it is four times that quantity; while in the United States, a meat exporting country, the consumption is little more than half that of Australasia. The following table shows the meat consumption per head for the principal countries of the world:—

Country.	Lb. per Inhabitant.	Country.	Lb. per Inhabitant.
Great Britain	109	Holland	57
France	77	Sweden	62
Germany	64	Norway	78
Russia	51	Denmark	64
Austria	61	Switzerland	62
Italy	26	United States	150
Spain	71	Canada	90
Belgium	65	Australasia	276

Judged by the standard of the food consumed, the lot of the population of Australasia must appear far more tolerable than that of the

people of most other countries: This will most clearly appear from the following table, the particulars given in which, with the exception of the figures referring to Australasia, have been taken from Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics:—

Country.	Lb. per Inhabitant.						Tea and Coffee— Oz.	Daily Energy— Foot tons.
	Grain.	Meat.	Sugar.	Butter and Cheese.	Potatoes.	Salt.		
United Kingdom	378	109	75	19	380	40	91	3,739
France	540	77	20	8	570	20	66	3,993
Germany	550	64	18	8	1,020	17	78	4,708
Russia	635	51	11	5	180	19	6	3,532
Austria	460	61	18	7	560	14	28	3,502
Italy	400	26	8	4	50	18	20	2,152
Spain	480	71	6	3	20	17	6	2,597
Portugal	500	49	12	3	40	17	18	2,659
Sweden	560	62	22	11	500	28	112	4,012
Norway	440	78	13	14	500	40	144	3,627
Denmark	560	64	22	22	410	25	140	4,071
Holland	560	57	35	15	820	20	240	4,635
Belgium	590	65	27	15	1,050	...	142	5,034
Switzerland	440	62	26	11	140	...	110	2,766
Roumania	400	82	4	9	80	...	8	2,414
Servia	400	84	4	9	80	...	8	2,422
United States	370	150	53	20	170	39	162	3,415
Canada	400	90	45	22	600	40	72	4,013
Australasia	350	276	91	20	305	36·5	127	4,470

Taking the articles of the foregoing list, with the exception of tea and coffee, and reducing them to a common basis of comparison, it will be found that the amount of thermo-dynamic power capable of being generated by the food consumed in Australasia is only exceeded by that of Germany, Holland, and Belgium. For the purpose of comparison the figures of Dr. Edward Smith, F.R.S., in his well known work on Foods, have been used, and the heat developed has been reduced to the equivalent weight lifted 1 foot high. In estimating the thermo-dynamic effect of food, grain has been reduced to its equivalent in flour, and regard has been paid to the probable nature of the meat consumed. The figures for potatoes are given as they appear in the Dictionary of Statistics; but it is a probable supposition that but a small proportion of the quantity over 400 lb. set down for any country is required for human consumption, and the figures relating to some of the countries—notably the three just mentioned—are therefore excessive. The substances included in this table are largely supplemented both in America and Europe by other foods, but not more so than in these Colonies; and in the table

just given will probably be found a just view of the comparative quantity and food value of the articles of consumption in each of the countries mentioned. To make such a comparison perfectly just, the average amount of work which each individual in the community is called upon to perform should be taken into consideration. In Australasia the proportion of women and children engaged in laborious occupations is far smaller than in Europe and America, and the hours of labour of all persons are also less, so that the amount of food-energy required is reduced in proportion.

In Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics, under the heading of "Diet," is given a measure of the aggregate amount of work performed by persons doing physical and mental labour, and it would appear that the food of an average man, when burnt in the body, should be equal to at least 3,300 foot tons of work daily; that of a woman, 2,200; and of a child, 1,100 foot tons. For Australasia the average of all persons would be about 2,125 foot tons, whereas, from the table just given, the amount of work which the daily food consumed by each individual in the Colonies from the principal foods consumed is equivalent to, is not less than 4,470 foot tons.

It must be admitted, however, that the method of comparison adopted in the foregoing table is not entirely satisfactory, as the different functions of various kinds of food have not been considered. Experiments and observations made in Europe show that a standard may be set up, by which the amount of nutrients required to maintain different classes of people may be measured. Professor Voit, of Munich, whose authority is accepted by European specialists, has ascertained that to sustain a labouring man engaged in moderately hard muscular work are required 118 grams of protein, and quantities of carbo-hydrates and fats, sufficient with the protein to yield 3,050 calories of energy. There are 454 grams in a pound avoirdupois, and the calorie is the amount of heat that would raise the temperature of 4 lb. of water 1° Fahrenheit. Applying the ascertained values of the various foods, the consumption of which has just been given, it will be found that the daily consumption per inhabitant is equivalent to 115 grams of protein and 3,494 calories, or about the quantity Professor Voit declares to be sufficient for a labouring man. If allowance be made for the fact that only 40 per cent. of the population are adult males, 33 per cent. women, and 27 per cent. children, the quantity of food consumed in New South Wales would appear to be far in excess of the actual requirements of the population, and though the excess may be looked upon as waste, it is none the less evidence of the wealth of the people whose circumstances permit them them to indulge in it.

The following table, in which the figures for Australasia are calculated for the five years ended with 1892, while those for other countries are taken from an article in the "Journal de la Société de Statistique de Paris," gives the annual consumption of tobacco in Australasia and

the principal countries of the world. The use of tobacco appears to be more prevalent in Western Australia and New South Wales than in any of the other Colonies, while the least consumption is in South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. Compared with other parts of the world, the average consumption of Australasia will not appear excessive :—

Country.	Lb.	Country.	Lb.
Australasia	2·83	Finland.....	2·73
New South Wales	3·38	Austria-Hungary	2·73
Victoria	3·01	Italy	1·28
Queensland	2·83	Spain.....	1·10
South Australia	1·94	Holland	6·92
Western Australia	3·82	Belgium	3·15
Tasmania	2·02	Switzerland	3·24
New Zealand	2·09	Sweden	1·87
United Kingdom	1·38	Denmark	2·24
France.....	2·05	Norway	2·29
Germany.....	3·00	United States	4·40
Russia.....	1·82	Canada	2·11

Taking Australasia as a whole, it compares very favourably with most of the European countries in the quantity of intoxicants annually consumed by each inhabitant, as the following statement shows. The figures, which are reduced to gallons of proof spirit from data given in Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics, would look even more favourable to Australasia were the fact of the large preponderance of males over females in these Colonies made a feature in the comparison :—

Country.	Consumption.	Country.	Consumption.
	gallons.		gallons.
United Kingdom	3·57	Portugal	3·00
France	5·10	Holland	4·00
Germany	3·08	Belgium	4·00
Russia.....	2·02	Denmark	5·00
Austria	2·80	Scandinavia.....	4·36
Italy	3·40	United States	2·65
Spain	2·85	Australasia	2·20

The following table shows the consumption for all the Colonies during the year 1893, except in the case of Western Australia and Tasmania, where the figures refer to the year 1892. In the case of South Australia and Western Australia, whence no returns relating to breweries are

obtainable, the consumption of beer has been assumed to be the average of the other five Colonies :—

Colony.	Spirits.		Wine.		Beer, &c.		Equivalent in Alcohol (proof) per inhabitant.
	Total.	Per inhabitant.	Total.	Per inhabitant.	Total.	Per inhabitant.	
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
New South Wales.	999,984	0·83	1,019,130	0·84	11,178,264	9·23	2·30
Victoria	793,947	0·68	1,026,573	0·88	13,198,119	11·27	2·41
Queensland	405,316	0·95	237,078	0·56	3,591,891	8·42	2·21
South Australia ...	150,055	0·44	341,398	1·00	3,257,988	9·53	1·97
Western Australia.	86,865	1·55	113,816	2·23	589,747	9·53	3·45
Tasmania	78,953	0·52	19,891	0·13	1,443,016	9·44	1·78
New Zealand	461,283	0·70	112,105	0·17	5,102,276	7·71	1·74
Total and Means	2,976,403	0·74	2,869,991	0·71	38,361,301	9·53	2·20

The largest consumption of spirits per inhabitant is in Western Australia, Queensland being second. Wine is used most freely in Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria, and beer in the Colony of Victoria. The average consumption of alcohol in all the Colonies amounts to 2·20 gallons of proof spirit per inhabitant, ranging from 3·45 gallons in Western Australia to 1·74 gallons in New Zealand. There has been a great diminution in the quantity of alcohol consumed in the Australasian Colonies during the last few years. In 1889 the average consumption was 2·82 gallons of proof alcohol; in 1890 it was 2·90 gallons; in 1891, 2·93 gallons; in 1892 it fell to 2·62 gallons; and in 1893, still further to 2·20 gallons.

It is popularly supposed that Australian wines and beers are not heavily charged with spirit as compared with the imported articles; this belief is erroneous. Several descriptions of Australian wines have a natural strength of 30 per cent. of proof spirit, while from analyses recently made it would appear that the strength of these wines offered for sale varies from 24 to 37 per cent. of spirit. On the same authority it was stated that imported beers ranged from 13·88 to 15·42 per cent. in the case of English, and from 9·58 to 11·76 per cent. of proof spirit

in Lager, while the local manufacture varied according to the make from 11·21 to 15·12, the average being 13·75 per cent. It is generally understood, however, that since the imposition of excise duties on colonial beer in New South Wales in 1887, the strength of the article has been somewhat reduced in that Colony, and does not average more than 13 per cent. of proof spirit.

COST OF LIVING.

Sufficient data are not available to enable a calculation to be made of the cost of living in all the Colonies, but with the materials to hand an estimate can be arrived at for New South Wales. In the year 1892 an estimate was made of the yearly expenditure of the population of that Colony, and it was found that it amounted to £55,445,000. Since the year named there has been a shrinkage of incomes and a falling-off in the consumption of articles of luxury, so that the expenditure just given may be excessive when compared with that of the year 1893. The distribution of this expenditure, together with the rates per inhabitant, is shown below :—

	Total Expenditure. £	Per Inhabitant. £ s. d.
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	17,228,300	14 11 6½
Fermented and spirituous liquors	4,512,200	3 16 4½
Tobacco	1,414,300	1 3 11½
Clothing and drapery	8,391,600	7 2 0
Furniture	805,900	0 13 7½
Rent or value of buildings used as dwellings ...	6,726,700	5 13 10
Locomotion	1,705,600	1 8 10½
Fuel and light	1,797,300	1 10 5
Personal attendance, service, and lodging	3,318,000	2 16 3½
Medical attendance, medicine, and nursing.....	1,427,800	1 4 2
Religion, charities, education (not including State expenditure)	716,400	0 12 1½
Art and amusement	1,595,900	1 7 2
Books, newspapers, &c.	765,400	0 12 11½
Postage and telegrams, direct taxation	743,100	0 12 7
Household expenses not included elsewhere	2,814,600	2 7 7½
Miscellaneous expenses	1,482,000	1 5 1
	<u>£55,445,100</u>	<u>46 18 7</u>

The conditions of life and the standard of living are much the same in all the Colonies, but it would undoubtedly be incorrect to assume that the average expenditure throughout Australasia is equal to that of New South Wales. Making an arbitrary reduction on the New

South Wales rates of 10 per cent. for the other Colonies, the expenditure for Australasia would be as follows:—

	Total Expenditure. £	Per Inhabitant. £ s. d.
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	53,448,800	13 11 2½
Fermented and spirituous liquors	13,998,600	3 11 0½
Tobacco	4,387,700	1 2 3½
Clothing and drapery	26,033,900	6 12 1
Furniture.....	2,500,200	0 12 8½
Rent or value of buildings used as dwellings	20,868,800	5 5 10½
Locomotion.....	5,291,400	1 6 10½
Fuel and light.....	5,575,900	1 8 3½
Personal attendance, service, and lodging	10,294,200	2 12 3
Medical attendance, medicine, and nursing.....	4,429,600	1 2 5½
Religion, charities, education (not including State expenditure)	2,222,500	0 11 3½
Art and amusement	4,974,400	1 5 2½
Books, newspapers, &c.	2,374,600	0 12 0½
Postage and telegrams, direct taxation.....	2,305,400	0 11 8½
Household expenses not included elsewhere.....	8,731,900	2 4 3½
Miscellaneous expenses.....	4,597,700	1 3 4
	£172,035,600	43 12 10

The expenditure in New South Wales for the year given amounted to £46 18s. 7d. per head, or at the rate of 2s. 6¾d. per day. The daily expenditure may be thus distributed:—

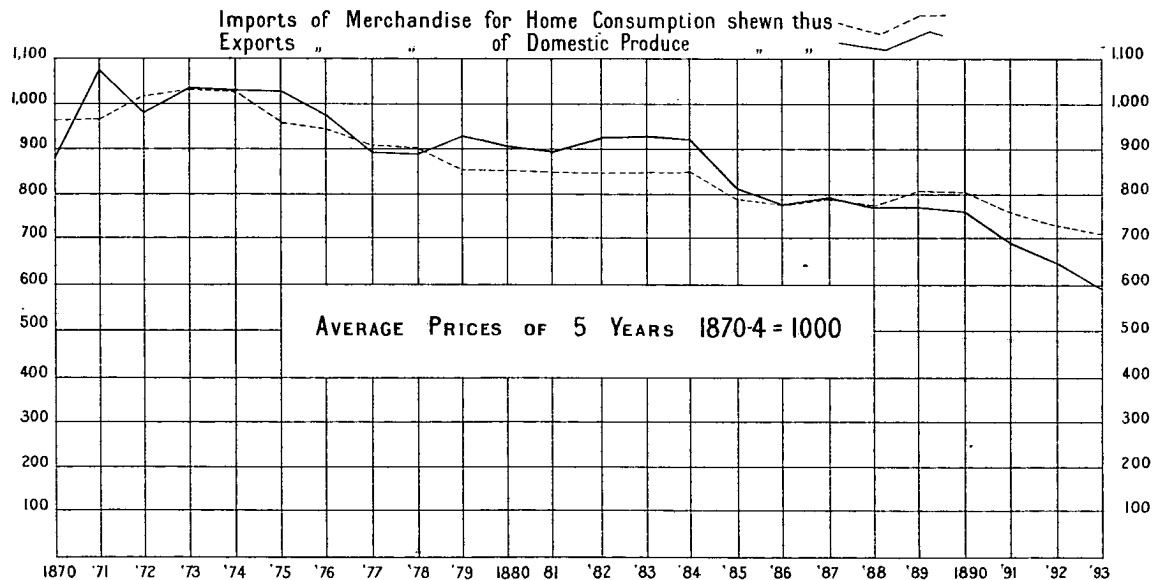
	Pence per day.	Proportion of Expenditure.
Food	9·6	31·1
Clothing	4·7	15·1
Rent	3·7	12·1
Direct taxes	0·4	1·4
Sundries	12·4	40·3
	30·8	100·0

According to Mulhall, the expenditure per inhabitant in the leading countries of Europe and in the United States is:—

Country.	Expenditure per Inhabitant.	Country.	Expenditure per Inhabitant.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
United Kingdom.....	29 14 9	Norway	19 0 0
France	23 19 4	Denmark.....	28 11 5
Germany	20 3 4	Holland	20 17 4
Russia	10 1 11	Belgium	25 8 2
Austria	14 4 9	Switzerland	18 0 0
Italy	11 11 0	United States	32 16 2
Spain	15 12 6	Canada	23 6 2
Portugal	11 5 6		
Sweden	20 8 4	Australasia	43 12 10

PRICE LEVEL

IMPORTS & EXPORTS



The table just given affords but a partial view of the question of the cost of living; for if the total earnings of the countries above enumerated be considered as an element of comparison, it will be found that few countries approach New South Wales in the small proportion of income absorbed in providing food for the people. The following table, given on the same authority as the preceding, shows that, while the actual cost of food and drink is £18 7s. 11d. in this Colony, and £17 2s. 3d. in Australasia, as against £14 4s. 9d. in Great Britain, the earnings required to pay for this food are not larger proportionately than in the countries which show most favourably in the table. The number of working days in the year is assumed to be 300, allowing for thirteen days' sickness and fifty-two Sundays :—

Country.	Average annual cost of food and beverage.	Ratio of cost of food to earnings.	Day's earnings equal to annual cost of food.
	£ s. d.	per cent.	days.
United Kingdom	14 4 9	42·2	127
France	12 4 5	44·0	142
Germany	10 18 5	49·1	148
Russia	5 19 7	52·0	156
Austria	7 17 4	50·8	152
Italy	6 4 10	51·2	153
Spain	8 9 0	51·2	154
Portugal	7 3 0	59·1	177
Sweden	9 18 11	45·2	136
Norway	9 15 0	47·6	143
Denmark	11 14 0	36·0	108
Holland	10 8 0	46·0	138
Belgium	12 3 1	43·4	130
Switzerland	8 11 7	45·2	135
United States	9 17 7	25·3	76
Canada	8 9 0	32·5	28
Australasia	17 2 3	32·8	98

PRICE LEVELS.

The following tables have been compiled with the object of showing to what extent the Colonies have been affected by the general fall in the prices of commodities during the past twenty-four years. The figures refer to New South Wales alone, but they may be accepted as also indicating in a fairly accurate degree the position in which the other provinces of Australasia stand in regard to this matter. The total value of the exports of each of the Colonies is greatly affected by the prices obtained for certain leading lines of raw produce, of which, in the case of New South Wales, wool, silver, and coal are the most important. In the subjoined table the price-level of domestic exports of the Colony is given for twenty-four years, beginning with 1870. In order to

ascertain the price-level, all the principal articles of domestic produce exported have been taken, the prices of 1893 have been applied to the quantities of each of the other years, and the result has been compared with the actual total of such year, the level of the year being found by dividing the actual value into the value which would have been obtained had the prices of 1893 prevailed. The average for 1893 is assumed to be 1,000, the price levels or index numbers of the other years being as shown in the following table. In order to further facilitate comparison of different years, the average of the five years 1870-74 has been assumed to be 1,000, and the prices of other years have been adjusted to that basis. In compiling the price-level for exports, only articles of insignificant value have been omitted from consideration, and in no year does the value of articles included form less than 85 per cent. of the total exports, while in some years the proportion rises as high as 95 per cent., the average of all years being above 90 per cent. It is considered that this system enables a truer estimate of the relative prices to be obtained than that of selecting the prices of certain articles without giving due weight to the quantities of such articles exported :—

EXPORTS.

Year.	Price-Level		Year.	Price-Level.	
	1870-4 prices = 1,000.	1893 prices = 1,000.		1870-4 prices = 1,000.	1893 prices = 1,000.
1870.....	879	1,489	1882	919	1,556
1871.....	1,075	1,822	1883.....	926	1,568
1872.....	980	1,660	1884.....	919	1,556
1873.....	1,038	1,758	1885.....	806	1,366
1874.....	1,028	1,743	1886.....	775	1,313
1875.....	1,027	1,739	1887.....	797	1,350
1876.....	972	1,646	1888.....	773	1,310
1877.....	891	1,509	1889.....	785	1,330
1878.....	887	1,503	1890.....	758	1,284
1879.....	921	1,561	1891.....	689	1,167
1880.....	903	1,530	1892.....	652	1,105
1881.....	897	1,520	1893.....	590	1,000

The years comprised in the foregoing table divide themselves into four periods. From 1870 to 1876 the average level at 1870-4 prices was 1,000; in 1877 prices fell, and for the next eight years averaged about 908; in 1885 prices again experienced a heavy fall, averaging for six years 782; and since 1890 there has been a further fall, so that the index number for 1893 is 590, being actually the lowest touched during over forty years.

It will be seen that the purchasing power of money has steadily increased since 1870-4, so that 20s. in 1893 would purchase the same

articles of domestic export which in 1884 would have cost 31s., and in 1875, 35s. From this it must not be inferred that New South Wales has been altogether a loser by the fall in the prices of its exports, because the power of those exports to purchase imports must also be taken into consideration. It will, therefore, be necessary to consider also the price-levels of imports. These are given for the same years and in the same manner as the price-levels for the exports shown in the preceding table :—

IMPORTS.

Year.	Price-Level.		Year.	Price-Level.	
	1870-4 prices = 1,000.	1893 prices = 1,000.		1870-4 prices = 1,000.	1893 prices = 1,000.
1870.....	966	1,365	1882.....	855	1,207
1871.....	970	1,370	1883.....	859	1,227
1872.....	1,014	1,430	1884.....	862	1,217
1873.....	1,030	1,455	1885.....	790	1,117
1874.....	1,020	1,441	1886.....	776	1,096
1875.....	962	1,360	1887.....	783	1,106
1876.....	944	1,333	1888.....	779	1,100
1877.....	908	1,283	1889.....	812	1,146
1878.....	900	1,272	1890.....	804	1,136
1879.....	862	1,218	1891.....	767	1,084
1880.....	868	1,226	1892.....	736	1,040
1881.....	859	1,214	1893.....	708	1,000

It may be said generally that the fall in prices was somewhat in favour of the exports up to the year 1889. Since then the exports have fallen away on the average values at a much more rapid rate than the imports. A clearer view of the operation of the fall in prices will be obtained from the table which is given below, showing the price-levels of imports of merchandise for home consumption and exports of domestic produce, for periods of five years, with the relative fall per cent. :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Period.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Average of five years, 1870-4, prices = 1,000.	Decline in prices in five years, per cent.	Average of five years, 1870-4, prices = 1,000.	Decline in prices in five years, per cent.
1870-74	1,000	.....	1,000	.....
1875-79	915	8.5	940	6.0
1880-84	861	5.9	913	2.9
1885-89	787	8.5	787	13.8
1890-93	754	4.3	672	14.6

It will be seen that, assuming the index number of the five years, 1870-4, to be 1,000, the fall in the succeeding five years was 8·5 per cent. for the imports, as compared with 6 per cent. for the exports. The average value of the imports for the five years ending with 1884 was 5·9 per cent. less than in the preceding quinquennial period, whereas the difference in the value of the exports was 2·9 per cent. During the next five years the average value of the imports declined 8·5 per cent., while the fall in the value of the exports was no less than 13·8 per cent., so that the index number for 1885-89 for both imports and exports was the same figure—787. As already mentioned, the fall for the period which has since elapsed has been much more heavy in regard to the exports than the imports.

New South Wales, in common with the other Australian Colonies, is chiefly affected by the fall in prices because it is a debtor country. In chapter "Accumulation" of this volume will be found certain calculations showing that the annual charge payable by the State on its indebtedness to British creditors is £1,850,000, while the earnings of investments made in the Colony by private persons, or drawn by absentees, amount to £3,250,000 per annum. As the whole of the interest on Government and Municipal loans has to be paid by exports, irrespective of the fall in prices, and as a large portion also of the interest payable to private investors is in the same category, the fall is a matter of very serious importance to these Colonies, viewed as debtor States. Fortunately the increase of production, as compared with the population, has been so great in New South Wales as to counteract the fall in prices; but it is hardly possible to believe that the probable increase of production will compensate the Colony for a continued fall at the alarming rate of the past four years.



APPENDIX.

AUSTRALASIAN STATISTICS,

1861-1893.

APPENDIX.

AUSTRALASIAN STATISTICS, 1861 TO
1892-1893.

Population on 31st December of each year.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales.....	357,978	517,758	782,080	1,165,300	1,223,370
Victoria	541,800	747,412	879,886	1,157,678	1,174,022
Queensland	34,367	125,146	226,968	410,330	432,299
South Australia.....	126,830	185,626	286,324	325,766	346,874
Western Australia	15,691	25,353	30,013	53,285	65,064
Tasmania	90,211	101,785	118,113	152,619	154,424
New Zealand	99,021	266,986	500,075	634,058	672,265
Australasia.....	1,265,898	1,970,066	2,823,459	3,899,036	4,068,318

Increase of Population during previous ten years.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	*1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales.....	179,310	159,780	264,322	383,220	58,070
Victoria	444,311	205,612	132,474	277,792	16,344
Queensland	25,792	90,779	101,822	183,362	21,969
South Australia.....	63,130	58,796	100,698	39,442	21,108
Western Australia	12,115	9,662	4,660	23,272	11,779
Tasmania	21,024	11,574	16,328	34,506	1,805
New Zealand	83,986	167,965	233,089	133,983	38,207
Australasia.....	829,668	704,168	853,393	1,075,577	169,282

*Increase for two years.

Births.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales.....	14,681	20,143	28,993	39,458	40,215
Victoria	23,461	27,382	27,145	38,505	36,572
Queensland.....	1,423	5,205	8,220	14,715	14,394
South Australia.....	5,551	7,082	10,708	10,751	10,706
Western Australia.....	585	760	1,005	1,786	2,112
Tasmania	3,207	3,053	3,918	4,971	5,216
New Zealand	3,441	10,592	18,732	18,273	18,187
Australasia.....	52,349	74,217	98,721	128,459	127,402

Deaths.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales.....	5,343	6,407	11,536	16,286	16,032
Victoria	10,522	9,918	12,302	18,631	16,512
Queensland.....	500	1,785	3,320	5,170	5,695
South Australia.....	1,962	2,378	4,012	4,231	4,559
Western Australia.....	257	332	412	869	945
Tasmania	1,477	1,363	1,733	2,234	2,071
New Zealand	1,109	2,642	5,491	6,518	6,767
Australasia.....	21,170	24,825	38,806	53,939	52,581

Marriages.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales.....	3,222	3,953	6,284	8,457	7,744
Victoria	4,434	4,693	5,896	8,780	7,010
Queensland.....	320	970	1,703	2,905	2,524
South Australia.....	1,158	1,250	2,308	2,315	2,114
Western Australia.....	149	159	197	413	392
Tasmania	717	598	856	988	848
New Zealand	878	1,864	3,277	3,805	4,100
Australasia.....	10,878	13,487	20,521	27,663	24,732

Shipping—Inwards.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales.	366,236	706,019	1,456,239	2,821,898	2,590,371
Victoria.....	549,195	663,002	1,219,231	2,338,864	2,009,187
Queensland	18,879	47,196	455,985	502,794	464,581
South Australia....	103,196	187,314	684,203	1,368,720	1,208,105
Western Australia..	57,456	63,922	145,048	533,433	545,709
Tasmania	113,610	107,271	192,024	514,706	466,312
New Zealand	197,986	274,643	420,134	618,515	615,604
Australasia f...	1,406,558	2,049,367	4,572,864	8,698,930	7,899,869

Shipping—Outwards.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales..	379,460	794,460	1,330,261	2,872,338	2,602,957
Victoria	540,807	692,023	1,193,303	2,376,245	2,020,551
Queensland	17,010	45,702	426,506	494,324	481,047
South Australia ...	96,135	186,310	675,388	1,369,869	1,184,495
Western Australia..	57,800	63,026	139,998	512,122	525,709
Tasmania	116,608	108,889	191,738	529,900	468,127
New Zealand.	205,350	265,618	413,487	625,807	642,466
Australasia ...	1,413,170	2,156,028	4,370,681	8,780,605	7,925,352

Shipping—Inwards and Outwards.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
New South Wales..	745,696	1,500,479	2,786,500	5,694,236	5,193,328
Victoria.....	1,090,002	1,355,025	2,412,534	4,715,109	4,029,738
Queensland	35,889	92,898	882,491	997,118	945,623
South Australia ...	199,331	373,624	1,359,591	2,738,589	2,392,600
Western Australia..	115,256	126,948	285,046	1,045,555	1,071,418
Tasmania	230,218	216,160	383,762	1,044,606	934,439
New Zealand	403,336	540,261	833,621	1,244,322	1,258,070
Australasia ...	2,819,728	4,205,395	8,943,545	17,479,535	15,825,221

Imports.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	6,391,555	9,609,508	17,587,012	25,383,397	18,107,035
Victoria	13,532,452	12,341,995	16,718,521	21,711,608	13,283,814
Queensland	967,951	1,562,665	4,063,625	5,079,004	4,347,158
South Australia ...	1,976,018	2,158,022	5,320,549	10,051,123	7,934,200
Western Australia	147,913	*226,656	404,831	1,280,093	1,494,438
Tasmania	954,517	778,087	1,431,144	2,051,964	1,057,683
New Zealand	2,493,811	4,078,193	7,457,045	6,503,849	6,911,515
Australasia	26,464,217	30,755,126	52,982,727	72,061,038	53,135,843

* In 1872.

Exports.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	5,594,839	11,245,032	16,307,805	25,944,020	22,921,223
Victoria	13,828,606	14,557,820	16,252,103	16,006,743	13,308,551
Queensland	709,599	2,760,045	3,540,366	8,305,387	9,614,087
South Australia ...	2,032,311	3,582,397	4,508,754	10,642,416	8,463,936
Western Australia	95,789	*209,196	502,770	799,466	918,147
Tasmania	905,463	740,638	1,555,576	1,440,818	1,352,184
New Zealand	1,370,247	5,282,084	6,060,866	9,566,397	8,985,364
Australasia	24,536,854	38,377,212	48,728,240	72,705,247	65,563,492

* In 1872.

Total Trade.

Colony	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	11,986,394	20,854,540	33,894,817	51,327,417	41,028,258
Victoria	27,361,058	26,899,815	32,970,624	37,718,351	26,592,365
Queensland	1,677,550	4,322,710	7,603,991	13,384,391	13,961,245
South Australia ...	4,008,329	5,740,419	9,829,303	20,693,539	16,398,136
Western Australia	243,702	*435,852	907,601	2,079,559	2,412,585
Tasmania	1,859,980	1,518,725	2,986,720	3,492,782	2,409,867
New Zealand	3,864,058	9,360,277	13,517,911	16,070,246	15,896,879
Australasia	51,001,071	69,132,338	101,710,967	144,766,285	118,699,335

* In 1872.

Domestic Produce Exported, as per Customs' Returns.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	5,016,891	9,227,108	10,784,327	21,085,712	17,094,213
Victoria	10,596,368	11,151,662	12,480,567	13,026,426	10,293,926
Queensland	698,747	2,407,888	3,478,376	7,979,080	9,062,024
South Australia	1,838,639	3,289,861	3,755,781	4,810,512	3,295,475
Western Australia	147,913	192,144	498,634	788,873	870,437
Tasmania	408,980	730,946	1,548,116	1,367,927	1,336,586
New Zealand	1,339,241	5,171,104	5,762,250	9,400,094	8,557,443
Australasia	20,046,779	32,170,713	38,308,051	58,458,624	50,510,104

Total Export of Wool, as per Customs' Returns.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,768,978	4,748,160	7,149,787	11,036,018	10,449,911
Victoria	2,095,264	4,702,164	5,450,029	6,638,983	5,103,907
Queensland	613,074	1,158,833	1,331,869	3,453,548	3,578,864
South Australia	695,405	1,350,689	1,911,972	1,619,802	2,001,277
Western Australia	54,297	*122,637	256,690	329,365	244,972
Tasmania	326,413	298,160	498,400	418,460	296,442
New Zealand	523,728	1,606,144	2,914,046	4,129,686	3,774,738
Australasia	6,077,159	13,986,787	19,512,793	27,625,862	25,450,111

* In 1872.

Gold—Quantity Produced.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
New South Wales	465,685	323,609	149,627	153,336	179,288
Victoria	1,967,453	1,355,477	858,850	576,400	671,126
Queensland	1,077	171,937	270,945	576,439	600,327
South Australia	*	*	16,976	35,533	33,820
Western Australia	*	*	*	30,311	110,890
Tasmania	*	6,005	56,693	39,203	37,687
New Zealand	194,031	730,029	270,561	251,996	226,811
Australasia	2,628,246	2,587,057	1,623,652	1,663,218	1,859,949

* The quantity of gold found in these years was very small.

Live Stock—Sheep.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	5,615,054	16,278,697	36,591,946	61,831,416	56,980,688
Victoria.....	6,239,258	10,002,381	10,267,265	12,928,148	13,098,725
Queensland	4,093,381	7,403,334	8,292,883	20,289,633	18,697,015
South Australia ...	3,038,356	4,412,055	6,810,856	7,745,541	7,335,194
Western Australia	279,576	670,999	1,267,912	1,932,212	2,220,642
Tasmania	1,714,498	1,305,489	1,847,479	1,662,801	1,535,047
New Zealand	2,761,583	9,700,629	12,985,085	18,128,186	19,350,730
Australasia ...	23,741,706	49,773,584	78,063,426	124,547,937	119,218,041

Live Stock—Horned Cattle.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	2,271,923	2,014,888	2,597,348	2,046,347	2,155,500
Victoria	628,092	799,509	1,286,677	1,812,104	1,817,291
Queensland	560,196	1,168,235	3,618,513	6,192,759	6,693,200
South Australia ...	265,434	143,463	314,918	676,933	660,831
Western Australia	33,795	49,593	63,009	133,690	173,747
Tasmania	87,114	101,540	130,526	167,666	169,141
New Zealand	193,285	436,592	698,637	831,831	884,091
Australasia ...	4,039,839	4,713,820	8,709,628	11,861,330	12,553,801

Live Stock—Horses.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	233,220	304,100	398,577	459,755	481,399
Victoria	84,057	181,643	278,195	440,696	463,903
Queensland	28,983	91,910	194,217	399,364	429,734
South Australia ...	52,597	78,125	159,678	202,906	200,481
Western Australia	10,720	22,698	31,755	40,812	45,747
Tasmania	22,118	23,054	25,607	31,262	31,587
New Zealand	28,275	81,028	161,736	211,040	*211,040
Australasia ...	459,970	782,558	1,249,765	1,785,835	1,863,891

* In 1891.

Area under Crop.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	295,917	393,413	569,243	846,383	1,206,992
Victoria	410,406	851,354	1,435,446	2,116,654	2,337,621
Queensland	4,440	59,969	117,664	242,629	243,249
South Australia ...	400,717	837,730	2,156,407	1,927,689	2,170,216
Western Australia	24,705	51,724	53,353	64,209	94,716
Tasmania	163,385	155,046	148,494	168,121	191,951
New Zealand	68,506	337,282	1,070,906	1,424,777	1,281,813
Australasia ...	1,368,076	2,686,518	5,551,513	6,790,462	7,526,558

Grass and fallow lands are not included.

Alienation and Occupation of Lands at close of 1893.

Colony.	Area of Colony in Square Miles.	Area of Colony in Acres.	Area Alienated or in process of Alienation.	Area Leased.	Area neither Alienated nor Leased.
	sq. miles.	acres.	acres.	acres.	acres.
New South Wales	310,700	198,848,000	44,352,937	127,092,070	27,402,993
Victoria	87,884	56,245,760	24,471,993	15,070,974	16,702,793
Queensland	668,497	427,838,100	13,788,127	281,316,885	132,733,088
S. Australia proper	380,070	243,244,800	8,358,612	103,813,038	131,073,150
Northern Territory	523,620	335,116,800	477,211	57,367,680	277,271,909
Western Australia	1,060,000	678,400,000	7,844,338	93,237,728	577,317,934
Tasmania	26,216	16,778,000	4,785,172	651,903	11,340,925
New Zealand	104,471	66,861,440	21,137,601	14,410,111	31,313,728
Australasia ...	3,161,458	2,023,332,900	125,215,991	692,960,389	1,205,156,520

Number of Letters and Post-cards.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	4,369,463	7,509,500	26,355,600	64,153,600	77,402,760
Victoria	6,109,929	11,716,166	26,308,347	†62,526,448	†62,526,448
Queensland	515,211	1,792,644	5,178,547	15,345,842	15,779,569
South Australia...	1,540,472	3,162,774	10,758,605	17,836,092	17,409,769
Western Australia	193,317	*668,957	995,188	3,192,992	4,214,550
Tasmania	835,873	1,189,994	2,682,329	5,852,381	6,063,548
New Zealand	1,236,768	6,081,607	13,215,235	26,537,545	28,571,844
Australasia ...	14,801,033	32,121,642	85,493,851	195,444,900	211,968,488
Australasia (Inter-colonial excess excluded)	14,061,000	30,435,300	80,791,700	183,694,900	198,202,400

* In 1872.

† In 1890.

Number of Newspapers.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1892.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales	3,384,245	3,992,100	16,527,900	42,517,300	45,520,500
Victoria.....	4,277,179	5,172,970	11,440,732	+22,729,005	+22,729,005
Queensland	427,489	1,307,305	4,530,263	11,896,148	11,405,904
South Australia ...	1,089,424	2,212,620	5,927,332	8,883,103	8,773,718
Western Australia	137,476	*352,608	715,046	1,665,862	3,061,431
Tasmania	895,656	1,136,338	2,345,700	5,376,142	4,692,676
New Zealand	1,428,351	4,179,784	6,124,021	11,312,200	12,027,582
Australasia ...	11,639,820	18,353,725	47,610,994	104,379,760	108,210,816
Australasia (Inter-colonial excess excluded)	10,941,400	17,252,700	43,802,000	95,879,760	98,102,500

* In 1872.

† In 1890.

Miles of Telegraph (Poles).

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales..	1,616	*4,674	8,515	11,697	12,097
Victoria.....	...	*2,295	3,350	7,170	7,105
Queensland	169	2,525	6,280	9,996	10,004
South Australia ...	597	1,183	4,946	5,640	5,546
Western Australia	.....	*750	1,585	2,921	3,578
Tasmania.....	.....	*291	928	2,082	2,187
New Zealand .....	.....	2,015	3,824	5,349	5,513
Australasia ...	.....	13,733	29,428	44,855	46,030

* In 1873.

Government Railways—Net Earnings.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales..	13,817	158,257	705,892	1,193,044	1,188,540
Victoria. ....	.....	+382,438	732,223	956,983	1,075,657
Queensland	*.....	21,660	114,638	413,034	408,901
South Australia . .	11,186	22,834	128,653	563,905	412,933
Western Australia	*.....	*.....	(-)2,907	3,876	3,547
Tasmania.....	*.....	591	6,721	21,106	15,340
New Zealand.....	*.....	.....	368,927	408,915	449,380
Australasia....	.....	.....	2,054,147	3,560,863	3,554,298

(-) minus = loss.

* Railways not in existence.

† In 1873.

Railways—Miles open for Traffic.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
New South Wales..	73	358	1,041	2,266	2,436
Victoria	214	329	1,247	2,903	2,933
Queensland .....	.....	218	800	2,320	2,353
South Australia....	56	132	849	1,823	1,831
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	92	657	699
Tasmania .....	.....	45	167	425	468
New Zealand .....	.....	.....	1,333	2,011	2,036
Australasia....	343	1,082	5,529	12,405	12,756

NOTE.—Private lines included.

Public Revenue.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1890-91.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,421,831	2,238,900	6,714,327	10,047,152	10,536,504
Victoria	2,952,101	1,691,266	5,186,011	8,343,588	6,719,623
Queensland	238,238	799,005	1,971,208	3,350,223	3,343,069
South Australia....	558,587	778,094	2,171,983	2,732,222	2,526,705
Western Australia	67,261	105,300	206,205	497,670	681,246
Tasmania	256,958	271,928	505,006	758,100	704,641
New Zealand	691,464	1,342,116	3,757,493	4,193,942	4,653,038
Australasia....	6,186,440	7,226,609	20,512,233	29,922,897	29,164,826

Public Expenditure.

(Exclusive of Loan Expenditure.)

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1890-91.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	1,540,005	2,733,102	5,783,683	10,378,603	10,886,381
Victoria	3,092,021	1,754,251	5,108,642	9,128,699	7,384,961
Queensland	255,180	787,555	1,782,272	3,684,655	3,351,536
South Australia ...	482,951	759,478	2,054,284	2,603,498	2,525,606
Western Australia	*161,786	98,248	197,386	435,623	656,357
Tasmania	324,447	287,262	463,684	722,746	832,874
New Zealand	Not to hand	+931,768	3,675,797	4,081,566	4,386,359
Australasia ...	5,856,390	7,351,664	19,065,748	31,035,390	30,024,074

* Inclusive of Imperial expenditure.

† Provincial expenditure.

Gross Public Debt.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales	4,017,630	10,614,330	16,924,019	51,010,433	58,079,033
Victoria	6,345,060	11,994,800	22,426,502	43,610,265	47,297,708
Queensland	70,000	4,047,850	13,245,150	29,434,734	32,076,434
South Australia ...	866,500	2,167,700	11,196,800	21,657,300	22,546,225
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	511,000	1,617,445	2,873,098
Tasmania .....	.....	1,315,200	2,003,000	6,432,800	7,645,604
New Zealand	600,761	8,900,991	29,659,111	38,802,350	39,826,415
Australasia ...	11,899,951	39,040,871	95,965,582	192,565,327	210,344,517

Public Debt per Inhabitant.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1893-94.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales.	11 4 5	20 10 0	21 14 8	43 15 6	47 9 6
Victoria.....	11 14 3	16 0 11	25 9 7	37 13 4	40 6 1
Queensland	2 0 9	32 6 11	58 7 2	71 14 7	74 4 0
South Australia ...	6 16 8	11 13 7	39 2 1	68 3 1	65 0 0
Western Australia .....	.....	.....	17 0 6	30 7 6	44 3 2
Tasmania .....	.....	12 18 5	16 16 10	42 3 0	49 10 2
New Zealand	6 1 4	33 6 9	59 4 2	61 3 11	58 17 0
Australasia ...	9 10 5	19 16 4	34 0 2	49 7 9	51 13 1

Total Deposits in all Banks.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1890-91.	†1893-94.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.	5,645,101	7,989,801	23,006,720	40,390,159	38,379,248
Victoria.....	7,575,406	12,476,677	23,721,348	45,261,932	43,736,276
Queensland	334,503	1,647,830	5,633,097	11,720,112	12,700,108
South Australia ...	875,327	2,038,719	6,231,004	9,933,135	9,326,521
Western Australia	*2,487	*15,583	*23,344	1,398,417	1,581,845
Tasmania	†729,085	875,512	2,969,390	4,378,448	4,061,660
New Zealand	905,675	3,789,639	10,618,893	15,806,847	18,390,868
Australasia ...	16,067,584	28,833,761	72,203,796	128,889,050	128,176,526

* Savings Banks only. † Banks of Issue only. ‡ Includes deposits in Building and Investment Companies which were omitted in previous years.

Deposits in Banks of Issue.
Average of quarter ending December.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1894. First Quarter.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.	5,029,692	7,043,886	20,308,017	35,659,690	30,326,923
Victoria.....	6,992,610	11,358,916	21,151,910	39,633,355	34,384,811
Queensland	322,310	1,240,696	4,688,846	10,053,257	10,824,493
South Australia ...	743,737	1,521,719	4,942,554	7,774,907	7,008,212
Western Australia. *	.....	.....	.....	1,366,931	1,505,759
Tasmania	729,085	658,099	2,600,112	3,857,198	3,263,298
New Zealand	882,754	3,334,673	9,069,378	12,669,824	14,153,756
Australasia ...	14,700,188	25,157,989	62,760,817	111,015,162	101,467,252

* Information not available.

Deposits in Savings Banks.

Colony.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1890-01.	1893.
	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales.	615,409	945,915	2,698,703	4,730,469	6,535,758
Victoria.....	582,796	1,117,761	2,569,438	5,628,577	6,715,443
Queensland	12,193	407,134	944,251	1,666,855	1,875,615
South Australia ...	131,590	517,000	1,288,450	2,158,228	2,318,309
Western Australia. *	2,487	15,583	23,344	31,486	76,086
Tasmania	No information	217,413	369,278	521,250	580,438
New Zealand	22,921	454,966	1,549,515	3,137,023	3,966,849
Australasia ...	1,367,396	3,675,772	9,442,979	17,873,888	22,068,498

* In 1863, the first year of Savings Banks.



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